



Construction Update: May 15, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

Twitter: [@SouthwestLRT](https://twitter.com/SouthwestLRT)

Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

One Year Construction Hotline Anniversary

A year ago this week, the Southwest LRT Construction hotline went live to coincide with the start of civil construction activities. The hotline receives an average of 50 calls per month. The majority of calls are questions about construction activities that people are observing in real-time. Almost all the calls are community specific inquiries about the timing and durations of construction activities, such as the extent of piling or a road closure, followed by comments on specific construction issues.

Weekly Construction Photo: Setting of Bridge Girders at Valley View Road in Eden Prairie



Last week marked a milestone for the Valley View Road bridge as girders were trucked in and set in place. Work will continue on the bridge deck in the coming months.

Eden Prairie Highlights

- In the SouthWest Station area, construction activities are very active on the western portion of the site as crews advance the next phase of station construction which includes utility work, retaining walls, and piling. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area.
- The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge is advancing quickly with work continuing north of SouthWest Station, near Purgatory Creek Park and on the southeastern side of Prairie Center Drive. Temporary access for pedestrians around the work site will be provided as crews begin work on the southeastern portion of the roadway. Work in the middle of the roadway will follow the completion of piers on the southwest side of roadway.
- Traffic has been shifted to the south side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road. The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive and the off-ramp from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive are currently closed. Eden Road at Flying Cloud Drive is anticipated to close on May 26. These intersections will remain closed until mid-July of 2020. **See Eden Prairie detour maps [here](#).**
- The bridge beams for the LRT bridge over Valley View Road and the Highway 212 ramp have been set. The roadway has reopened, and this impressive structure is visible to the public. Crews will continue to advance bridge deck work in the coming months.
- Work continues on the Highway 212 on-ramp from Valley View Road. Currently the left turn lane to the ramp for traffic coming south on Valley View is detoured.
- One of the two right turn lanes from eastbound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road is closed to allow for utility work.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Eden Prairie](#).

Minnetonka Highlights

- Work in the Opus area continues to be coordinated with the City of Minnetonka. As we advance work on Bren Road and as the city prepares for bridge work on Red Circle Drive, we are in active discussion. For more information on the city's work visit their website [here](#).
- Retaining wall work from Bren Road West to Smetana Road is ongoing in various phases of completion. Crews are working on excavation, building footing and setting concrete work. Piling activities also have begun with crews installing piles for the retaining walls. The piles are installed by first drilling a shaft, filling that shaft with concrete and pushing an H-shaped pile into the concrete. This activity is noisy with some vibration.

- In the Smetana Road area, earthwork continues as crews begin preparation work for the LRT track grade and associated bridges and retaining walls. Piling driving is expected to begin after Memorial Day.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Minnetonka](#).

Hopkins Highlights

- Work on Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge continues. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area. Crews are working on the north section of the bridge and will progress south. Tree clearing activities have resumed.
- The surcharge by the Shady Oak station remains in a settlement period through the fall. The Minnesota River Bluffs trail will remain closed through the settlement and reconstruction period.
- Work is underway at the future LRT track crossing at 11th Street. The roadway has been reduced to one lane in each direction. Earthwork in this area towards 5th Street is also underway. Expect trucks moving dirt in the area.
- The southbound lanes of Blake Road are closed through the summer. Traffic is still permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrian access is maintained on the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. **See Hopkins detour maps [here](#)**. Expect sheet pile driving, excavation and concrete work in the area. Crews are working on retaining walls and advancing the trail underpass through the roadway.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Hopkins](#).

St. Louis Park Highlights

- Earthwork continues along most of the alignment in St. Louis Park as crews prepare the area for the permanent location of freight rail in the corridor.
- The Louisiana Avenue area remains a center of activity with crews advancing the pedestrian tunnel and freight rail infrastructure. In June bridge beams will be placed over Louisiana Avenue which is anticipated to require a couple day road closure. We will provide notice as the date of the work is scheduled.
- The full closure of Wooddale Avenue remains in place through the month of May. **See St. Louis Park detour maps [here](#)**. Crews are advancing the underpass through the roadway. At the end of May, the northwest corner service road will be closed. We are anticipating the closure from May 28-30.
- Work continues on the freight and LRT bridges at Highway 100. Crews are working on the walls on the approach to the bridge. Late this summer the freight bridge will be picked up and moved to the newly constructed abutments, allowing LRT bridge work to also advance.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [St. Louis Park](#).

Minneapolis Highlights

- The 28th Street/Dean Court intersection is now closed until mid-June, and crews have advanced utility work. Crews have constructed pits on each side of the corridor which will be used to jack new sewer pipe across the corridor.
- In the next week or two tunnel sheeting with the press-in piler will begin to advance south towards West Lake Street. Piles have been placed from approximately 28th Street to Cedar Lake Parkway. Crews will work from that area south.
- Expect pavement patching on the junction of the Kenilworth and Cedar Lake Trail near the Bryn Mawr Station area next week. Trails will remain open in that area.
- The detour for the Cedar Lake Trail by Linden Yards will occur at a later date this summer. Bicyclists and pedestrians will be detoured to Kenwood Parkway at that time. We will provide an update as work is scheduled.
- Progress is being made both on the 5/7th Avenue and Glenwood bridges. Crews are also beginning pavement removal in the previous northbound lanes and preparation work on much of Royalston Avenue. This work will lead into station and track building activities later in the construction season.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Minneapolis](#).

[Trail Detours:](#) Minnesota River Bluffs, South Cedar Lake Parkway, Kenilworth, Cedar Lake Trail

[Eden Prairie Sidewalk and Roadway Detours:](#) Southwest Station, Technology/Eden/I-494 and Flying Cloud Drive Intersection

[Minnetonka Roadway Detours:](#) Opus area: Yellow Circle, Red Circle (ongoing and upcoming), Bren Road, Smetana Road

[Hopkins Detours:](#) Blake Road

[St. Louis Park Detours:](#) Wooddale Avenue, (Highway 7 Service Road, upcoming)

[Minneapolis Roadway Detours:](#) Glenwood Avenue, Royalston Avenue

Eden Prairie

SouthWest Station Area

The former SouthWest Transit facility is demolished, and crews are working on excavation and utilities in the area. Expect piling driving as crews work on the bus loop, retaining walls and the new parking structure.

The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed. Removal of the temporary sheeting for the retaining wall next to the off-ramp is completed and the wall has been backfilled.

Prairie Center Drive Bridge

The Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge structure, which begins on the north side of SouthWest Transit Parking Ramp, follows alongside Purgatory Creek Park then crosses over Prairie Center Drive north of Singletree Lane, will be under construction until fall 2020. Crews have finished some piers and are currently working north of Parking Ramp and next to Purgatory Creek Park along Prairie Center Drive. Work has also started on the southeastern side of the roadway near Bachman's, temporary pedestrian facilities will be in place as crews begin pier work in the area. Expect ongoing piling in the area through the summer. This includes ongoing work on Saturdays.

Sidewalks near the intersection of Prairie Center Drive and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow local signage to ensure your safety. The sidewalk is closed from Technology Drive to Singletree Lane. ([See the SouthWest pedestrian detour map](#)).

Eden Road Area

Work on retaining walls as well as utility work in the area has begun. The intersection of Eden Road and Flying Cloud Drive will close on Tuesday, May 26 and remain closed until July 2020.

LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive

LRT will travel on a bridge over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive. Abutment work is nearly complete, with crews removing the supports for excavation and backfilling. Work continues on the walls for the approaches to the bridge. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place in the immediate vicinity of the work zone.

Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is shifting to bridge deck construction. The bridge beams for the LRT bridge over Valley View Road and the Highway 212 ramp have been set. The roadway has reopened, and these impressive structures are visible to the public. Crews will continue to advance bridge deck work in the coming months.

The lane restriction on the ramp from Valley View Road to Highway 212 continues. Traffic is being diverted onto the HOV lane and will remain in this configuration through the summer. Currently the left-turn lane to the ramp for traffic traveling south on Valley View Road is detoured.

Along Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road crews will be conducting major utility work, which includes moving utilities that are in the way of the LRT guideway and improving other area utilities while the roadway is under construction. Once the utilities are relocated, crews will begin work on the LRT track guideway. Overall, there will be four phases of temporary traffic changes, specifically lane reductions and closures. These four phases will last the duration of the 2020 construction season. This work will also result in closures to connecting roadways.

Phase two of planned traffic changes has begun on Flying Cloud Drive. Traffic has been shifted to the south side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road. The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive and the off-ramp from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive is currently closed. These intersections will remain closed until July of 2020. **See Eden Prairie detour maps [here](#).**

Nine Mile Creek

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure and abutments at Nine Mile Creek will continue through the spring. Crews have advanced abutment work and continue to complete piers. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side.

Golden Triangle Station

Throughout the 2020 construction season, crews will advance work on the Golden Triangle Station, the land bridge around the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Expect ongoing activity in the area as these elements advance.

Current activities include piling and concrete work for retaining walls and the LRT bridge. Work on the Golden Triangle Station and the adjacent track slab is also being advanced.

Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Storm sewer work has resumed in this area. As work advances, there will be minor traffic impacts on the east side of the Shady Oak/Highway 212 intersection. The storm sewer work will be ongoing into the summer. Expect pipe jacking activities in the area. One of the two right-turn lanes from eastbound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road is currently closed to allow for utility work.

Minnetonka

Highway 62

Construction of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 will be ongoing through the 2021 construction season. The work is divided into two phases, work on the north then the south side of the highway. The traffic lanes have been shifted to the south side of the highway corridor to accommodate LRT tunnel construction on the north side of the highway. This traffic configuration will be in place through the fall of 2020. Crews finished constructing the bottom leveling slab of the north tunnel section, have advanced concrete and water proofing work, and are starting structural work for the tunnel walls. Lane closures on Highway 62 are upcoming for survey work, we will provide an update once this work is scheduled.

Red Circle Drive and Yellow Circle Drive

Yellow and Red Circle Drives have been reconfigured to allow for ongoing tunnel construction at Highway 62. Yellow Circle Drive is temporarily dead ended with a cul-de-sac where it connects to Red Circle Drive. Yellow Circle Drive has temporarily become a two-way roadway in the area south of Blue Circle Drive. A temporary by-pass road is complete on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will be in place until fall 2020. **See Minnetonka roadway changes [here](#).**

Additional work has begun on Red Circle Drive for bridge reconstruction. On Friday, May 22, the southern portion of Red Circle will be changed temporarily to two-way traffic and Red Circle will become a dead ended cul-de-sac where it connects with the other Red Circle access. Yellow Circle traffic will be able to connect to the southern portion of Red Circle to travel west until the cul-de-sac closure point. **See Minnetonka roadway changes [here](#).** Additional information about area activities is also available on the city's website [here](#).

Opus Station Area

Crews are working on utilities for the station and later in May foundation work for the Opus Station will begin. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area, including much of the extent of the LRT alignment to Smetana and Felth roads. Over the next weeks crews will be installing piles for retaining walls. The piles are installed by first drilling a shaft, filling that shaft with concrete and pushing an H shapes pile into the concrete. This activity is noisy with some vibration.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle to Bren Road East, is closed to vehicles and pedestrians through the 2020 construction season. **See Minnetonka detour map [here](#).** Crews have removed pavement and have begun excavation work. Watermain work is underway in the area.

Smetana Road

In this area, the project includes two roadway bridges to accommodate LRT travelling underneath. Utility work has been ongoing in this area. Bridge and track work in the area is getting underway, starting with excavation. Work will start on bridge abutments and approach walls to the bridge. Piling is expected to begin on Tuesday, May 26. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area.

Currently, Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive is closed through 2020. A temporary bypass is in place west of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl roads to accommodate traffic in this area. **See Minnetonka detour maps [here](#).**

Hopkins

Minnetonka-Hopkins Bridge Area

The Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge is located east of Nolan Drive and west of the Hopkins Landfill and will cross over the freight tracks to the north. The bridge will take multiple years to complete. Tree clearing and ground cover removal has resumed. Crews are working south of the freight rail line and are moving south towards ongoing work underway at Smetana Road. Excavation and pile driving have begun at the north end of the bridge south of 5th Street South. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area. Crews will be working on the northern most abutment and piers on that end of the bridge. Piling activities for the bridge will move north to south. Piling work for the bridge piers and will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season.

Shady Oak Road Station

Building demolition and soil correction for the station is complete in the area. Utility and foundation work for the Shady Oak Station is ongoing. Foundation work for the station is anticipated to begin in late May.

11th Street

Work is underway at the future LRT track crossing at 11th Street. LRT crosses this roadway just north of 5th Street, south of Excelsior Boulevard. The roadway is reduced to one lane in each direction and crews have begun construction on the east side of the roadway as crews work on utilities and crossing signals.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Work to advance the station will be ongoing as crews begin to work on plumbing and concrete elements.

Excelsior Boulevard Area

Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. As piers are nearing completion, focus will shift to construction of the bridge spans.

Blake Road

The project is improving bike safety in the area by building an underpass for the regional trail. Crews continue constructing the underpass on the west side of Blake Road. The southbound lanes on Blake Road are closed to vehicle traffic and will remain closed through the summer. Traffic will be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrians can access the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. Expect sheet pile driving, excavation and concrete work in the area. **See Hopkins detour maps [here](#).**

St. Louis Park

Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges continues in this area. Bridge beams have been placed and crews will advance deck work. Crews also continue earthwork activities to prepare the area for the permanent location of the freight rail tracks.

Louisiana Avenue

In the Louisiana Avenue area, the project is constructing the following elements: Louisiana Station, reestablishing the regional trail, LRT and freight bridges, a pedestrian/bicycle underpass (which connects the area around the old Sam's Club to the station), and a new Southerly Connector for freight rail to connect to the MN&S freight line. View the area's [visualization](#) to see how this all comes together.

Currently, crews are working on the pedestrian/bicycle underpass. Expect sheet pile driving and excavation work. Shoring and sheet pile driving work for the southerly freight rail connection, that will replace the current wye freight track, along Oxford Street will begin in the next few weeks. Clearing work and fencing is being placed in the area.

Later this spring crews will place bridge beams over the Louisiana Avenue roadway, two overnight roadway closures are anticipated in early June.

Wooddale Avenue

The project is implementing safety enhancements to the regional trail in this area with the construction of a trail underpass, which is ongoing. Wooddale Avenue is closed between West 36th Street and Highway 7, in the immediate vicinity of the Southwest LRT Project. The full roadway closure will remain through the month of May. **See St. Louis Park detour maps [here](#).** Crews continue to advance the underpass through the roadway by

setting prefabricated concrete segments. Later in May the northwest corner service road will be closed. We anticipate this closure from May 28-30. Expect pile driving and excavation work in the area.

Highway 100

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and will build a new LRT bridge over Highway 100 later this year. Piling for the abutments is complete and crews are advancing concrete work and connecting retaining walls.

Beltline Boulevard

Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a trail bridge over the roadway. The main truss for the regional trail bridge has been set. Work on the trail bridge deck continues. After some more deck work, crews will switch their focus to building the track bed to shift the freight rail track to its permanent location. Major earthwork to prepare the track bed west to Highway 100 has begun. Beltline Trail bridge work will then resume after the shift is completed.

Minneapolis

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street

For the 2020 construction season, this area will experience major utility work, soil correction activities, pier protection work on the Lake Street Bridge, West Lake Street Station construction and the realignment of Chowen/Abbott roadways. Utility work is currently ongoing in the area.

Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction

From the Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of an LRT tunnel is ongoing through 2022. Sheet piling for the Kenilworth tunnel is ongoing south of Cedar Lake Parkway. In the coming weeks, the press-in-piler will begin to advance south towards West Lake Street. Sheet pile installation for the tunnel is expected to last through summer of 2020.

Tunnel excavation is anticipated to begin in mid-2020, we will provide notice in this update and through the efforts of our outreach coordinators before this work begins. For more information about tunnel construction, see the [tunnel FAQ](#) information under the construction tab of our webpage: swlrt.org. A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique that is being used for the tunnel is also available.

In preparation for future tunnel work, a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' sanitary sewer force main is being relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. The 28th Street/Dean Court intersection is now closed and Dean Court has been changed temporarily to a two-way roadway and will remain in this configuration until mid-June. Associated with this work, utility activities have started on Depot Street, crews have constructed a utility receiving pit.

Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel

Three bridges will be constructed over the channel for freight, LRT, and the Kenilworth trail. Construction for the freight rail bridge is underway and will be completed first and the LRT then trail bridges will follow in sequence.

Trusses for the freight bridge were set in late March. Crews will focus on finishing deck details over the next couple months. Crews are also advancing earth work and track building activities on the approaches to the bridge. Freight is anticipated to be shifted onto the new bridge in early summer.

21st Street

Temporary surcharge work began south of 21st Street for the station. Surcharge work will consist of periods of activity moving soil followed by periods to consolidate the underlying soil. The surcharge is currently in a settlement period into the summer. Some additional dirt may need to be added periodically in the future.

West 21st Street Station construction is expected to begin in the summer after removal of the surcharge.

Bryn Mawr Station Area

To accommodate the LRT station, crews will construct a pedestrian bridge on the northern bluff (near Penn Avenue and Highway 394) to the station. In addition, crews need to do a significant amount of earthwork in the area to construct the new trail alignment, regrade the contours of earth in the area and build a stable foundation for the LRT tracks.

The temporary surcharge for the station remains in a settlement period. This work will remain into the summer to consolidate the underlying soil to provide a suitable foundation for the station.

I-394/Cedar Lake Trail

Pier protection work continues on the I-394 bridge. Trail construction to move pedestrians to their permanent location in the area is upcoming later spring or early summer.

Linden Yards

Utility work has begun in the area. Construction of the Bassett Creek Valley Station will begin later this summer.

Glenwood Avenue

When the project is complete, LRT will cross Glenwood Avenue at grade. To make that happen three bridges need to be constructed, freight rail shifted, and extensive retaining walls built. Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North is closed until mid-2021. The roadway is closed to vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic as the bridge has been removed. **See detour map [here](#)**. Local access to businesses continues to be maintained. Crews have made significant progress on utility work and retaining walls in the area. Work on the west abutment for the new roadway bridge continues.

Royalston Avenue

This area will see the development of the Royalston Station, an LRT bridge crossing over 5th and 7th streets and connecting to the Target Field Station. The entire Holden/Royalston/Border loop will also be reconstructed. Work on the LRT bridge piers on the east side of Royalston Avenue is ongoing and will continue through the spring. Expect pile driving activities in this area. The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue from 5th Street to Holden Street closed on March 16; the closure will last until summer 2021. Business access is available via the northbound lane. **See the roadway impact map [here](#)**.

Regional Trails

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is closed between Shady Oak Road and 5th Avenue South. **See detour map [here](#)**.

- The section between Shady Oak Road and 11th Avenue South is closed due to storm sewer construction activities. This portion of the trail is closed until Summer 2020.
- The section between 11th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until Fall 2021.

South Cedar Lake LRT Trail

The South Cedar Lake Trail from just east of the North Cedar Lake Trail connection in Hopkins to France Avenue in St. Louis Park is closed until Fall 2021. The South Cedar Lake Trail will remain open between France Avenue in St. Louis Park and Kenilworth Trail/Midtown Greenway intersection in Minneapolis. The Midtown Greenway will remain open. Currently, cross streets remain open to automobiles, bikes and pedestrians, with separate closures of roadways upcoming at various dates. **See detour maps [here](#)**.

Kenilworth Trail Closure

The Kenilworth Trail is closed in Minneapolis at the intersection with the Midtown Greenway to just south of West 21st Street until Summer 2022. Access for automobiles, bikes and pedestrians remains open at Cedar Lake Parkway and at West 21st Street. **See detour map [here](#).**

During the week of May 18, anticipate pavement patching along the trail south of the Bryn Mawr Station in the open segment of the trail.

North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis

The North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is closed until mid-2021. **See detour maps [here](#).**

Please note, construction vehicles cross the trail as they enter and exit staging areas. Construction vehicles yield to trail users but please be aware that you may encounter construction traffic in this area.

Later this summer, utility work in the Linden Yards area will require a detour for the Cedar Lake Trail. Bicyclists and pedestrians will be detoured to Kenwood Parkway. The connection to the Luce Line Trail will remain open, accessible via the connection under I-394 by Spring Lake. **See trail detour maps [here](#).**

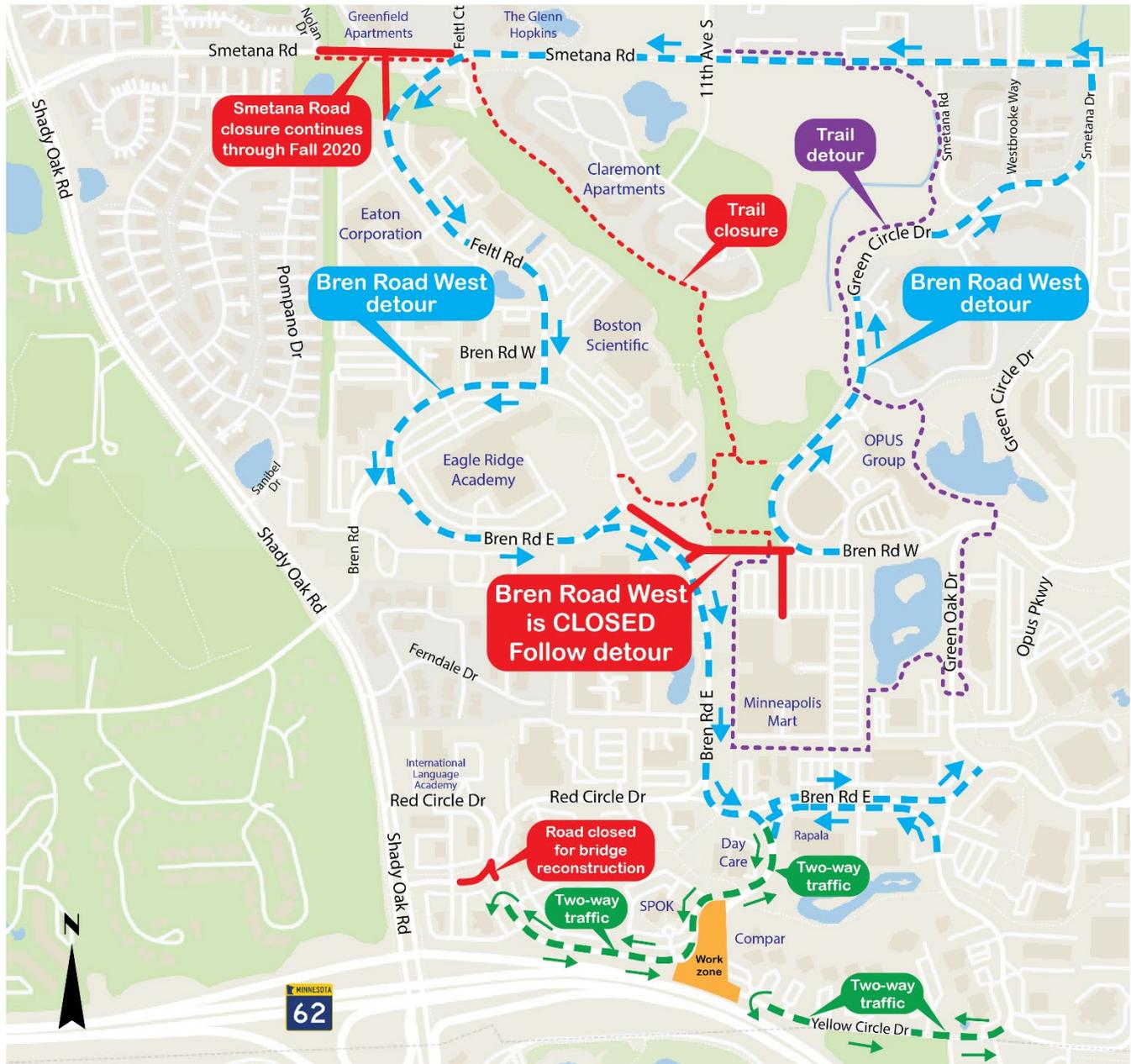
SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie



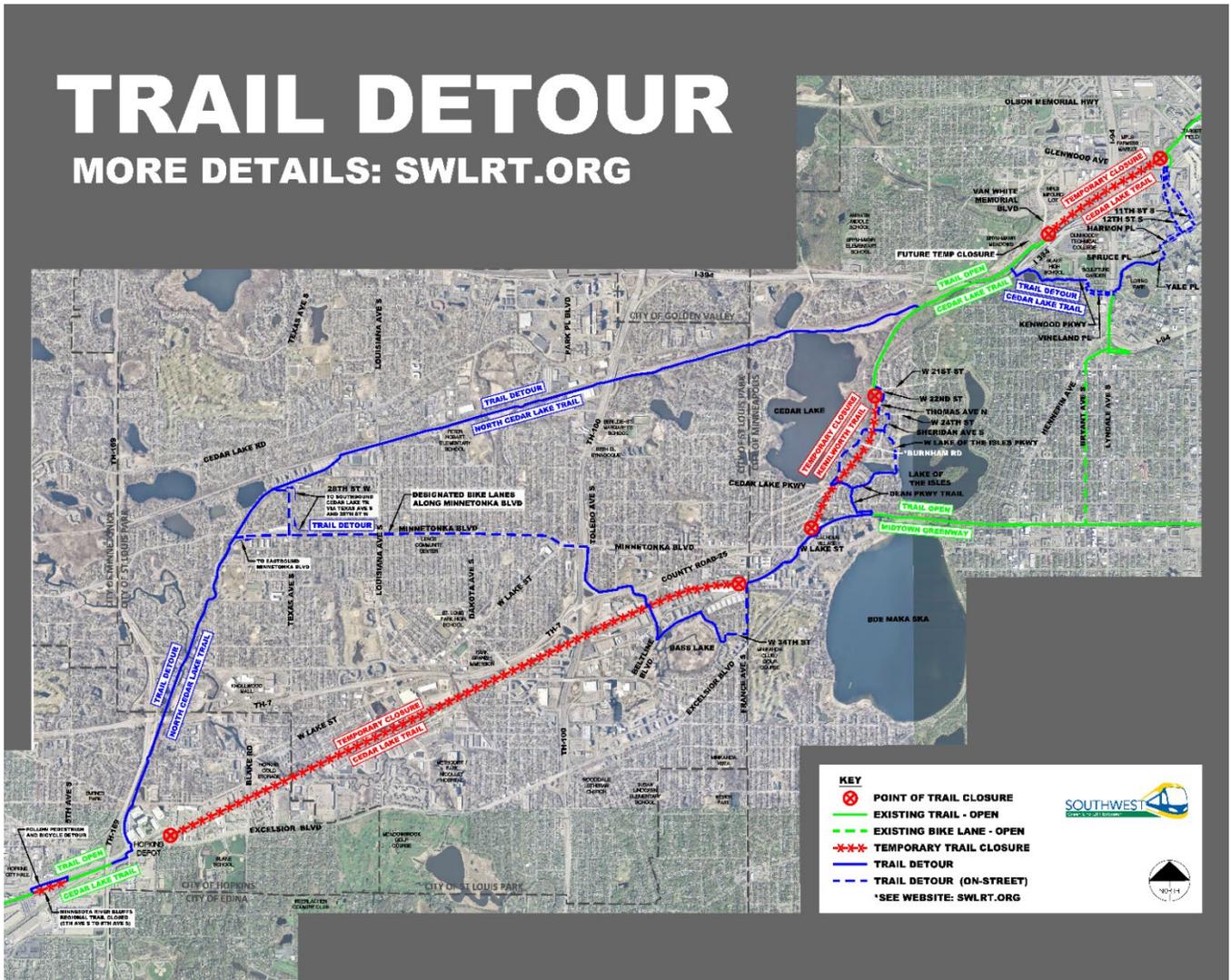
Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles



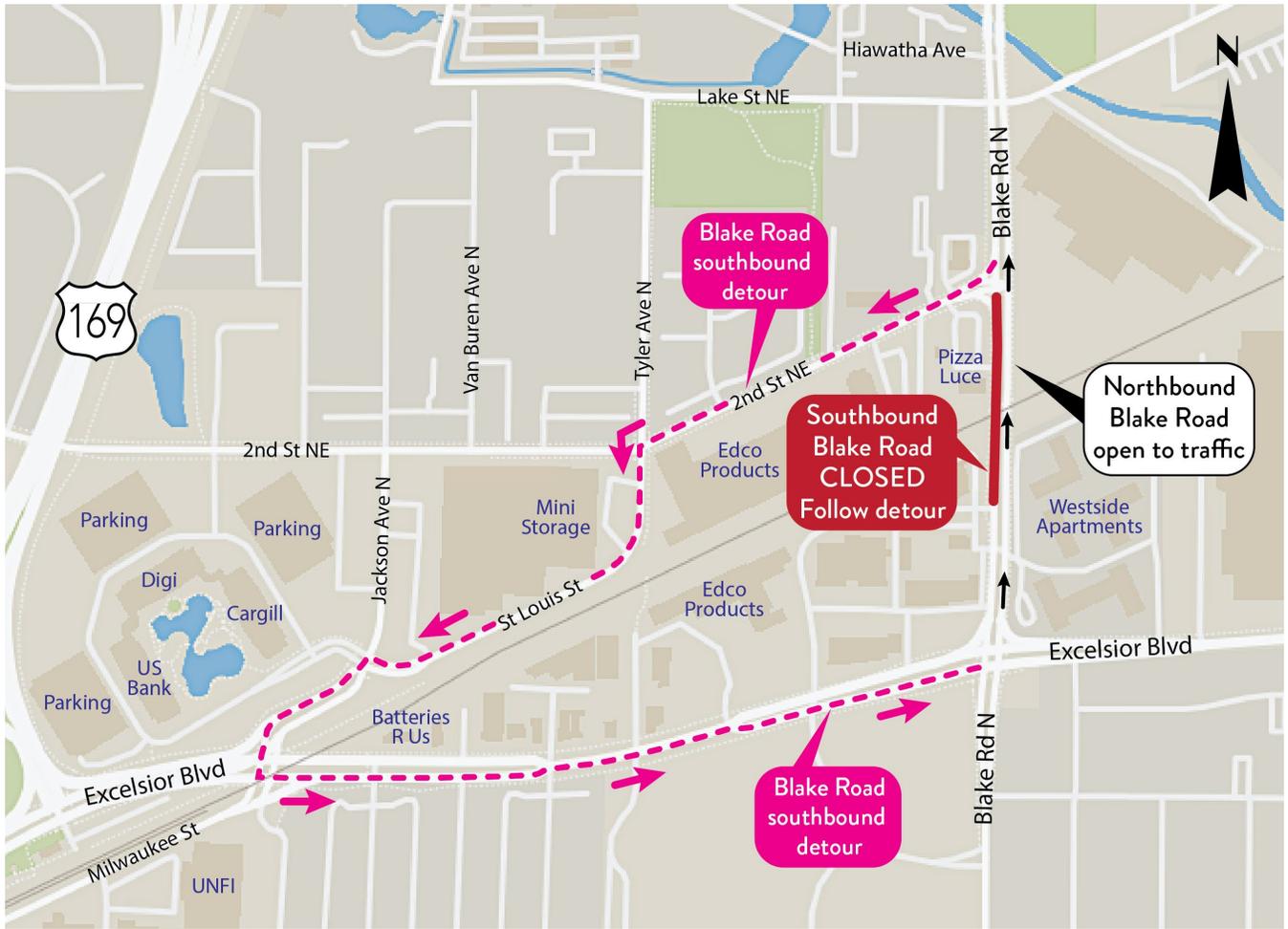
Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour



Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours



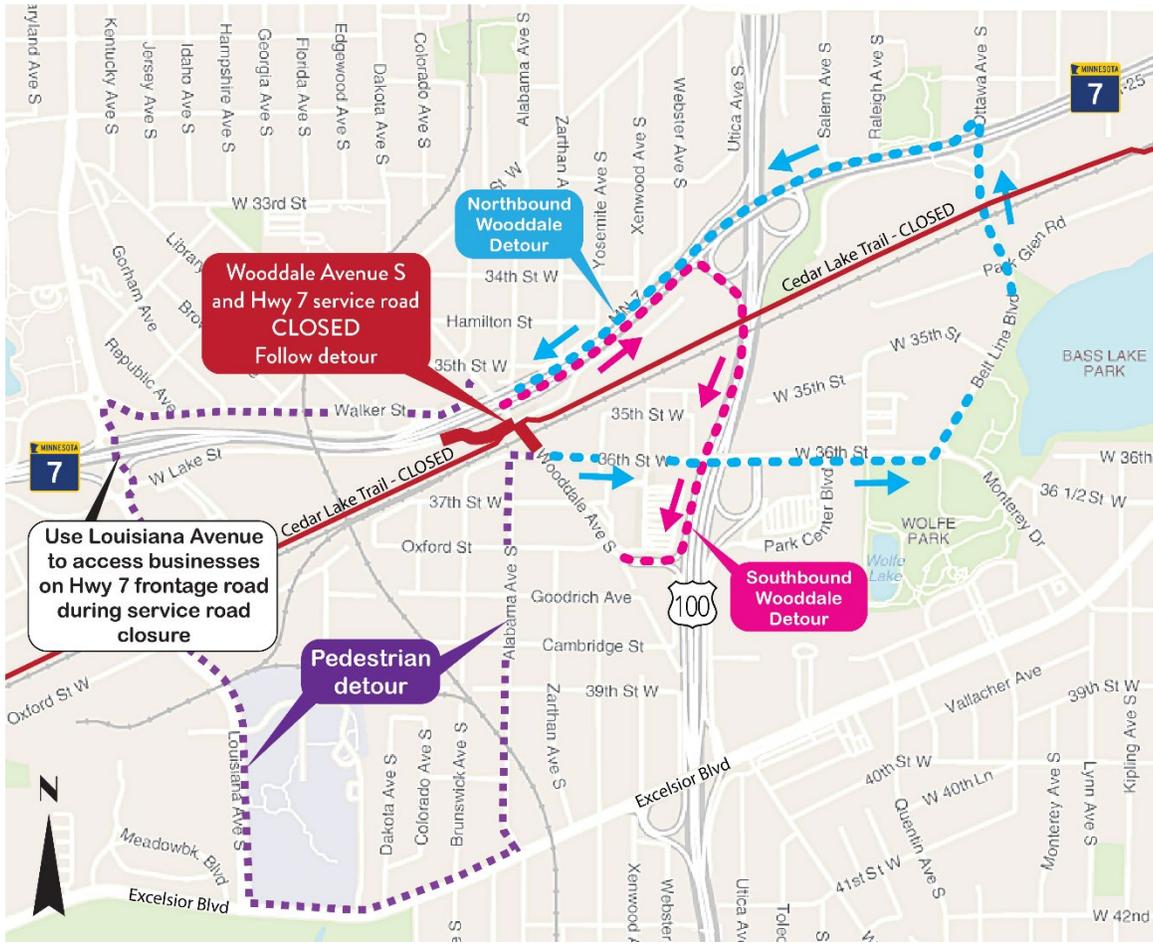
Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park



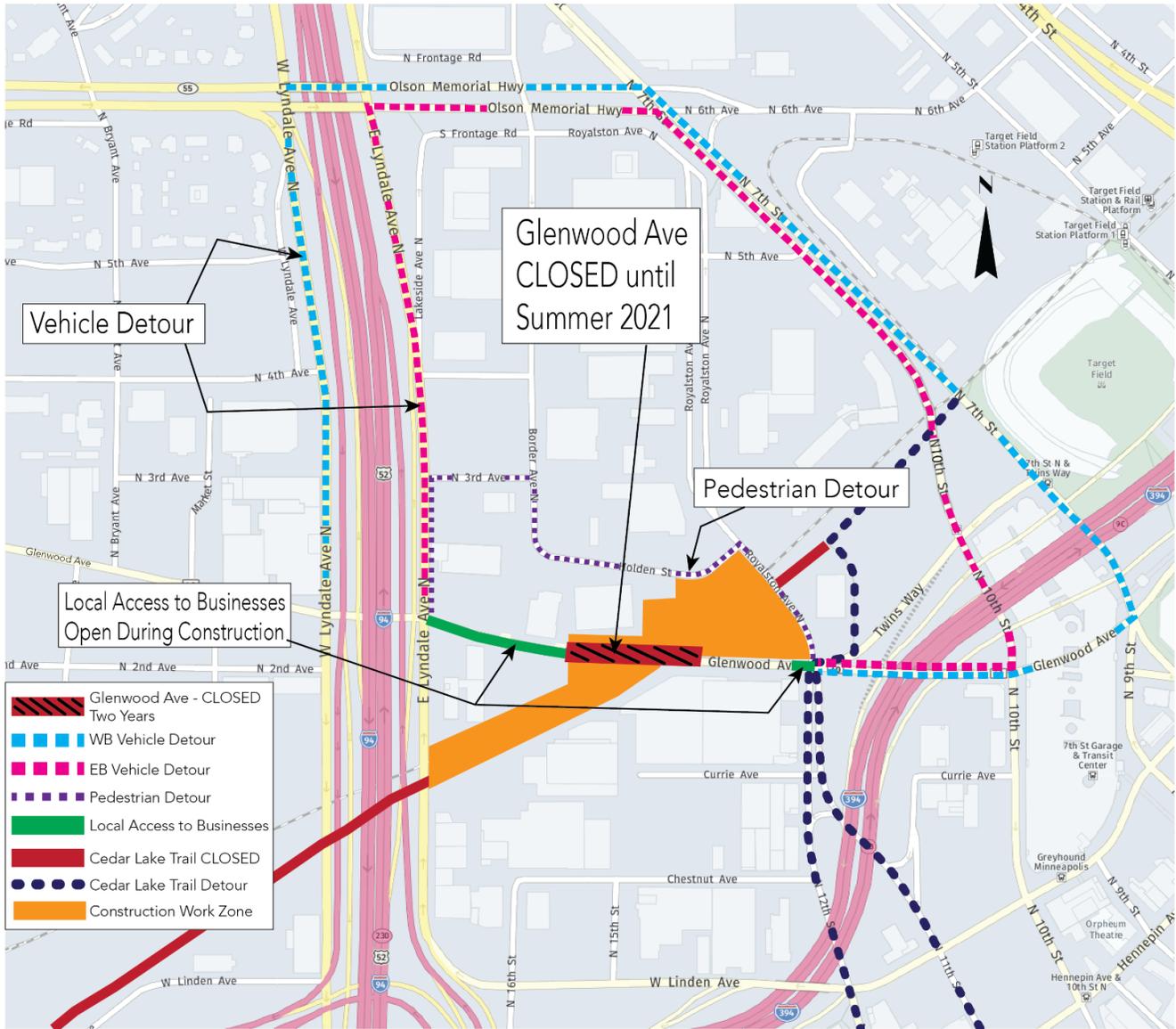
Upcoming: Highway 7 Service Road in St. Louis Park



Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

