



**Construction Update: October 9, 2020**

**Web: [swlrt.org](http://swlrt.org)**

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

**Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933**

### **Fall Construction**

While most construction areas will remain very active through November, as we move later into fall, some areas of the project will get buttoned down for winter. Some activities that are preferable to do in warmer months, like laying asphalt, backfill, or painting will resume in the spring. In other areas construction will continue throughout the winter, like the Kenilworth LRT tunnel.

### **Weekly Construction Photo: Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis**



Crews have made progress on the Royalston Avenue LRT bridge that will cross over North 5th Avenue and North 7th Street and connect to the Target Field Station. The beams over North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue are pictured. This area will also see the development of the Royalston Avenue/Farmer's Market Station in the area.

# Eden Prairie

## Eden Prairie Construction: Map 1 of 2



### SouthWest Station Area

In this area crews are building a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and constructing the joint bus and LRT station. Crews are working on excavation, utilities, foundations for the structures, the bus loop and utilities. Pile driving activities will continue at the SouthWest station into next year. Crews have made significant progress with piling, having completed those needed for the buildings' footprint. Pile driving for the building footprint is complete. Crews are also conducting concrete work and installing supports for excavation in the area. A stationary tower crane is assisting crews with the work. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed.

### **Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge**

The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge begins by the SouthWest Transit station, crosses over Technology Drive, follows the east side of Purgatory Creek Park and then crosses Prairie Center Drive to land north of Bachman's on the east side of the road. The bridge structure will be under construction until fall 2020, the bridge structure is nearing completion with all the piles driven and beams set. There are close to 500 piles supporting the bridge, making the completion of piling a major milestone. Bridge deck work is well underway with the installation of rebar, falsework and concrete work. Prairie Center Drive is now open to vehicle traffic, however, expect ongoing, intermittent lane closures. During the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be rolling lane closures southbound and northbound on Prairie Center Drive as crews pour concrete. A closure of Technology Drive is also anticipated on Wednesday, October 14.

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

### **Eden Road Area**

Work on retaining walls as well as utility work continues in the area. Eden Road is closed just west of Glen Lane as construction is advanced in that area. Just west of Eden Road, preparation work and utility construction are beginning for the Eden Prairie Town Center Station. Foundations for the station will start at the end of the month.

### **Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2**



**LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive**

LRT will travel on a bridge over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive. Work to complete the bridge deck is ongoing.

**Flying Cloud Drive**

Along Flying Cloud Drive, between Eden Road and Valley View Road, crews are beginning to restore the area as major utility and grading work is nearing completion. Placement of curb and gutter will begin as early as next week, followed by paving. Traffic is shifted to the south or east side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road through October. Traffic will then be open on both sides of the roadway until spring 2021 when traffic will be shifted to the north or west side.

The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive and the off-ramp from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive remain closed into the fall. [See Eden Prairie detour maps here](#). Access to area businesses on the north of the roadway remain open, follow posted signage.

Overall, there will be four phases of temporary traffic changes, specifically lane reductions and closures to complete the construction of LRT and associated utility work. We are currently in phase two. These four phases will extend into the 2021 construction season.

### **Valley View Road**

Deck work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is ongoing. Work at this time can be completed without impacting the roadway below.

### **Nine Mile Creek**

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure at Nine Mile Creek will continue through the fall. Many of the piers are complete with deck work underway. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side.

West 70<sup>th</sup> Street at Flying Cloud Drive is closed into November to advance LRT infrastructure through the roadway. Access to businesses in the area will be maintained.

### **Golden Triangle Station**

Throughout the 2020 construction season, crews will advance work on the Golden Triangle Station, the land bridge for the LRT tracks north of the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Crews are working on details for the Golden Triangle Station, such as the shelters on the station platform.

### **Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive**

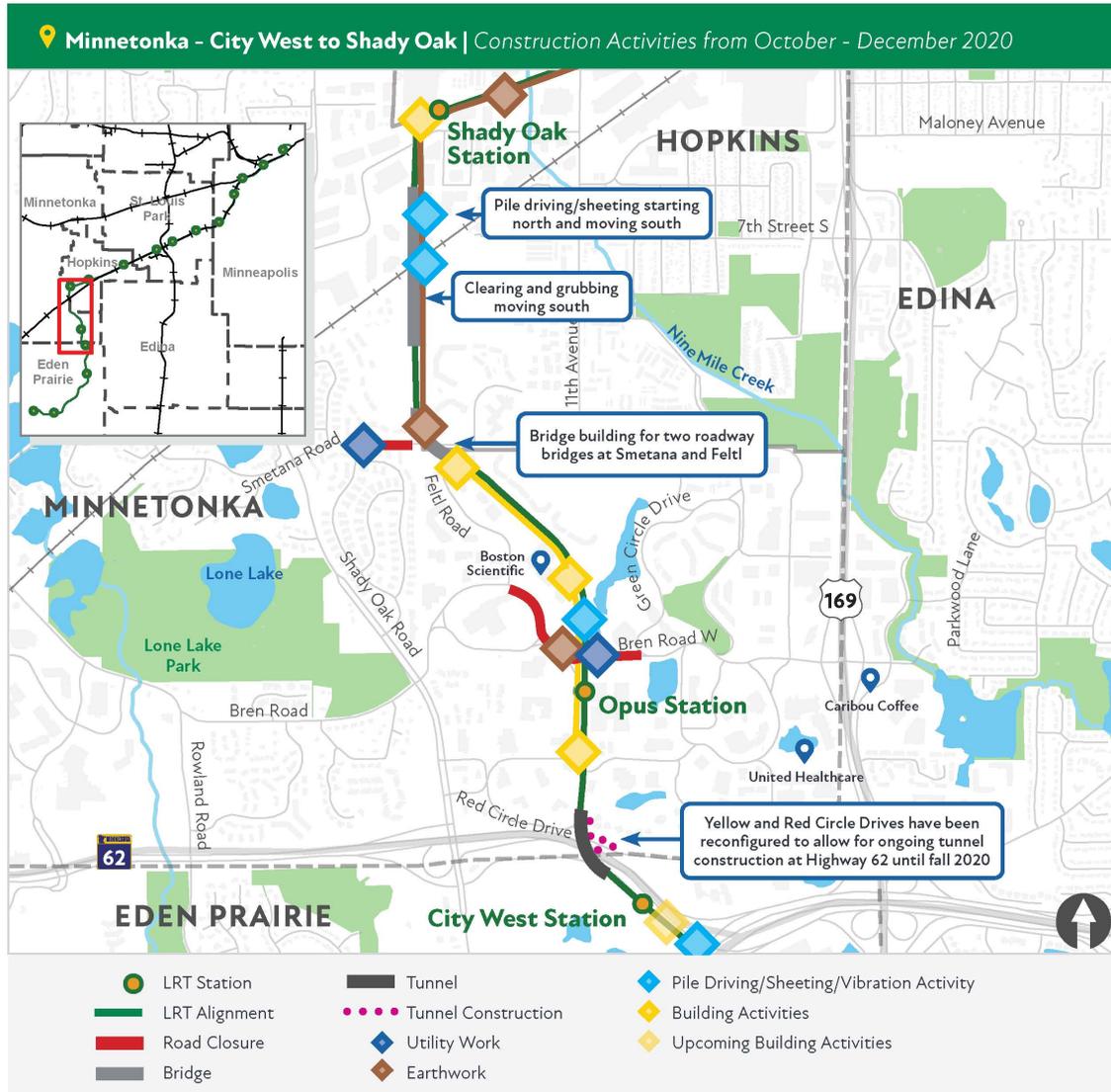
Three lanes on the north side of Shady Oak Road are closed for pier construction for the LRT bridge that will span Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. This lane closure will remain in effect into the fall. Work in the median of Highway 212 will start later in the fall to advance the LRT bridge, expect lane shifts. The off-ramp from west bound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road is closed through the fall. Expect construction activities on the west side of Highway 212 in the coming months, as work progresses north.

### **City West Station Area**

Work is beginning for the City West Station, where crews are beginning earthwork and preparation for the station. the ramp from Shady Oak to eastbound Highway 62 is closed for approximately two months, through October and November. This closure allows construction vehicles to access to the City West site.

## Minnetonka

### Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1



## Highway 62

Construction of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 is ongoing through the 2021 construction season. The work is divided into two phases, work on the north then the south side of the highway. 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 2020. There has been significant progress on the tunnel with most of the first half of the structure in place, such as walls and roofing.

### **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. [See Minnetonka roadway changes here](#). The eastern portion of Red Circle Drive changed direction the week of September 21 as City of Minnetonka's contractor finished bridge work that allowed a portion of the roadway to reopen.

### **Opus Station Area**

Station construction will continue to advance with crews working on the station roof. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area and along the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl roadways.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle Drive to Bren Road East, is closed to vehicles and pedestrians into the fall. [See Minnetonka detour map here](#). Crews are advancing utility work in the area.

From Bren Road West to Smetana Road, crews are grading and doing other preparation work for LRT track construction. Expect earth moving equipment in the area.

### **Smetana Road**

In this area, the project includes two roadway bridges to accommodate LRT travelling underneath the Smetana and Feltl roadways. Work on the Smetana Road bridge continues to advance.

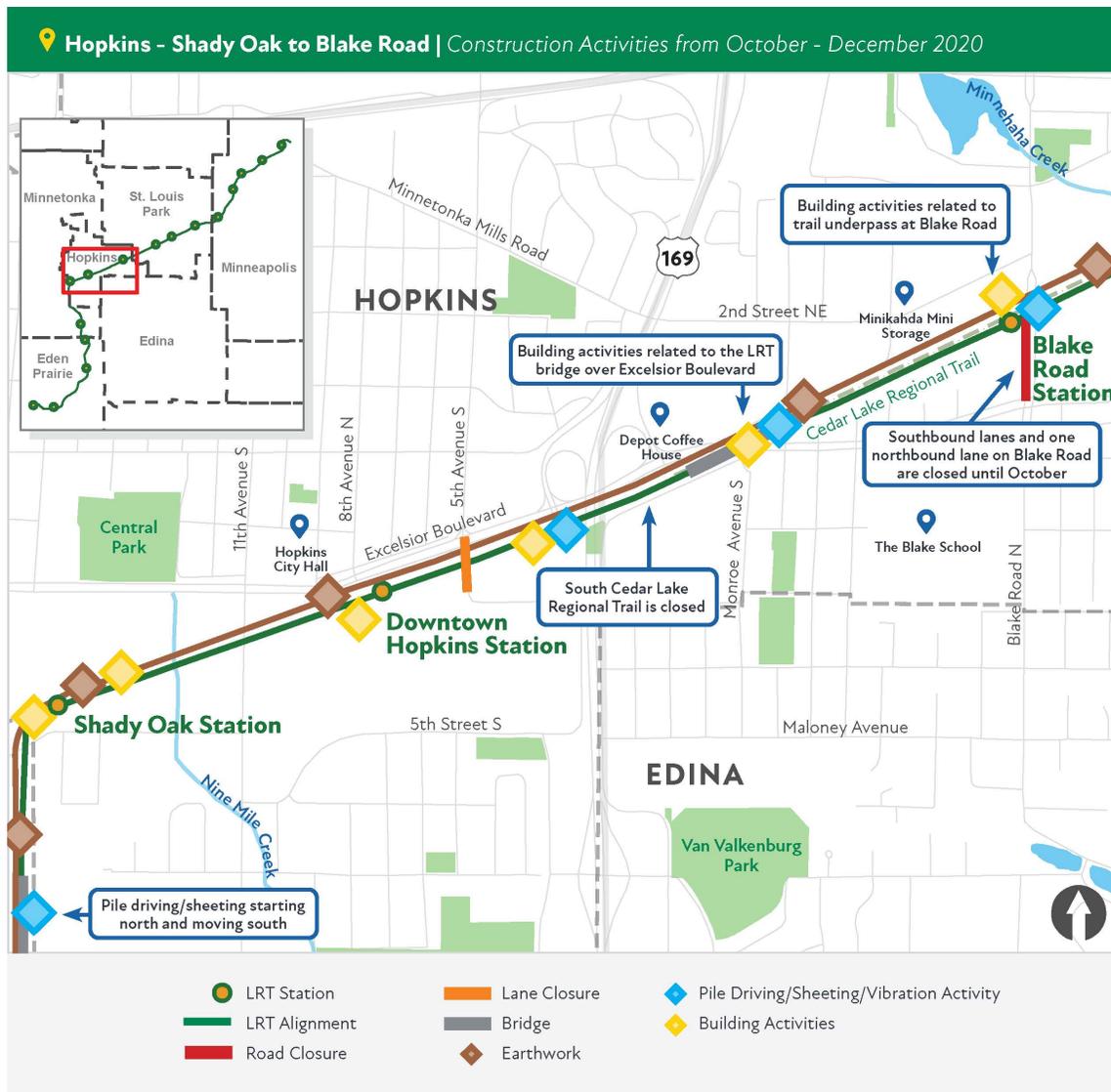
Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive is closed into spring 2021. A temporary bypass is in place west of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl Roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here](#).

### **Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT 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. Excavation and pile driving continue at the north end of the bridge near K-Tel Drive. Piling continues for piers south of the freight rail tracks. Work on the bridge piers will move south towards Smetana Road. Piling work for the bridge piers will be ongoing through into spring 2021. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving activities, which includes work on Saturdays. Clearing and grubbing work is also ongoing, moving south.

### **Hopkins**

## Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1



### Shady Oak Road Station

Shady Oak Station construction continues, and the station structure has emerged. In the next week structural steel will be installed.

### 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

All lanes of traffic have been restored at the LRT crossing at 11th Avenue. LRT tracks will be pulled through the intersection at a later date.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

Reconstruction of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue continues and will be ongoing through October. Southbound access on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue from westbound Excelsior Boulevard will continue. Work on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue will occur next spring.

### **Downtown Hopkins Station**

Station work continues. Crews have built the walls, advanced utility work and poured the base slab.

### **Excelsior Boulevard Area**

Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. Crews have shifted their focus to erecting the bridge spans. Crews have assembled the form-traveler system and the cantilevered structure is starting to take shape. The bridge structure is a post-tensioned box girder. This type of bridge can efficiently span long distances. The initial shape of the box girder is now visible from the roadway.

### **Blake Road**

The project is improving safety in the area by building a regional trail underpass. Crews are completing the west segment of the underpass under Blake Road. The southbound lanes on Blake Road remain closed to vehicle traffic. Vehicle traffic continues to be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrians can access the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. [See Hopkins detour maps here](#). Later this fall vehicle traffic will open to one lane in each direction. Crews will work to complete the regional train underpass beginning this spring.

### **St. Louis Park**

**St. Louis Park Construction: Map 1 of 1**



### Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges is nearing completion, tracks just need to be pulled across the freight bridge, anticipated later this fall. Crews are finishing details of the bridges and area retaining walls.

### Louisiana Avenue

In the Louisiana Avenue area, the project is constructing the following elements: Louisiana Station and park and ride areas, reestablishing the regional trail, LRT and freight bridges, a pedestrian/bicyclist underpass (which connects the regional trail 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.

Crews are working on miscellaneous details for the trail underpass. Work along Oxford Street is well underway including the abutment and retaining walls for the new freight rail connection between the Bass Lake Spur and MN&S tracks.

The abutments for the regional trail and freight rail bridge at Louisiana Avenue are complete and bridge beams have been placed across the roadway. The freight tracks will be shifted onto the new bridge later in the fall and then the old bridge will be demolished.

### **Wooddale Avenue**

Construction of the new regional trail underpass structure and freight rail infrastructure is complete. A closure will be needed at a future date to install LRT infrastructure through the intersection. Work continues in the area to advance various construction elements.

### **Highway 100**

On Monday, October 12, one southbound lane of Highway 100 will be closed south of Highway 7, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and a northbound lane will be closed from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Then on Thursday, October 15, one southbound lane of Highway 100 will be closed south of Highway 7, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

On Friday, October 16 at 10:00 PM to Monday, October 19 at 5:00 AM Highway 100 will close between Highway 7 and Highway 62. Lane closures on Highway 100 are also anticipated on Saturday morning, October 3 so that crews can pour concrete for the bridge pier. **See St. Louis Park detour maps.**

### **Beltline Boulevard**

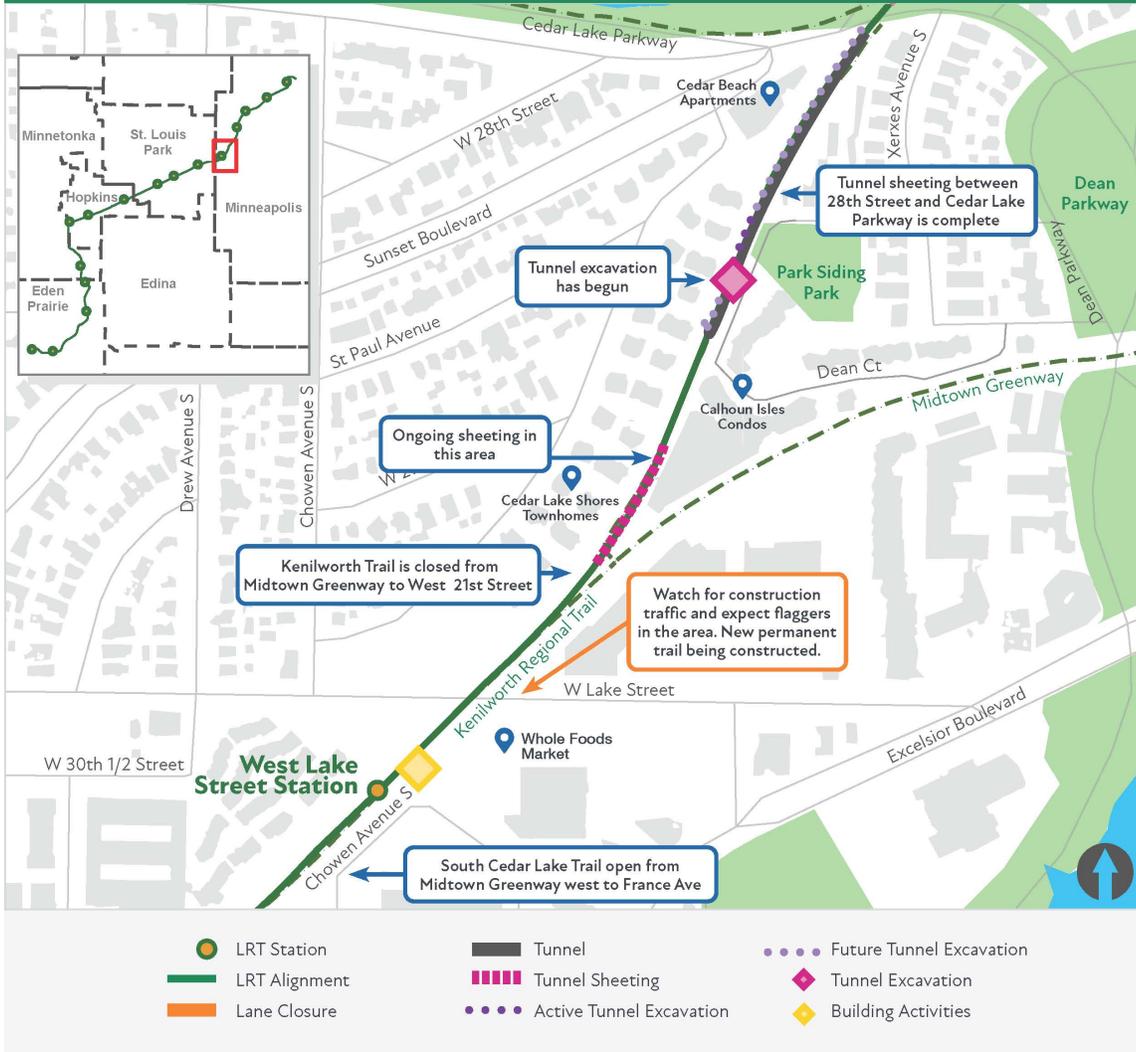
Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a regional trail bridge over the roadway. Work on the west half of the bridge structure is complete and with freight rail moved the east half of the bridge can be completed later this fall or spring 2021.

Beltline Boulevard has been restored and all lanes of traffic have reopened. Additional work and improvements will be conducted at a later date.

[Minneapolis](#)

**Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5**

**Minneapolis - Lake Street to Cedar Lake** | Construction Activities from October - December 2020



**Chowen Avenue to Lake Street**

Work on area utilities in nearing completion and crews are building the new permanent trail in this segment. Retaining wall work in the area along Chowen Avenue is also nearing completion.

**Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction**

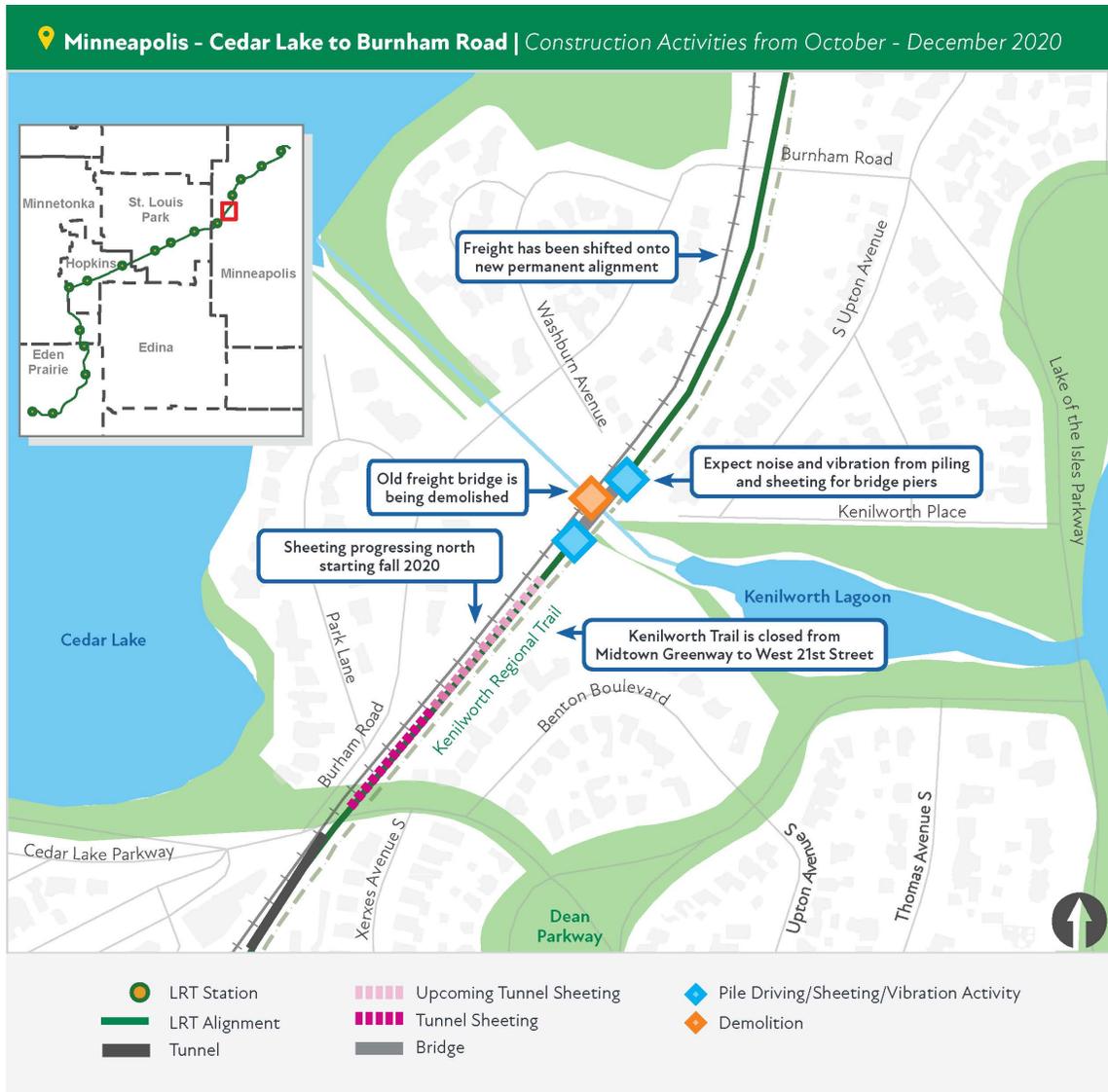
From the West Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of the LRT tunnel is ongoing through 2022.

One press-in-piler is working north of Cedar Lake Parkway and will move towards the channel installing sheets, the other piler will continue to work near West Lake Street. Residents should expect ongoing work in the area,

including occasional vibration when obstructions are encountered. Crews also continue to progress with the first stages of tunnel excavation. Crews will be excavating material and installing cross braces called struts.

For more information about tunnel construction, see the [tunnel FAQ](#) information under the construction tab of our webpage: [swlrt.org](http://swlrt.org). A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique that is being used for the tunnel is also available.

### Minneapolis Construction: Map 2 of 5



### Cedar Lake Parkway

An approximately six-month closure of Cedar Lake Parkway will be needed at a later date to complete tunnel excavation and construction, currently anticipated in Spring 2021.

### **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 complete and the LRT then trail bridges will follow in sequence.

Freight rail is now operating on the new track alignment and bridge over the Cedar Lake Channel. Demolition of the old freight bridge is complete. Construction of the new LRT bridge over the channel will begin the week of October 12th; expect noise and vibration from piling and sheeting activities. A closure of the channel is currently not anticipated to be needed to complete this next phase of work. Flaggers for water traffic will be present when the old freight rail bridge is removed, and traffic may be required to wait for a short period. If a closure is needed notice will be posted at least 14 days in advance.

### **Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5**



### West 21<sup>st</sup> Street

The soil beneath the surcharge has reached its intended compaction level and can now support station construction. Expect the remaining surcharge material to be removed as crews are available. Expect continued excavation equipment and dump trucks in the area, including vibratory rollers.

West 21<sup>st</sup> Street Station construction has begun. Crews have poured concrete for some of the station utilities. Expect ongoing station construction in the area and periodic vibration as soils are compacted by a roller.

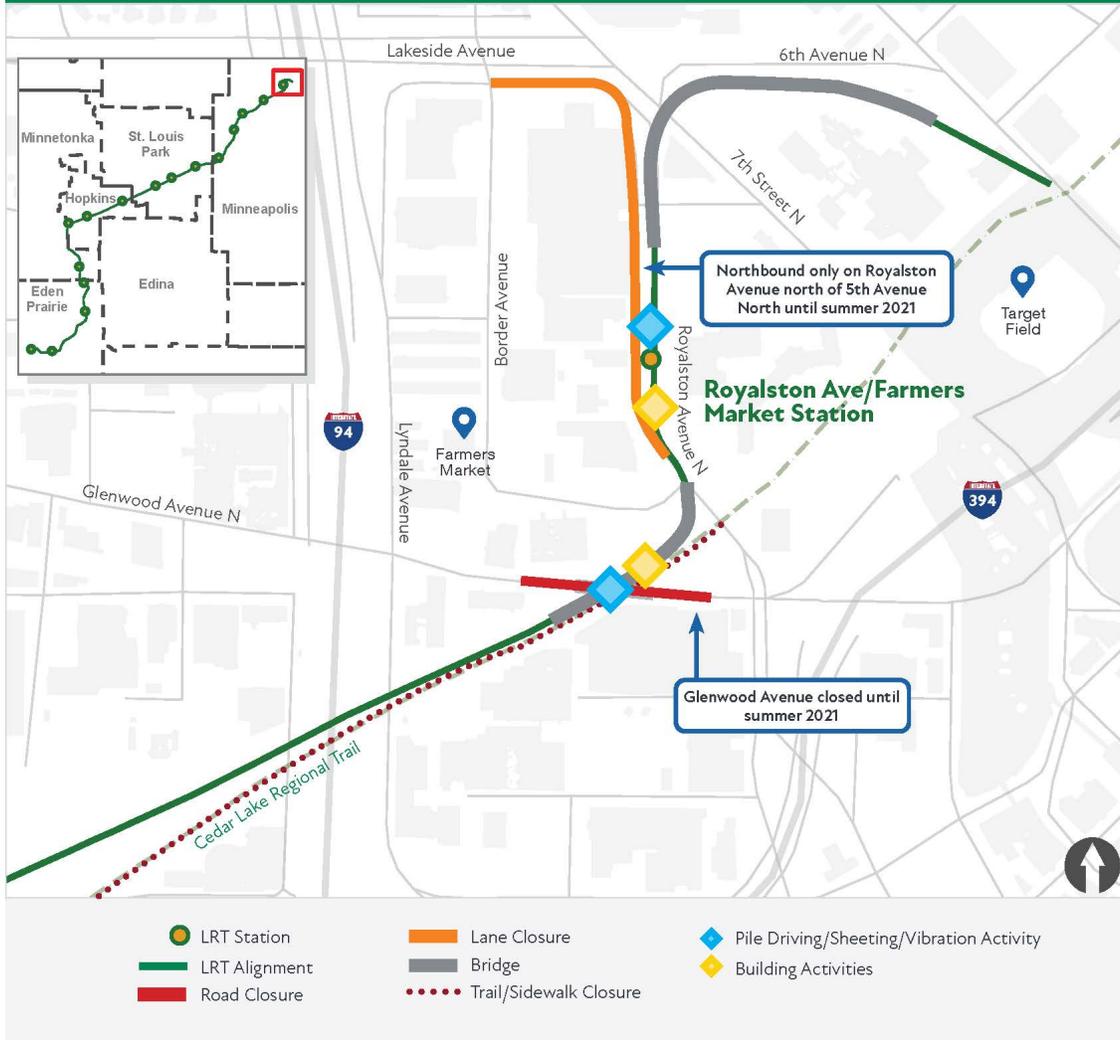
### Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5



### 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 soil beneath the surcharge has reached its intended compaction level and can now support station construction. Expect excavation equipment and more dump trucks in the area as excess material begins to be removed. Pile driving for the foundation of Bryn Mawr Station is anticipated to start this fall, as well as reparation work such as survey and excavation. Work will begin as crews become available.



### Glenwood Avenue

When the project is complete, LRT will cross a new Glenwood Avenue bridge at the roadway 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 North 12th Street is closed until mid-2021. The roadway is closed to vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic. [See detour map here](#). Local access to businesses is maintained. Crews are finishing retaining walls in the area. Work on the west abutment is nearing completion with crews removing supports for excavation. Grading work is also proceeding. BNSF crews will follow to shift the track to its new position to the north in this area.

### Royalston Avenue

This area will see the development of the Royalston Avenue/Farmer's Market Station, an LRT bridge crossing over North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and North 7<sup>th</sup> Street and connecting to the Target Field Station. The Holden/Royalston/Border loop will also be reconstructed.

The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue from North 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Holden Street is closed; 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 through early 2021.
- 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, bikers and pedestrians, with separate closures of roadways upcoming at various dates. [See detour maps here.](#)

Utility work near the West Lake Street Station is almost complete. Crews have begun grading work to construct the new permanent trail alignment under the West Lake Street bridge. Pedestrians and cyclists can use the new trail once completed. The trail will be fenced off and separated from construction activities. Until that work is complete expect flaggers in the area directing pedestrians and cyclists. Be mindful of construction equipment in the area and the directions given by the flaggers. Flagging activity is allowing the trail in this connecting segment to remain open during this phase of construction.

### **Kenilworth Trail Closure**

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

### 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.](#)

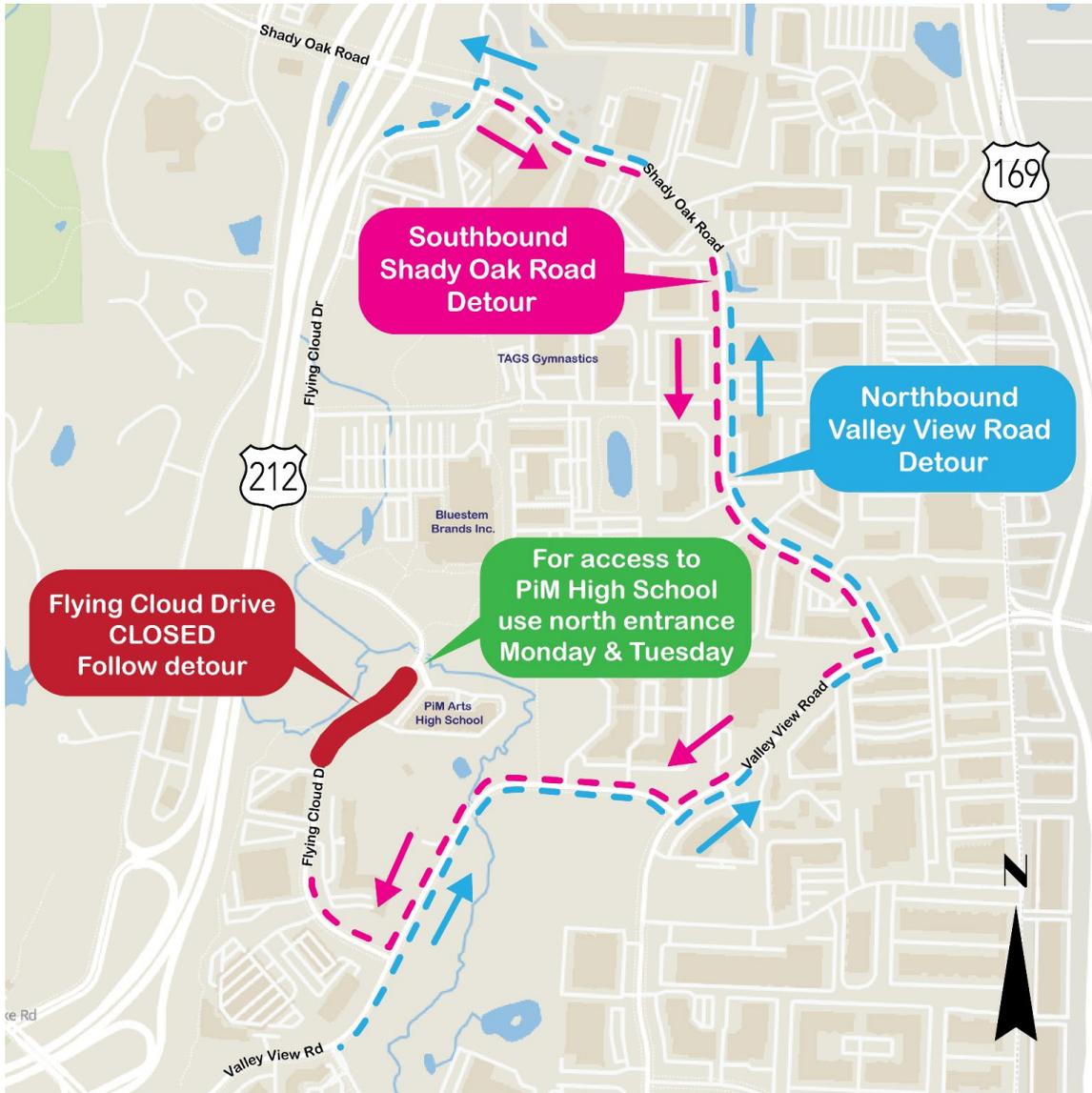
Please note, construction vehicles cross the trail as they enter and exit staging areas. Construction vehicles yield to trail users but please be aware that you may encounter construction traffic in this area.

The Cedar Lake Trail by Highway 394 and Linden Yards is 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.](#) Crews are conducting utility work in the area.

### SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



# Flying Cloud Drive Detours in Eden Prairie

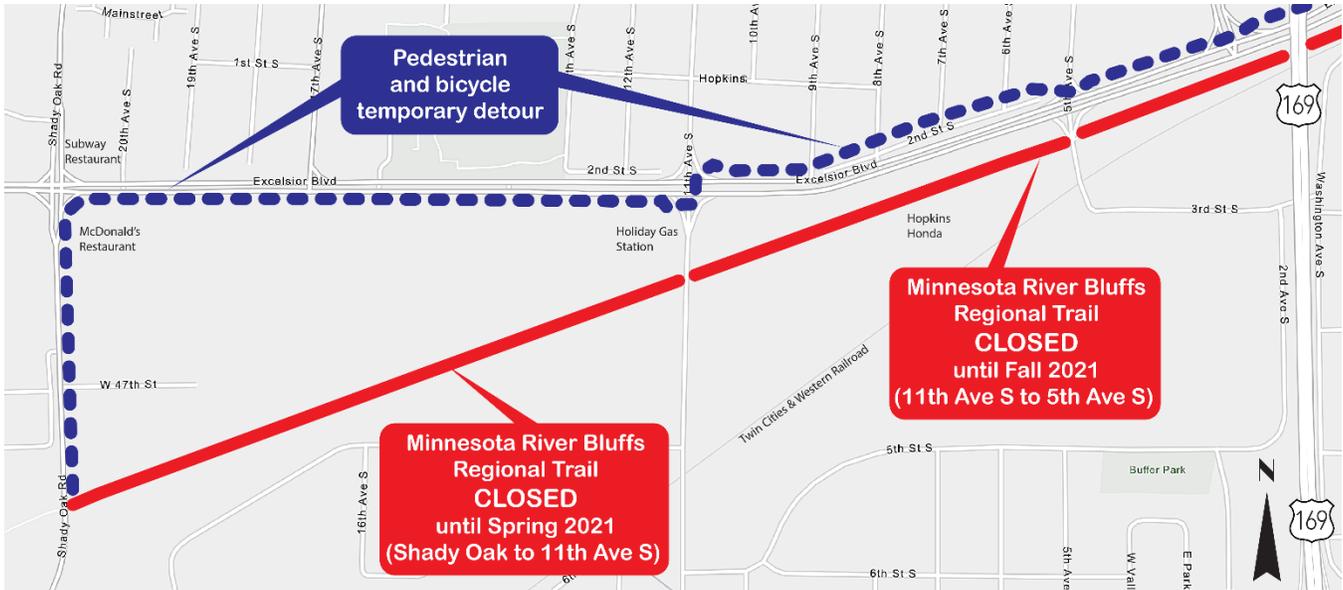




# Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles

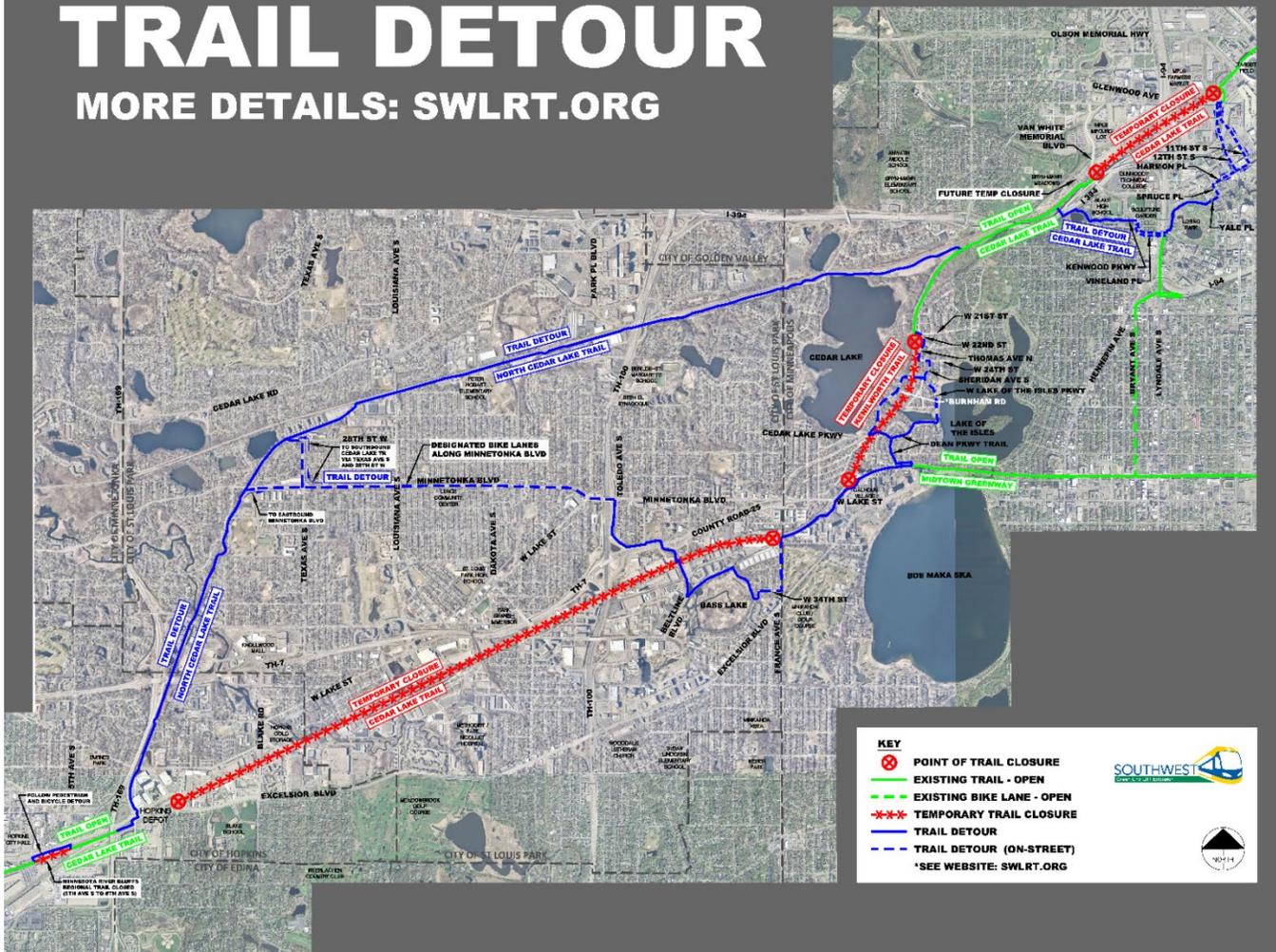


# Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour

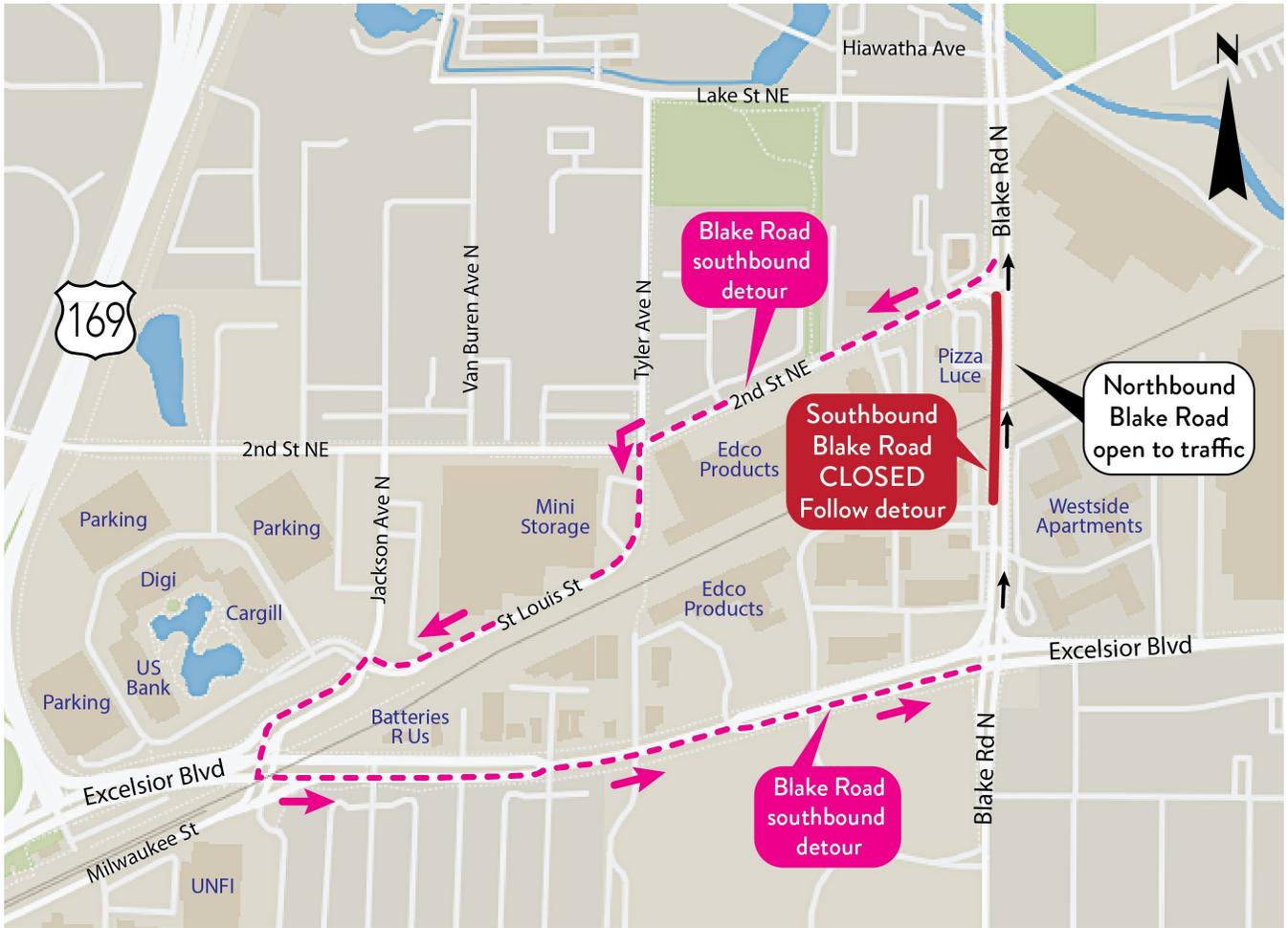


# Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours

**TRAIL DETOUR**  
 MORE DETAILS: [SWLRT.ORG](http://SWLRT.ORG)



# Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



# 5th Avenue Detour in Hopkins (Upcoming)



# HWY 100 DETOUR

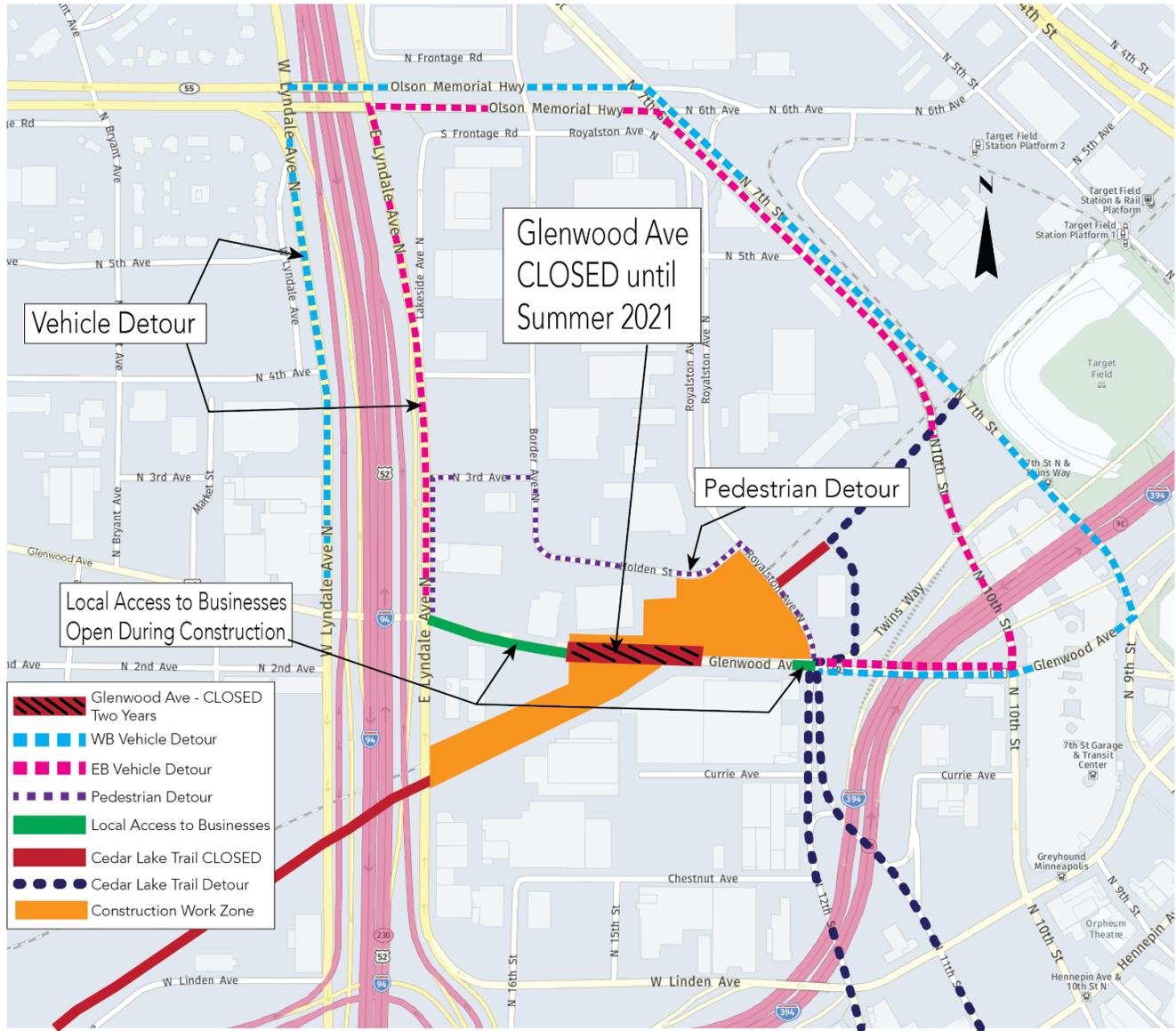
MORE DETAILS: [SWLRT.ORG](http://SWLRT.ORG)



### Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



# Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



# Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

