



Construction Update: August 6, 2021

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Southwest Light Rail Reaches Major Milestone: First LRT tracks in Hopkins

The Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County are proud to announce the first LRT rail tracks have officially been placed for the METRO Green Line Extension (Southwest LRT). The rail was installed in Hopkins, near the future Downtown Hopkins Station, on August 11, 2021. This marks another major milestone for the Southwest LRT project and brings the project one step closer to connecting the communities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis to new opportunities. For more information on this milestone visit www.swlrt.org

Weekly Construction Photo: First LRT Track Installation in Downtown Hopkins



A view of the first LRT tracks being installed near the Downtown Hopkins Station.

[Eden Prairie](#)

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 1 of 2



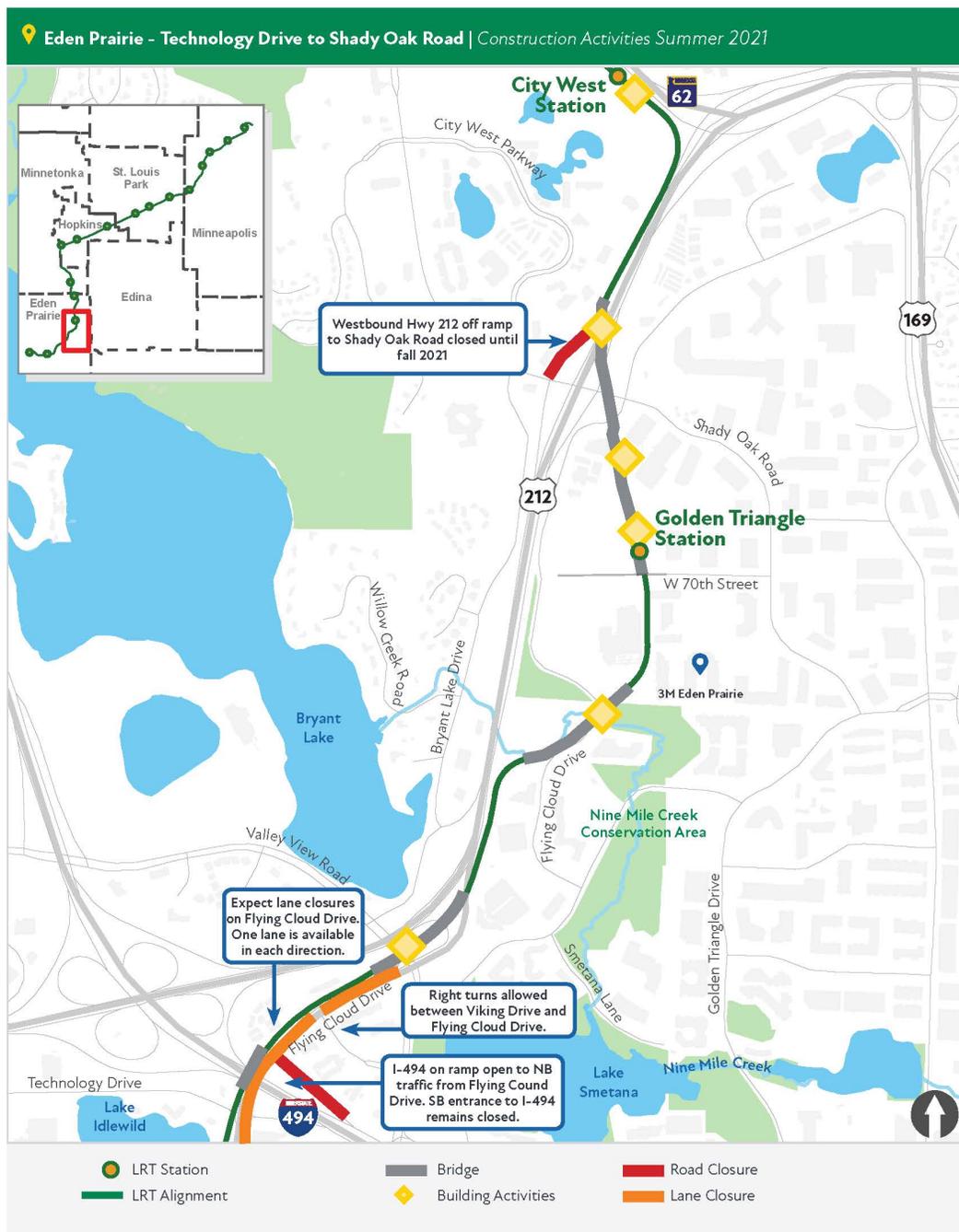
SouthWest Station to Eden Prairie Town Center Station

Construction Overview: At the SouthWest Station we are constructing a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and a combined bus and LRT station. Moving east, the Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge extends from the SouthWest Station area over Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive. Moving east, LRT will enter the Eden Prairie Town Center Station area.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Construction of the new SouthWest Station parking ramp and waiting area continues to advance, with the main structure mostly in place.
- Northbound and southbound lanes along Prairie Center Drive, from Technology Drive to Singletree Lane are open. Continue to expect intermittent lane closures for crews to safely complete overhead bridgework. Final restoration of Prairie Center Drive will occur later this year.

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2



LRT Bridge at I-494 to Shady Oak Road

Construction Overview: In this portion of Eden Prairie, an LRT bridge will cross over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive; this bridge is almost complete. Flying Cloud Drive is being reconstructed and LRT track installed. LRT will travel on bridges over Flying Cloud Drive and Nine Mile Creek. The Golden Triangle Station is being constructed as well as an LRT bridge over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- A new right turn lane was added to Technology Drive at the corner of Prairie Center Drive, near the Hwy 212 bridge overpass. This lane will remain closed until stripping occurs later this month. Expect lane closures on Technology Drive to install traffic signal detectors under the road.
- The I-494 off-ramp to Flying Cloud Drive is closed for the 2021 construction season. The eastbound I-494 on-ramp from Flying Cloud Drive is open to eastbound traffic only. Traffic traveling westbound on Flying Cloud Drive should follow the posted detours to access eastbound I-494. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)
- Flying Cloud Drive is reduced to one lane in both directions between Town Center Place to Valley View Road through the summer. Left turns in and out of Technology Drive at the Flying Cloud Drive intersection are not allowed through the summer.
- The westbound Highway 212 off-ramp to Shady Oak Road will remain closed through the end of the construction season.
- The Highway 62 on-ramp from Shady Oak Road is closed while crews advance adjacent construction. Also, expect lane closures along eastbound Highway 62 between Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. These closures are anticipated to last through the summer. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)
- Crews are advancing the southern portion of the Highway 62 LRT tunnel and area retaining walls. Most of the tunnel's structure is in place, and backfilling activities are underway.

Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1



City West Station in Eden Prairie to Shady Oak Station in Hopkins

Construction Overview: The City West Station area continues with preparation work for retaining walls. Major elements in this segment include an LRT tunnel under Highway 62, the Opus Station, many large retaining walls, the Smetana/Feltl roadway bridges over LRT and the Hopkins/Minnetonka LRT Bridge ending at the Shady Oak Road Station.

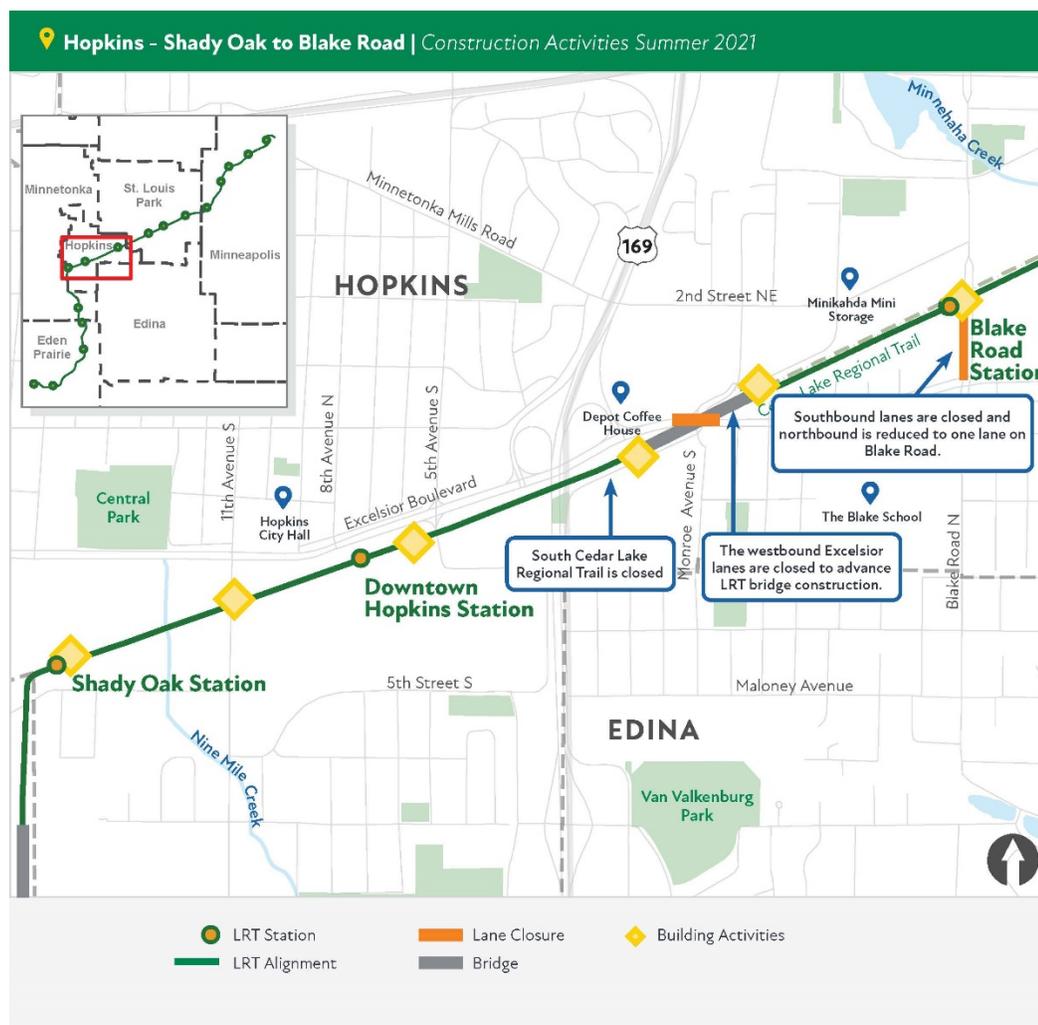
Current activities to expect in this area:

- The westbound lane on Green Circle Drive near the intersection with Bren Road West is closed through the 2021 construction season to complete work in the LRT corridor.
- A segment of Bren Road East is being reconstructed near the LRT corridor. Traffic on Red Circle Drive and Bren Road East temporarily connect with Yellow Circle Drive. Yellow Circle Drive is a two-way road during this phase of construction to accommodate through traffic and local businesses. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)

- The City of Minnetonka has closed the Blue Circle Drive bridge. This work is anticipated to continue through November. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)
- Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive remains closed until later this fall. A bypass is in place east of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl Roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)
- Crews continue to work on the Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge. Expect noise from piling as bridge piers are constructed.

Hopkins

Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1



Shady Oak Road Station to Blake Road Station

Construction Overview: There are three stations in Hopkins: Shady Oak Road, Downtown Hopkins and Blake Road. Major structures in Hopkins include an LRT bridge over Excelsior and a regional trail underpass at Blake

Road. In addition to LRT track construction there is also freight rail and regional trail work in the area. There are multiple LRT and freight railroad crossings at roadways.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Westbound Excelsior Boulevard is closed at Jackson Avenue. Traffic will remain detoured while crews advance the construction of the cantilevered LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. Left turns from southbound Jackson Avenue to eastbound Excelsior Boulevard are prohibited. [See Hopkins detour maps.](#)
- The construction of the regional trail underpass at Blake Road North is underway. Blake Road traffic has been reduced to one northbound lane between Excelsior Boulevard and 2nd Street N.E. while southbound Blake Road traffic is detoured at 2nd Street N.E. [See Hopkins detour maps.](#)

St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park Construction: Map 1 of 1



Louisiana Avenue to Beltline Boulevard

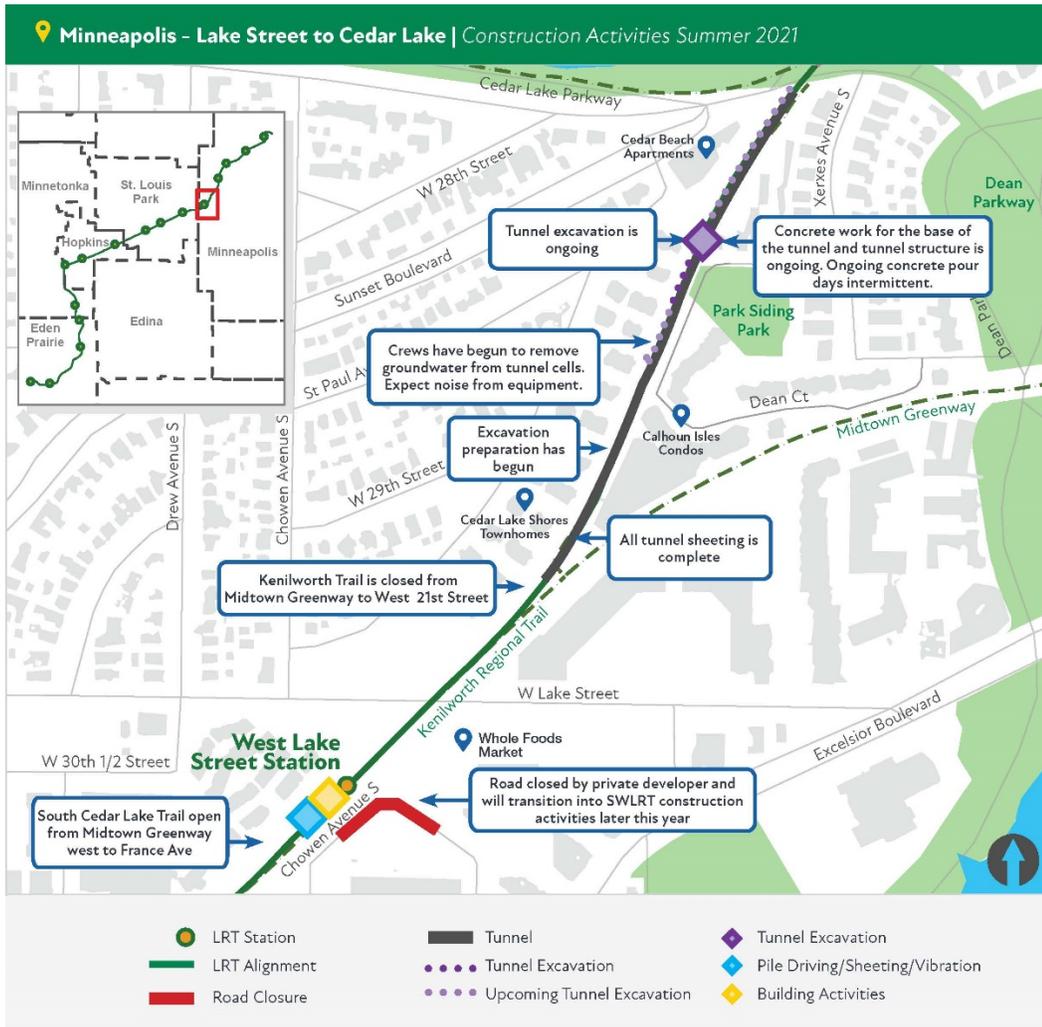
Construction Overview: Like in Hopkins, the project includes the construction of LRT track, freight rail track, and the regional trail. There are also three stations in St. Louis Park: Louisiana Avenue, Wooddale Avenue and Beltline Boulevard. Structures in this area include LRT and freight rail bridges over Louisiana Avenue, a connection between freight lines, a pedestrian/trail underpass east of Louisiana Avenue, freight, LRT and trail bridges over Minnehaha Creek, a regional trail underpass at Wooddale Avenue, freight, LRT and trail bridges over Highway 100 and a regional trail bridge crossing over Beltline Boulevard.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Overnight lane closures on Highway 100 are anticipated for Wednesday August 18 through Friday, August 20 to paint the LRT bridge structure.
- Expect lane closures through summer along Louisiana Avenue between West Lake Street and Oxford Street while crews advance bridge construction. Piling operations are expected.

[Minneapolis](#)

Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5



Chowen Avenue to Cedar Lake Parkway

Construction Overview: In addition to the West Lake Street Station, crews will be reconstructing the Chowen/Abbott roadway connection. The LRT tunnel is being constructed in this area, running between the West Lake Street Station and the Cedar Lake Channel. To complete work in this area there is also freight rail infrastructure and trail facilities.

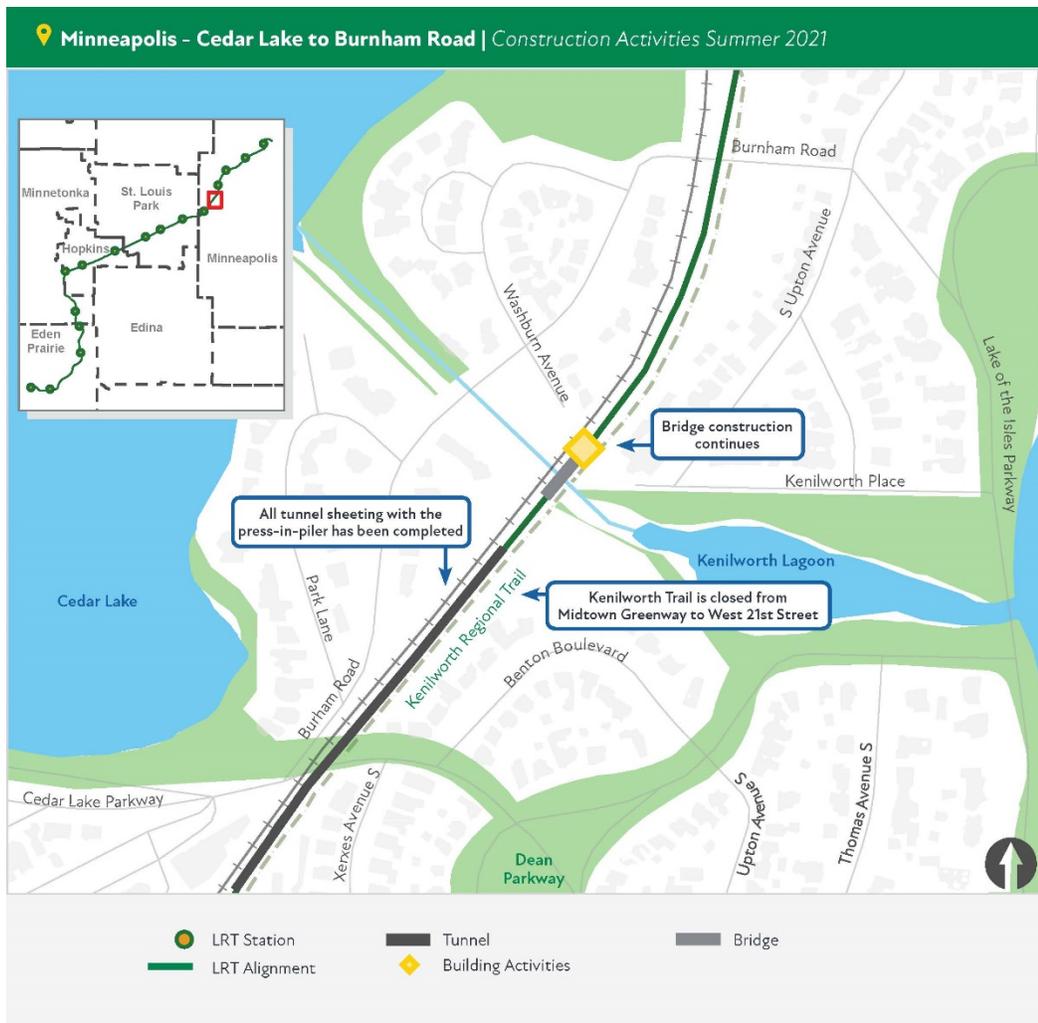
Current activities to expect in this area:

- Construction of the West Lake Street Station continues with excavation work and the installation of underground elements such as duct banks.
- Freight rail work is scheduled for the following weekends: August 14-15, August 21-22, and August 28-29. Work hours will be 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM. Crews will pull new rail, install spikes and ties, and tamp ballast. Work will occur between France Avenue and the BNSF Wayzata Junction near the Bryn Mawr Station

area. Expect noise, equipment and materials moving through the corridor as well as vibratory activity from tamping ballast. These construction activities coincide with planned freight rail outages.

- Tunnel construction continues. Crews have poured base concrete slabs and will advance the structure of the tunnel. Expect noise from excavators, generators and pumps for water management, concrete application, and drilling. Current and upcoming work include:
 - Preparation work for excavation near the Cedar Isles Condominiums continues through summer.
 - Work activities include power washing and water management, and various concrete work. Expect concrete truck traffic to and from the site.
 - Expect construction traffic along Sunset Boulevard, Depot Street, France Avenue and Cedar Lake Parkway. This route will primarily be used to deliver materials and equipment such as concrete and rebar for the construction of the Kenilworth LRT tunnel.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 2 of 5



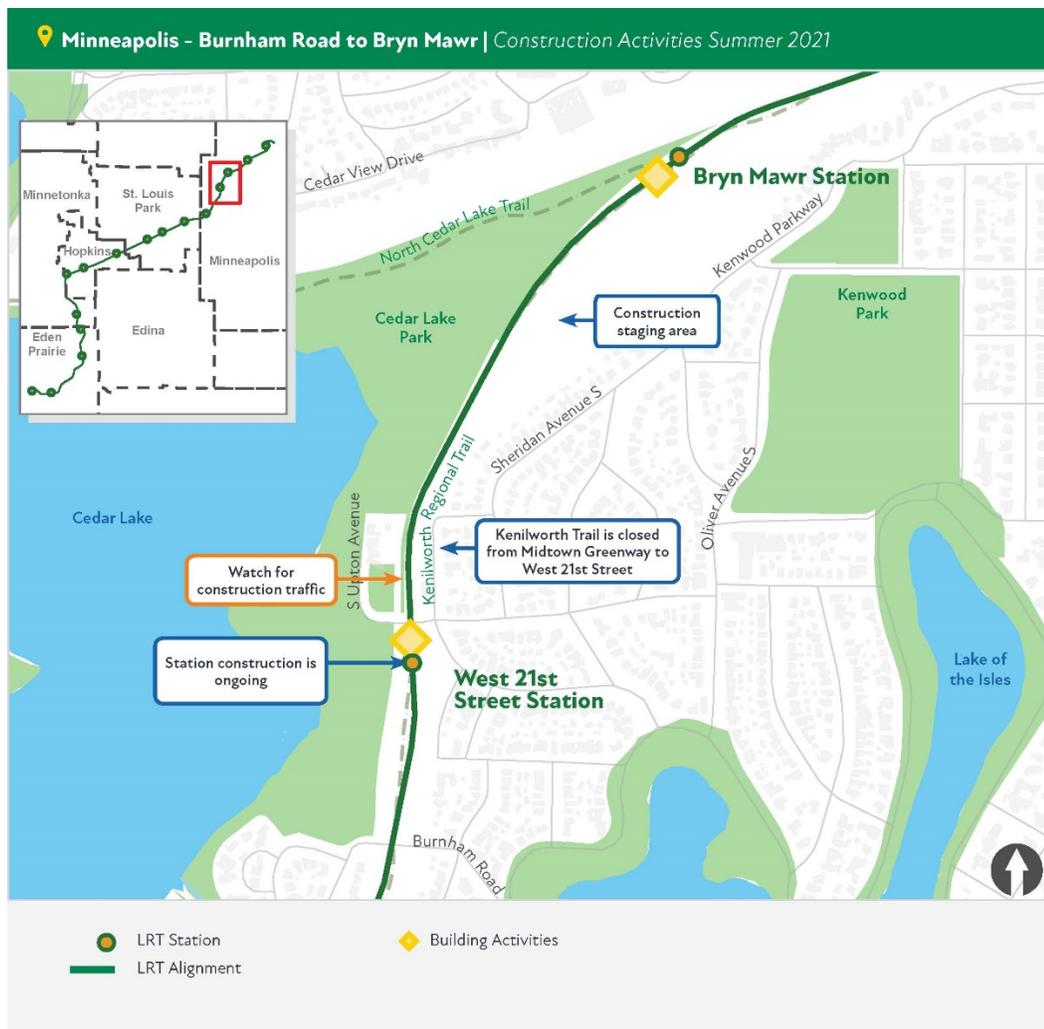
Cedar Lake Parkway to Burnham Road

Construction Overview: The LRT tunnel continues in this segment. Other elements include the construction of retaining walls (complete), and freight, LRT and trail bridges over the Cedar Lake Channel.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- LRT bridge construction continues at the Cedar Lake Channel with concrete formwork.
- A 10 to 14-day closure of Cedar Lake Parkway is upcoming in late August or early September. Crews will work on metal sheets under the Parkway and perform grouting work to seal gaps between sheeting. Expect noise and vibration. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be preserved for the duration of this closure. Detour information is forthcoming.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5



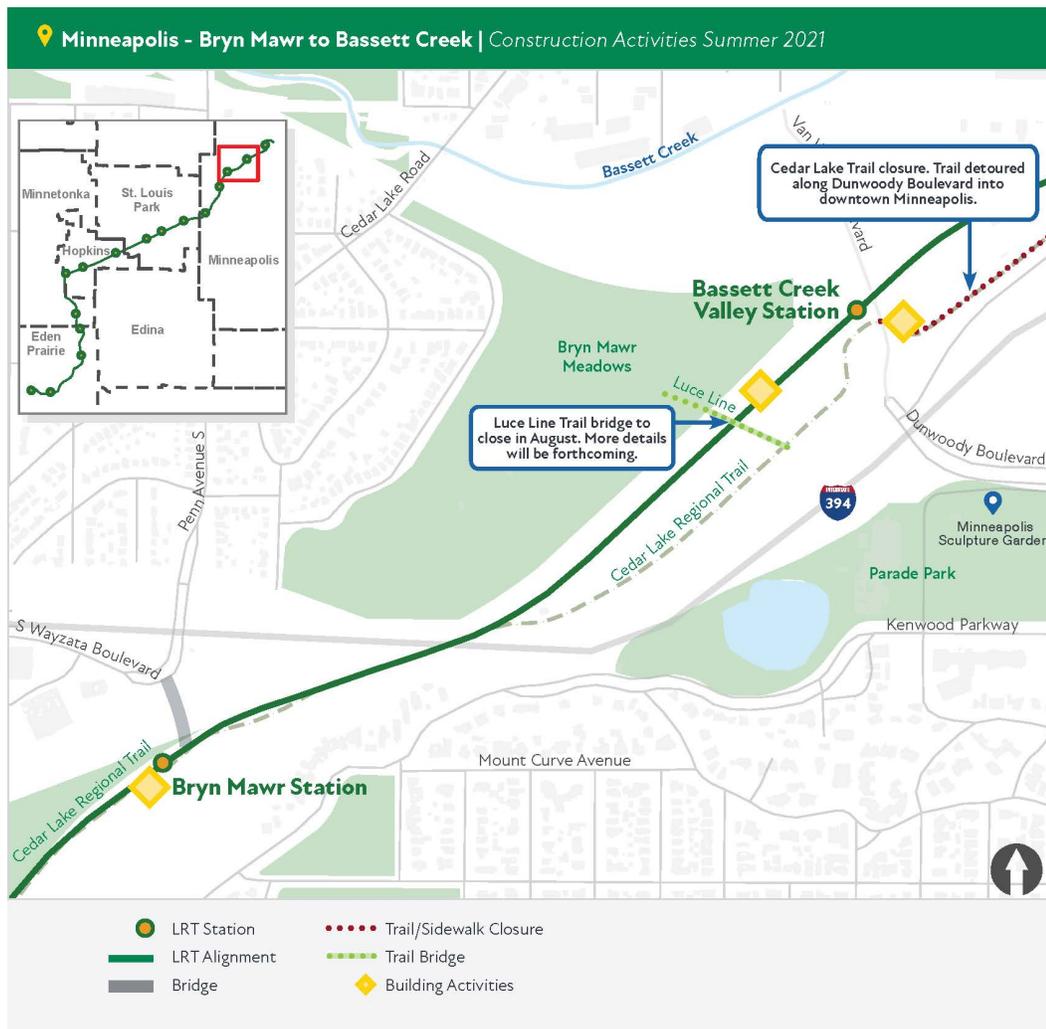
Burnham Road to Bryn Mawr Station

Construction Overview: In addition to the LRT, freight rail and trail construction, this area has two stations: West 21st Street and Bryn Mawr. The Bryn Mawr Station includes a pedestrian bridge that will extend over the freight tracks from the bluffs to the station platform.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Truck traffic and noise from moving materials to and from laydown areas.
- Work on the 21st Street Station is ongoing. The West 21st Street Station will be under construction throughout 2021.
- Construction at Bryn Mawr Station is ramping up with excavation and installation of piles to construct the pedestrian bridge. Retaining wall work on the bluff south of Wayzata Blvd and Penn Avenue is expected to start toward the end of August.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5



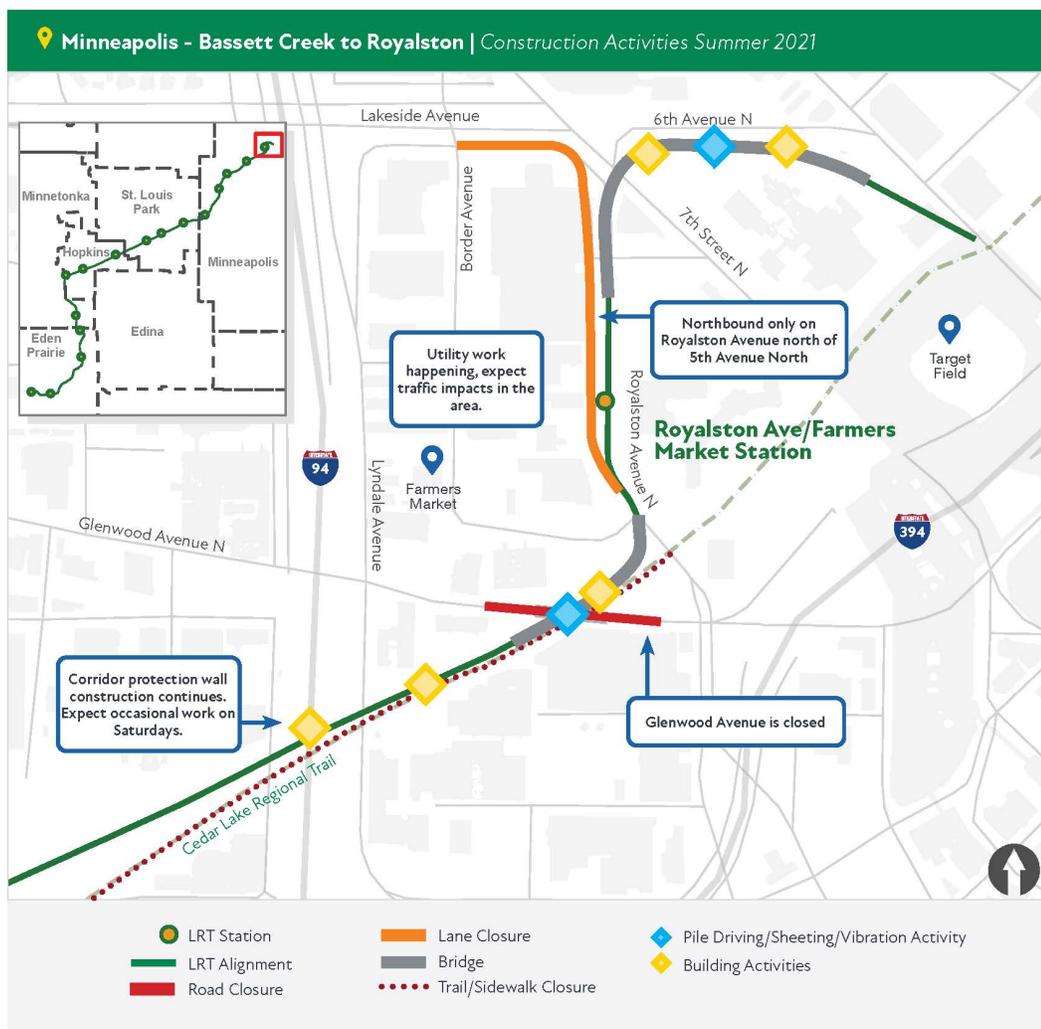
Bryn Mawr Station to Bassett Creek Valley Station Area

Construction Overview: There are two stations serving residents in this area; Bryn Mawr Station and the Bassett Creek Valley Station. In addition, area construction includes LRT track, trails and the corridor protection wall.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- The Luce Line Trail Bridge over Linden Yards and the BNSF railroad will be demolished within the next 2-4 weeks. Trail users will cross the rail corridor to the west adjacent to Highway I-394. [See Minneapolis detour maps here](#). The trail bridge will be closed for approximately a year, while a new bridge is constructed.
- Crews continue to build a corridor protection wall between Glenwood Avenue and I-394, including work on Saturdays

Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5



Glenwood Avenue to Target Field Station

Construction Overview: 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. This area will see the development of the Royalston Avenue/Farmer’s Market Station, an LRT bridge crossing over North 5th Avenue and North 7th Street and LRT connecting to the Target Field Station. The Holden/Royalston/Border roadway loop will also be reconstructed with improvements.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Construction activities to advance the Glenwood Avenue LRT bridge include high-vibration sheeting installation and pile-driving for most of the summer. Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and North 12th Street remains closed. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#)
- Crews continue to build a corridor protection wall between Glenwood Avenue and I-94, including work on Saturdays.
- Bridge pier work near 7th and 6th Avenues has resumed. This work entails high-vibration activities for sheeting installation and pile driving. This work is expected to continue through the construction season. Expect lane closures on eastbound 6th Avenue.

Regional Trails

Opus Area in Minnetonka

- Various trails within the Opus area are closed as crews work to advance many project elements.

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 2022.
- The section between 11th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until 2022.

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 2022. 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. [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. We are currently assessing the tunnel schedule which impacts the opening of this trail segment and we will provide an update when the schedule is known. Access for automobiles, bikers and pedestrians remains open at Cedar Lake Parkway and at West 21st Street. [See detour map here.](#)

North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis

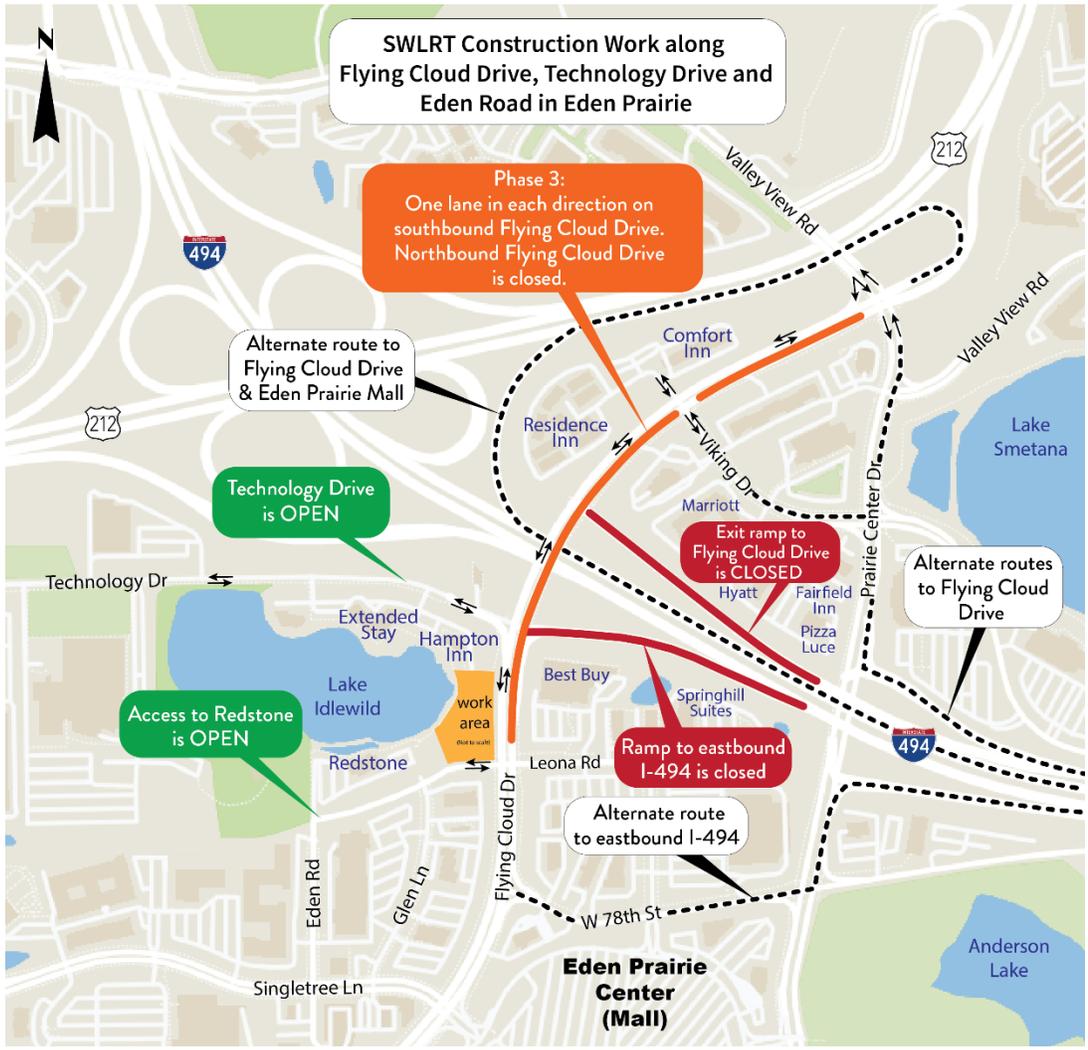
The North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is now anticipated to be closed until 2022. [See detour maps here.](#)

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.

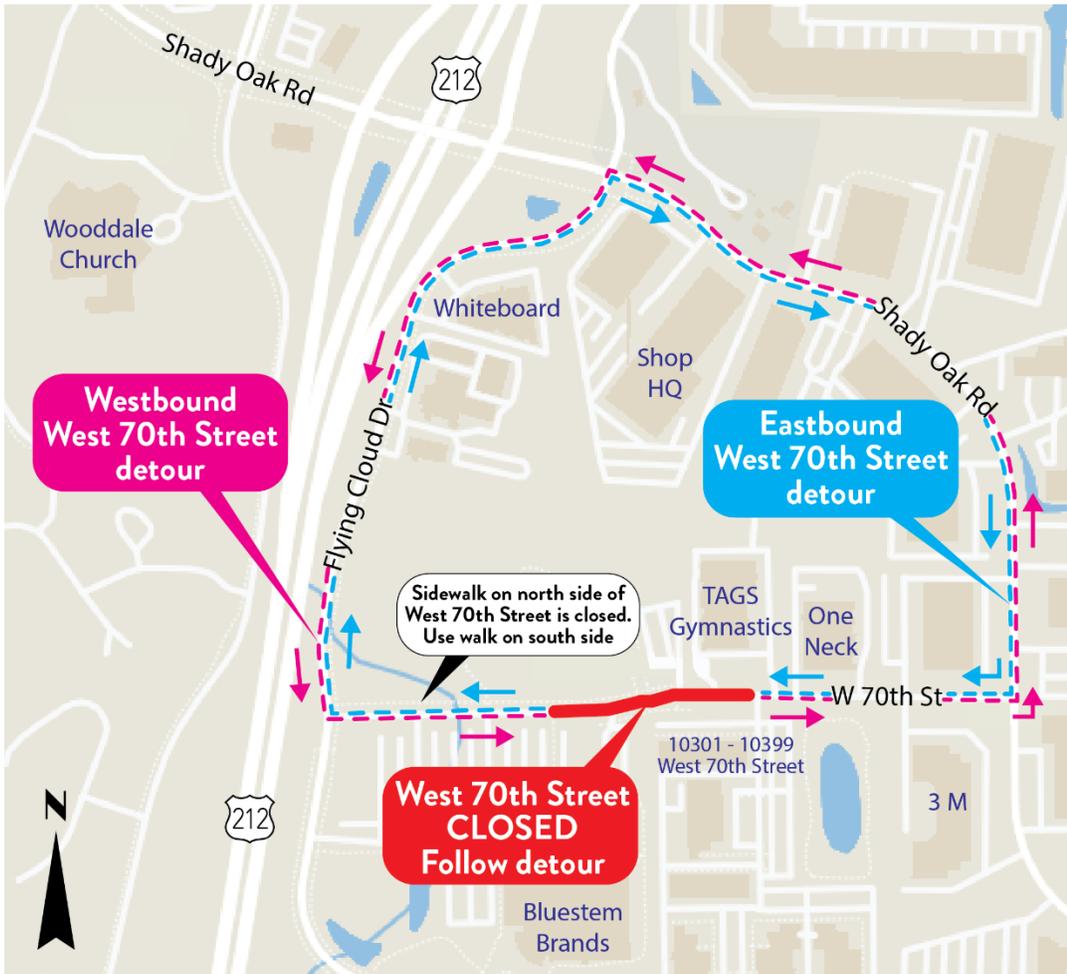
SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



Flying Cloud Drive & Highway 494 Ramps in Eden Prairie



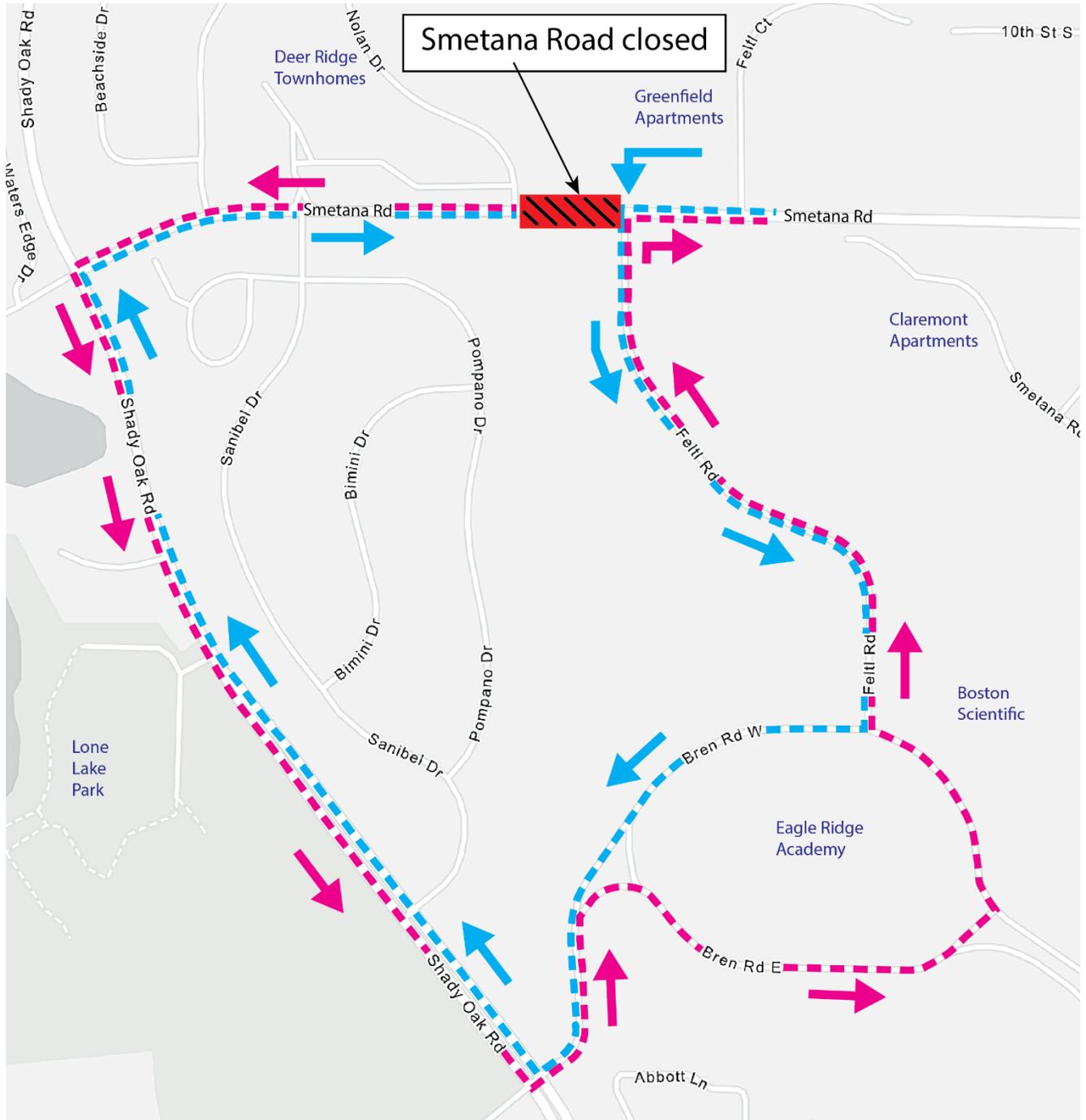
Upcoming West 70th Street in Eden Prairie



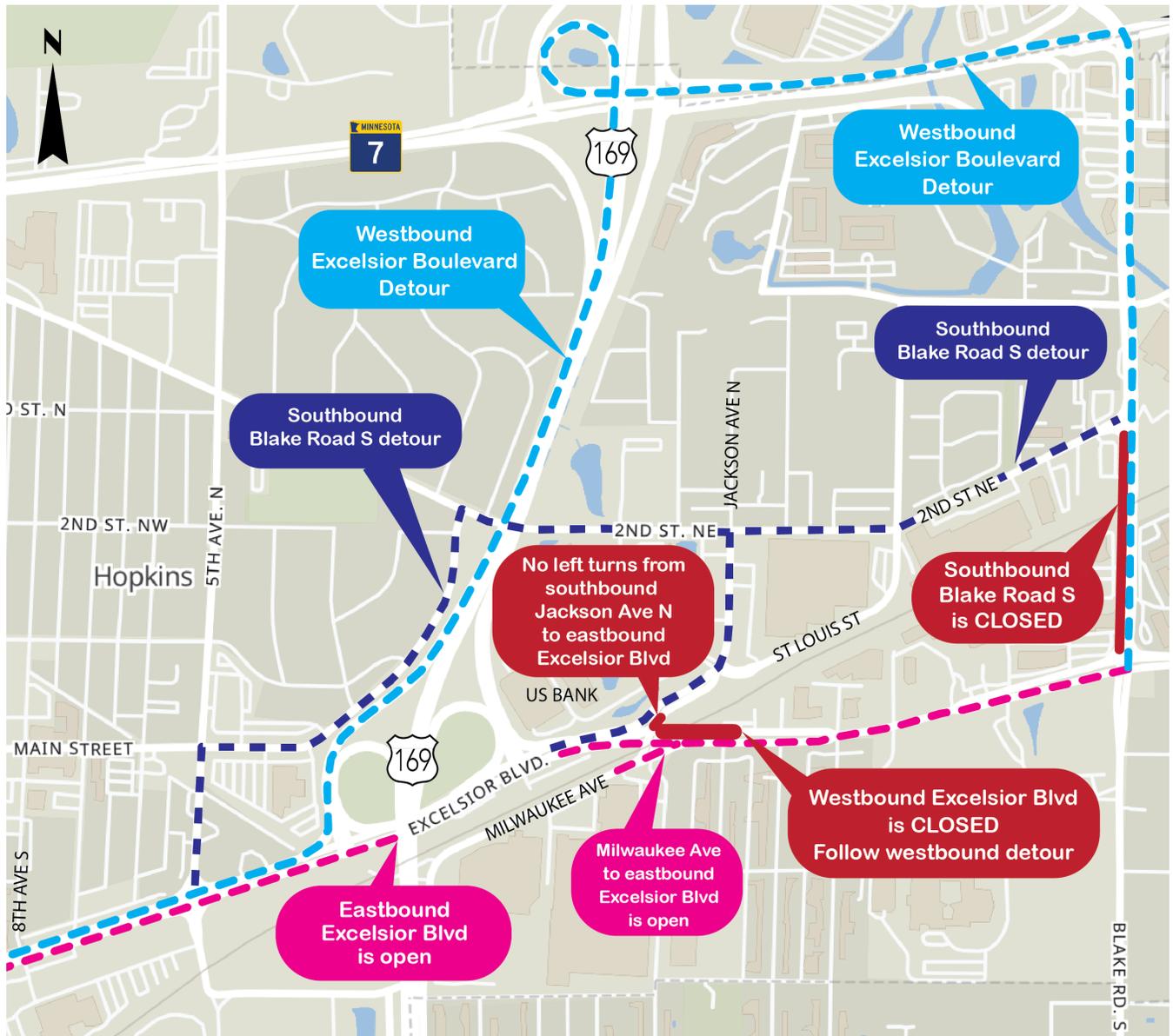
Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Red and Yellow Circles



Smetana Road in Minnetonka



Blake Road in Hopkins



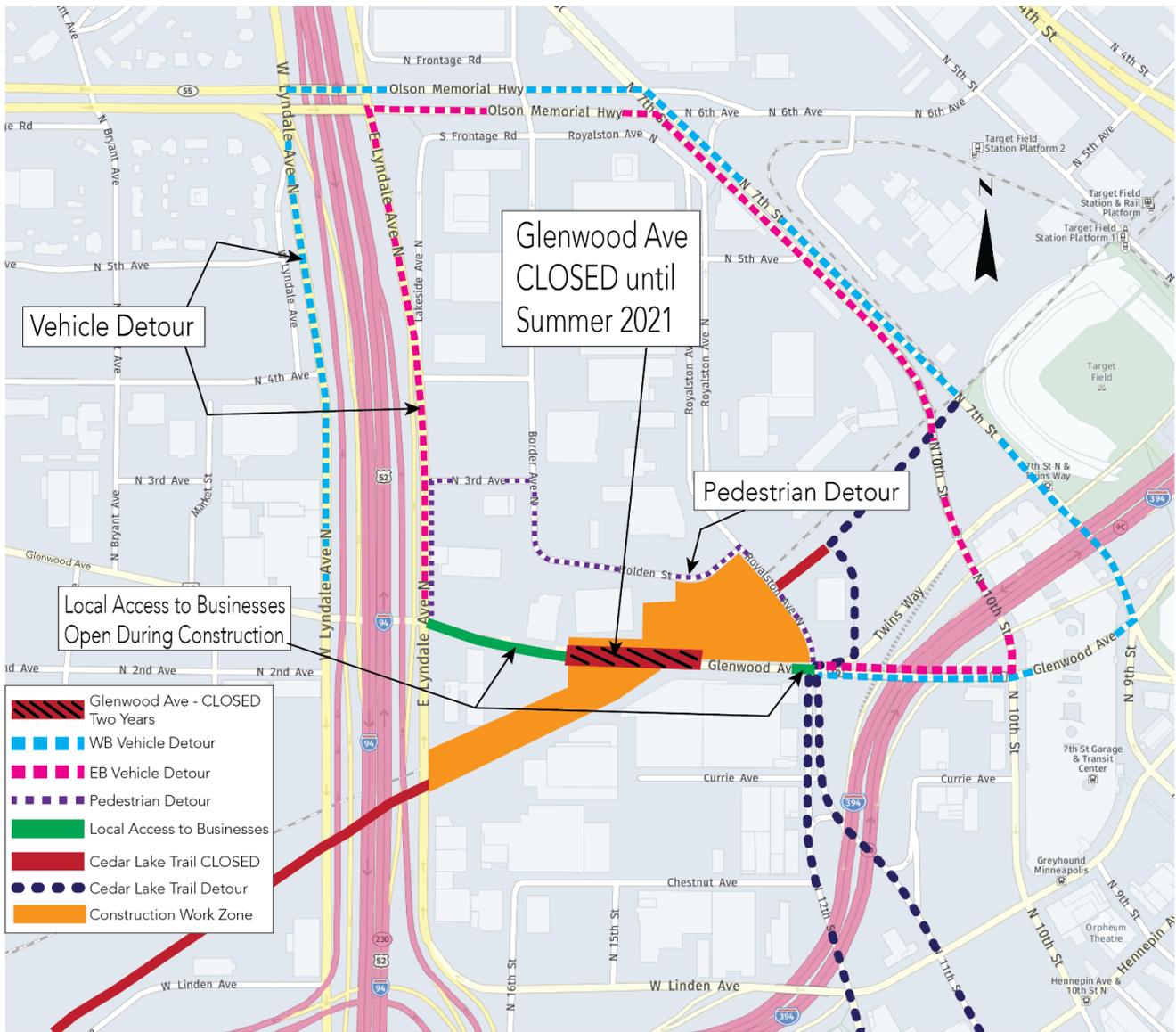
CEDAR LAKE REGIONAL TRAIL

TEMPORARY ALIGNMENT

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

