



Construction Update: March 27, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

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What *Shelter in Place* Means for Southwest LRT

Under Governor Walz's Emergency Executive Order 20-20, transportation, logistics and public works have been designated as critical sectors and are exempted from the stay at home order to perform work duties. This includes transportation projects like Southwest LRT as well as public transit workers. Southwest LRT construction will continue within the cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minneapolis. The civil contractor is practicing working environment protocols (asking employees to stay home if they are sick, social distancing, etc.) as outlined by public health agencies. Essential Met Council staff continues to monitor and review construction activities and conditions through our field inspectors and their on-site reporting. Community Outreach Coordinators are available by email or phone during this time and our construction hotline is still answered 24/7. To read the executive order or to connect with your community outreach coordinator visit our website at swlrt.org

Weekly Construction Photo: LRT Tunnel Excavation at Highway 62 in Minnetonka



Crews continue excavation for the LRT tunnel under Highway 62, with concrete work creating the base slab of the north tunnel portal.

Highlights

- Lane reductions begin on Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie between Eden Road and Valley View Road next week. **See the roadway impact map below.**
- Bren Road West in Minnetonka, just west of Green Circle to Bren Road East is anticipated to close for the 2020 construction season beginning March 30. **See detour map below.**
- Beginning next week piling and excavation work for the Hopkins/Minnetonka LRT bridge, which will be located east of Nolan Drive, will begin and be ongoing through the 2020 construction season. Work is starting north of the freight rail tracks.
- The closure of the outside southbound lane on Highway 100 between Highway 7 and the project corridor in St. Louis Park and the ramp from Highway 7 to southbound Hwy 100 has been postponed until Monday, March 30 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, due to weather.

On-going Activities Update

Eden Prairie

SouthWest Station Area

SouthWest Transit bus riders continue to use the temporary facility (**see pedestrian detour map below**). Utilities have been disconnected in the former facility and demolition activities have commenced.

Pier work, including pile driving, for the new LRT bridge that wraps around the SouthWest Station park-and-ride structure will continue into the spring 2020. Sidewalks along Prairie Center Drive and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow local signage to ensure your safety. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed until spring 2020, to accommodate the completion of retaining wall work. Crews continue backfilling the retaining wall north of the park-and-ride structure and will then proceed to remove the temporary sheeting.

Prairie Center Drive

On the west side of Prairie Center Drive, near Purgatory Creek Park, piling for piers is ongoing. This includes ongoing work on Saturdays, including driving piles. The sidewalk is closed from Technology Drive to Singletree Lane. Additional lane closures will be needed in the spring as work for piers advances.

Eden Road Area

Major earthwork is ongoing in this area.

LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive

Crews continue working on both the south and north abutments. Concrete work is underway for the north abutment and pile driving activities for the south abutment are almost complete. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place. The I-494 eastbound ramp to Highway 212 remains closed and will reopen shortly after temperatures allow work tasks to be completed. **See detour map below.**

Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive

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 into the spring. Crews are constructing multiple piers for the new LRT bridge. The piers are at different stages of construction with many nearing completion. In April, overnight road closures on Valley View Road to set bridge girders (support beams) are planned. A date has not yet been set; we will give notice at least seven days in advance. **See the upcoming detour map below.**

Next week, Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road will begin four phases of traffic impacts, specifically lane reductions and closures, as crews build LRT infrastructure along the north/west side of the Flying Cloud Drive. These four phases will last the duration of the 2020 construction season. This work will have impacts on connecting roadways. The initial phase, which will begin next week and will last for about a month, will close the two inside lanes and traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction on Flying Cloud Drive. The west bound exit from Highway 494 to Flying Cloud Drive will be reduced to one lane and then later will close for the 2020 construction season. **See traffic map below.**

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

Piling is ongoing in the area for retaining walls and the LRT bridge. Crews are advancing concrete work on the bridge piers north of the station. Work on the Golden Triangle Station is also being advanced.

Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Storm sewer work will resume in this area after other utility conflicts are cleared. Expect minor traffic impacts on the east side of the Shady Oak/Highway 212 intersection. The storm sewer work will take four months.

Minnetonka

Highway 62

The traffic lanes have been shifted to the south side of the highway corridor to accommodate LRT tunnel construction which is underway on the north side of the highway. This traffic configuration will be in place through 2020. Crews continue excavation and sheet piling work for the LRT tunnel. Crews will begin constructing the bottom leveling slab of the north tunnel section in April.

Red Circle Drive and Yellow Circle Drive

Yellow and Red Circle Drives have been reconfigured. Yellow Circle Drive is temporarily dead ended with a cul-de-sac where it connects to Red Circle Drive, and Yellow Circle Drive has temporarily become a two-way roadway in the area south of Blue Circle Drive. A temporary by-pass road has also been completed on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will allow for ongoing tunnel construction at Highway 62 and will be in place until Fall 2020. **See a map of the roadway changes below.**

Opus Station Area

Earthwork continues in this area. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle to Bren Road East is anticipated to close for the 2020 construction season beginning on March 30. **See detour map below.** Minor traffic lane impacts on Bren Road East is also expected over the next few weeks to accommodate pipe jacking.

Smetana Road

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 detour maps below.** Watermain and sanitary sewer work continues in the area. In April, retaining wall work will begin in the area, as well as abutment work for the roadway bridge.

Hopkins

Minnetonka-Hopkins Bridge Area

The Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT Bridge is located east of Noland Drive and the Hopkins Landfill. Preparation work including tree clearing and ground cover removal for the bridge continues. Crews started clearing work closest to the railroad line. In addition, crews started to build an access road. Beginning next week piling and excavation work for the bridge will begin north of the freight rail tracks and will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season. Expect ongoing piling in the area.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Earthwork will begin in the area in early April. Work to advance the station will be ongoing as crews begin to work on plumbing and concrete elements.

Excelsior Boulevard Area

Crews continue to work on the LRT bridge and underground utilities in the area. Piers and abutments continue to take shape. Pile driving, sheeting and concrete work is ongoing in the area.

Blake Road

Crews continue constructing a cut and cover tunnel for the regional trail on the west side of Blake Road. Southbound traffic will continue to be diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction, through the spring.

St. Louis Park

Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges continue in this area. The abutments are complete. Crews are beginning to backfill retaining walls on the approach to the bridge. Bridge girders will be constructed later this spring.

Louisiana Avenue

Later this spring crews will begin work to place bridge beams over the roadway, two overnight closures are anticipated but not yet scheduled. East of Louisiana Avenue, crews are working on the pedestrian/bike tunnel that will extend under the freight tracks to the station is underway. Shoring and sheeting work for the southerly railroad connection, that will replace the current wye track, along Oxford Street is beginning next few weeks.

Wooddale Avenue

Wooddale Avenue between West 36th Street and Highway 7, in the immediate vicinity of the Southwest Project, is reduced to one lane in each direction. Pedestrian access is maintained. Crews are constructing the west segment of the regional trail tunnel. A full road closure will be needed for 30 days, anticipated later in the spring, more details to follow.

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. Bridge abutment work is ongoing.

The closure of the outside southbound lane on Highway 100 between Highway 7 and the project corridor in St. Louis Park and the ramp from Highway 7 to southbound Hwy 100 has been postponed until Monday, March 30 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, due to weather.

Beltline Boulevard

The main truss for the regional trail bridge has been set. Work on the trail bridge deck continues. Major earthwork will also begin in the area early April.

Minneapolis

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street

Utility work continues in the area.

Kenilworth Area Construction

Sheet piling for the Kenilworth tunnel continues. One of the press-in-pilers will continue working south from 28th Street. The second press-in-piler is moving north from 28th Street on the freight rail side. It will stop short of Cedar Lake Parkway and return south, working towards Lake Street. Sheeting installation is expected to last through summer of 2020.

Tunnel excavation is anticipated to begin spring 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 is also available.

In preparation for future tunnel work, a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services sanitary sewer force main needs to be temporarily relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. After this work is complete, Dean Court will become a two-way roadway and will remain in this configuration for six to eight weeks. We anticipate the roadway reconfiguration will be implemented in April. We will provide updates as work progresses.

Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel

Temporary sheeting is being removed intermittently from the channel area as abutment and retaining are backfilled. This activity also generates vibration. Then focus will switch to continued concrete work, bridge spans and utility work.

21st Street

No additional work is anticipated in this area early April. Construction equipment continues to move through the corridor.

Bryn Mawr Station Area

Crews continue earthwork in the Bryn Mawr Station area in Minneapolis to construct a surcharge. This work will remain for five months to consolidate the underlying soil to provide a suitable foundation for the station. In early-April earth work will also begin for the new trail. Retaining wall work in the Penn/Wayzata area is anticipated to begin in the next month.

I-394/Cedar Lake Trail

Pier protection work continues the I-394 bridge.

Glenwood Avenue

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 below.** 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

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. This closure will last until summer 2021. Business access is available via the northbound lane. **See the roadway impact map below.**

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 below.**

- 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 below.**

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 below.**

North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis

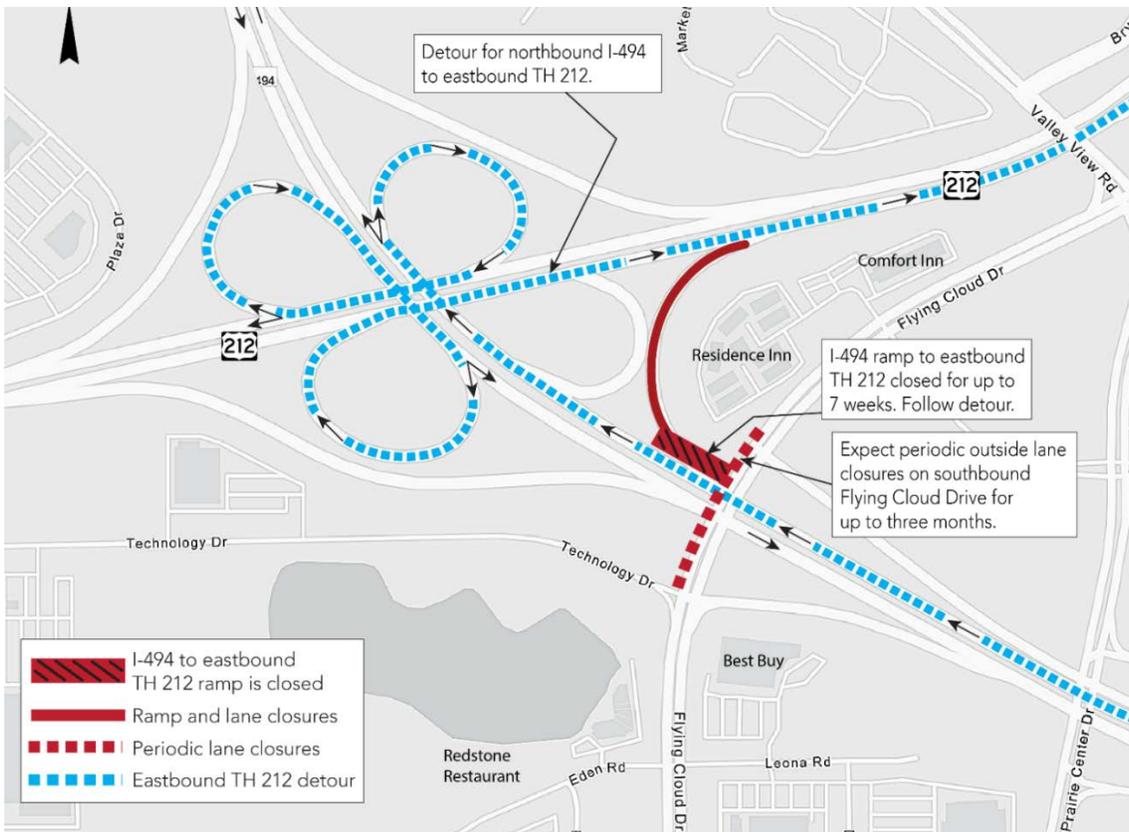
The North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is closed until mid-2021. **See detour maps below.**

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. Anticipate flaggers in this area as earthwork activities continue in the Bryn Mawr Station area.

SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



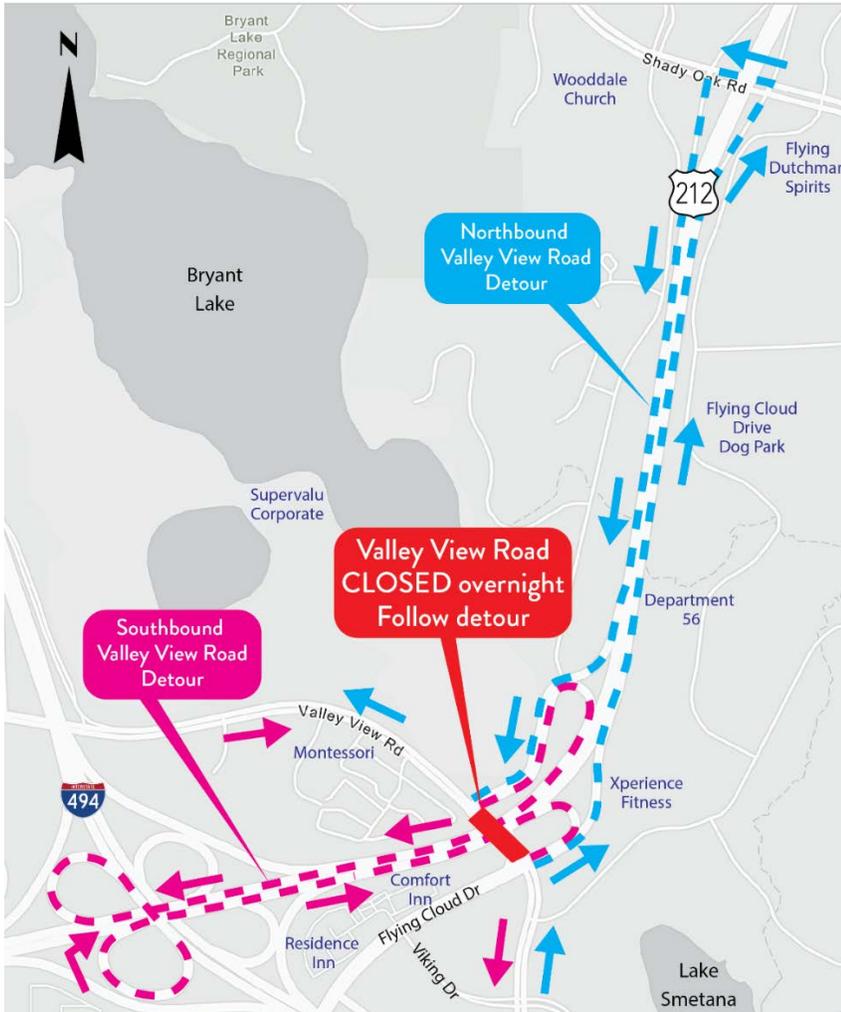
Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



Upcoming: Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie



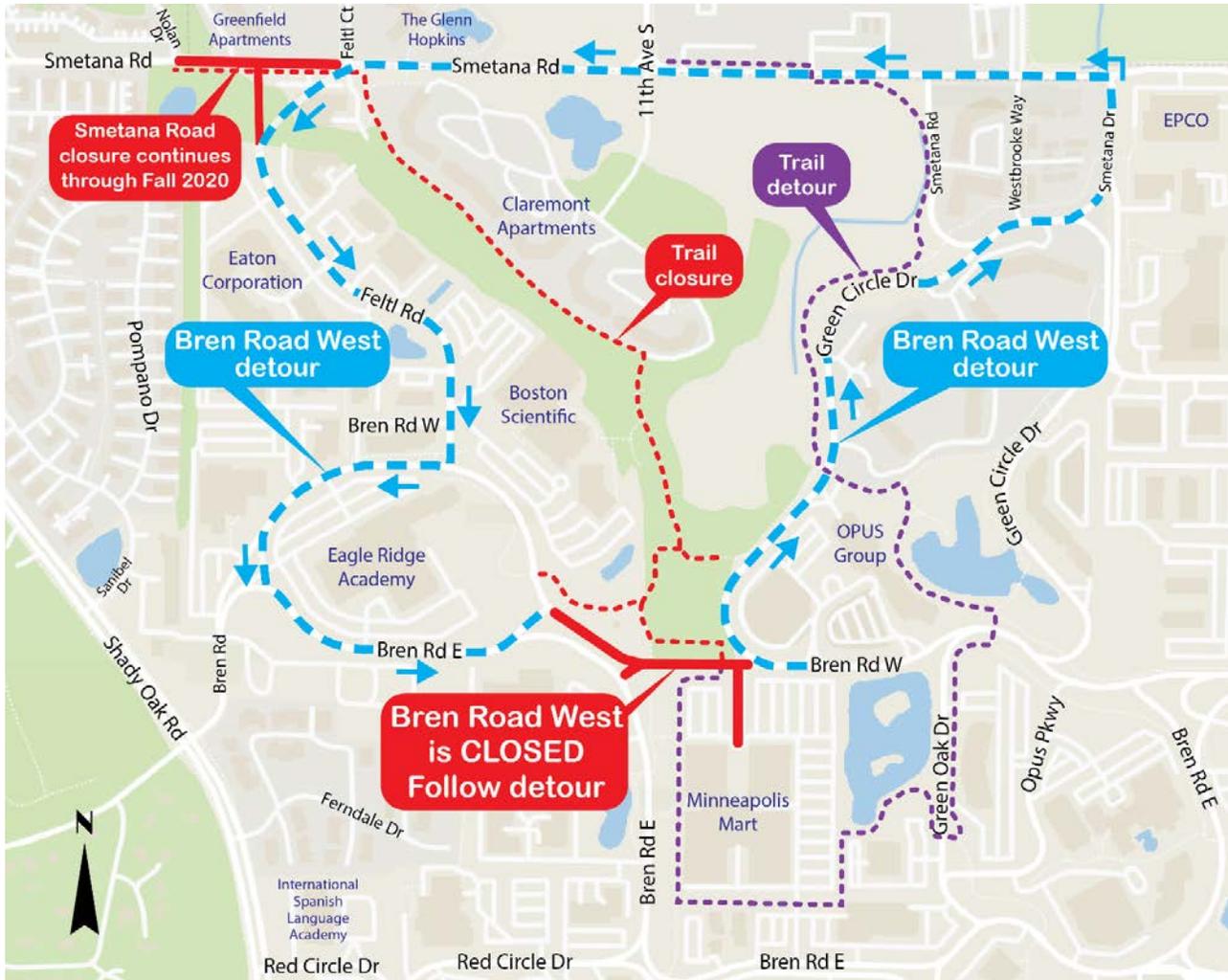
Upcoming: Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie. Seven-day notice of the closure will be given.



Yellow Circle Roadway Changes in Minnetonka



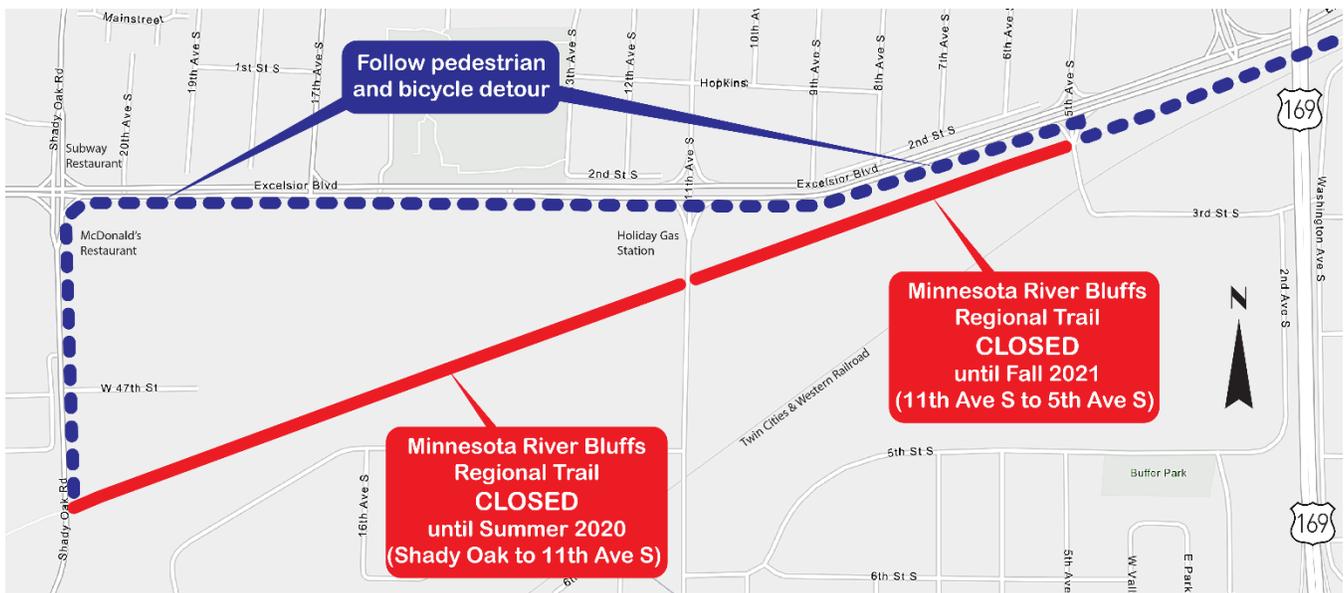
Upcoming: Bren Road West in Minnetonka Detour



Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour

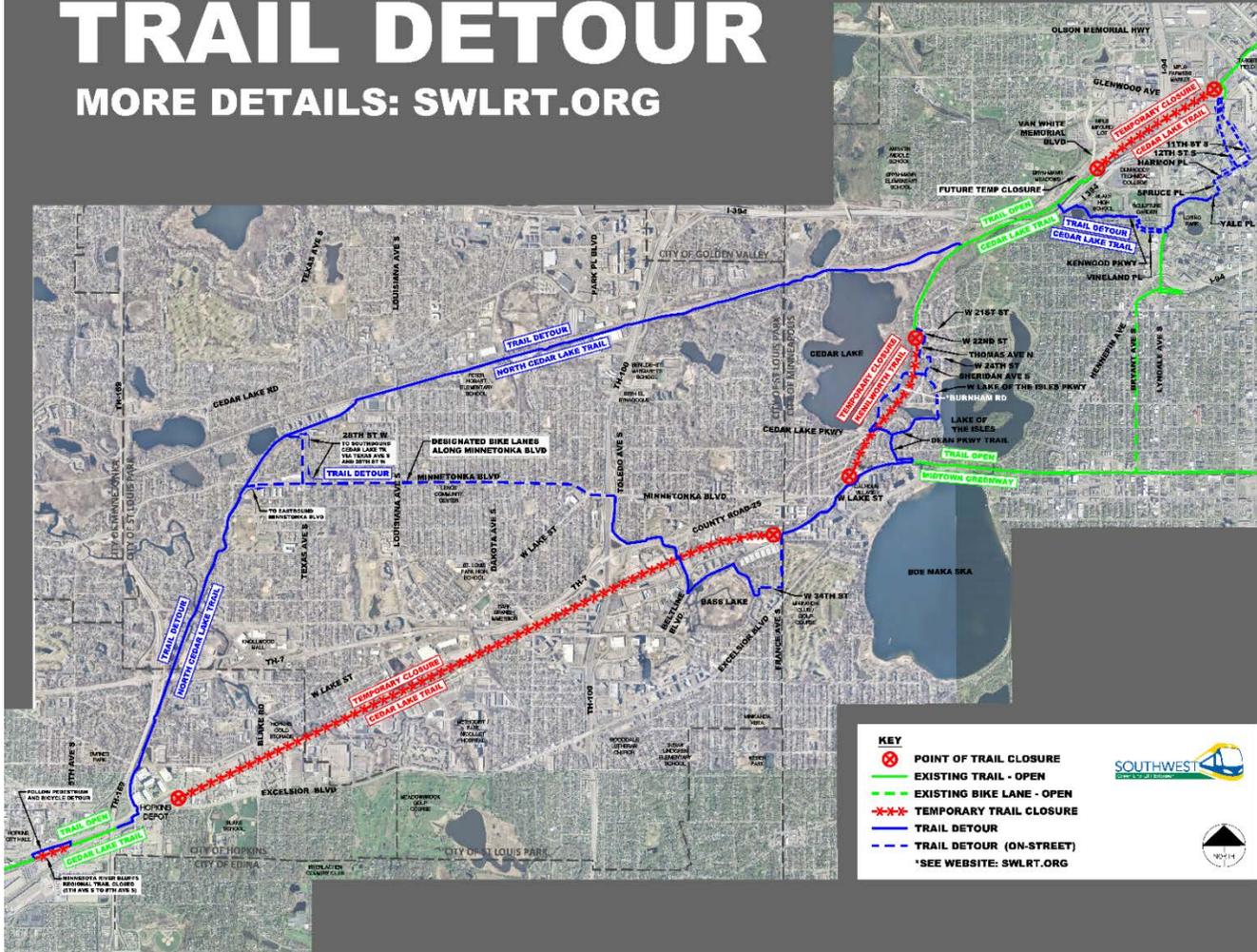


Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour

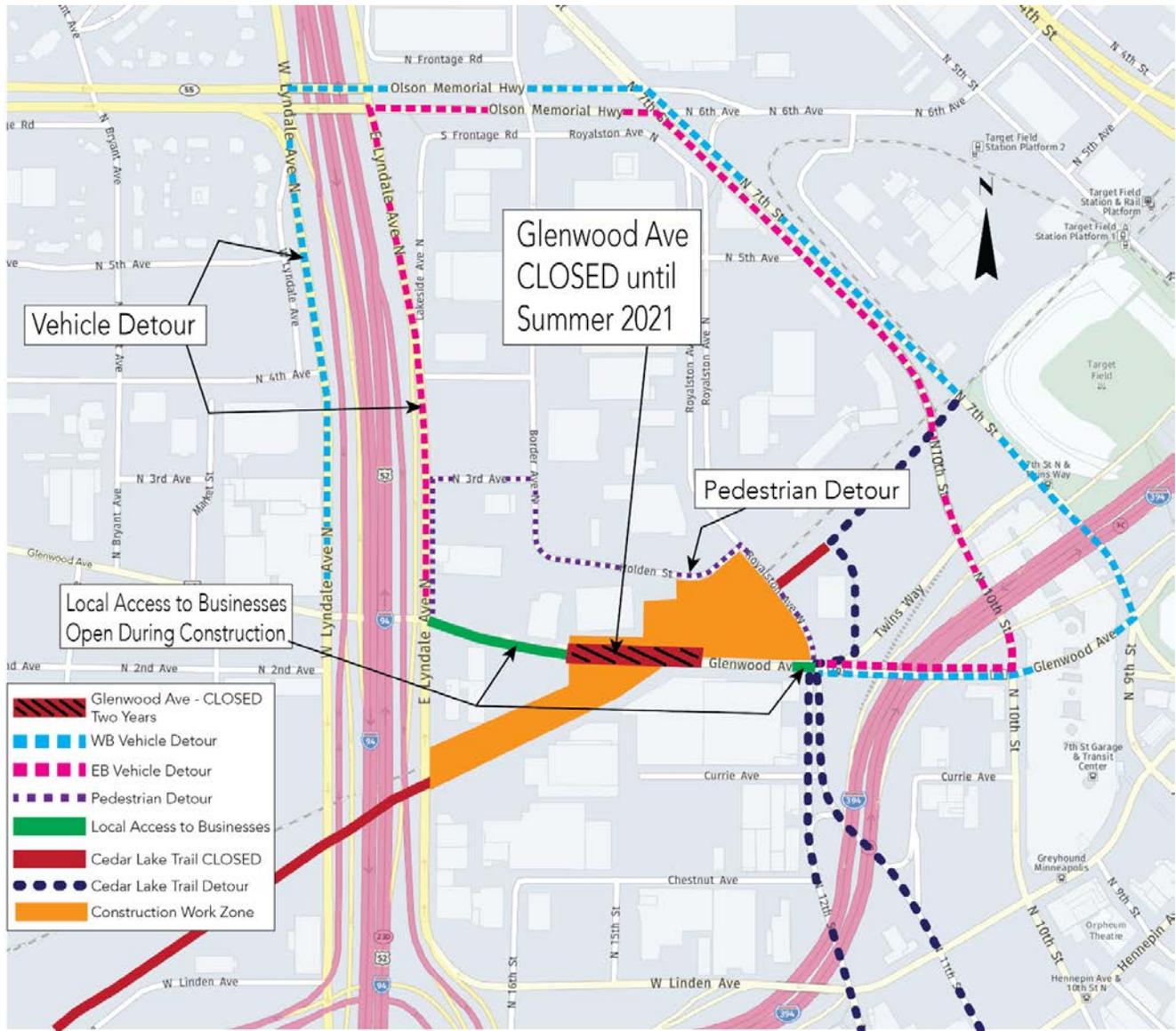


TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

