



**Construction Update: August 21, 2020**

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### **Kenilworth Tunnel Excavation Commencing**

This past week crews began to install a tunnel cell bulkhead south of 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Minneapolis. Work on the tunnel to date has focused on installing the permanent outer wall sheeting. While sheeting will continue, crews will also begin constructing the temporary tunnel cells allowing them to excavate and construct the LRT tunnel itself. In the coming weeks excavation activities will commence. Crews will begin shallow excavation activities and installing bracing. Deeper excavation and concrete work will follow. Expect additional truck traffic moving through the corridor as the need to remove and bring in materials increases. In addition to the press-in-pilers and associated cranes, additional heavy construction equipment and more crew members have begun arriving in the corridor.

### **Weekly Construction Photo: Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT Bridge**



The Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge is located east of Nolan Drive and west of the Hopkins Landfill. The bridge piers are emerging near K-Tel Drive. Excavation and piling for the bridge piers will move south towards Smetana Road. The bridge will carry the LRT vehicles over the freight tracks in the very background of the photo.

### **Eden Prairie Highlights**

- Many beams are now in place on the Prairie Center Drive bridge. It is easier to imagine what the final structure will look like. Beam setting will continue next week with crews focusing on the eastern half of Prairie Center Drive. Northbound Prairie Center Drive will close on Monday, August 24 through Wednesday, August 26 to accommodate this work. [See upcoming detour information here.](#)
- The intersection of Eden Road at Flying Cloud Drive is now open. Eden Road west of Glen Lane is now closed to progress construction in the area.
- Utility work is ongoing at the intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive. The intersection and the north side of Flying Cloud Drive will be under construction into early September.
- An overnight closure of I-494 to pour concrete for the bridge deck previously noticed will be rescheduled. Notice will be posted when a new date has been determined.
- Concrete work for the deck of Valley View Road bridge near Flying Cloud Drive is ongoing. The closure of Highway 212 on and off ramps has been rescheduled to Monday, August 24 starting at 10:00 PM until Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 AM.
- Two road closures near the Golden Triangle Station are upcoming in late August. Starting the week of August 24, West 70<sup>th</sup> at Flying Cloud Drive will close for two months to advance LRT infrastructure through the roadway and conduct extensive utility work. Also, Flying Cloud Drive near West 70<sup>th</sup> will have a short-term closure to set bridge beams for the Nine Mile Creek bridge later in August. Notice will be posted in advance of each closure.

*Visit our website for more details and visuals of construction activities in [Eden Prairie.](#)*

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### **Minnetonka Highlights**

- Work on the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 continues to progress with crews advancing concrete work for the walls and base slab through the summer. Work has begun for the roof of the tunnel and completed sections are beginning to be backfilled.
- Multiple detours remain in effect in the Opus area, including on Red Circle, Yellow Circle, and Bren Road West. See [Opus area detours.](#) All traffic detours will remain in place until at least early September, then Red Circle will change direction to allow for other connections.

- Continue to expect piling and other major construction activities for the Smetana Road bridge over LRT. Smetana Road remains closed from Feltl Drive to Nolan Drive until late fall 2020.
- Clearing and ground cover removal for the Minnetonka - Hopkins bridge is ongoing and progressing to the south end of the bridge. Piling and construction of bridge piers is ongoing on the north end of the bridge. Expect construction activities on Saturdays.

*Visit our website for more details and visuals of construction activities in [Minnetonka](#).*

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### **Hopkins Highlights**

- Continue to expect lane closures on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South as work on the remaining half of the LRT infrastructure is advanced through the intersection. The roadway will fully open the first week of September.
- Reconstruction of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue is anticipated to begin in September to install LRT infrastructure. The work on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue will begin as soon as 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue reopens.
- The southbound lanes of Blake Road remain closed. Traffic is 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](#).**
- Work on the Excelsior Bridge continues. Crews are building and pouring concrete for the pier tables and the spans will start to take shape in September.

*Visit our website for more details and visuals of construction activities in [Hopkins](#).*

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### **St. Louis Park Highlights**

- From Louisiana Avenue Station to Wooddale Avenue, many construction activities continue to advance. Expect ongoing work in the area, including piling, earthwork, and building activities.
- From Highway 100 to the Beltline Boulevard area, crews are engaged in earthwork, storm sewer work, erosion control, freight rail infrastructure construction, and preparation work for the future restoration of the South Cedar Lake Trail. Expect ongoing general construction throughout this area, including the movement of heavy machinery. Much of this work is in preparation for shifting freight rail during Labor Day weekend.
- A full weekend closure of Highway 100 is on track for Labor Day weekend to pick up and move the freight rail bridge to its new permanent location. The closure is expected to begin on Sunday, September 6 and the roadway will reopen by morning rush hour on Tuesday, September 8. More details will be forthcoming.
- Beltline Boulevard will reopen to vehicle traffic with one lane in each direction by Monday, August 24.

### Minneapolis Highlights

- In the West Lake area grading work has started for the new permeant location of the South Cedar Lake Trail and utility work is being completed. Continue to be mindful of construction activities and flaggers while biking or walking through the area until the trail work is complete in early-to-mid September. Around that time preparation work will start for the construction of the Lake Street Station.
- Two press-in-pilers are working south of 28<sup>th</sup> Street. One piler is on the track side of the tunnel moving south. The other is working near Lake Street. Initial tunnel excavation will start in the area in the next few weeks. Preparation for excavation has begun.
- The closure of the northbound lane of Burnham Road has been moved to Monday, August 31. This closure is needed to perform additional utility work on the east side of the roadway. This is follow-on work from the activities that occurred earlier in 2020. The lane closure will be in place for approximately three weeks. [Detour information.](#)
- At the Cedar Lake Channel, the demolition of the old freight bridge is expected to begin in September as track crews become available. It will take approximately a week to remove the bridge. Construction of the new LRT bridge over the channel will follow the removal, expected after the Labor Day weekend. Expect noise and vibration from piling and sheeting activities. The waterway will remain open, expect flaggers in the area.
- Planning is being finalized for utility and freight rail work at 21<sup>st</sup> Street. Preparation work will begin in late August with earthwork to install a temporary access road and vegetation removal. Replacement of the freight track crossing and utility work is expected to occur during a freight rail outage over the Labor Day weekend. This will require a closure for vehicle traffic on 21<sup>st</sup> Street to East Cedar Lake beach; residential vehicle access to homes along South Upton Avenue and pedestrian/bike access will be maintained. More details will be forthcoming.
- Expect excavation equipment and more dump trucks in the area as the surcharge materials at West 21<sup>st</sup> and Bryn Mawr Station are removed the week of August 24.
- The Cedar Lake Trail by Highway 394 and Linden Yards is detoured to Kenwood Parkway until utility work in the area is complete. The connection to the Luce Line Trail will remain open, accessible via the connection under I-394 by Spring Lake. [Detour information.](#) Crews will be working on utilities in this area on Saturday, August 22 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

- From Glenwood Avenue to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, construction of the Glenwood Avenue and the 7<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Street bridges is in full swing. Area retaining walls are also underway. Work on the bridge piers that follow 6<sup>th</sup> Street is starting. Lane closures along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to complete pier work is also anticipated in September.

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

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**Trail Detours:** Minnesota River Bluffs, South Cedar Lake Parkway, Kenilworth, Cedar Lake Trail

**Eden Prairie Sidewalk and Roadway Detours:** Southwest Station, Northbound Prairie Center Drive (upcoming), Technology/Eden/I-494 and Flying Cloud Drive Intersection, West 70<sup>th</sup> (upcoming)

**Minnetonka Roadway Detours:** Opus area: Yellow Circle, Red Circle, Bren Road, Smetana Road

**Hopkins Detours:** Blake Road

**St. Louis Park Detours:** Highway 100 (upcoming)

**Minneapolis Roadway Detours:** Burnham Road Lane (upcoming), Glenwood Avenue, Royalston Avenue