



**Construction Update: November 20 – December 3, 2020**

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

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

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

### **Holiday Construction**

The Southwest LRT project will be working the week of Thanksgiving, including Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28 in select locations like the Highway 62 tunnel and freight rail infrastructure in Hopkins. In observance of the holiday no construction activities will be conducted on Thursday, November 26. However, residents should expect to see crews on site conducting ongoing maintenance and performing security checks. Pumps and generators at already established sites will remain active through the weekend. If you have any construction related issues, our 24-hour hotline is fully staffed through the Thanksgiving break to take your questions.

### **Weekly Construction Photo: Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge in Eden Prairie**



Crews are continuing deck work for the Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge. Work has required ongoing lane closures along Prairie Center Drive. The deck work for the Prairie Center Drive bridge is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2020.

# 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. Pile driving activities will continue at the SouthWest Station through the winter into next year. Crews have made significant progress with piling, having completed those needed for the buildings' footprint. 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 LRT Drive remains closed.

### Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge

The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge begins by the SouthWest 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 through 2020, the structure is nearing completion with all the piles driven and beams set. Bridge deck work is well underway with the installation of rebar, falsework and concrete work. Crews continue concrete work for the deck, intermittent lane closures can be expected.

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](#)).

### **Town Center Place (Eden Road) Area**

Town Center Place is closed just west of Glen Lane as construction advances in the area. The roadway is being restored the week of Thanksgiving. Just west of Town Center Place, work for Eden Prairie Town Center Station is underway, utility work is advancing and foundation work is scheduled to begin late November.

### **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. Bridge work is nearing completion. Tracks will be installed on the bridge next year.

### Flying Cloud Drive

Along Flying Cloud Drive, between Eden Road and Valley View Road, crews are restoring the area. Traffic is shifted to the south or east side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road until the week of Thanksgiving. 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 also until the week of Thanksgiving.

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 is nearing completion. Most 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 currently planned to be closed until late 2020 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**

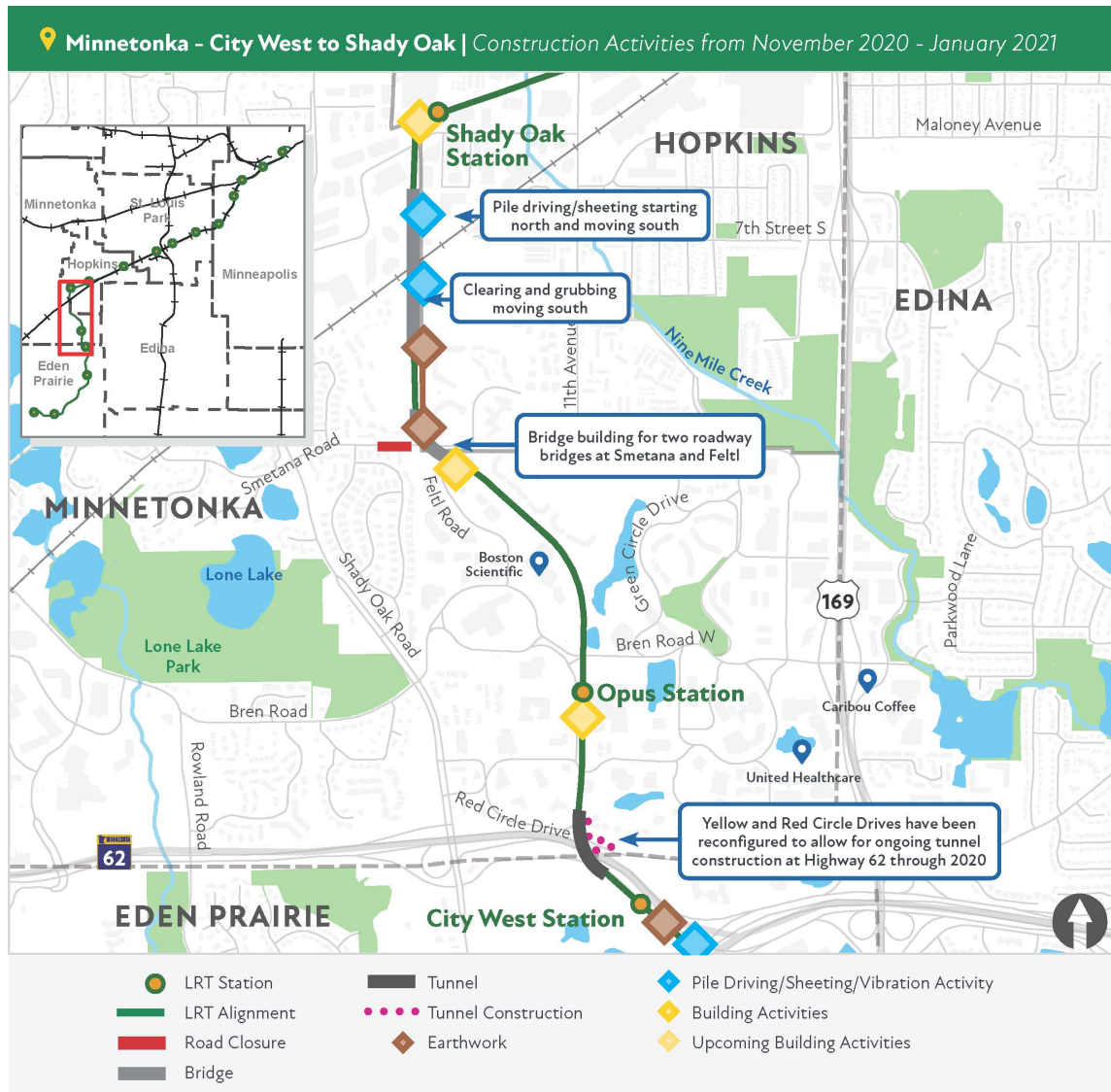
Three lanes on the north side of Shady Oak Road are closed for pier construction for the LRT bridge that will span Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. This lane closure will remain in effect into December. Work continues in the median of Highway 212 to advance the LRT bridge; expect lane shifts. The off-ramp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

### **City West Station Area**

Construction is underway at the City West Station area, where earthwork is underway in preparation for retaining wall work. The ramp from Shady Oak to eastbound Highway 62 is closed through November. This closure allows construction vehicles to access to the City West Station area.

## 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. Crews are finishing walls and roofing and beginning to backfill the tunnel. The first half of the tunnel is expected to be completed later this year.

### **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. This connection is scheduled to be restored later this year.

### **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 will reopen to vehicle traffic the week of Thanksgiving.

### **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.

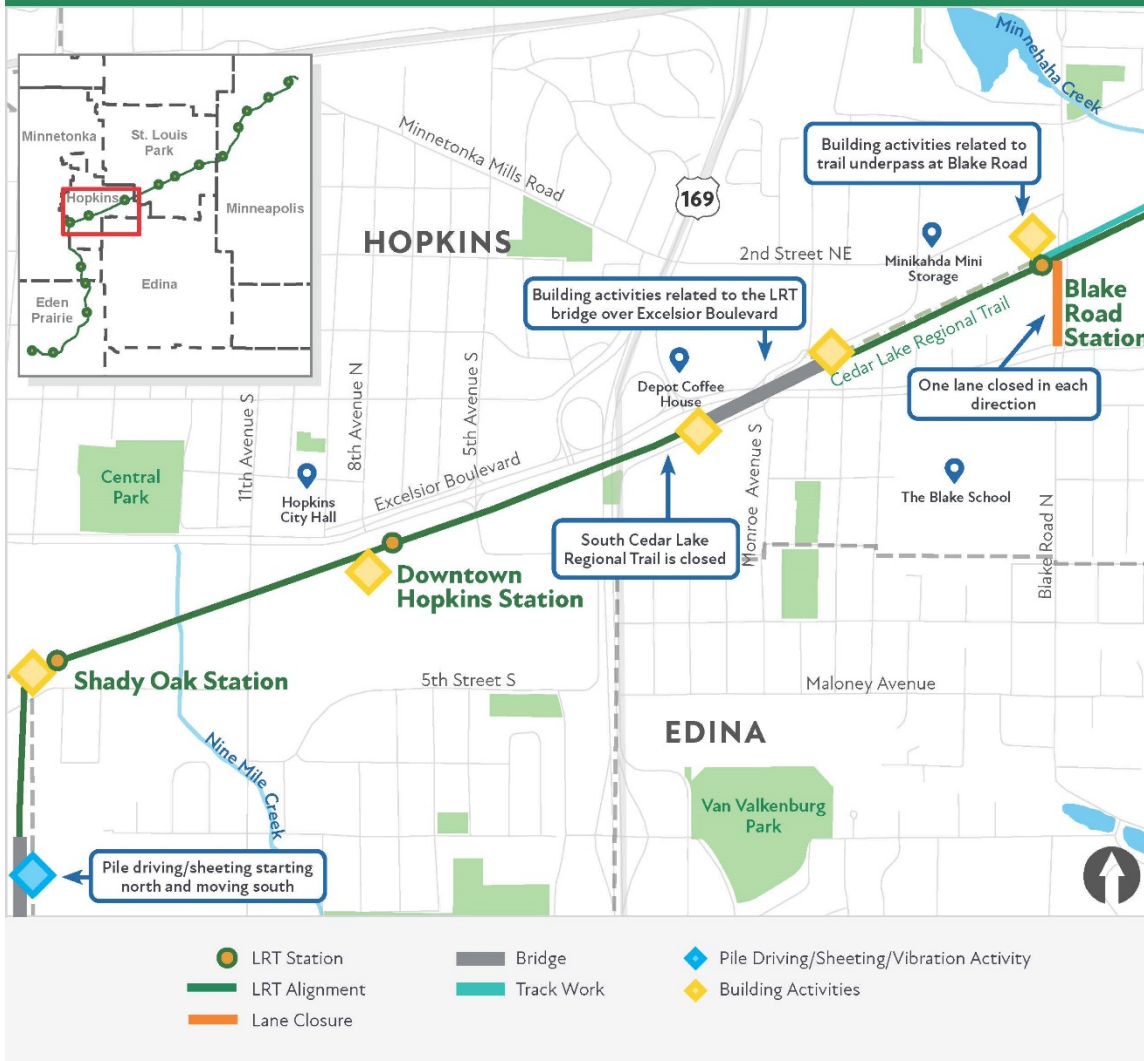
Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive is closed until spring 2021. A temporary bypass is in place west of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl Roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)

### **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 until spring 2021, with work continuing through the winter. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving activities, which includes work on Saturdays.

### **Hopkins**

#### **Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1**



### Shady Oak Road Station

Structural steel has emerged for the Shady Oak Station. Operations at Shady Oak Road station will be on a break for the winter months.

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

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

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



Reconstruction of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South will be completed the week of Thanksgiving. Until then, southbound access on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South from westbound Excelsior Boulevard will continue. Work on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South 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**

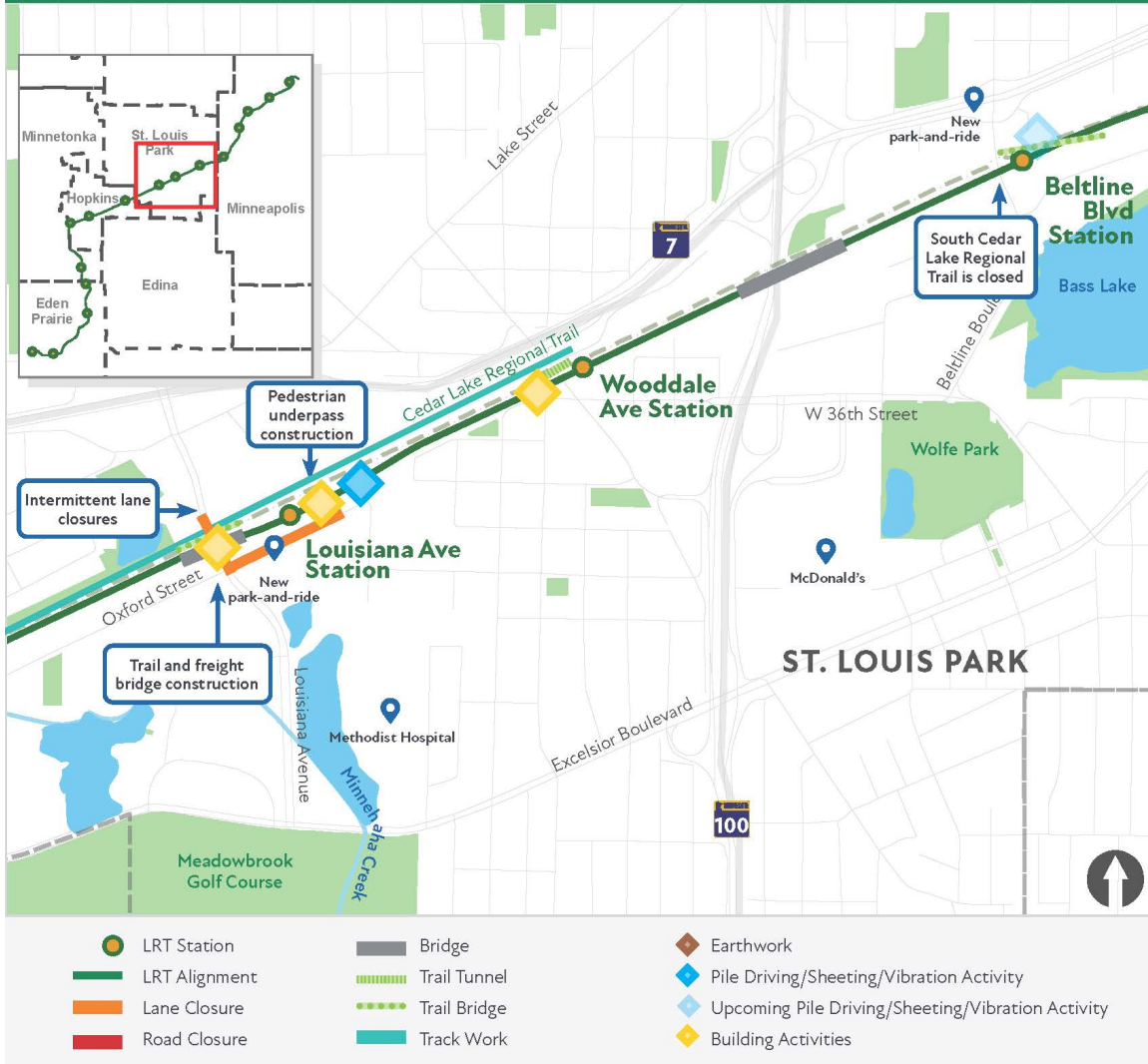
Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. Crews have shifted their focus to erecting the bridge spans. Crews have assembled the form-traveler system and the cantilevered structure is starting to take shape. The bridge structure is a post-tensioned box girder. This type of bridge can efficiently span long distances. The shape of the box girder is now visible from the roadway. Expect westbound lane impacts and closures on Excelsior Boulevard as construction advances. A full closure of westbound Excelsior Boulevard will be put in place in early December for approximately three months. [See Hopkins detour maps here.](#)

### **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 will reopen to vehicle traffic on November 20.

### **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 installed across the freight bridge, anticipated later this fall. Crews are finishing details on 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.

### **Wooddale Avenue**

Construction of the new regional trail underpass structure and freight rail infrastructure is complete. A closure of the roadway will be needed at a future date to install LRT infrastructure through the intersection.

Construction continues in the area to advance various project elements.

### **Highway 100**

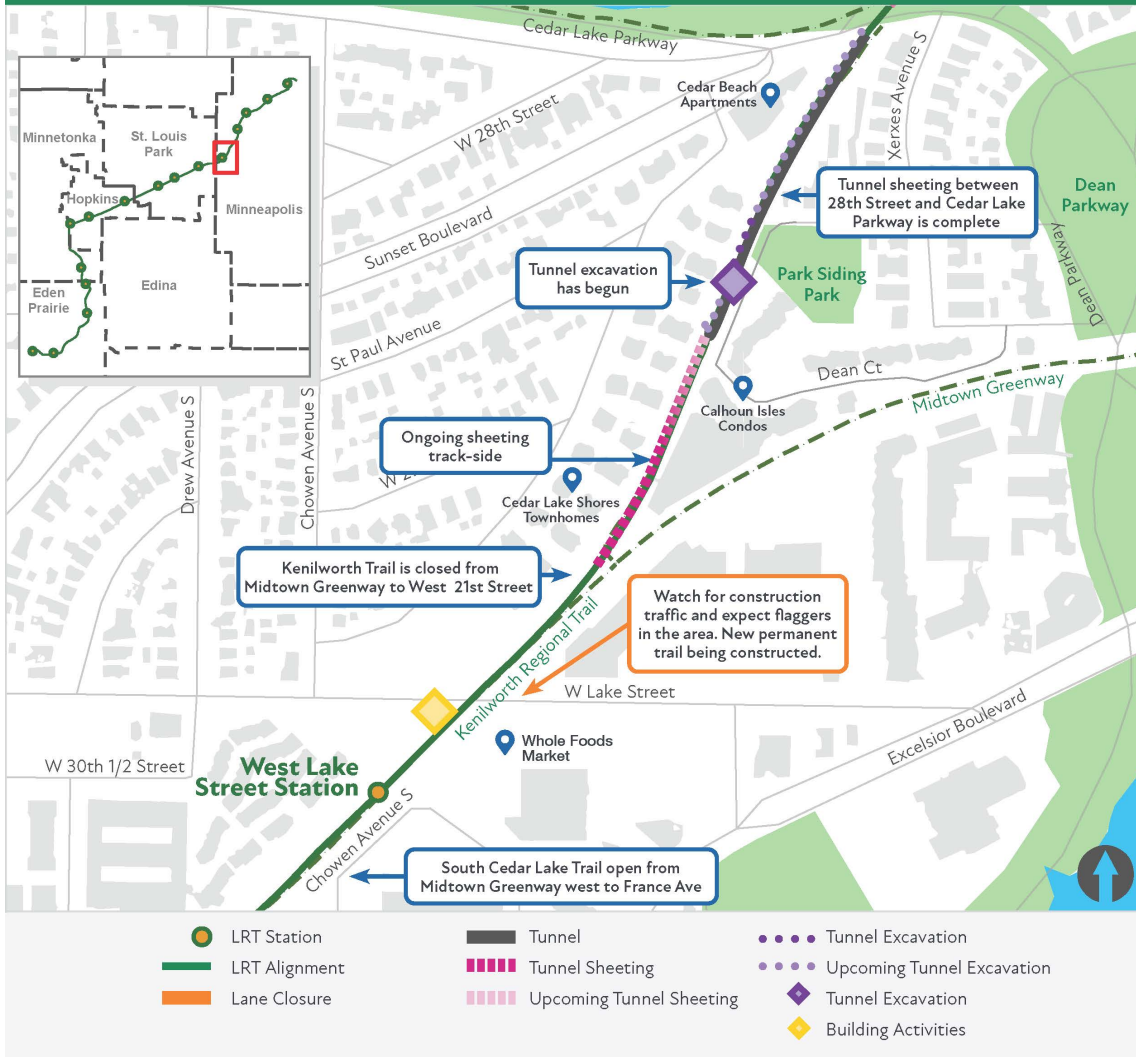
Work will continue in 2021 to complete the deck for the LRT bridge. Closures will be announced in advance of this work.

### **Beltline Boulevard**

Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a regional trail bridge over the roadway. Piling for the remaining bridge piers will be ongoing intermittently in November and early December.

## [Minneapolis](#)

### **Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5**



### Chowen Avenue to Lake Street

Work to shift the South Cedar Lake Trail to its new permanent location around the Lake Street Bridge is underway and is expected to be completed before winter work conditions fully sets in.

### 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 is progressing towards the channel installing sheets, the other piler will continue to work near West Lake Street, moving east on the freight rail side of the tunnel. Residents should expect ongoing work in the area, including occasional vibration when obstructions are encountered.

The tunnel is being constructed in a series of cells, each approximately 100 feet long. This is done so to avoid impacting the groundwater level in the surrounding area of the tunnel. Tunnel excavation for the initial cell near Dean Court is progressing. Crews continue to excavate material and install cross braces called struts. As crews reach depth, a thick concrete seal will be poured at the bottom of the excavation to prevent water from impacting tunnel construction. Pumps will run continuously until the concrete pour is completed. Concrete work for the initial cell is expected to begin late December. To pour the concrete seal extended work hours are needed as the work has to be completed in a single workday. Each tunnel cell will require an extended hour workday for the placement of the seal. More details will be forthcoming. Other tunnel construction activities such as sheeting, excavation and concrete work will continue through the winter.

For more information about tunnel construction, see the [tunnel FAQ](#) information under the construction tab of our webpage: [swlirt.org](http://swlirt.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 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 has begun; expect noise and vibration from piling and sheeting activities. Crews are working on the south abutment. A closure of the channel is currently not anticipated to be needed to complete the next phase of work. Flaggers will be present as work



over the waterway progresses, and water 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

West 21<sup>st</sup> Street Station construction continues. Crews have poured concrete for some of the station utilities.

### Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5

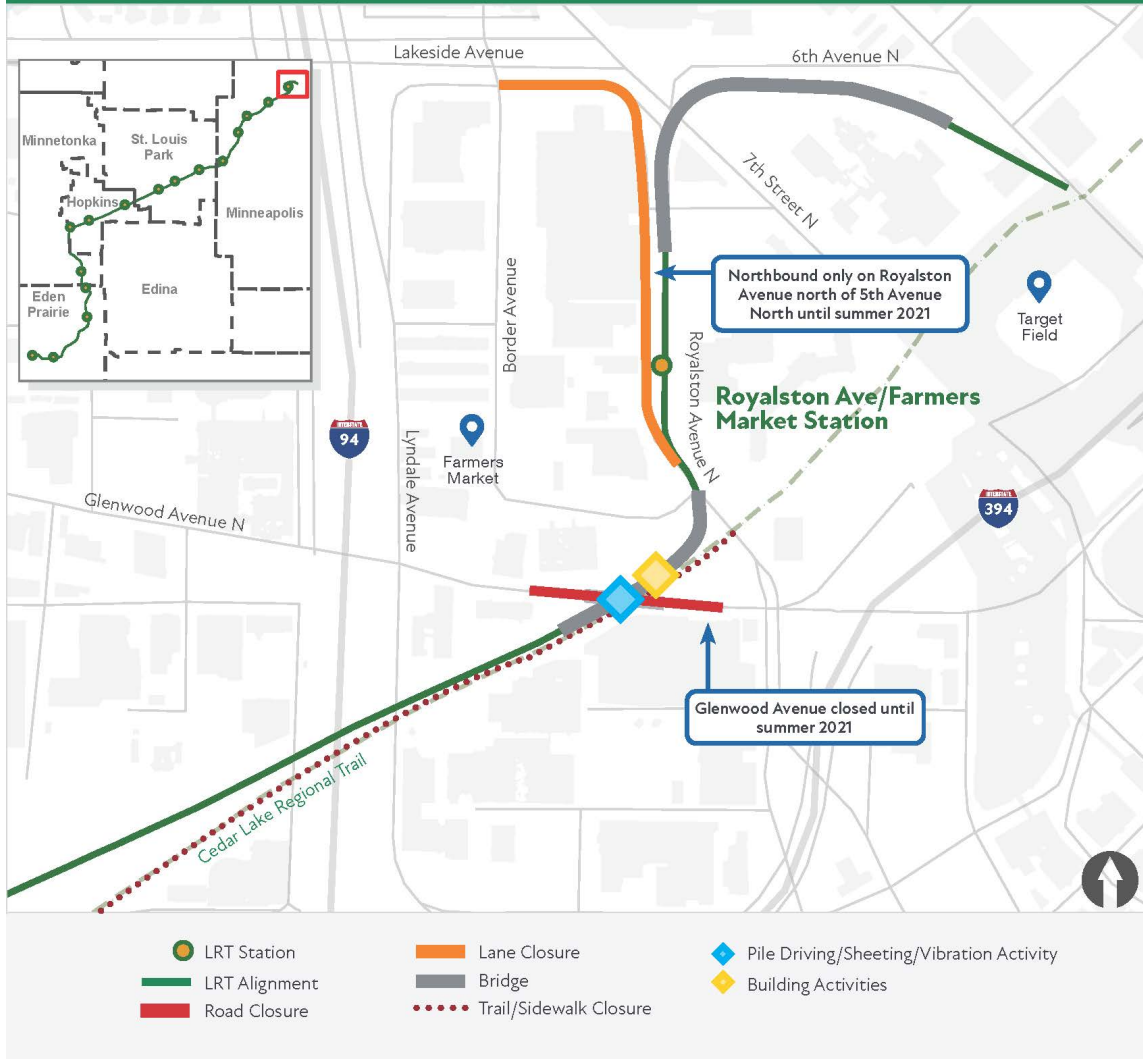


### Bryn Mawr Station Area

To provide access to 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 terrain 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 support station construction. Expect excavation equipment and dump trucks in the area as excess material is removed.

### Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5



### 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. BNSF crews have shifted the track to its new position to the north in this area. The freight rail track shift allows LRT bridge construction to advance. Crews are working on the LRT bridge that will carry the LRT tracks from the freight rail corridor grade up to the roadway grade at Glenwood.

### 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 until spring 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.](#)

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.](#) Utility work is almost completed. The trail will be reopened during the week of Thanksgiving, once an alternative detour is established.

### SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



### Flying Cloud Drive Detours in Eden Prairie



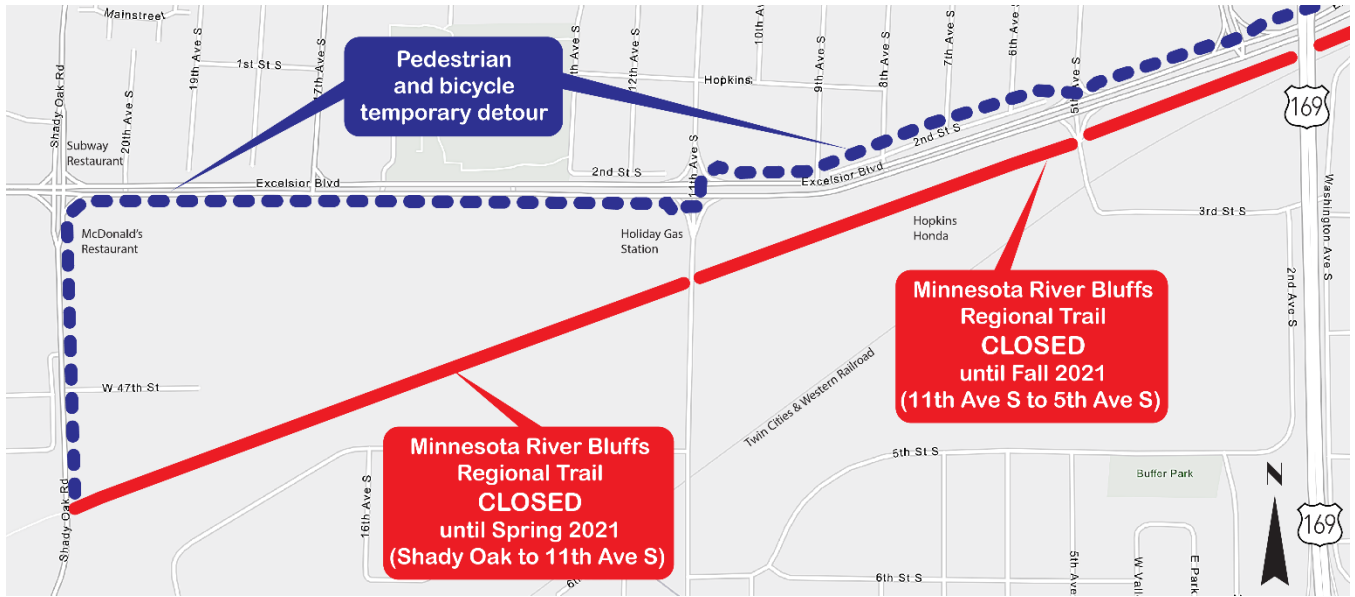




# Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles

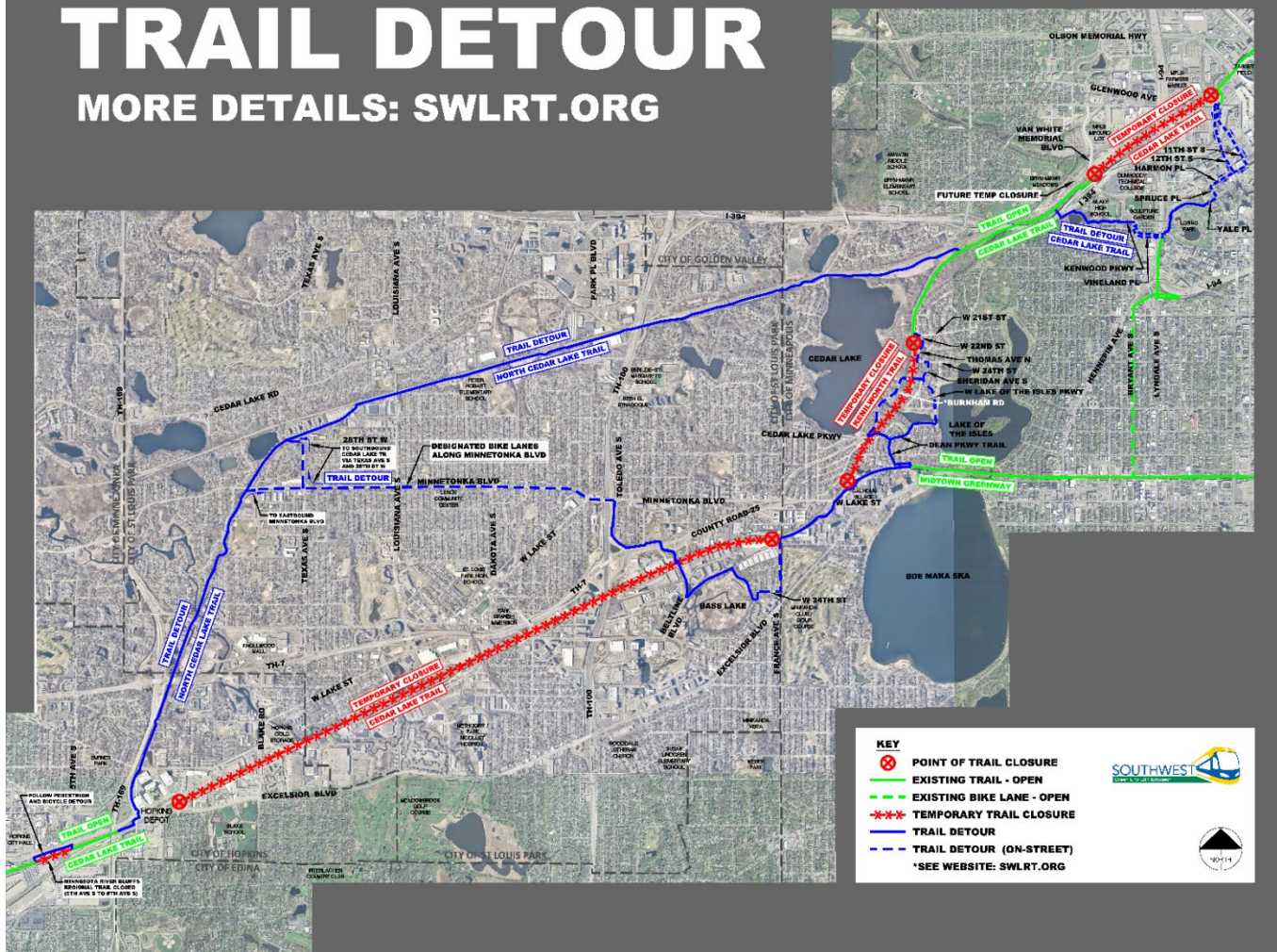


# Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour



# Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours

## TRAIL DETOUR MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG

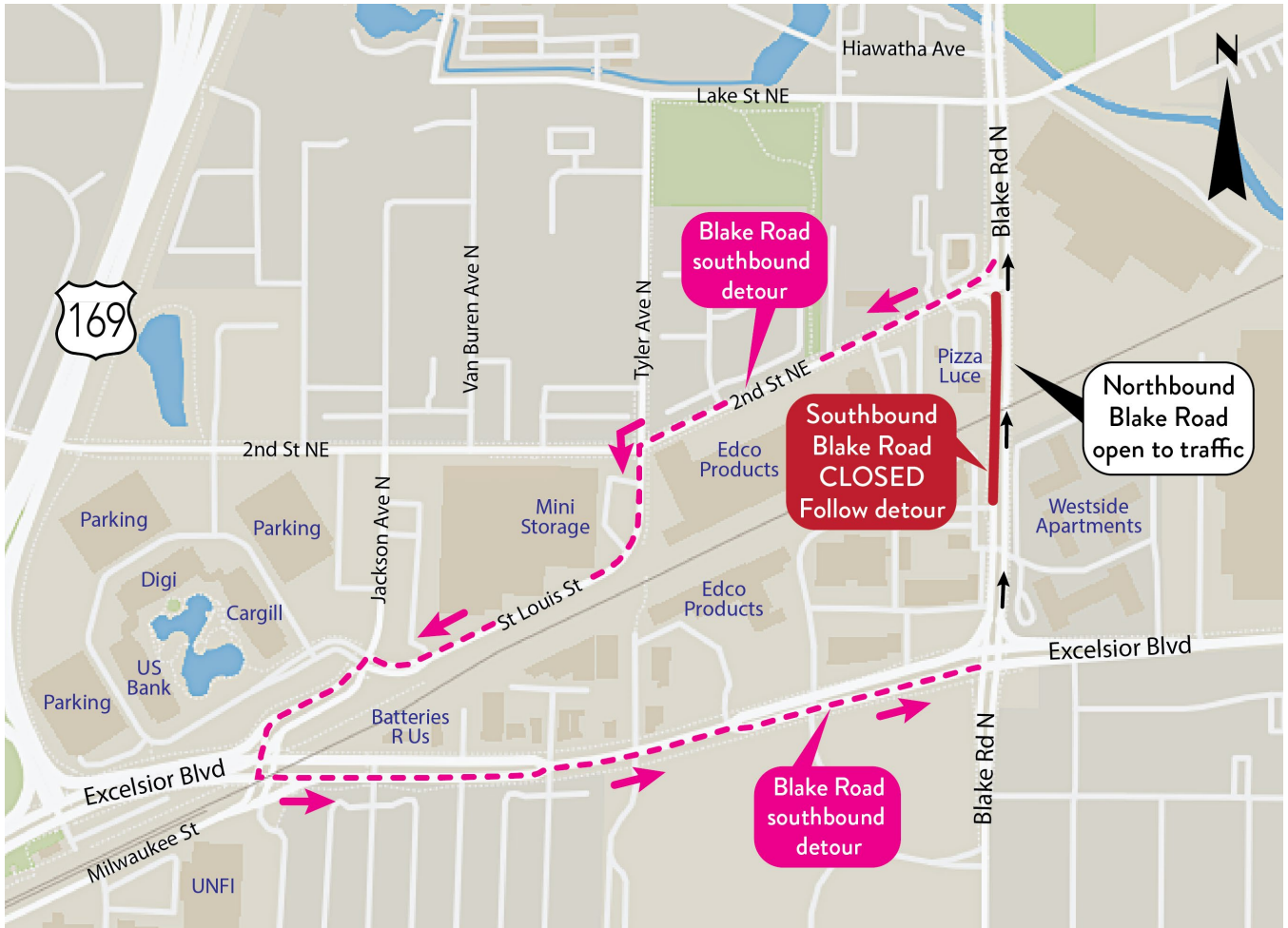




# Excelsior Boulevard in Hopkins



# Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



# 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Detour in Hopkins

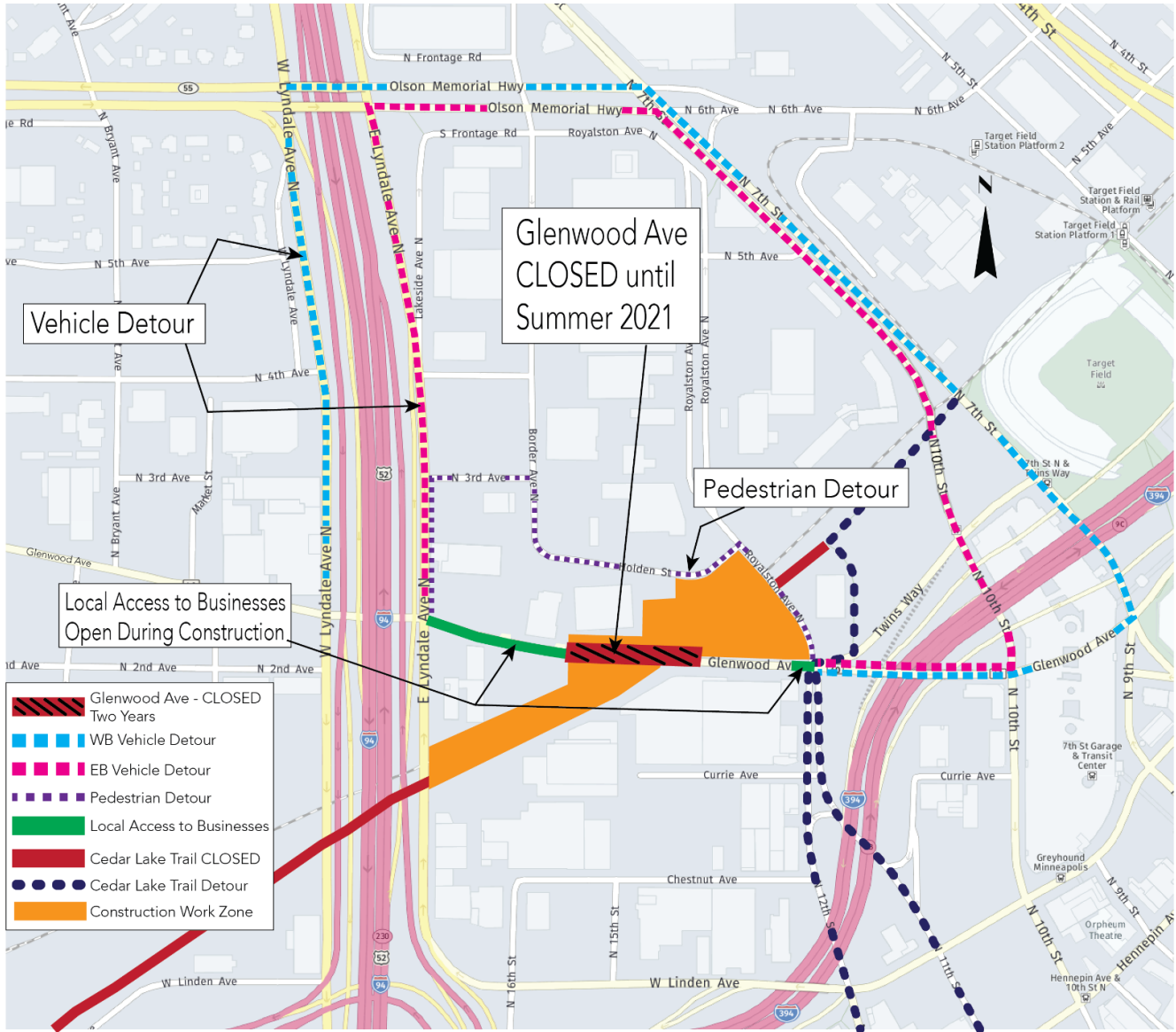


### Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis





## Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



## Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

