



Construction Update: September 27, 2019

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Autumn Construction Work

As we move into Fall, construction work along the Southwest LRT corridor will continue at the same pace as summer months. In late Fall, as temperatures drop and the ground begins to freeze, some activities may be suspended until the following year. However, in many areas of the project, work on structures and other major elements will continue through the winter, with 2020 and 2021 being the most intensive construction years for the project.

Weekly Construction Photo: Night Piling at Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie



Lights illuminate the job site for safety as crews begin night piling work in Eden Prairie. Crews constructed a sound dampening shroud for the pile driver, as seen towards the left of the image.

On-going Activities Update

SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie

The temporary passenger drop-off lanes at SouthWest Transit Station have been moved to the west end of the parking structure. SouthWest Transit Station and buses are operating as usual. Pile driving near the former Culver's site continues. Retaining wall work for the LRT guideway is also continuing in the area. Beginning in early October, crews will begin constructing a temporary passenger waiting area for bus riders and demolish the current SouthWest Transit Station passenger waiting area and former offices.

Prairie Center Drive/Eden Road Area in Eden Prairie

Crews continue to perform ongoing grading and retaining wall work. Utility companies are also working in the area and near Flying Cloud Drive towards the east. Crews are working around the intersection of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive to build support for bridge piers.

LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie

The installation of sheet piling for pier construction for the new LRT bridge has begun and traffic control barriers are in place. The work on the center pier is ongoing, progressing well for crews to pour bridge columns. The I-494 eastbound ramp to TH 212, which closed the week of August 12, will remain closed until mid-October. **See detour map below.** While traffic control barriers will be in place, please remember to observe the posted speed limit to help ensure the safety of other motorists and our crews.

Valley View Road in Eden Prairie

In the area of Flying Cloud Drive and TH 212, there will be lane restrictions as work begins on the ramp from Valley View to TH 212. Traffic will be diverted onto the HOV lane.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie

Nighttime piling in the Golden Triangle Station area continues. Crews constructed a noise dampening shroud around the pile driver prior to the nighttime work. Night piling is needed for a portion of this work from Golden Triangle Station north of West 70th Street to a bridge over Shady Oak Road and Hwy 212 due to vibration sensitive businesses in the area. Generally, crews will start nighttime work at 1:00 AM. Construction work could start earlier in the night if schedules permit. The Southwest LRT project worked with the contractor to develop and test various noise reduction strategies for nighttime pile driving activities, but residents may be able to hear construction activities. Please note, nighttime pile driving activities could last up to four months.

TH 62 in Minnetonka

Preparation work for the LRT tunnel under TH 62 has begun. Crews are working on installing temporary drainage and are preparing the median for future lane shifts to consolidate both east and westbound traffic on the south side of the highway. Expect traffic delays as periodic lane closures and traffic shifts occur. Once traffic is shifted to the south side of the highway, LRT tunnel construction can commence. Tunnel work is anticipated in late Fall.

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins

Smetana Road from Feltl Court to Feltl Road remains closed until mid-October (**see detour map below**).

Following this closure, Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive will be closed for up to a year. Signs will be posted seven days before each closure.

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is now closed between Shady Oak Road and 5th Avenue South. **See detour map below.**

- The section between 11th Avenue South and Shady Oak Road is closed due to storm sewer construction activities. This portion of the trail may be closed for approximately one year. Crews continue to evaluate options to reduce the duration of this closure.
- The section between 8th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until Fall 2021.

Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins

Excelsior Boulevard at the freight railroad crossing closed on Friday, September 6 to all vehicle traffic and will remain closed until mid to late October. Crews are working on underground utilities, freight rail tracks and the LRT bridge structure. Expect traffic delays in this area. **See detour map below.** Additional closures will be needed later in the Fall to complete this phase of activity. Signs will be posted seven days before each closure.

Cedar Lake Trail

Cedar Lake Trail through Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis is closed in three segments until Fall 2021 (**see detour maps below**). The 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 closure of roadways upcoming at various dates. The trail is closed between these segments:

- Between just east of the North Cedar Lake Trail connection in Hopkins to France Avenue in St. Louis Park.
- Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue.

Blake Road in Hopkins

Crews are working to construct a tunnel for the regional trail. Blake Road southbound lanes are closed, and traffic is diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction, which will last for approximately 6 months. Once work is complete on the south-bound side of the road, work will shift to the north-bound side of the road and traffic will be diverted to the other side of the road.

Minnehaha Creek Trail Bridge in St. Louis Park

Crews have demolished the regional trail bridge that spans Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park. Excavation for the bridge abutments and sheet piling are beginning in the area. Flaggers will be monitoring recreational water use during times that construction activities make it unsafe to travel through the creek. Individuals using the waterway may encounter intermittent closures lasting approximately 20 minutes during construction activity.

Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park

Vehicle traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction as crews have shifted lanes to work on abutments; expect sheet piling activity in the area. Pedestrian access across Louisiana Avenue has been restored. Another full closure of Louisiana Avenue is anticipated in mid-October to set bridge beams. Signs will be posted seven days prior to the closure.

TH 100 in St. Louis Park

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and will build a new LRT bridge over TH 100. Center bridge pier work is complete, and TH 100 traffic has been shifted back to the original alignment. Crews continue to work on the abutments in the area. Barriers and associated lane-shifts will be installed in the area for abutment work next week. Expect to see fencing and erosion control work as well.

Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park

Work on the new Cedar Lake Trail Bridge continues. Crews are excavating for bridge abutments and performing pier work.

Kenilworth Trail Closure

The Kenilworth Trail is closed in Minneapolis until Summer 2022. At this time, automobiles, bikes and pedestrians will continue to cross at Cedar Lake Parkway and at W 21st Street.

- The Kenilworth Trail is closed at the intersection with the Midtown Greenway and extends northeast to just south of W 21st St.

Kenilworth Area Construction in Minneapolis

Crews are completing the preparation work to shift the freight track to its temporary location along the tunnel segment. The track shift is anticipated by mid-October as crews work to finish earth work.

Piling work for the retaining wall to the south of the channel is almost complete with concrete work continuing to complete the wall. The retaining wall north of the channel will begin in early October. Crews will be installing the first few sheets using conventional vibratory methods and then a press-in-piler will be deployed, to construct the remainder of the wall. The press-in-piler will also be used on the tunnel in the coming months. The press-in-piler construction method is being used to minimize vibration and general disruption.

Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis

A second closure of Cedar Lake Parkway is anticipated to occur in Spring/Summer 2020 to construct the LRT tunnel. The roadway will be closed for six months for tunnel work. Updates will be provided as we get closer to the start of this work. Signs will be posted, and area residents will be notified prior to the closure.

Burnham Road in Minneapolis

On August 26 crews cut into the roadway to continue watermain work and the roadway is closed to through traffic. Two-way traffic will continue to be allowed on Burnham Road Bridge during the detours. **See detour maps below.** Burnham Road will remain closed through mid-October. Water work is almost complete with crews working on key items that keep the water supply safe. They will be paving with concrete to better tie into the existing roadway materials and help with future maintenance. However, compared to bituminous, concrete takes longer to construct and fully set before vehicle traffic can drive on it.

Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel and Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Minneapolis

Shoring for bridge pier construction is being installed and piling is underway. Individuals using the waterway between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake may encounter intermittent closures lasting approximately 20 minutes during construction activity. A full closure of the Cedar Lake Channel is expected later this Fall; a 14-day advanced notification will be provided prior to a full closure.

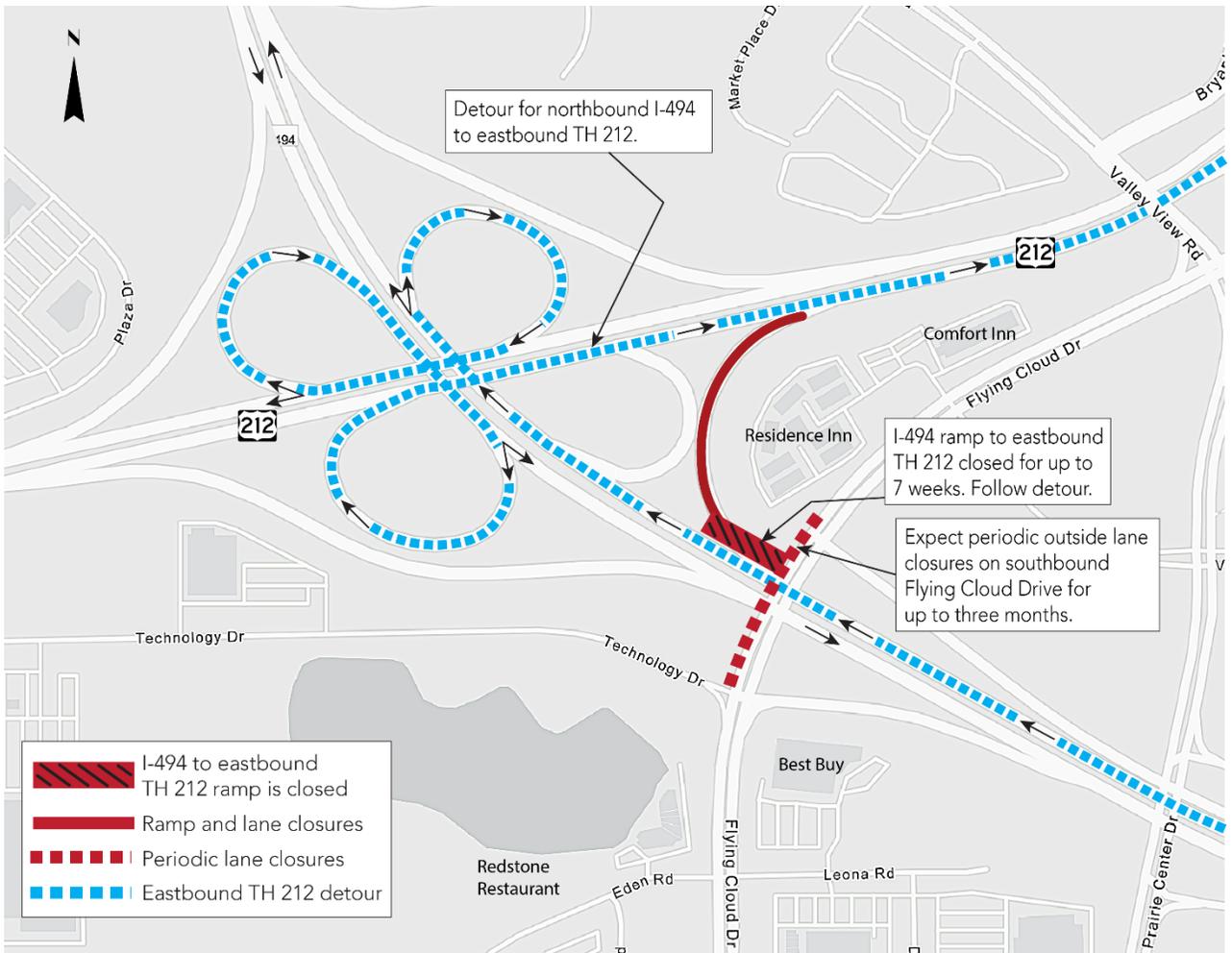
Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis

The closure of Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North began on July 15, 2019 and will last approximately two years. Local access to businesses will be maintained. Generally, vehicle detours will use Lyndale Avenue, Olson Memorial Highway and 7th/10th Streets. The pedestrian detour will utilize Border Avenue, Holden Street and Royalston Avenue sidewalks. **See detour map below.**

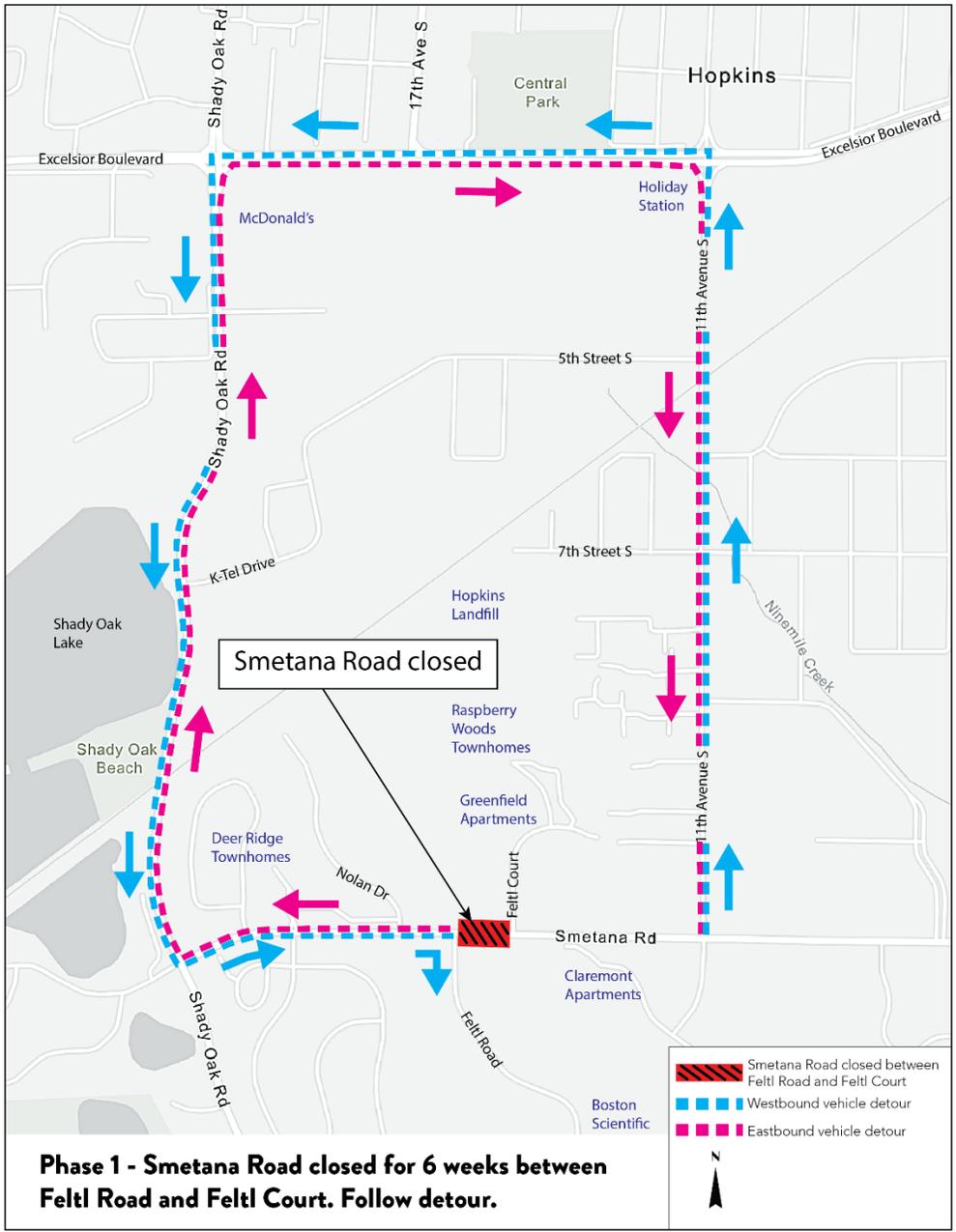
Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

We are anticipating that work along Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis will begin in late October. Crews will begin work on LRT and bridge infrastructure on the east side of the roadway.

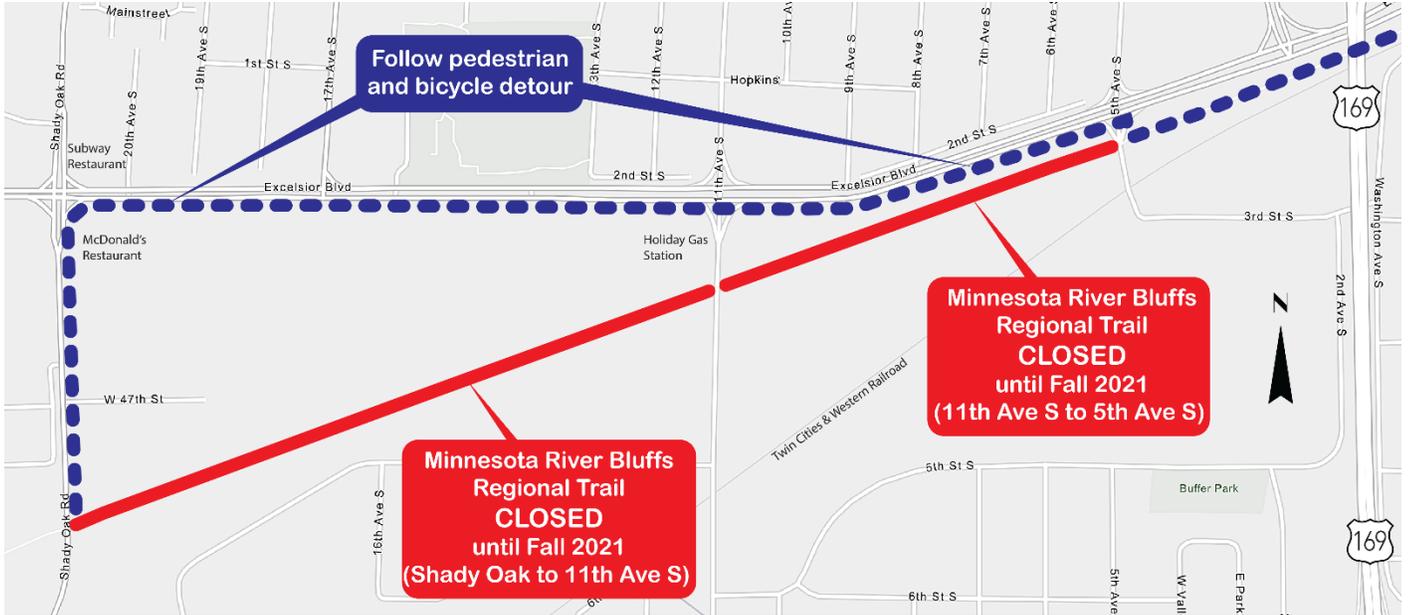
Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



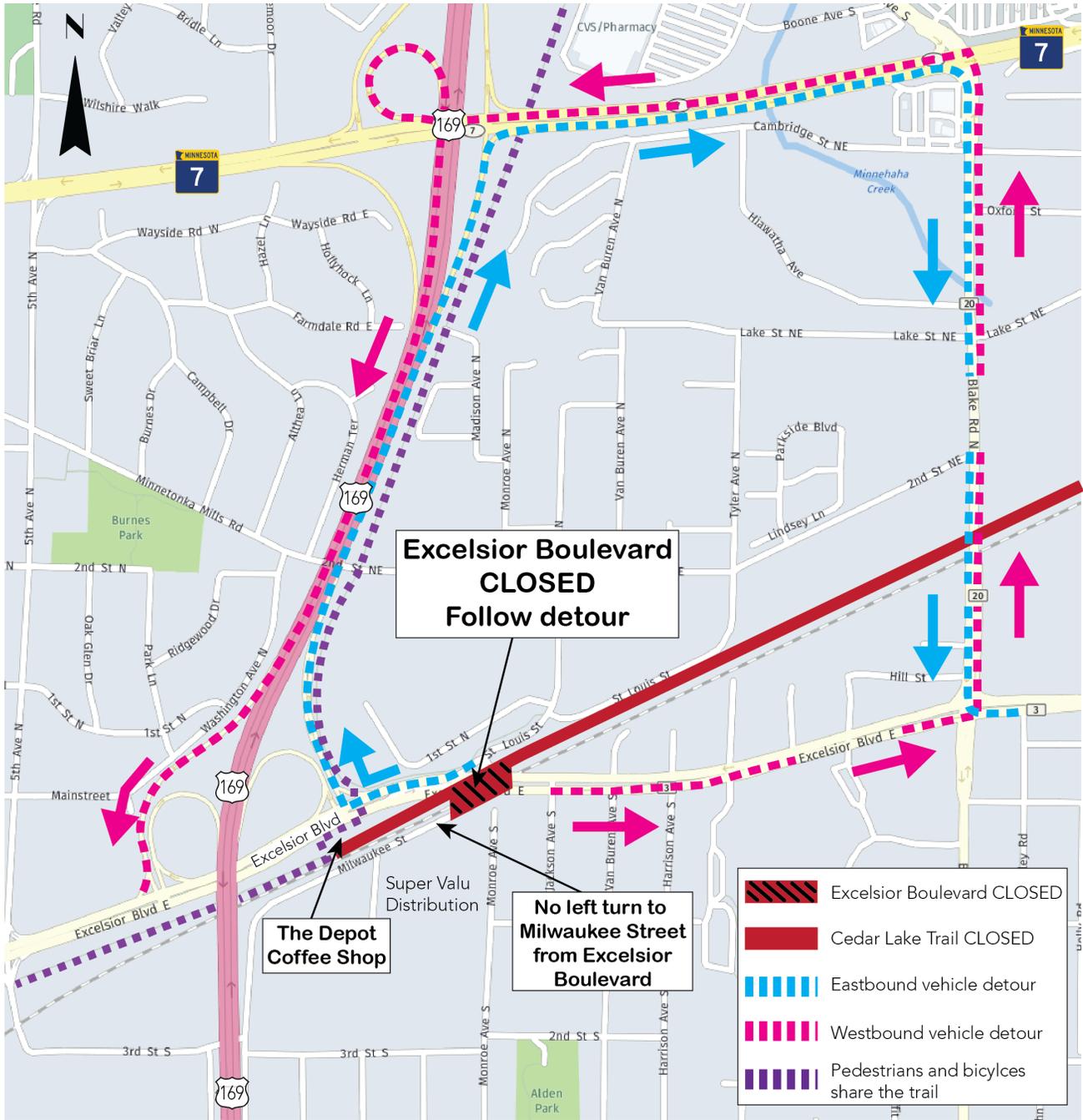
Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour



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

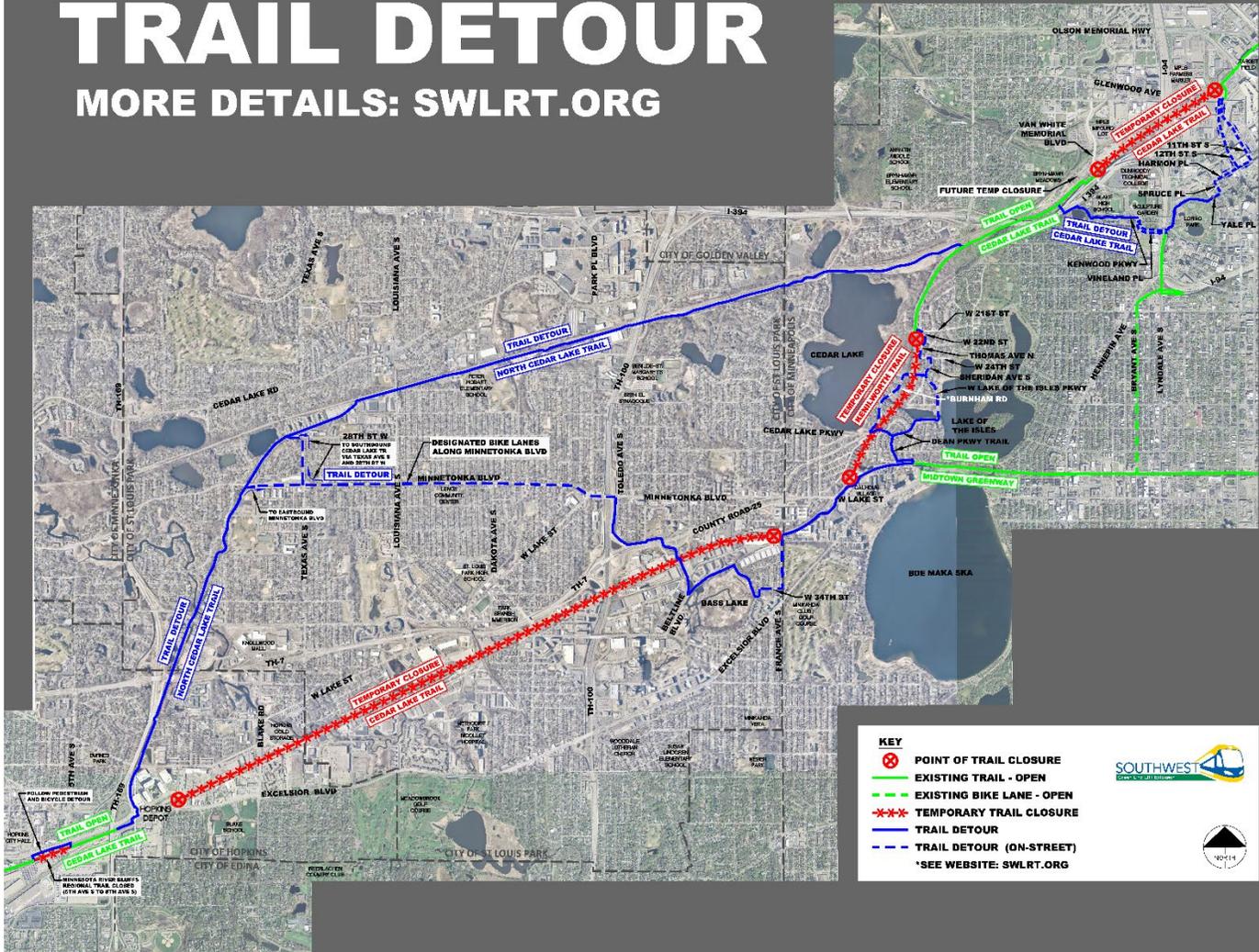


Excelsior Boulevard Detour

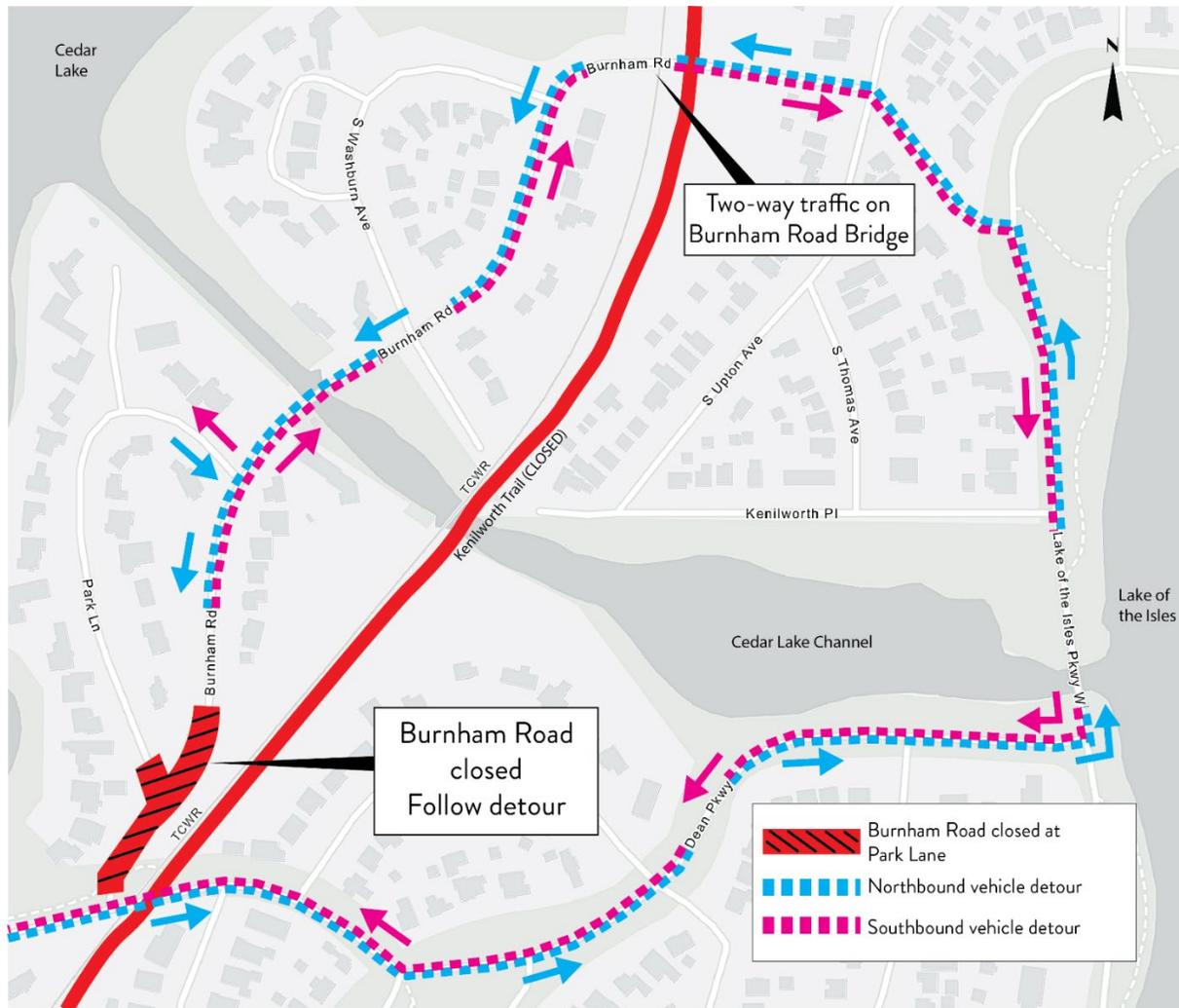


TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Burnham Road Closure at Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour

