



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

**Twitter:** @SouthwestLRT

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

### **Extending Light Rail Tracks**

The Southwest Project is starting a new phase of construction as LRT tracks will soon be pulled through portions of the corridor. Work is underway in many of our corridor cities to get ready to place the LRT rail. With many of the structures in Eden Prairie nearing completion, and freight rail shifts in Hopkins and St. Louis Park accomplished, LRT track becomes the next step in the construction process.

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



On most of the LRT bridges crews are building direct fixation track. Instead of using ballast rock and railroad tie, the LRT tracks are fixed to concrete. First, crews use a template system that includes temporary rails to establish the proper elevation and alignment and build forms to pour the concrete into. This photo shows both the template system to the right and concrete pour to the left. The process is then repeated until the track section is complete. The concrete, known as a plinth, is used to support the final rail.



This photo shows what the plinths look like after they are set. The rail for LRT is then pulled across and fixed to the plinths.

[Eden Prairie](#)

**Eden Prairie Construction: Map 1 of 2**



### SouthWest Station to Eden Prairie Town Center Station

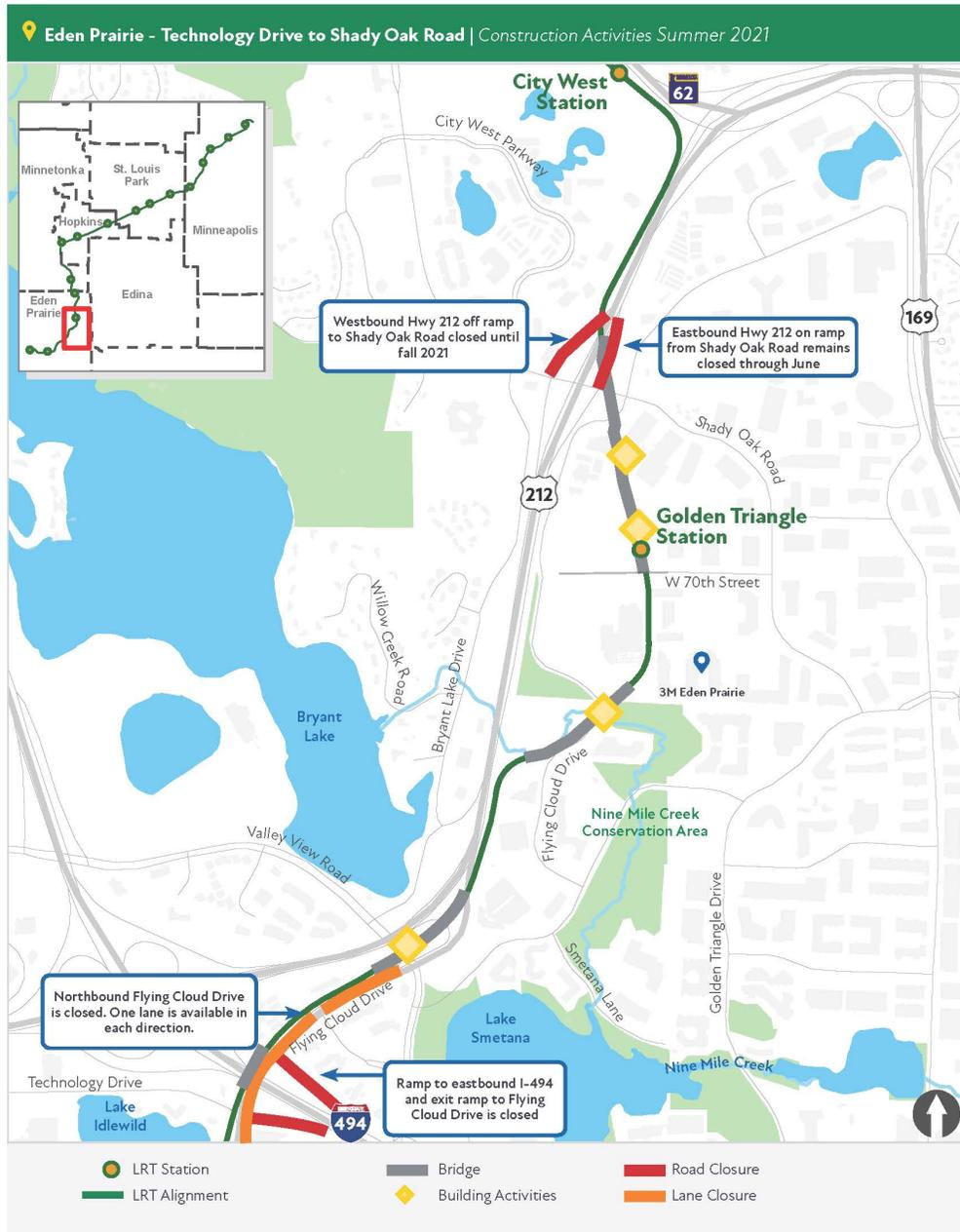
*Construction Overview:* At the SouthWest Station we are constructing a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and a combined bus and LRT station. Moving east, the Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge extends from the SouthWest Station area over Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive. Moving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

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- On Prairie Center Drive, from Technology Drive, to Singletree Lane expect southbound and northbound lane closures into mid-late July, as crews advance work on the Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge.

- Work continues along Prairie Center Drive with crews completing roadwork, and sidewalk restoration. From Prairie Center Drive, from Technology Drive, to Singletree Lane continue to expect southbound lane closures into July.

## 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:*

- The I-494 off-ramp to Flying Cloud Drive has closed for the 2021 construction season. The I-494 on-ramp from Flying Cloud Drive is expected to remain closed through the summer. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)
- Traffic is reduced to one lane in both directions on Flying Cloud Drive between Town Center Place to Valley View Road through summer. Intersections from Flying Cloud Drive to Technology Drive and Viking Drive will remain open, subject to intermittent, short-term lane reductions. Left turns in and out of Technology Drive at the Flying Cloud Drive intersection are prohibited through the summer.
- The on-ramp to eastbound Highway 212 from Shady Oak Road remains closed for construction staging, reopening in early July. The westbound Highway 212 off-ramp to Shady Oak Bridge will remain closed into the fall.
- Crews are advancing the southern portion of the Highway 62 LRT tunnel and area retaining walls. Anticipate noise and vibration associated with installation of piling and sheeting between Highway 62 and southbound Highway 212.

**Minnetonka - City West to Shady Oak | Construction Activities Summer 2021**



**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/Felt roadway bridges over LRT and the Hopkins/Minnetonka LRT Bridge ending at the Shady Oak Road Station.

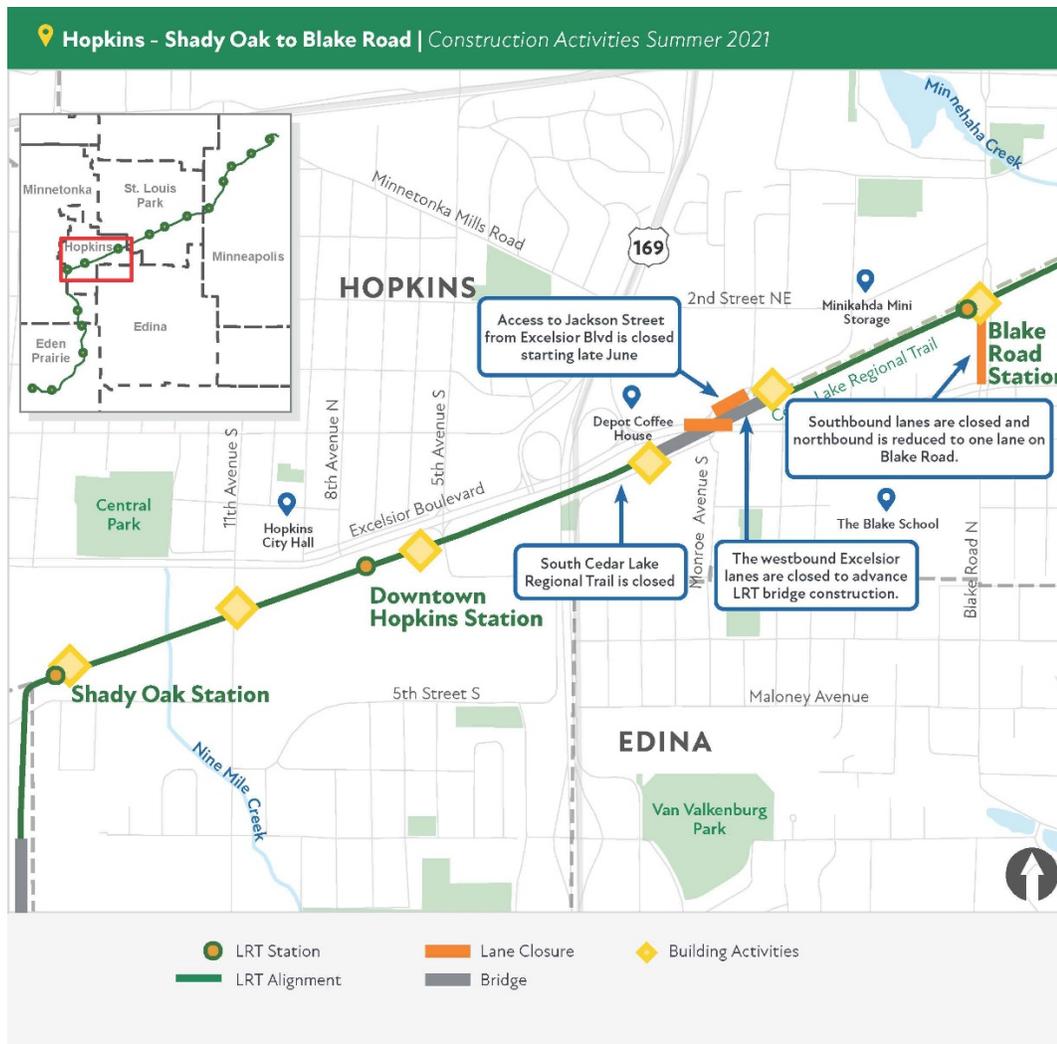
*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- 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.

- Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive remains closed until late summer. 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

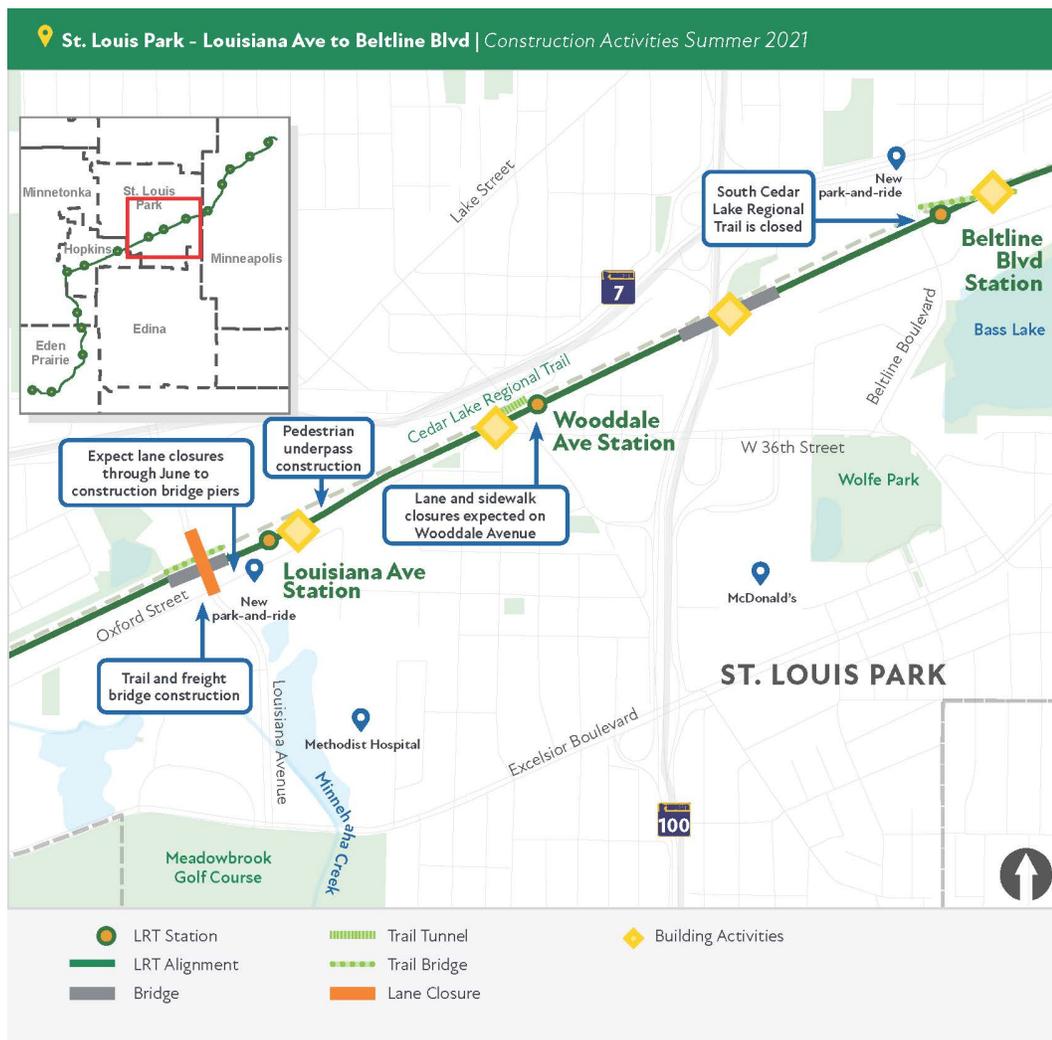
*Construction Overview:* There are three stations in Hopkins: Shady Oak Road, Downtown Hopkins and Blake Road. Major structures in Hopkins include an LRT bridge over Excelsior and a regional trail underpass at Blake Road. In addition to LRT track construction there is also freight rail and regional trail work in the area. There are multiple LRT and freight railroad crossings at roadways.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Jackson Avenue at Excelsior Boulevard will be closed to through traffic. This closure is anticipated to last into the week of June 28. During the closure, traffic travelling southbound on Jackson Avenue will not be able to access eastbound Excelsior Boulevard. [See detour map.](#)
- 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. [See detour map.](#)
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Street N.E. while southbound Blake Road traffic is detoured at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street N.E. [See detour map.](#)

St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park Construction: Map 1 of 1

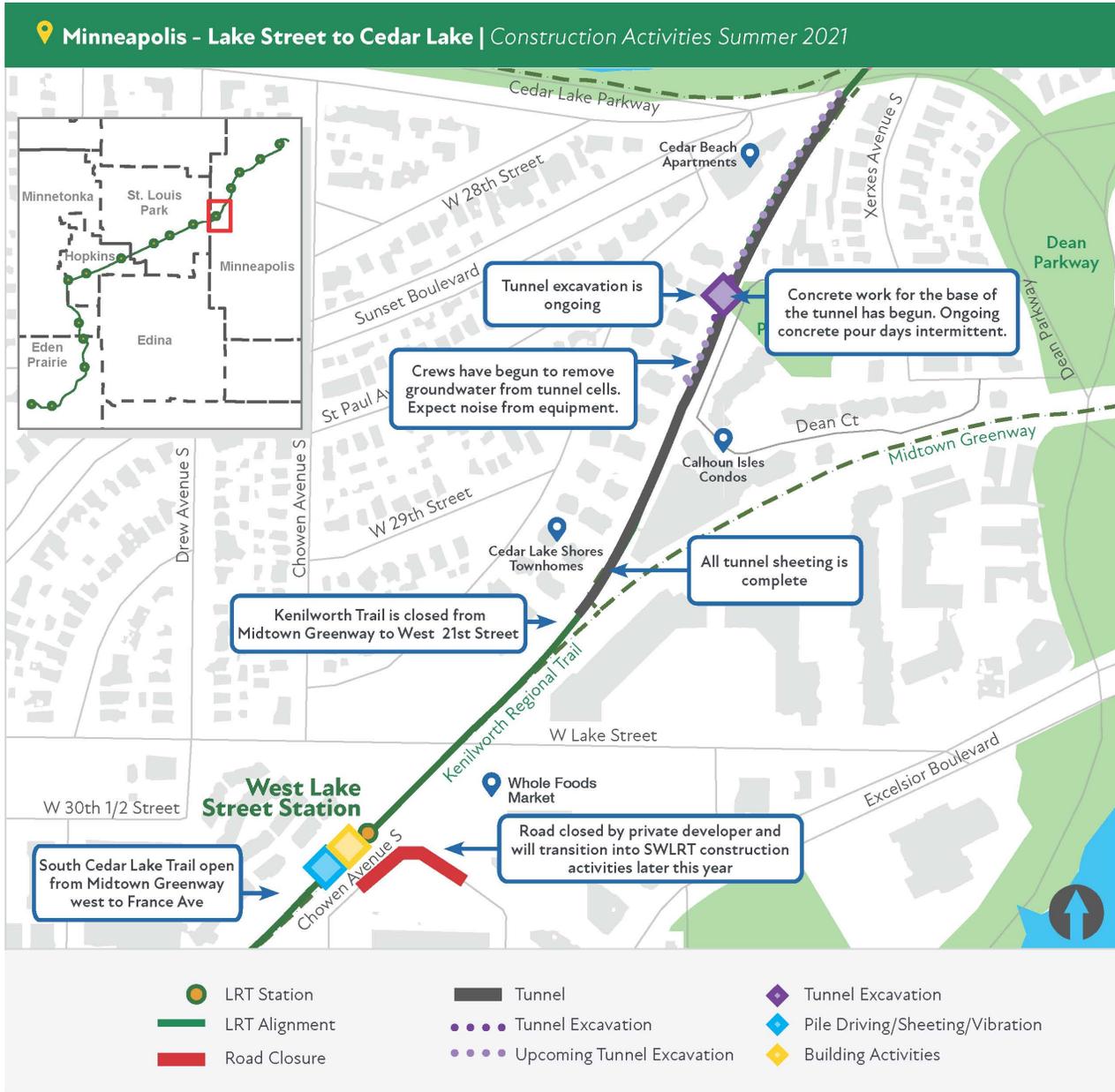


## **Louisiana Avenue to Beltline Boulevard**

*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:*

- Expect lane closures through early summer along Louisiana Avenue between West Lake Street and Oxford Street while crews advance bridge construction. Sheet piling is expected.
- Station area preparation activities continue near Louisiana Avenue



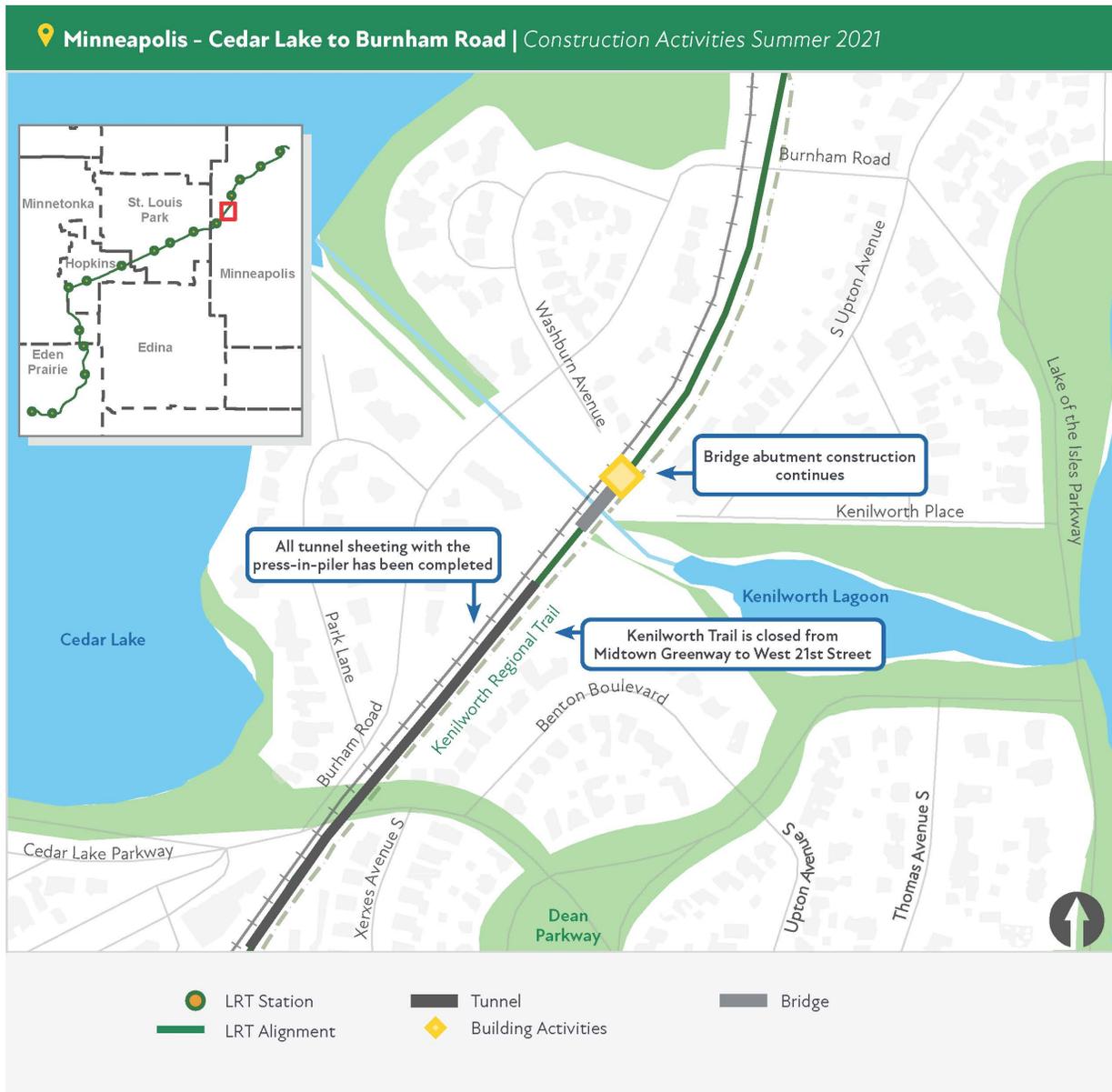
**Chowen Avenue to Cedar Lake Parkway**

*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:*

- Private development work is occurring next to Southwest LRT construction along Abbott and Chowen Avenues. The private developer is piling in the area through the summer. They are also conducting utility work along Abbott and Chowen Avenues and have closed the roadway. The closure will then transition to accommodate Southwest LRT construction activities. Trail access in this area remains open through this area.
- Construction activities including excavation and concrete work for the West Lake Street Station are ongoing.
- Excavation activities, including power washing the sheets and grouting, continue for the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel, progressing in the direction of Cedar Lake Parkway. Pumps will operate intermittently to keep tunnel cells clear of water.
- The Southwest LRT Project is preparing to use segments of Sunset Boulevard, Depot Street, France Avenue and Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis as an additional haul route for the construction of the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel. We anticipate that crews will begin to use this haul route later in July.

## Minneapolis Construction: Map 2 of 5



### Cedar Lake Parkway to Burnham Road

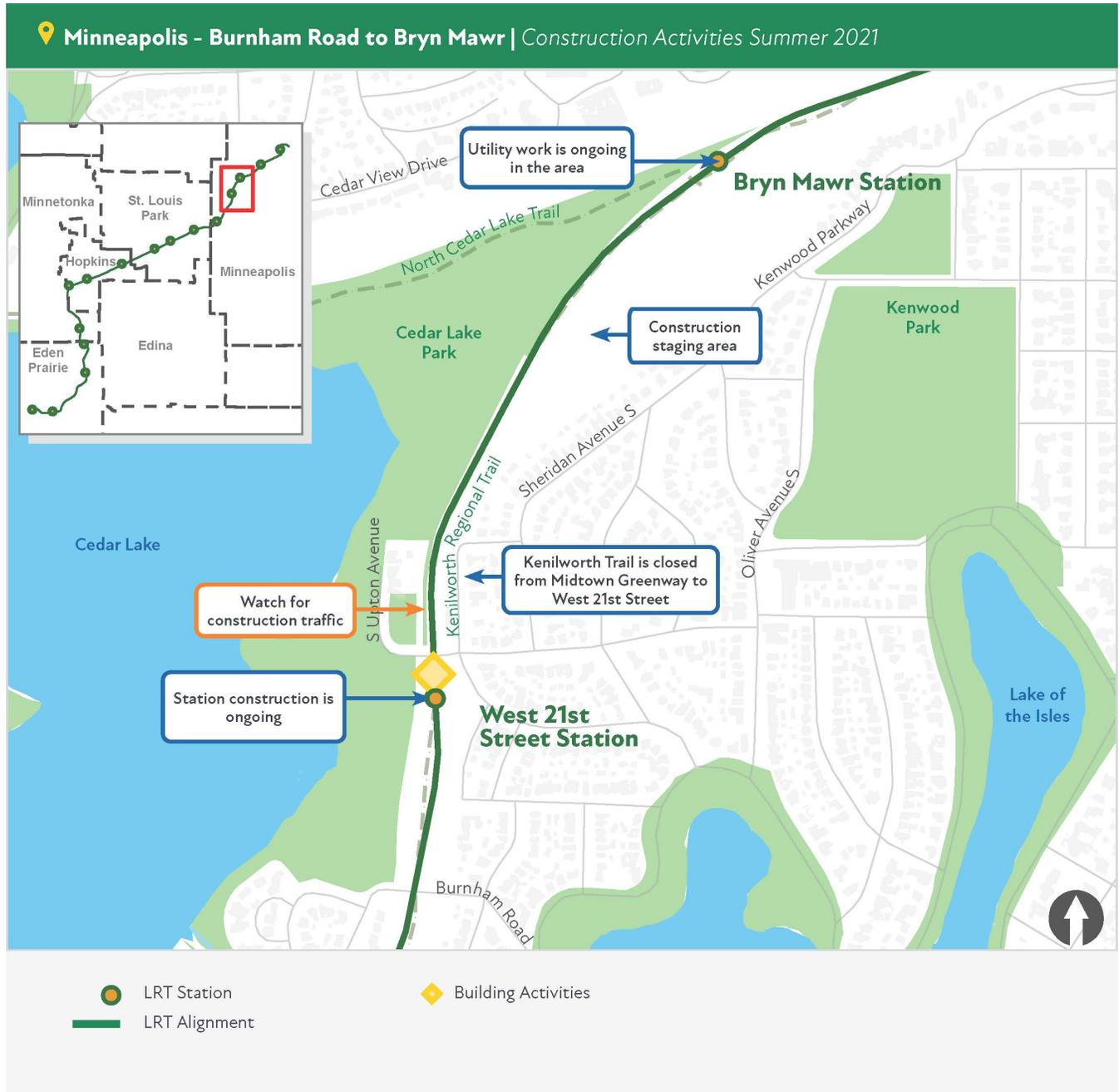
**Construction Overview:** The LRT tunnel continues in this segment. Other elements include the construction of retaining walls (complete), and freight, LRT and trail bridges over the Cedar Lake Channel.

**Current activities to expect in this area:**

- Construction of the LRT bridge at the Cedar Lake Channel continues with concrete and deck work throughout the summer.

- The main construction haul route is being shifted to accommodate utility work, which requires a detour of the North Cedar Lake Trail for about two weeks starting in June. [See detour map.](#)

**Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5**



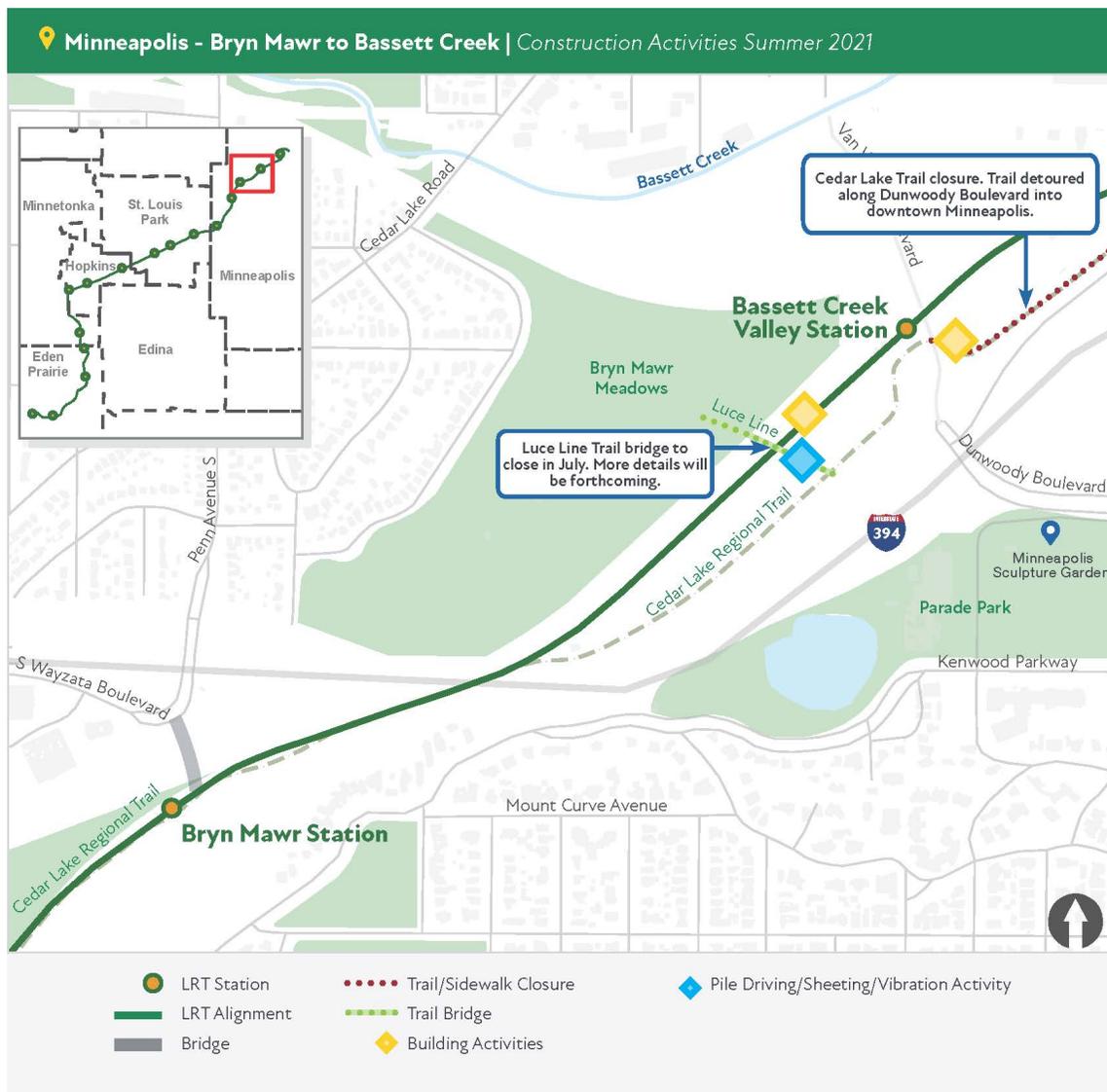
**Burnham Road to Bryn Mawr Station**

**Construction Overview:** In addition to the LRT, freight rail and trail construction, this area has two stations: West 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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 main construction haul route is being shifted to accommodate utility work, which requires a detour of the North Cedar Lake Trail for about two weeks starting in June. [See detour map.](#)
- Pile driving near Van White Boulevard for the new Luce Line Trail bridge is paused until the old bridge is demolished to make way for construction of the new bridge. Demolition is anticipated in late July or August. More details to follow.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and North 7<sup>th</sup> 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 LRT bridge at Glenwood Avenue continues. High-vibration sheeting installation and pile-driving will be ongoing in this area for most of the summer. Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and North 12<sup>th</sup> Street remains closed. [See detour map.](#)
- Crews continue to build corridor a protection wall between Glenwood Avenue and I-94, including work on Saturdays.

## **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 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 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 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 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.

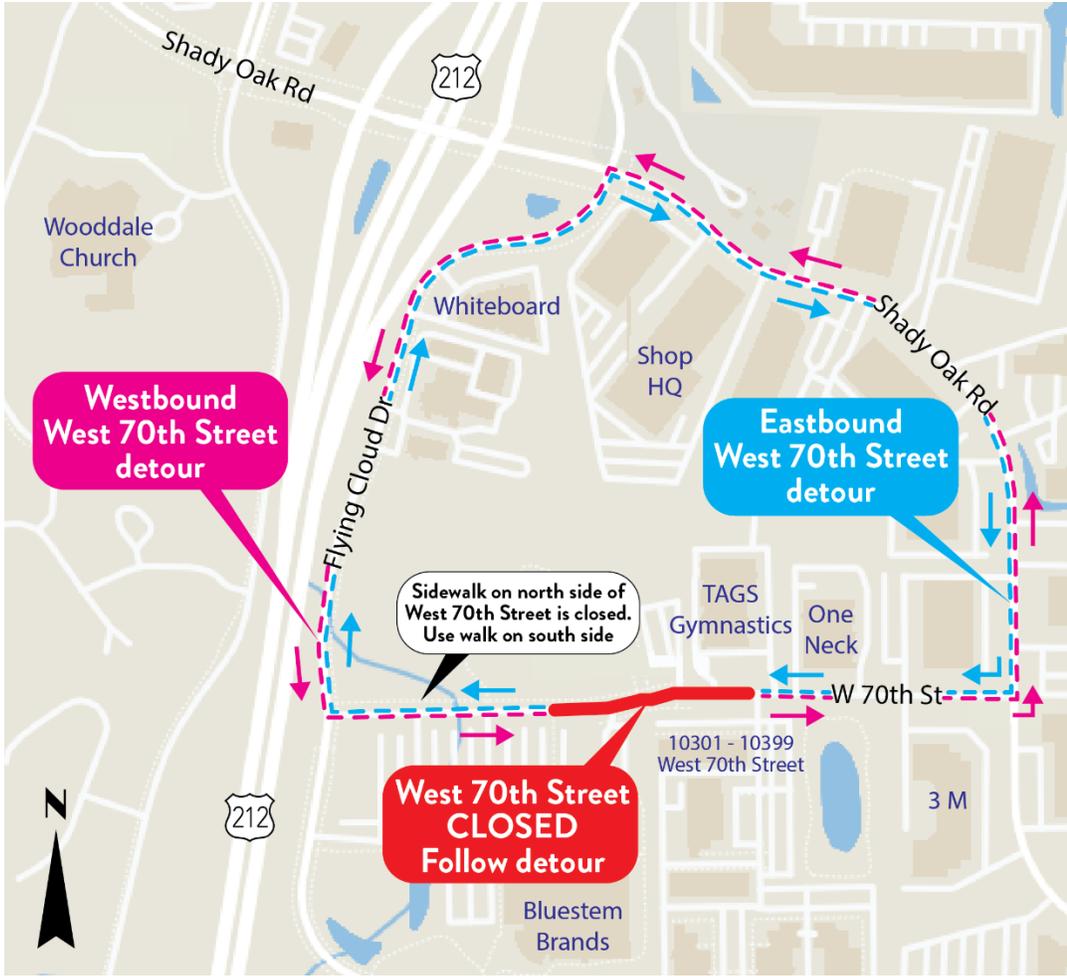
### SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



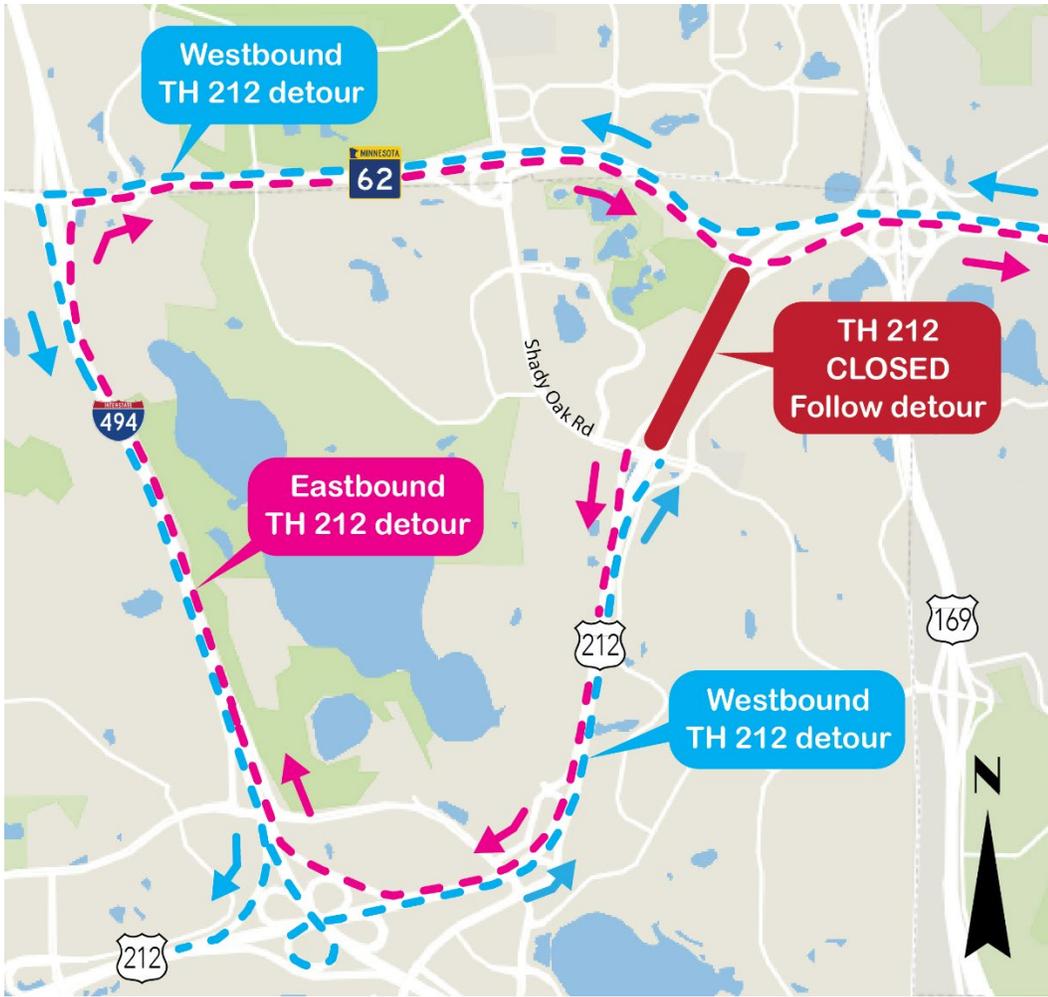
# Flying Cloud Drive & Highway 494 Ramps in Eden Prairie



# Upcoming West 70<sup>th</sup> Street in Eden Prairie



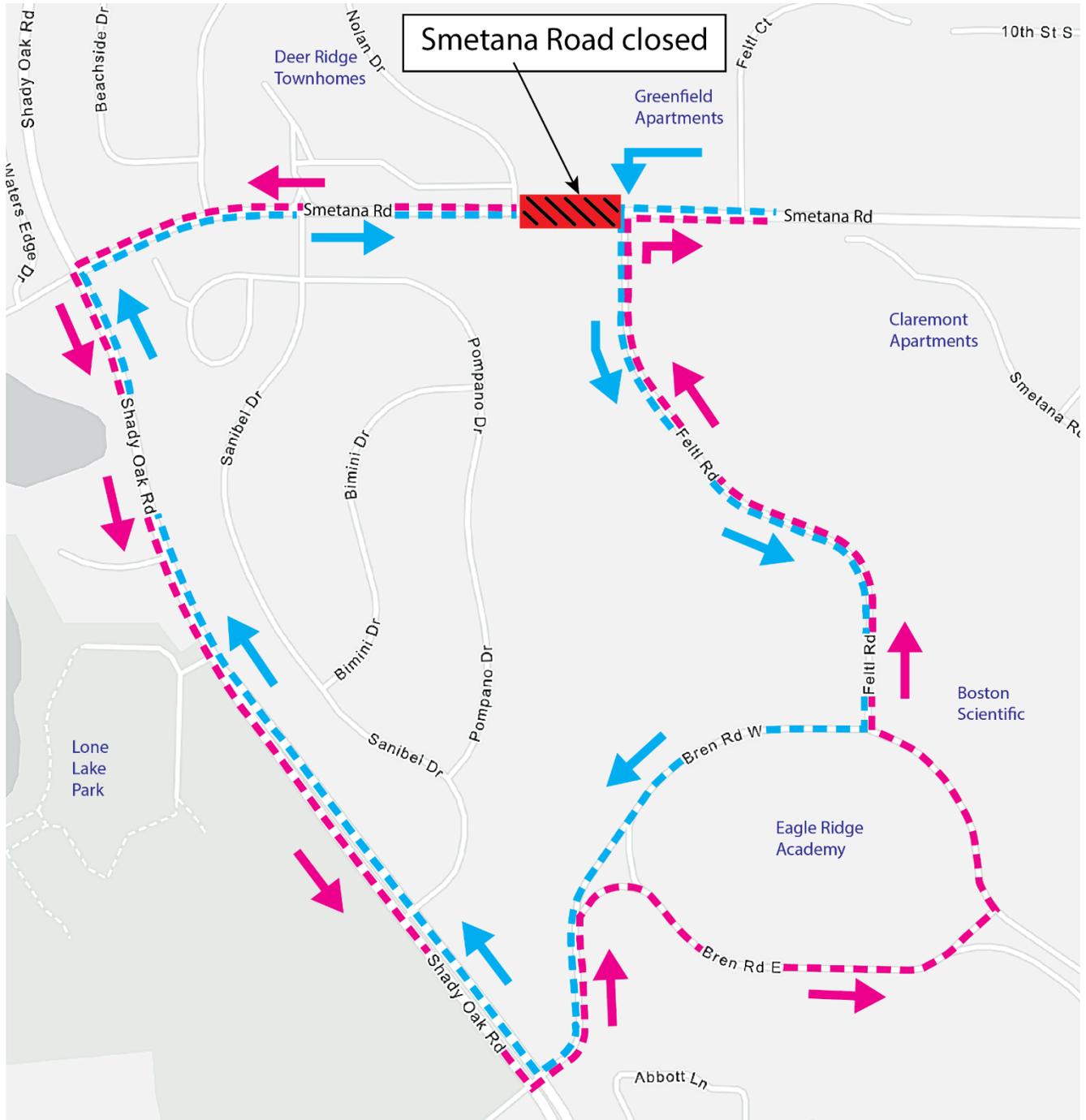
# Highway 212 in Eden Prairie



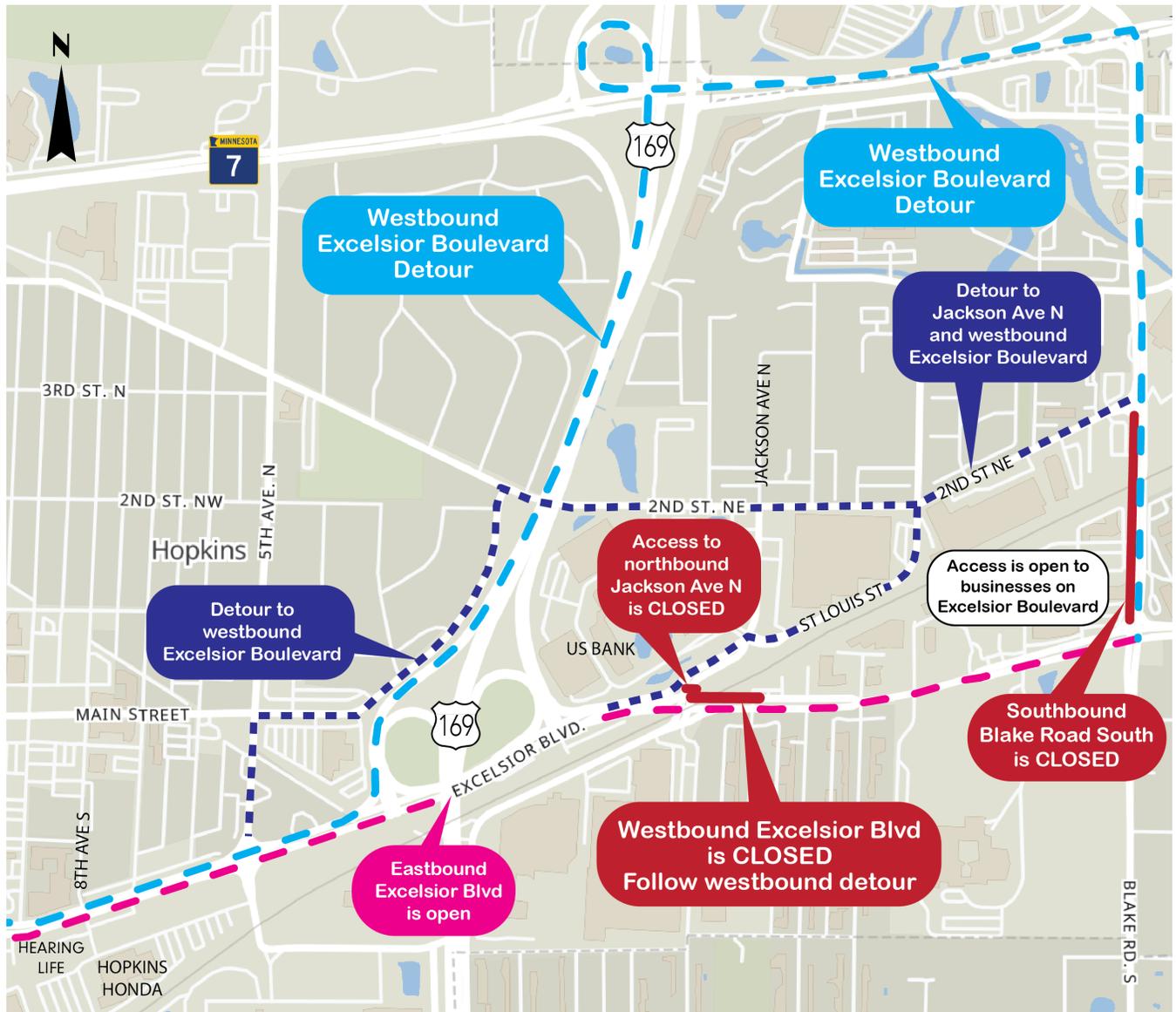
# Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Red and Yellow Circles



Smetana Road in Minnetonka

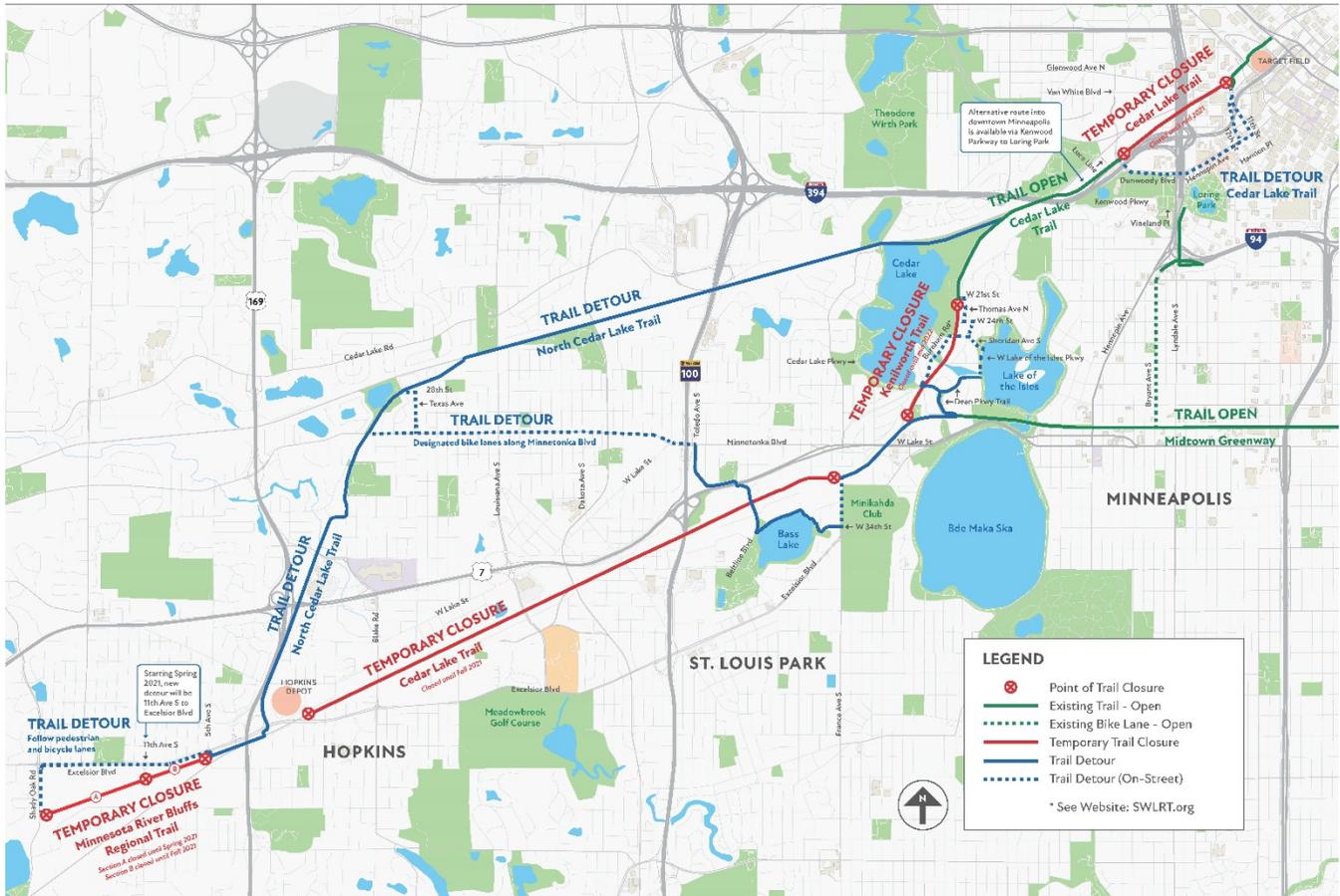


# Blake Road in Hopkins



# TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: [SWLRT.ORG](http://SWLRT.ORG)



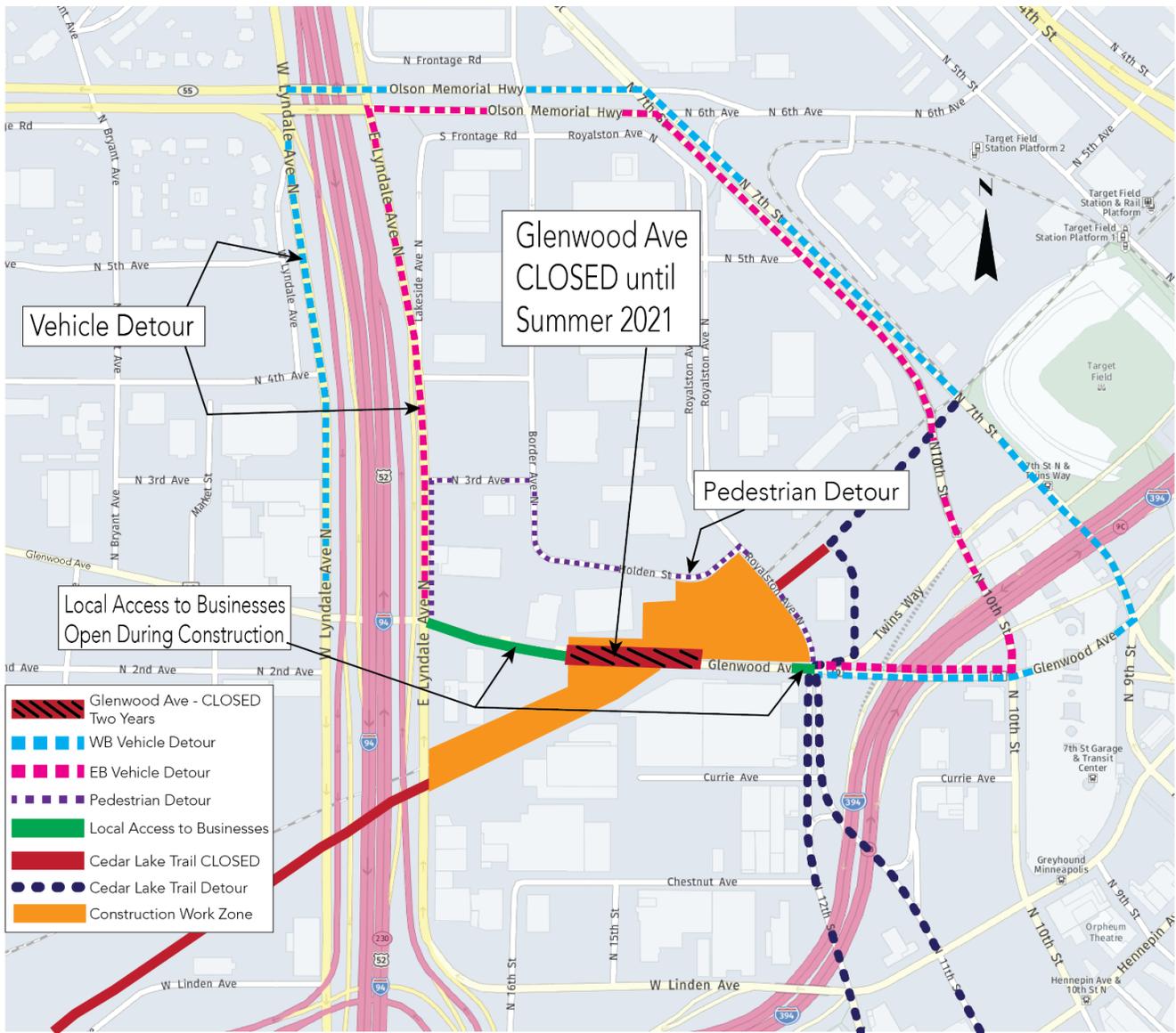
# CEDAR LAKE REGIONAL TRAIL

## TEMPORARY ALIGNMENT

MORE DETAILS: [SWLRT.ORG](http://SWLRT.ORG)



# Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



# Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

