

**Construction Website Update: April 17, 2020**

**Helping to Keep Economic Activity Rolling**

In a time of uncertainty, the Southwest LRT project can provide certainty and stability for people who are working on the critical elements of our regional transportation network. Every labor hour on the Southwest LRT project is an hour that a construction worker is bringing home in a paycheck for their family. It is an hour that continues to be invested in our economy. We continue to work safely during unpredictable times and appreciate your support as construction continues on this regional transportation investment.

**Weekly Construction Photo: Wooddale Avenue Regional Trail Underpass**



Workers construct the box structure on the approach to what will become the Wooddale underpass. Crews have been conducting piling and excavation work. The work has progressed to a point where we are ready to begin the full closure of Wooddale Avenue on Thursday, April 23 and continue with these activities into the roadway.

### **SouthWest Station Area**

The former SouthWest Transit facility has been demolished and crews are working on clearing up the area. Expect piling driving as crews work on the bus loop, retaining walls and begin on the new parking structure and associated utility work.

The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed until later this spring to accommodate the completion of retaining wall work. Crews are removing the temporary sheeting for the retaining wall.

### **Prairie Center Drive Bridge**

The Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge structure, which begins on the north side of SouthWest Transit Parking Ramp, follows alongside Purgatory Creek Park then crosses over Prairie Center Drive near Singletree Lane, will be under construction until fall 2020. Crews have finished some piers and are currently working north of Parking Ramp and next to Purgatory Creek Park along Prairie Center Drive. Work is also starting on the east side of the roadway near Bachman's. Expect ongoing piling in the area through the spring. This includes ongoing work on Saturdays.

Sidewalks near the intersection of Prairie Center Drive and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow local signage to ensure your safety. The sidewalk is closed from Technology Drive to Singletree Lane. **(See the SouthWest pedestrian detour map [here](#)).**

The outside southbound lane on Prairie Center Drive will intermittently close for pier work. Additional roadway lane closures will be needed later this spring as work for piers advances.

### **Eden Road Area**

Major earthwork is ongoing in this area. Work on retaining walls as well as utility work in the area has begun.

### **LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive**

LRT will travel on a bridge over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive. Concrete work is underway for the north and south abutments. The ramp from I-494 to eastbound Highway 212 will be striped over the weekend and open by Monday, April 20. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place in the immediate vicinity of the work zone.

### **Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive**

Crews are constructing multiple piers for the new LRT bridge at Valley View Road. The piers are at different stages of construction with many nearing completion. During the week of April 27, a couple intermittent daytime road closures on Valley View Road will be needed to set bridge beams. **See Eden Prairie upcoming detour map [here](#).**

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.

Along Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road crews will be conducting major utility work, which includes moving utilities that are in the way of the LRT guideway and improving other area utilities while the roadway is under construction. Once the utilities are removed, crews will begin work on the LRT track guideway. Overall, there will be four phases of temporary traffic changes, specifically lane reductions and closures. These four phases will last the duration of the 2020 construction season. This work will also result in closures to connecting roadways.

Phase two of activity in the area is beginning the week of April 20 and work is shifting to the north side of Flying Cloud Drive. The west bound exit from Highway 494 to Flying Cloud Drive is reduced to one lane and may close as early as Monday, April 20. The intersections of Eden Road and Flying Cloud Drive as well as the intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive may close as early as April 20. **See Eden Prairie traffic map [here](#).**

### **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**

Throughout the 2020 construction season, crews will advance work on the Golden Triangle Station, the land bridge around the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Expect ongoing activity in the area as these elements advance.

Current activities include piling and concrete work for retaining walls and the LRT bridge. Work on the Golden Triangle Station and the adjacent track slab 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 approximately four months.

### **Minnetonka**

#### **Highway 62**

Construction of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 will be ongoing through the 2021 construction season. The work is divided into two phases, work on the north then the south side of the highway. The 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 fall of 2020. Crews began constructing the bottom leveling slab of the north tunnel section and will advance concrete and structural work.

#### **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. Yellow Circle Drive has temporarily become a two-way roadway in the area south of Blue Circle Drive. A temporary by-pass road is complete on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will be in place until fall 2020. **See Minnetonka roadway changes [here](#).**

Additional work will begin on Red Circle Drive in May for bridge reconstruction. The southern portion of Red Circle will become a two-way. Additional details will be provided as work in the area progresses.

#### **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, closed to vehicles and pedestrians on March 30 and will remain such through the 2020 construction season. **See Minnetonka detour map [here](#).** Crews have removed pavement and have begun excavation work. Minor traffic lane impacts on Bren Road East are also expected over the next few weeks to accommodate pipe jacking.

#### **Smetana Road**

In this area, the project includes two roadway bridges to accommodate LRT travelling underneath. Utility work has been ongoing in this area and will be followed by bridge and track work.

Currently, 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 Minnetonka detour maps [here](#)**. Watermain and sanitary sewer work continues in the area. Next week, retaining wall work will begin in the area, as well as abutment work for the Smetana roadway bridge. Expect piling driving in the area.

## **Hopkins**

### **Minnetonka-Hopkins Bridge Area**

The Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT Bridge is located east of Noland 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. Tree clearing and ground cover removal is ongoing, crews are working south of the freight rail line and are moving south towards ongoing work underway at Smetana Road. Excavation and piling is beginning this week. Crews are starting with the northern abutment and will work on bridge piers. Work started north of the freight rail tracks and will progress to the south. Piling work for the bridge piers and will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season.

### **Shady Oak Road Station**

Building demolition in the area is complete. Earthwork is beginning at the Shady Oak Station; expect heavy equipment in the area. When soil correction is complete, crews will begin construction on the station itself.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Street**

Starting the week of April 27, crews will begin preparation work for LRT tracks over 11<sup>th</sup> Street. LRT crosses 11<sup>th</sup> Street just north of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, south of Excelsior Boulevard. 11<sup>th</sup> Street will remain open but expect minor traffic impacts, such as lane closures and work on shoulders of the roadway.

### **Downtown Hopkins Station**

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

### **Excelsior Boulevard Area**

Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. Bridge piers and abutments continue to take shape. Pile driving, sheeting and concrete work is ongoing in the area.

### **Blake Road**

The project is improving bike safety in the area by building an underpass for the regional trail. Crews continue constructing the underpass on the west side of Blake Road. Crews are preparing to close the southbound lanes of Blake Road. Traffic will still be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. This traffic change is anticipated to begin on Monday, April 27. Detour information is forthcoming. Expect sheet pile driving and excavation and concrete work in the area.

### **St. Louis Park**

#### **Minnehaha Creek**

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges continue in this area. Crews are beginning to backfill retaining walls on the approach to the bridge. Flaggers in the water will alert recreational users of periodic closures as crews begin to set girders and work on other structural elements across the waterway. Bridge girders will be constructed in late April. Crews are also continue excavation work to remove topsoil that will allow them to build track foundation.

### **Louisiana Avenue**

In the Louisiana Avenue area, the project is constructing the following elements: Louisiana Station, reestablishing the regional trail, LRT and freight bridges, a pedestrian/bicycle underpass (which connects the area around the old Sam's Club 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.

Currently, crews are working on the pedestrian/bicycle underpass. Expect sheet pile driving and excavation work. Shoring and sheet pile driving work for the southerly railroad connection, that will replace the current wye freight track, along Oxford Street will begin in the next few weeks. Clearing work and fencing is being placed in the area. Later this spring crews will place bridge beams over the Louisiana Avenue roadway, two overnight roadway closures are anticipated but not yet scheduled.

### **Wooddale Avenue**

The project is implementing safety enhancements to the regional trail in this area with the construction of a trail underpass, which is ongoing. Wooddale Avenue between West 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 7, in the immediate

vicinity of the Southwest Project. Crews have been setting prefabricated concrete segments for the Wooddale Avenue regional trail underpass. Work on the approaches continues, expect piling and excavation work in the area. A 30-day full closure of Wooddale Avenue is anticipated to begin on April 23. **See St. Louis Park detour map [here](#).**

### **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. Piling for the abutments is complete and crews are advancing concrete work and connecting retaining walls.

On Saturday, April 18 the southbound ramp from Highway 7 to Highway 100 ramp will close between 7:00 am and 3:00 pm. Crews will use that time to pour the west abutment for the freight bridge.

### **Beltline Boulevard**

Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a trail bridge over the roadway. The main truss for the regional trail bridge has been set. Work on the trail bridge deck continues. Major earthwork has begun in the area, extending west to Highway 100.

### **Minneapolis**

#### **Chowen Avenue to Lake Street**

For the 2020 construction season, this area will experience major utility work, soil correction activities, pier protection work on the Lake Street Bridge, West Lake Station construction and the realignment of Chowen/Abbott roadways.

Utility work continues in the area. Clearing and grubbing of the Chowen/Abbott loop has begun.

#### **Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction**

From the Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of an LRT tunnel will be ongoing through 2022. Sheet piling for the Kenilworth tunnel is ongoing south of Cedar Lake Parkway. Sheet pile installation for the tunnel 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: [swlрт.org](http://swlрт.org). A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique that is being used for the tunnel is also available.

In preparation for future tunnel work, a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' sanitary sewer force main will be relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. 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 the week of May 4. Associated with this work, utility activities have started on Depot Street, crews will construct a utility receiving pit requiring temporary excavation support. A backhoe will be pushing in the support, which is noisy.

### **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 underway and will be completed first and the LRT then trail bridges will follow in sequence.

Trusses for the freight bridge were set in late March. Crews will focus on finishing deck details over the next couple months. Freight is anticipated to be shifted onto the new bridge in early summer.

Starting in the next few weeks, crews are beginning earth work to remove soil and place freight rail ballast on the approaches to the new freight rail bridge at the Cedar Lake Channel. In the same area crews are pipe jacking for utilities, which is almost complete.

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

Temporary surcharge work began south of 21<sup>st</sup> Street for the station. Expect excavation and dump trucks in the area as crews remove and bring in new soil. Surcharge work will consist of periods of activity moving soil followed by periods to consolidate the underlying soil.

21<sup>st</sup> Street Station construction is expected to begin in the summer.

### **Bryn Mawr Station Area**

To accommodate 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 contours of earth in the area and build a stable foundation for the LRT tracks.

The temporary surcharge for the station remains in a settlement period. This work will remain for five months to consolidate the underlying soil to provide a suitable foundation for the station. In May earthwork will begin for the new trail. Retaining wall work in the Penn Avenue/Wayzata Boulevard area is anticipated to begin in the next month.

### **I-394/Cedar Lake Trail**

Pier protection work continues on the I-394 bridge.

### **Linden Yards**

Utility work has begun in the area. Construction of the Bassett Creek Valley Station will begin later this summer.

### **Glenwood Avenue**

When the project is complete, LRT will cross Glenwood Avenue at 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 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 [here](#)**. 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**

This area will see the development of the Royalston Station, an LRT bridge crossing over 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets and connecting to the Target Field Station. The entire Holden/Royalston/Border loop will also be reconstructed. 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 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Holden Street closed on March 16; 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 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 [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 until Summer 2022. Access for automobiles, bikes 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**

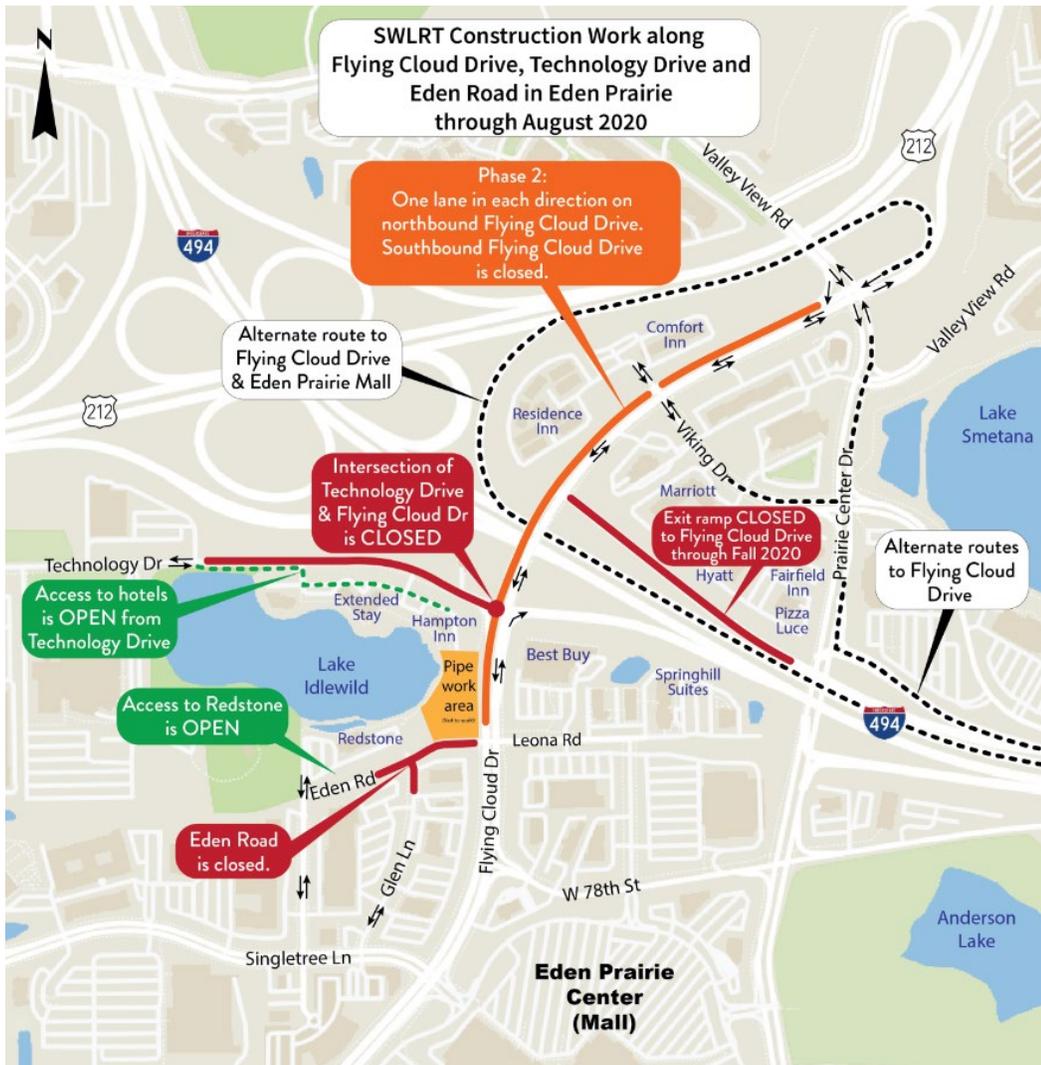
The North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is closed until mid-2021. **See detour maps [here](#).**

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

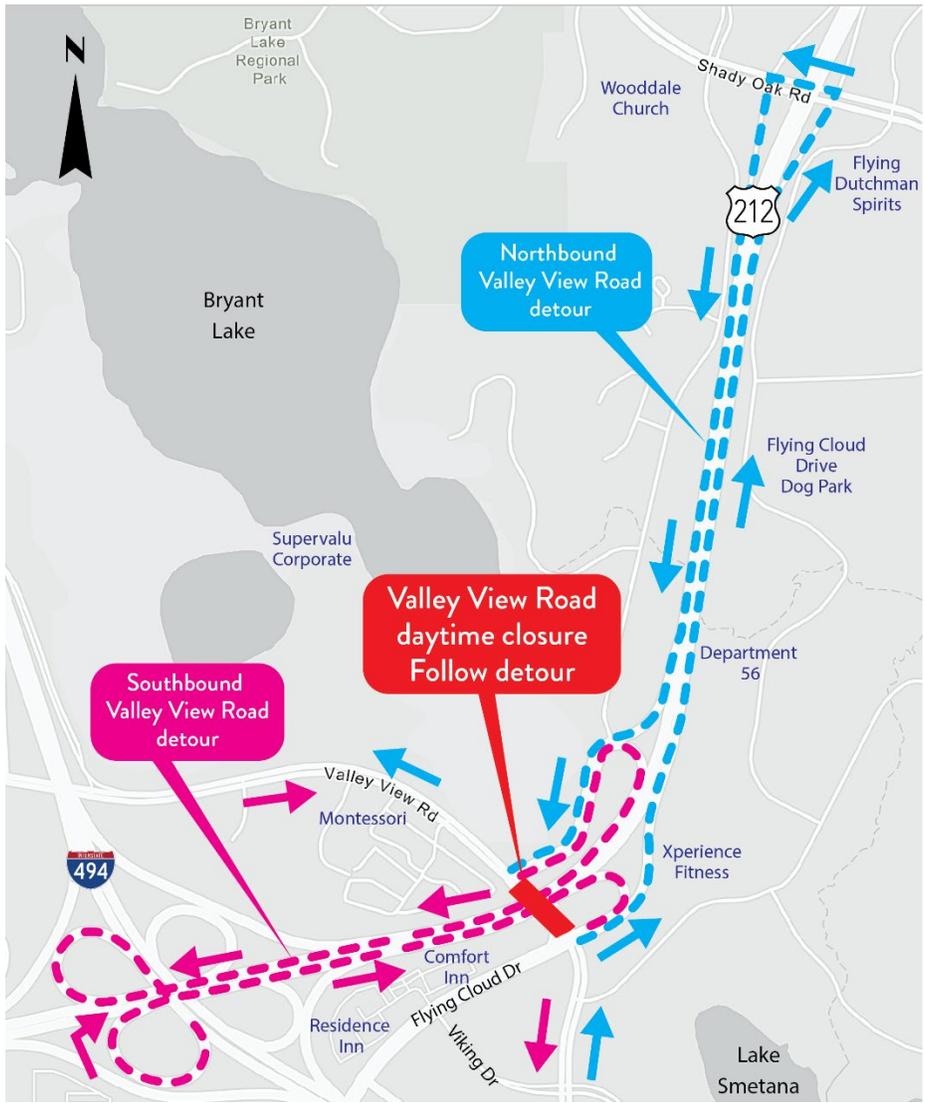
### **SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie**



### 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



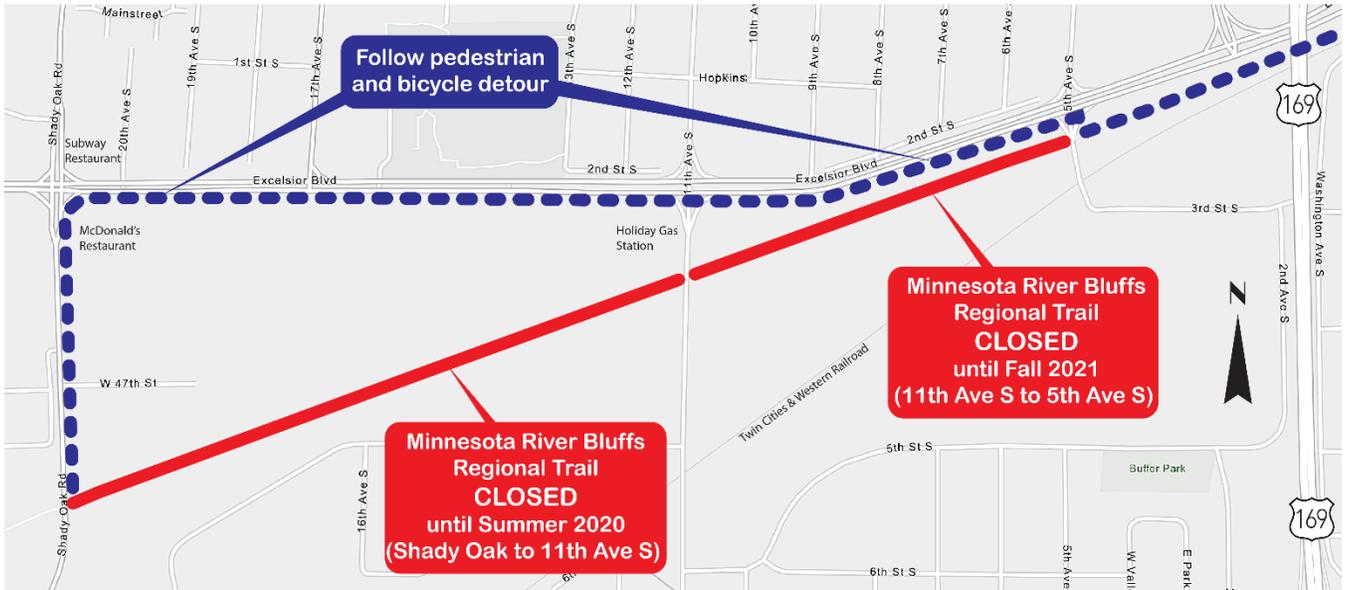
## Bren Road West in Minnetonka Detour



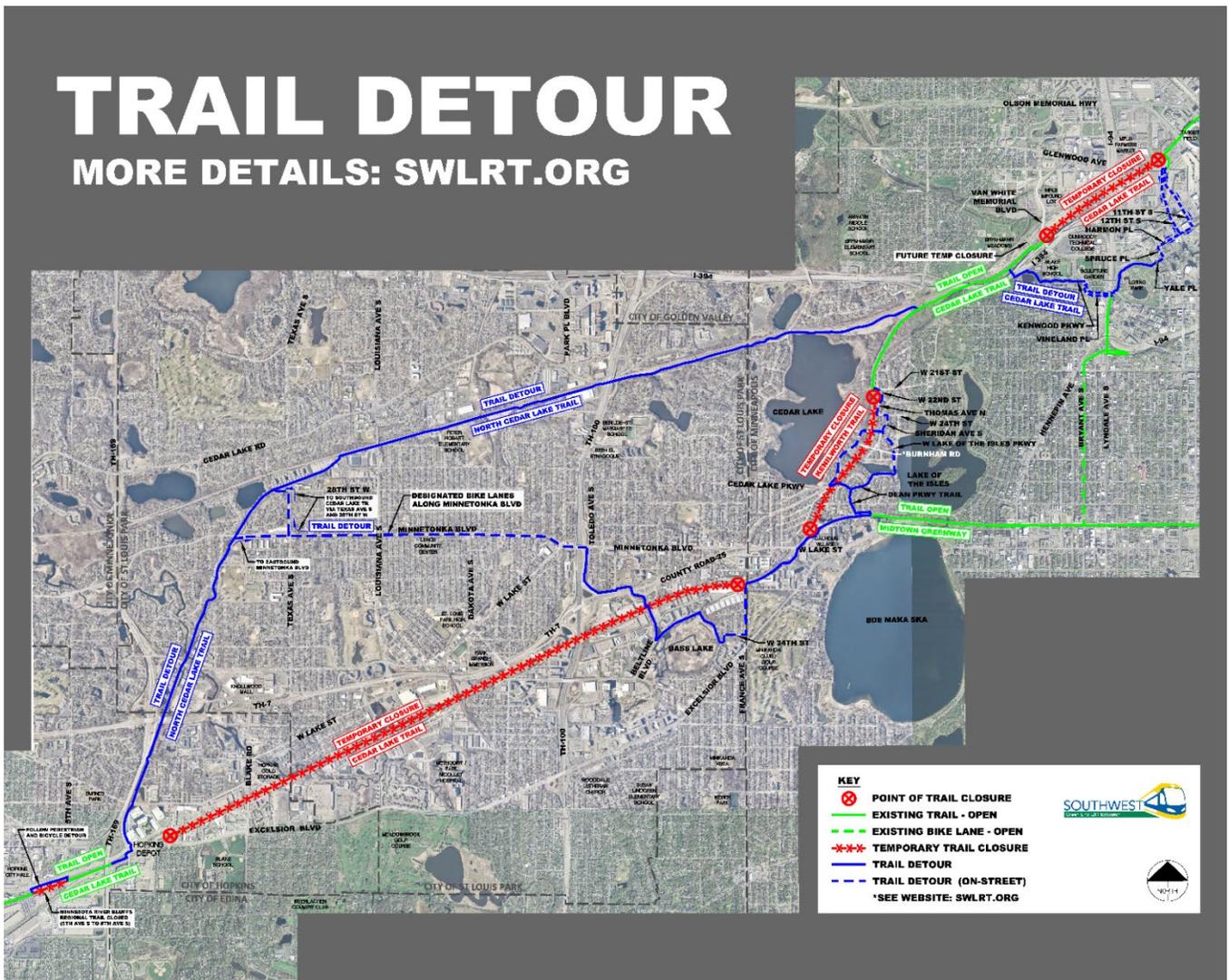
## **Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour**



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



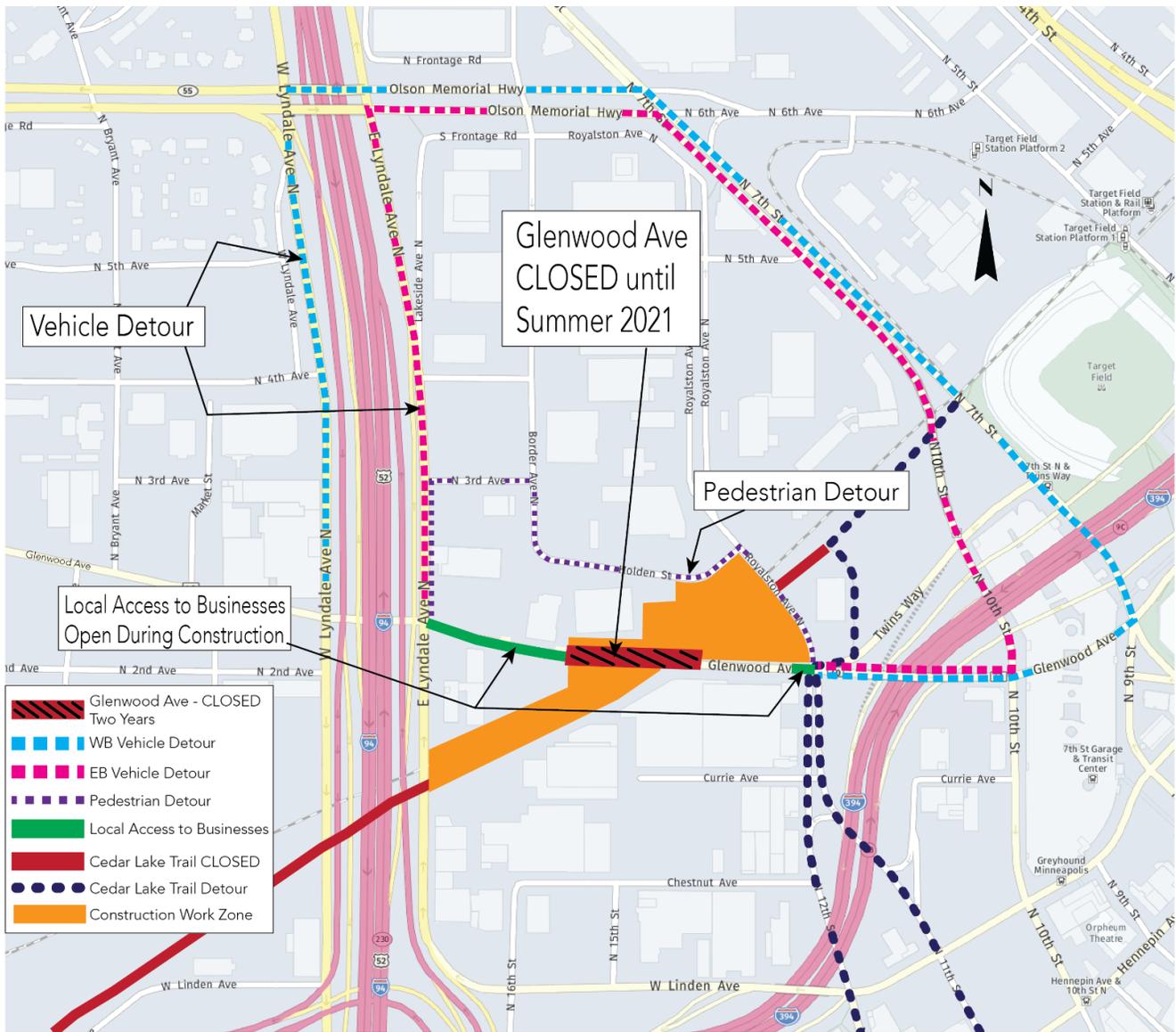
**Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours**



# Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park



# Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



# Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

