



Construction Update: August 2, 2019

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Job Site Activation: Major Building Activities Commence

Southwest LRT construction activities are starting to get out of the ground, or into the ground as each case may be. The early construction activities in Spring and early Summer consisted mostly of site prep, clearing and grubbing. While this work continues in some areas, as well as demolition of structures, major construction elements such as LRT bridges, followed by tunnel work will start taking shape later Summer and into Fall. The Cedar Lake Channel, Beltline Boulevard, Excelsior Boulevard, I-494, and SouthWest Station are all locations where work is commencing or in full swing.

On-going Activities Update

Corridor-wide: Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis

Conditions are changing along the corridor as work continues including survey work, staking, earth work, major utility relocation and vegetation removal with heavy equipment.

Corridor-wide Freight Track Work: On-going

Along the project corridor, the contractor is beginning to remove existing freight rail siding track and prepare for the temporary and permanent location of the freight tracks in Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minneapolis. In the Kenilworth Corridor, south of the Cedar Lake Channel, minor earthwork, grading and the arrival of ballast for the temporary and permanent freight rail shifts has begun. This work will be completed before the freight track is shifted to make way for tunnel construction later in the fall.

SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie: On-going

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 for utility work near the former Culver's site has begun.

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

Expect heavy equipment in the area as work on the new LRT bridge kicks into full gear the week of August 5. Crews will begin to mill and overlay the shoulder for lane shifts. Pier construction for a new LRT bridge will begin. The I-494 eastbound ramp to Highway 212 will be closed overnight this weekend (August 3-4) **(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 our crews.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie: On-going

Pile driving work has resumed during daytime hours. Pile driving between Golden Triangle and Shady Oak Road is anticipated as an on-going activity until summer 2020. This will include work on Saturday in some cases. Over 100 piles have been driven in the area. Crews will continue to make their way north toward Shady Oak Road, where bridge work will also be conducted.

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins: On-going

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins between 11th Avenue South and Shady Oak Road remains closed due to additional construction needs with storm sewer activities. This portion of the trail may be closed for up to a year. Crews are looking at options to reduce the duration **(see detour map below)**.

Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins: On-going

The temporary parking lot on the west side of Hopkins Depot is complete and open to the public. Crews will begin to remove trail pavement and begin excavation for the piers for the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. Expect traffic delays as work will intensify in this area in the coming weeks. The sidewalk will be closed on the north side of Excelsior Boulevard in the immediate vicinity of the tracks as piling for bridge piers begins during the week of August 5, please follow posted pedestrian detours. Removal of existing freight tracks will also begin at the same time. In mid-August a closure of the left-turn lane and the adjacent left westbound through lane will be established. A full closure of Excelsior Boulevard at the freight railroad crossing is expected later this summer.

Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park: On-going with a second full closure anticipated August 12

With the trail bridge demolished, Louisiana Avenue is now reopened to vehicle traffic. Traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction as crews begin to work on bridge piers. A second full closure of Louisiana Avenue will occur on August 12 **(see detour map below)**.

Cedar Lake Trail: On-going

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 5th Avenue South and 8th Avenue South in Hopkins, trail users will follow a pedestrian and bike detour via 8th Avenue, Excelsior Boulevard and 5th Avenue.
- 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.

We have received public feedback about trail signage and are making modifications for better wayfinding.

Kenilworth Trail Closure: On-going

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.

Burnham Road in Minneapolis: On-going

A partial closure of Burnham Road from Cedar Lake Parkway to Park Lane (approx. 800 ft) is in effect to install a watermain under the roadway. To complete this work, full and partial closures of Burnham and a short-duration closure of Cedar Lake Parkway will be needed over the next month. Two-way traffic will continue to be allowed on Burnham Road Bridge during the detours. **See detour map below.**

Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel and Works Progress Administration (WPA): On-going

Work to retrofit the existing pedestrian bridge for construction vehicles is complete and construction equipment is now moving through the Kenilworth corridor. WPA wall salvage work has begun. Expect to see sandbags on the banks of the channel. Shoring for bridge pier construction is being installed and piling will begin in mid-August. Individuals using the waterway between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake will encounter intermittent closures lasting approximately 20 minutes during construction activity, which are Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. These intermittent closures start next week (the week of August 5) and will last approximately three weeks. Please

cooperate with the flagging boats as they are there for your safety. A full closure of the Cedar Lake Channel is expected later this summer; a 14-day advanced notification will be provided prior to a full closure.

Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis: On-going

The closure of Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North occurred on July 15 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.** Crews have removed the bridge deck and are beginning the removal of the bridge girders and substructure.

Upcoming Work

TH 62 in Minnetonka

Preparation work for the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 is beginning. Starting the week of August 5 crews will begin to install temporary drainage and the prepare the median for future crossover traffic. Expect traffic delays as inside lane closures and a traffic shift will occur to conduct this work.

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins: Mid- August

Private utilities began to prepare this area for utility relocations associated with the project. Site fencing and erosion control is being installed. Beginning in mid-August crews will start work on the water main with two separate short-duration roadway closures for this work: an overnight closure of Feltl Road and a five-day closure of Smetana Road. The first closure of Feltl Road is anticipated the night of August 18 (**see detour map below**). Soon after these short closures, Smetana Road from Feltl Court to Feltl Drive will be closed for six weeks. Following that Smetana Road from Feltl Drive to Nolan Drive will be closed for almost a year. Signs will be posted seven days before the closures.

Blake Road: Week of August 5

Beginning the week of August 5, the west side of Blake Road will be closed, and traffic will be diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction. This lane closure will last approximately four weeks and is coordinated with ongoing City of Hopkins construction in the area. Following this first stage, a full closure of Blake Road of approximately five days will occur. A second full closure of approximately 5 days will take place at a later time.

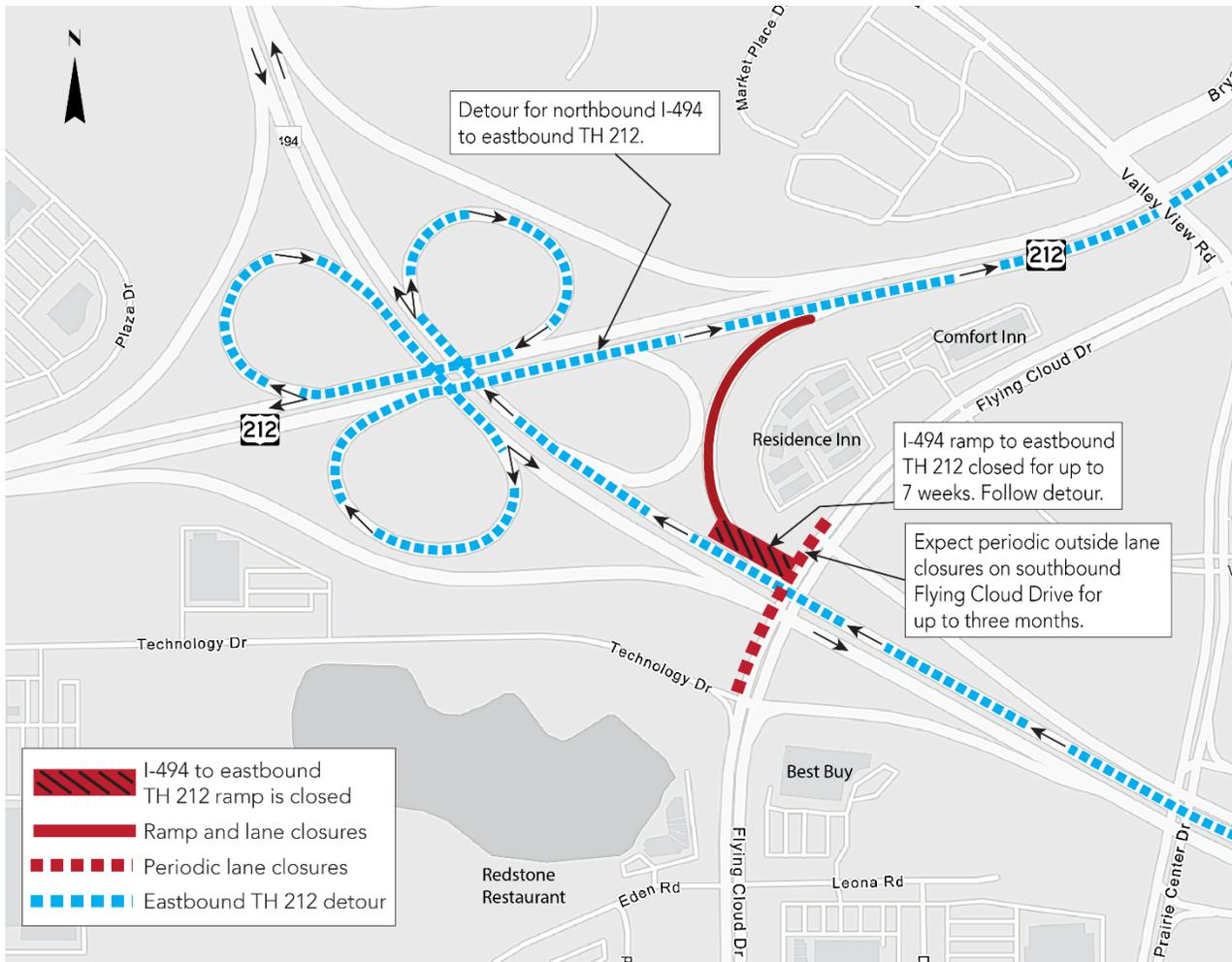
TH 100: Mid-August

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and building a new LRT bridge over TH 100. Starting in mid-August, center pier work will begin. For approximately three weeks, traffic will be shifted to create a workspace in the median area of Highway 100. Nightly lane closures on Highway 100 are anticipated; signs will be posted in advance of the lane closures. Expect to see fencing and erosion control as well.

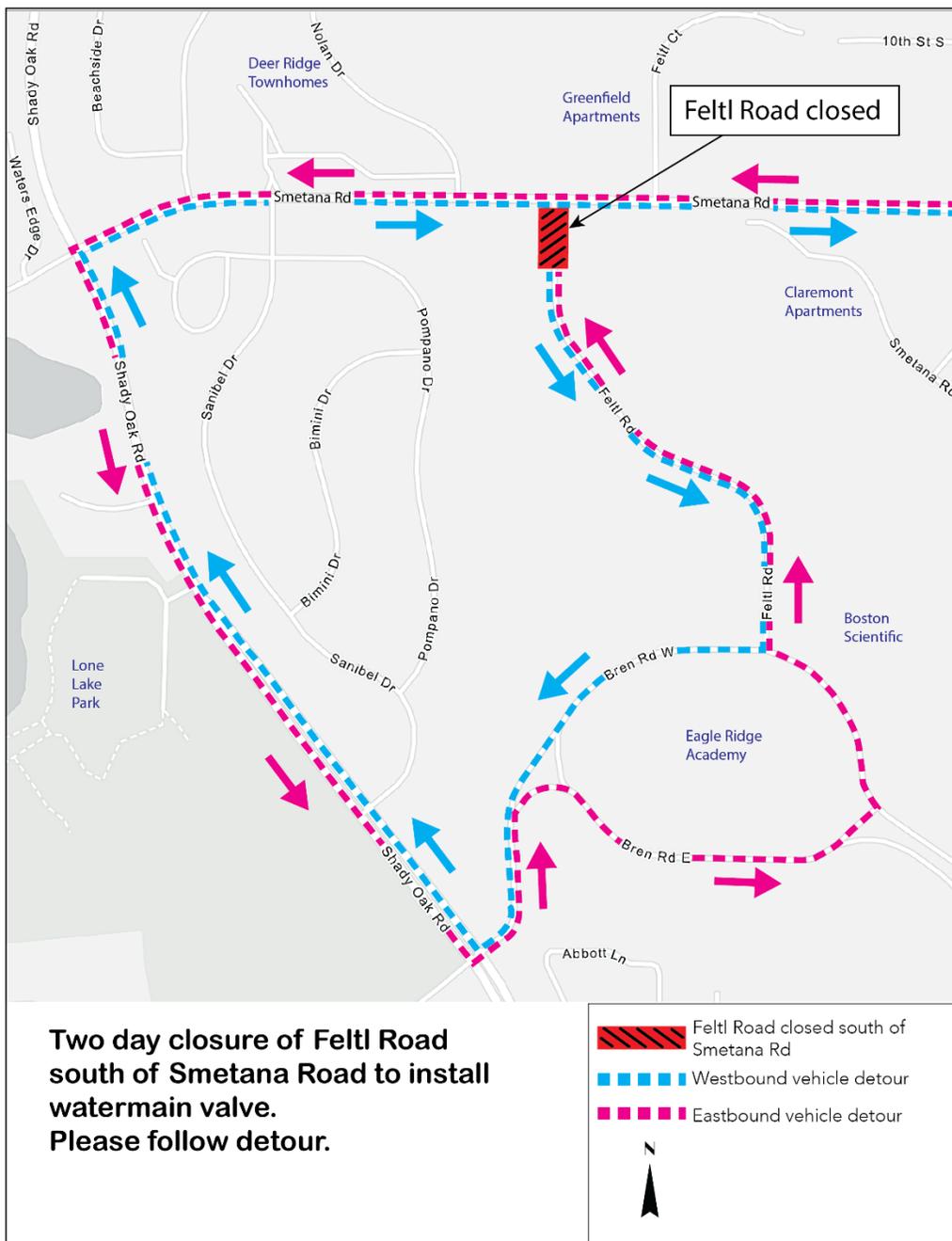
Beltline Boulevard: Week of August 5

Work on the new Cedar Lake Trail Bridge is beginning. Expect to see traffic control for lane shifts. Crews are working on excavation for abutments followed by pier work. A partial closure of Beltline is upcoming this summer. A full closure of up to twelve days, yet to be scheduled, will follow this work.

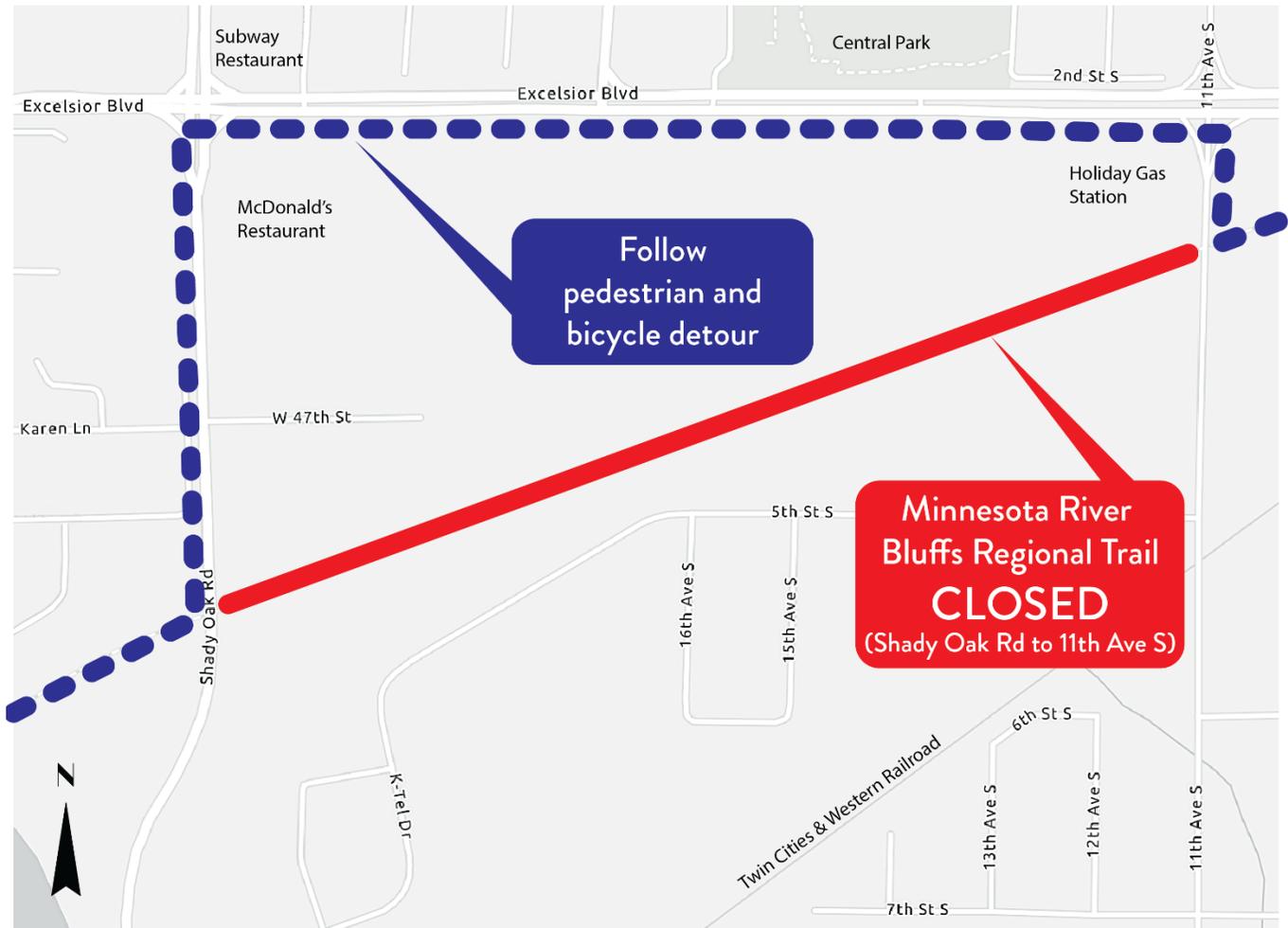
Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



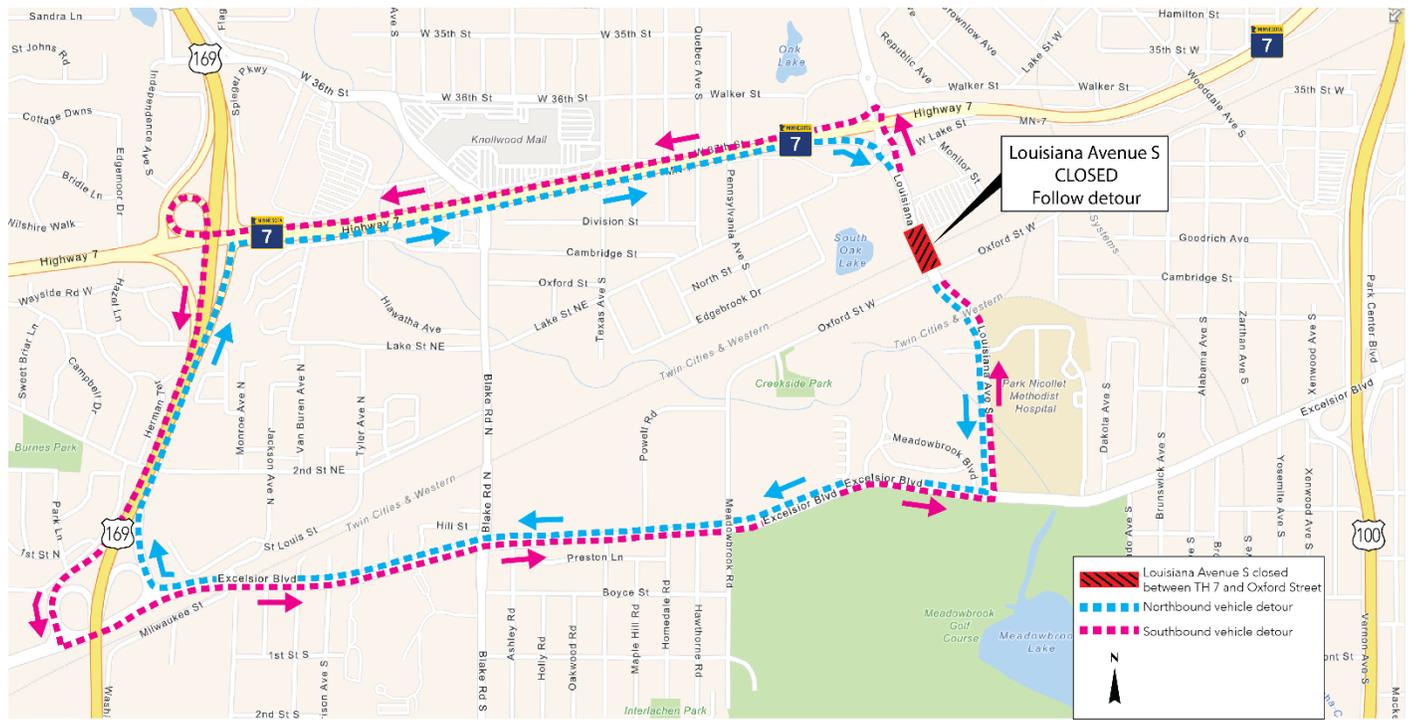
Feltl Road in Minnetonka Detour



Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 11th Avenue Detour

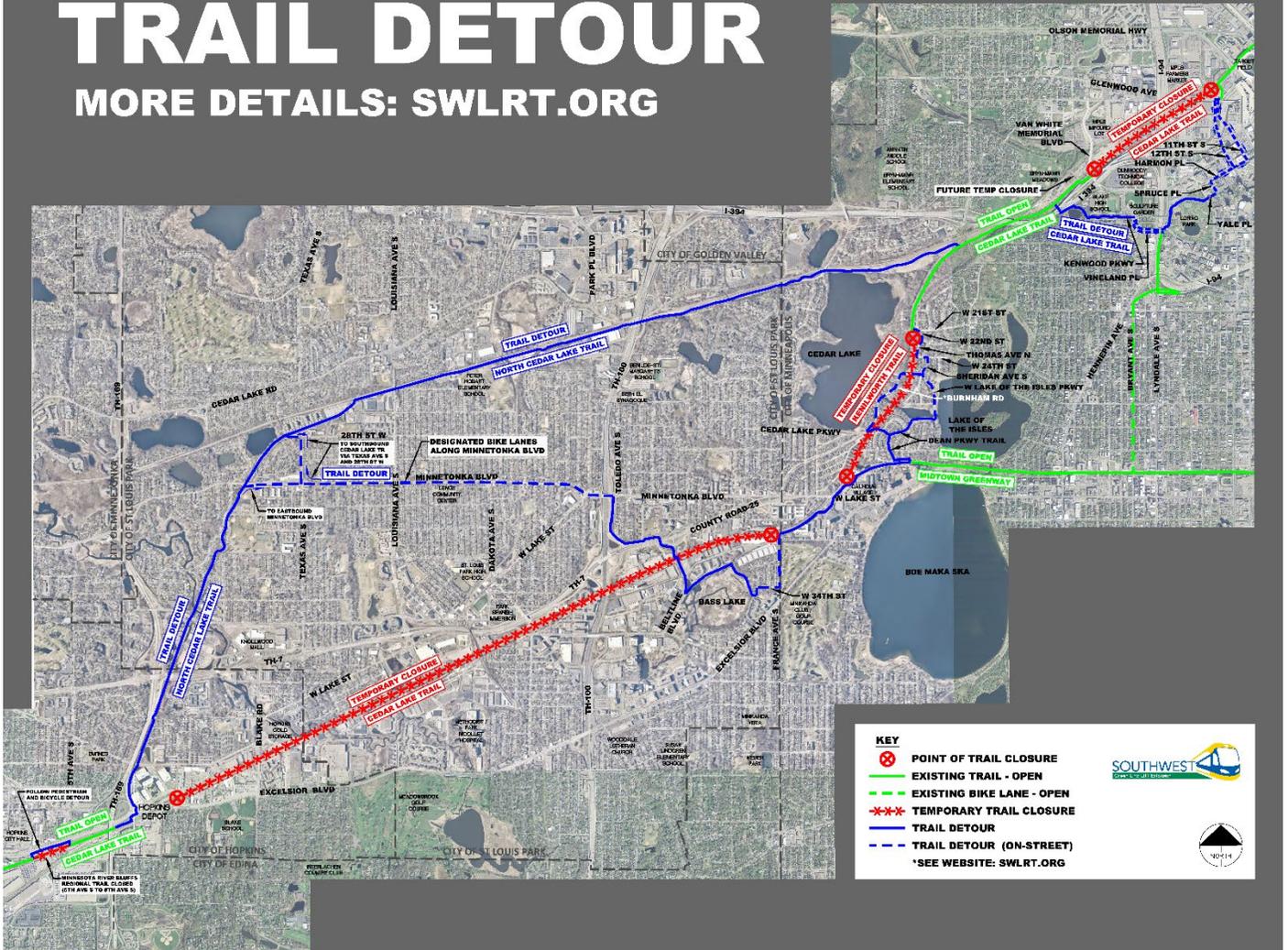


Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park Detour

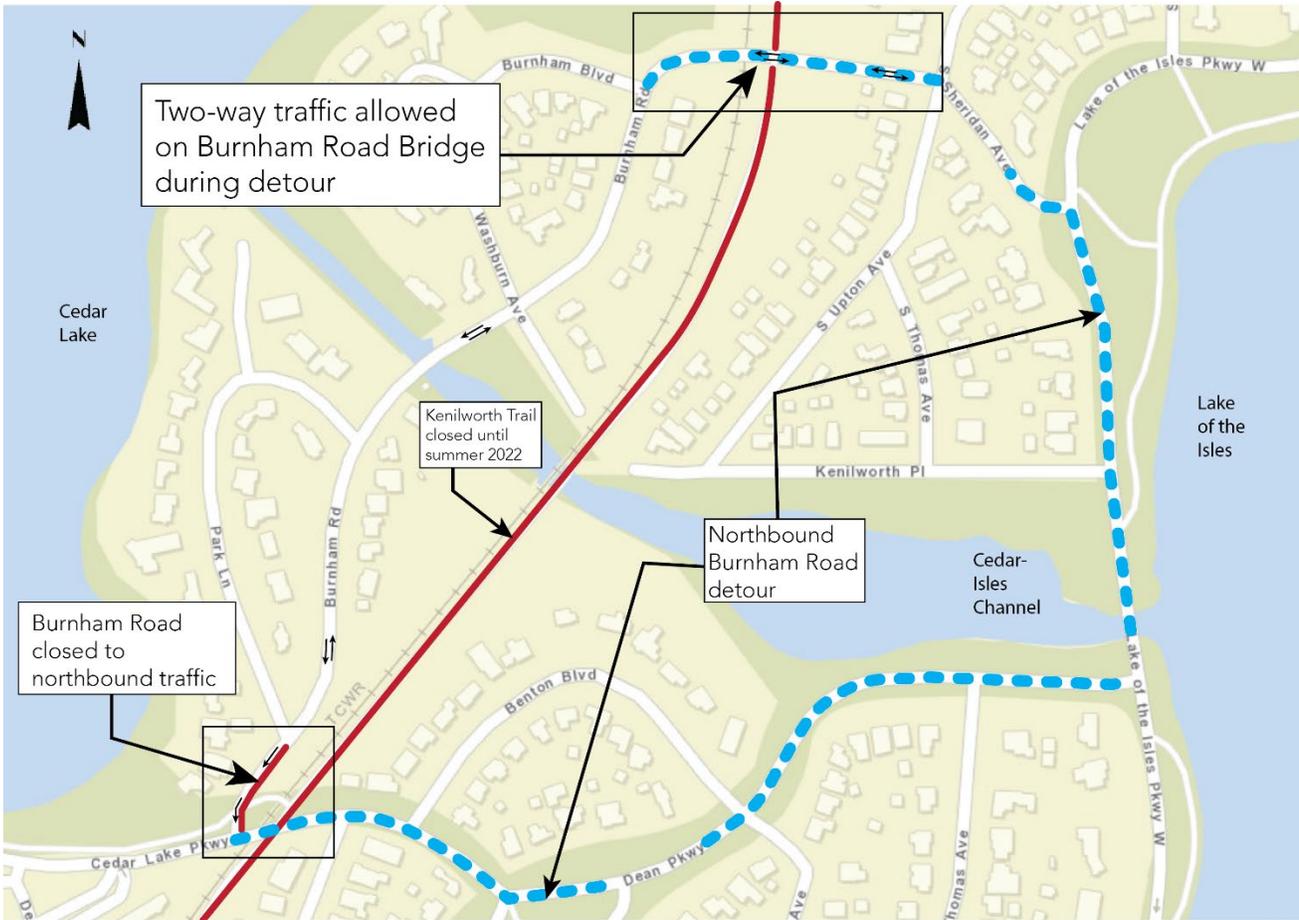


TRAIL DETOUR

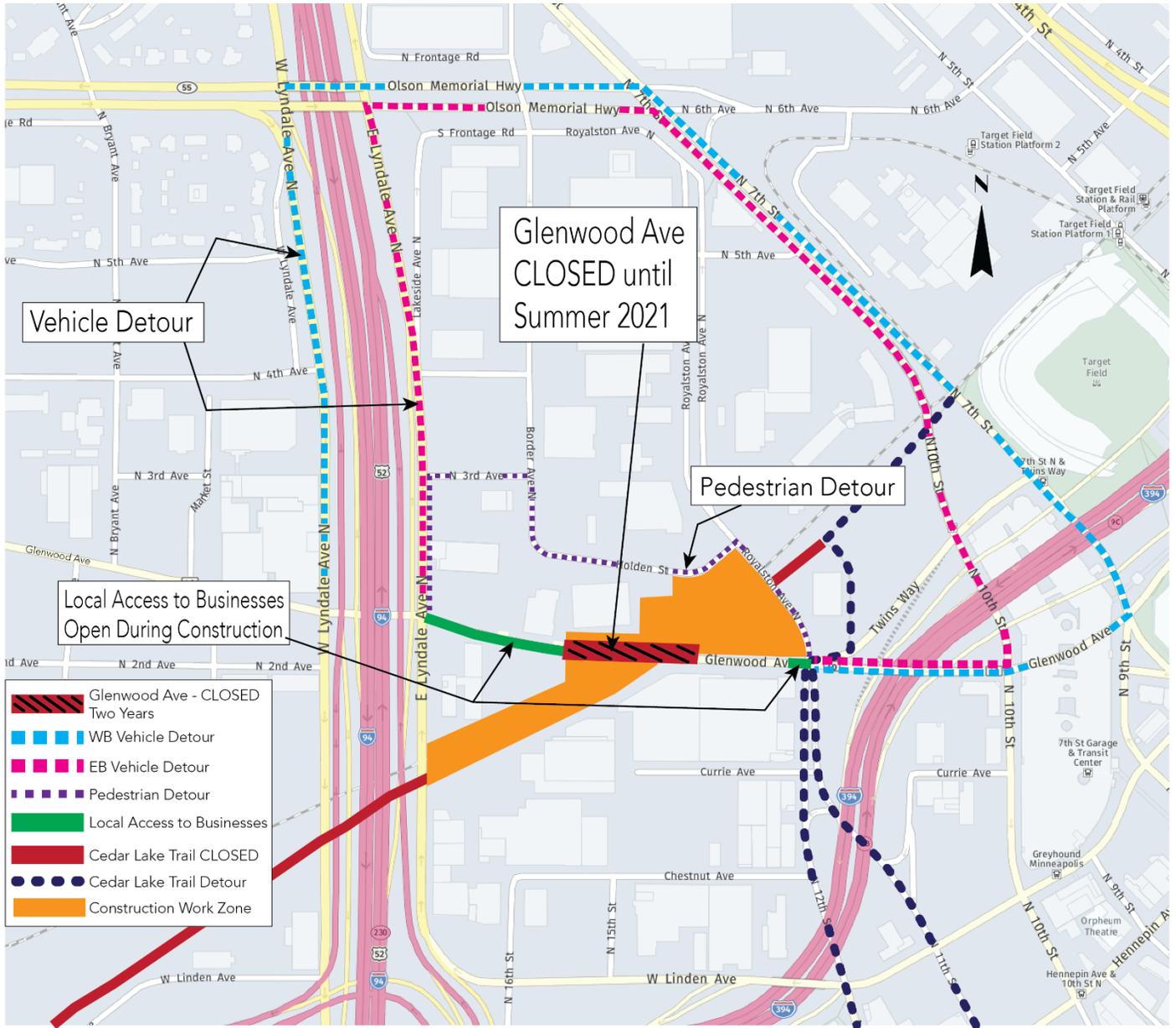
MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Burnham Road Partial Closure at Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour Map



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis Pedestrian and Bike Detour

