



Construction Update: October 11, 2019

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Construction Progressing by Segments

The Southwest corridor is divided into 16 construction segments, with each segment centered around a major work activity. Segments cover different sized areas and allow the contractor to sequence the work that needs to occur in that area, like building a tunnel or constructing a station. The Southwest project currently has active construction work in 15 of the 16 segments. The final segment is in the Opus area and work will occur in that area this Fall. Much of the work is still “in the ground,” with activities such as piling, sheeting, and utility work. While the upcoming winter construction season will be less active in many areas, work will continue to prepare for the 2020 construction season when more visible elements of the project will come out of the ground.

Weekly Construction Photo: Downtown Hopkins Station



Crews install a duct bank that will hold the utilities at the Downtown Hopkins Station.



About a week later, at the same location crews begin the under-slab work.

On-going Activities Update

SouthWest Station Area in Eden Prairie

The temporary passenger drop-off lanes at SouthWest Transit Station have been moved to the west end of the parking structure; bus service continues to operate as usual. Pile driving will continue into 2020 as crews focus on different elements of the station site and the LRT bridge. Retaining wall work for the LRT guideway is also continuing in the area. Crews are constructing a temporary passenger waiting area for bus riders that will be completed around late November. Then crews will demolish the current SouthWest Transit Station passenger waiting area and former office building through January. Crews are working around the intersection of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive to build the bridge piers. Note, the sidewalk is closed on the northwest corner of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive, please follow signage to walk to the southwest sidewalk next to Purgatory Park.

Eden Road Area in Eden Prairie

Crews continue to perform grading and retaining wall work. Retaining walls have taken shape in the area. Utility companies are also working in the area and near Flying Cloud Drive towards the east.

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. The crane has been moved from the center pier to the

north abutment. The I-494 eastbound ramp to TH 212 remains closed. **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/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie

A lane restriction has been added in the area of Flying Cloud Drive and TH 212, where work has begun on the ramp from Valley View to TH 212. Traffic is being diverted onto the HOV lane. Crews are constructing bridge piers and earthwork in the area will continue for as long as weather allows.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie

Piling activities continue in the Golden Triangle Station area. For the next few weeks, work will shift to daytime activities. Night piling work is then anticipated to resume in early November and continue intermittently over the next four months as work is completed between the Golden Triangle Station north of West 70th Street to a bridge over Shady Oak Road and Hwy 212. Night work will still be necessary in some locations due to vibration sensitive businesses in the area. The Southwest LRT project worked with the contractor to develop and test various noise reduction strategies for nighttime pile driving activities, and activities are continually monitored to minimize noise levels. Residents still may be able to hear construction activities. As work progresses, the Southwest Project Office will continue to look for opportunities to shift activities to the daytime.

TH 62 in Minnetonka

Late next week, weather permitting, both eastbound and westbound traffic will shift to the south side of the highway. Once traffic is shifted crews will begin cut and cover tunnel construction on the north side of TH 62.

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins

Smetana Road from Feltl Court to Feltl Road remains closed until late-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. Excavation for the Opus Station, south of this area, is ongoing.

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is 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 will remain closed to all vehicle traffic until mid-November. Crews are working on underground utilities, freight rail tracks and the LRT bridge structure. Expect traffic delays in this area. **See detour map below.**

South Cedar Lake LRT Trail

The Cedar Lake Trail from just east of the North Cedar Lake Trail connection in Hopkins to France Avenue in St. Louis Park is closed in multiple 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.

Blake Road in Hopkins

Crews are constructing a cut and cover tunnel under Blake Road 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 demolished the regional trail bridge that spans Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park. Excavation for the bridge abutments and sheet piling are underway 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 work on bridge abutments; expect piling activity in the area. Another full closure of Louisiana Avenue is anticipated in late 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 bridge abutments in the area.

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 at the intersection with the Midtown Greenway to just south of West 21st Street until Summer 2022. At this time, automobiles, bikes and pedestrians will cross at Cedar Lake Parkway and at W 21st Street.

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street in Minneapolis

Starting next week, storm sewer and watermain work will be the focus of construction activities in this area. Crews will construct a temporary trail as well the new permanent trail segment. While the trail will remain open during these activities, flaggers will be on the trail to periodically direct bike and pedestrian movements; expect the occasional short-term delays.

Kenilworth Area Construction in Minneapolis

Crews completed the temporary freight rail track shift along the tunnel segment. For both retaining walls south and north of the channel, sheet piling is complete and concrete work is continuing to finish the walls. For the wall north of the channel, crews installed the first few sheets using conventional vibratory methods and completed the remainder of the wall with a press-in-piler. The equipment performed very well and was effective at minimizing noise and vibration. The press-in-piler will be used to install another retaining wall and then will be moved to begin tunnel construction. Tunnel sheeting is anticipated to start in late-October or early-November.

Burnham Road in Minneapolis

The roadway remains closed to through traffic. Two-way traffic will continue to be allowed on Burnham Road Bridge during the detours. **See detour maps below.** The road will be paved next week and will be reopened when complete; weather dependent.

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

Bridge pier construction and piling is ongoing. 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.

21st Street in Minneapolis

Work to construct a retaining wall immediately north of 21st Street has begun. A press-in-piler is being used as the primary method to construct the wall. Sheet piling will continue for about a week and concrete work will follow.

Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis

The Cedar Lake trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is closed for approximately two years until mid-2021 (**see detour maps below**).

Beginning the week of October 14, for approximately one week, MnDOT will be conducting drainage and maintenance work along the Southwest LRT detour around I-394. Pedestrians and bikers will be rerouted onto Kenilworth Parkway west of I-394 until near Stadium Parkway (**see detour maps below**). The rest of the detour route remains the same.

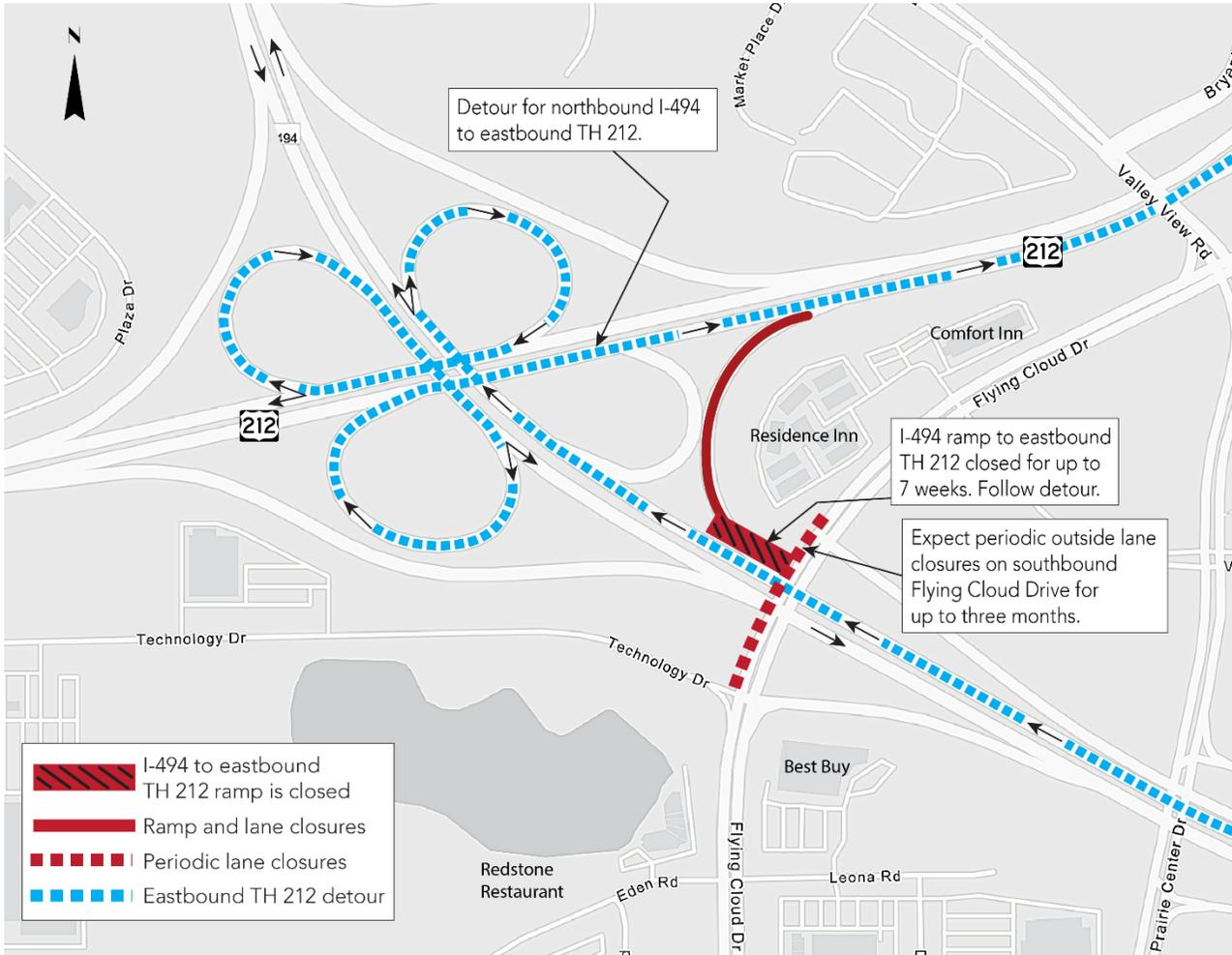
Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis

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.**

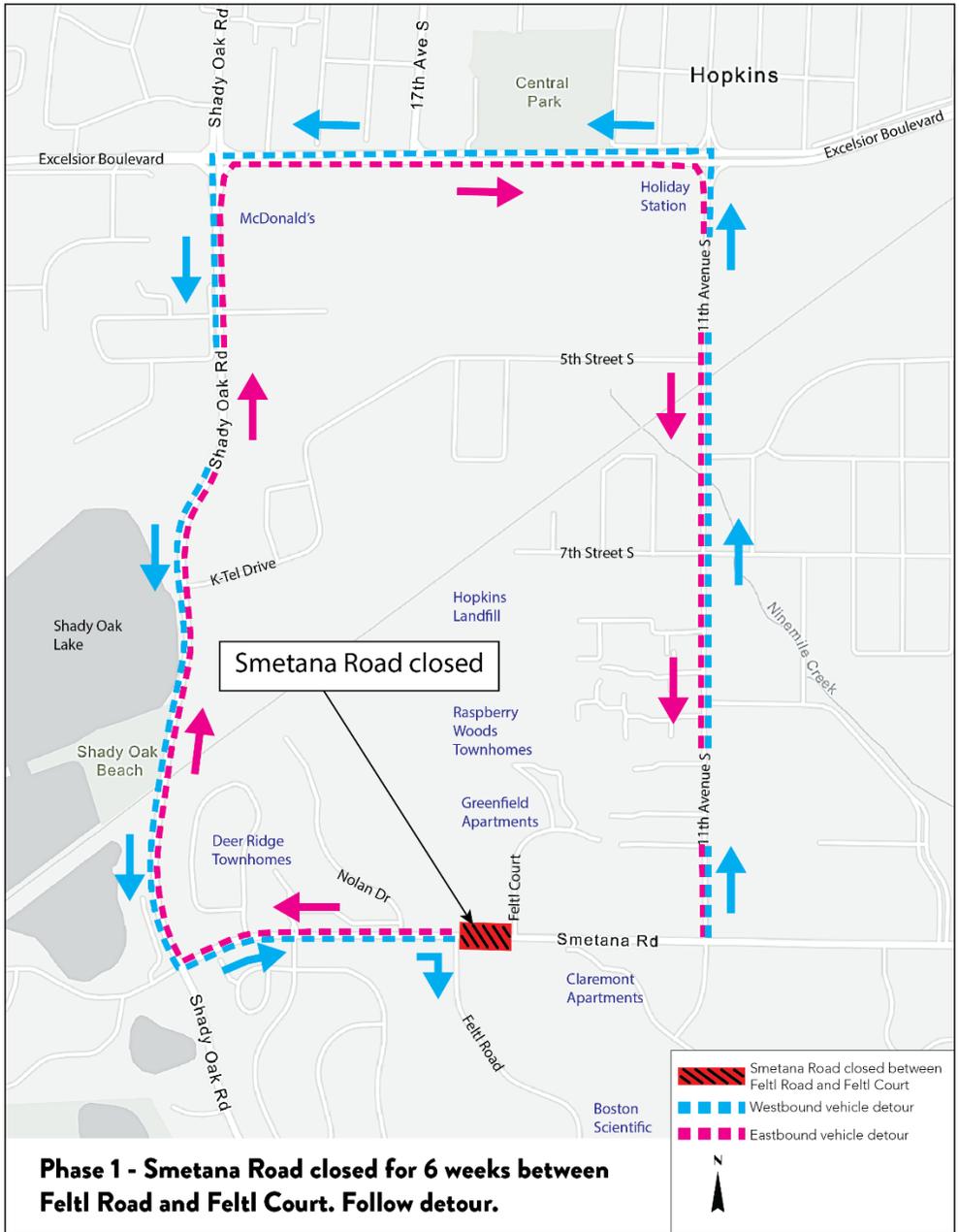
Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

We anticipate work along Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis will begin in late October/early November. Crews will begin work on LRT and bridge infrastructure on the east side of the roadway.

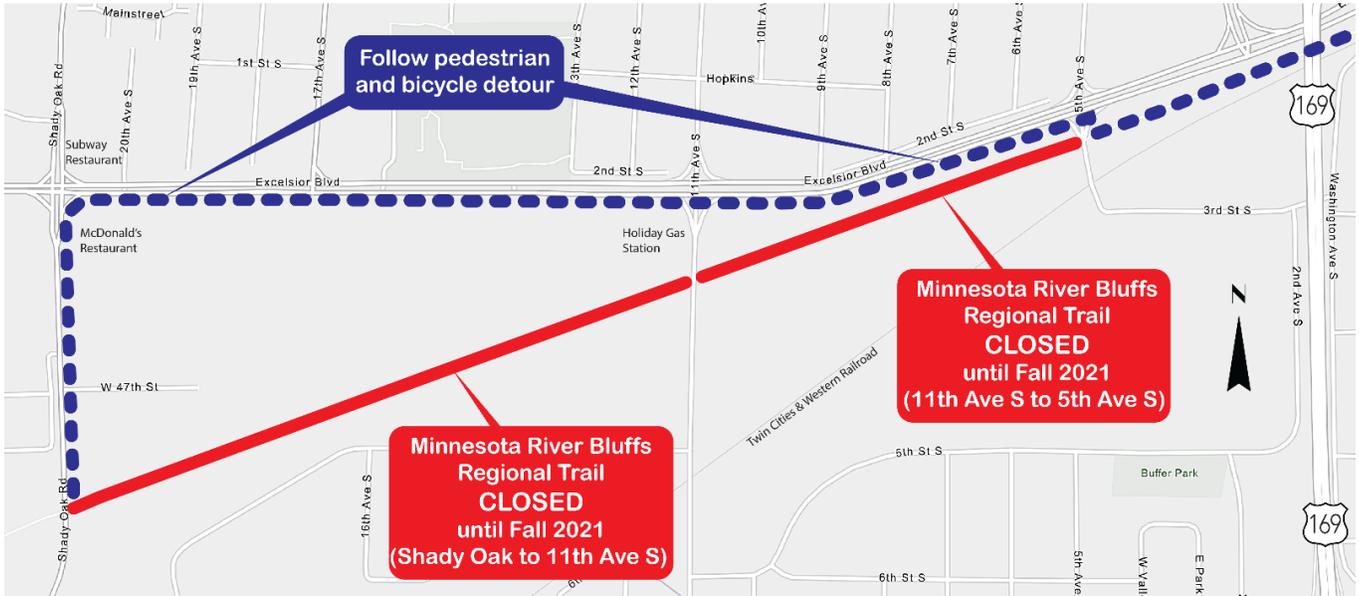
Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



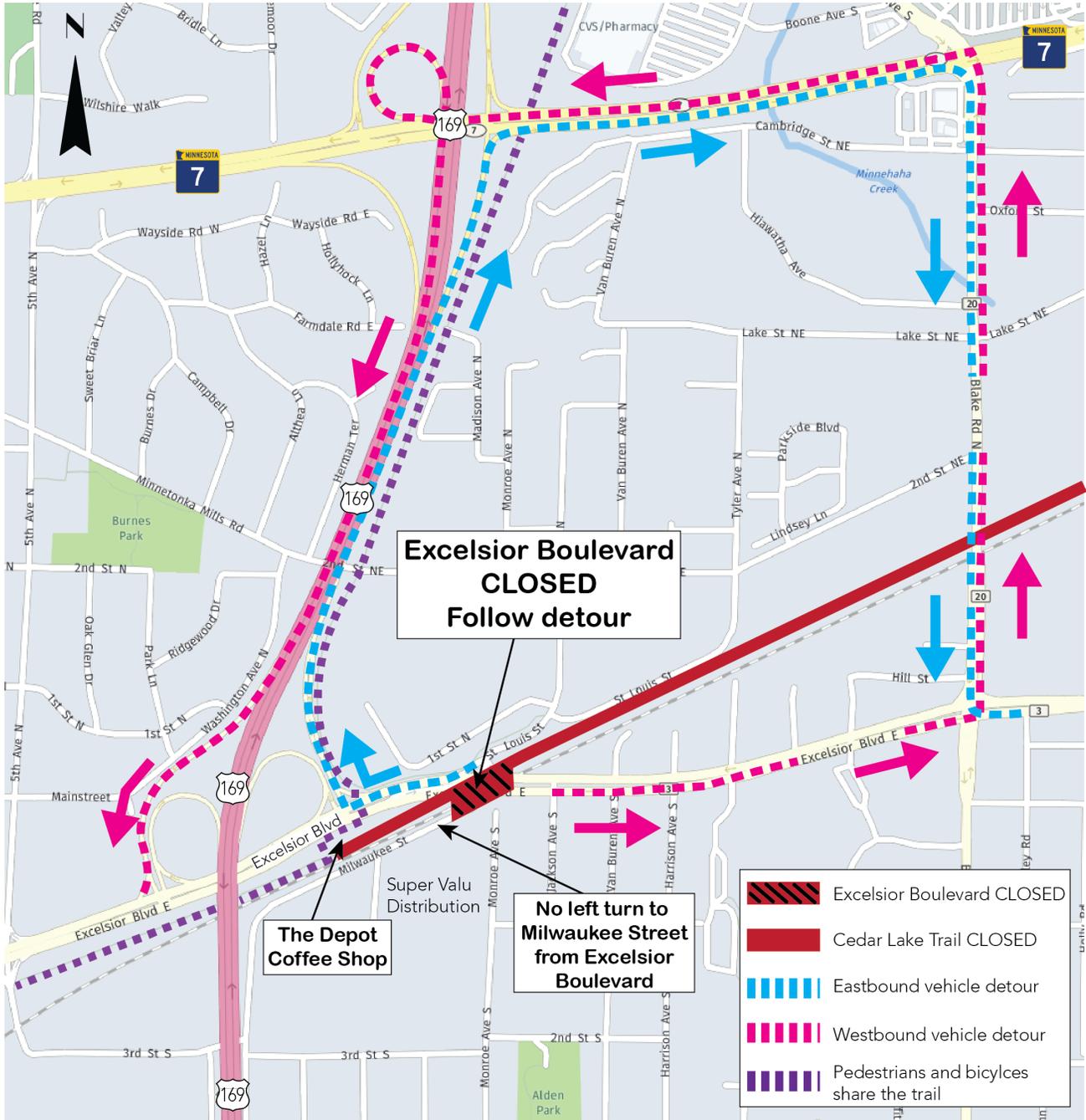
Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour



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



Excelsior Boulevard Detour in Hopkins

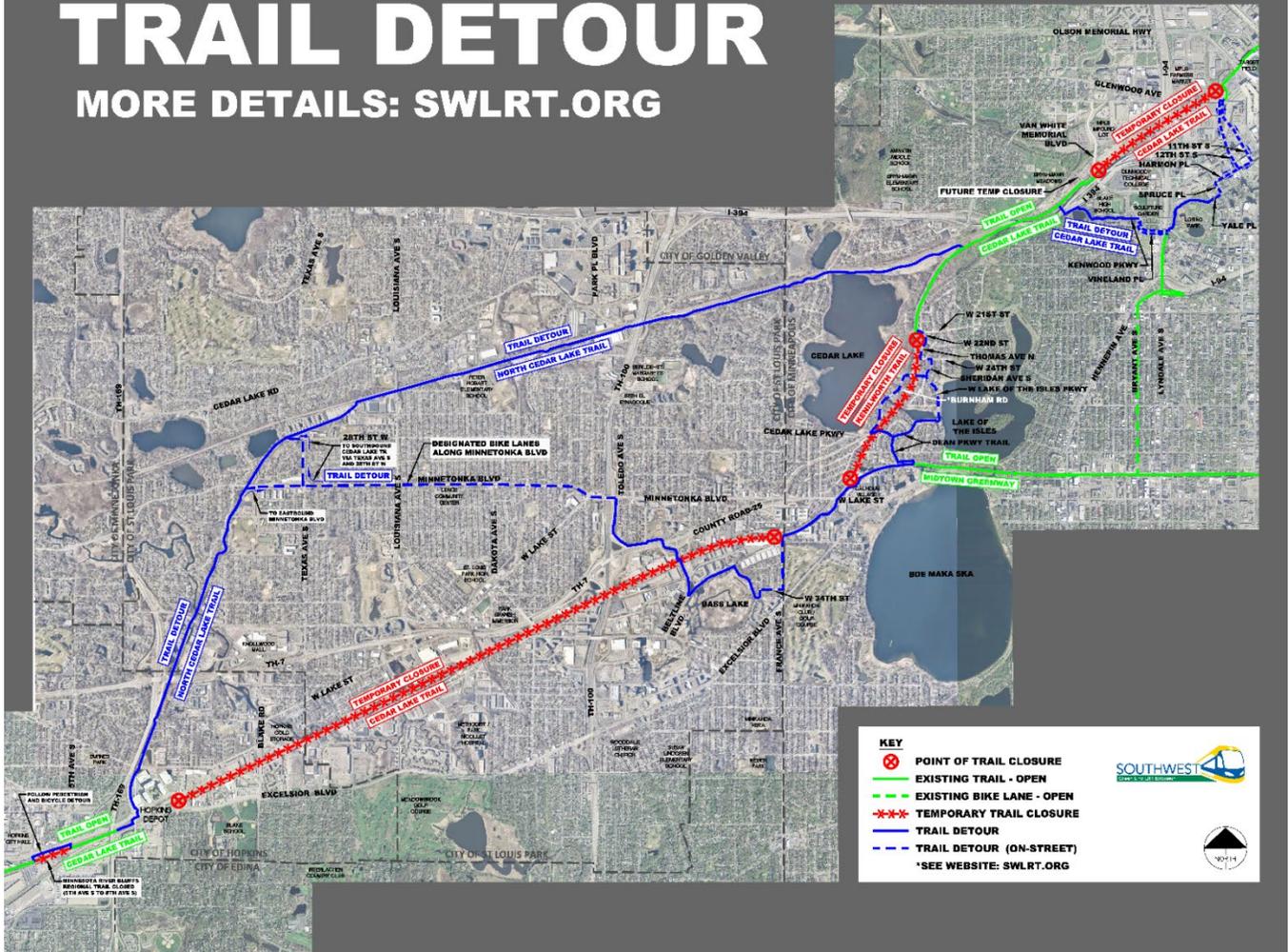


Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours

During the week of October 14, see MnDOT Detour: Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis detour map for routing between Kenilworth Parkway west of I-394 until near Stadium Parkway.

TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



MnDOT & Southwest Detour: Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour

