



Construction Update: April 10, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

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Trail Closures and Detour Routes

Many Southwest Project Office staff are avid bikers. We use signed detours routes to navigate the construction work area and request that you do as well. With bike season kicking into high gear, project staff have toured the alignment with project partners to refresh signage and improve temporary construction facilities where possible. We have implemented some of those improvements and are working on others over the next month. To help bikers navigate detours, we now have a Google mapping tool that can help you in the field. It is available on our website [here](#).

As more people are enjoying trails, we would like to remind you, entering construction areas is not safe, even on weekends. While we have flaggers at some active points of intersection of trails and construction areas to prevent trespassing and manage traffic, if you enter the work zone, crews aren't expecting you to be there.

Weekly Construction Photo: Entrance to Construction Work Area at Cedar Lake Parkway



Pavement still exists for currently closed trail facilities at many points along the construction zone. The area is now an active work zone where construction traffic moves through the corridor and where major activities are staged. For your safety, please follow posted signage.

Eden Prairie Highlights

- The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge work is advancing, with new piers starting and others completed. Piling work will be active over the next few weeks, including Saturdays, in the area north of the SouthWest transit park-and-ride and across the road near Costco.
- Work continues in the median of Flying Cloud Drive near I-494. During the week of April 20, work will shift to the west side of the roadway, with one lane in each direction maintained. We will provide additional detail as the date nears.
- At Golden Triangle Station, crews are progressing work on retaining walls, the Shady Oak LRT bridge and direct fixture LRT track.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Eden Prairie](#).

Minnetonka Highlights

- The leveling slab was placed for the base of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 over the last week. Crews continue with concrete and structural work. Surveying work over the next few weeks may require temporary lane closures on Highway 62.
- Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle to Bren Road East will remain closed through the 2020 construction season. **See detour map below [here](#)**. Crews have begun excavation work.
- Near the new Opus Station, storm and sanitary sewer work continues. Towards the end of April crews will begin foundation work for the future station.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Minnetonka](#).

Hopkins Highlights

- Crews have begun major earthwork around the Hopkins Depot, with pier work continuing to progress on the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard.
- Additional lane closures are expected on Blake Road in late April/early May, the exact date has not yet been determined. Crews are preparing to close the southbound lanes of Blake Road. Traffic will still be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. We will share additional details as soon as they are ready. Expect sheeting and concrete work in the area.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Hopkins](#).

St. Louis Park Highlights

- Work on the pedestrian bridge over Minnehaha Creek continues. Flaggers in the water will alert recreational users of periodic closures as crews prepare to place girders.
- Xcel Energy is relocating utilities along Louisiana Avenue. The northbound lanes of Louisiana Avenue will be close near the Oxford Road intersection on April 16 and 17 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- Crews have been setting prefabricated concrete tunnel segments for the Wooddale Avenue regional trail underpass. Work on the approaches continues, expect piling and excavation work in the area. Crews are ahead of schedule and a full closure of Wooddale Avenue is anticipated on April 23 for 30 days. See St. Louis Park detour map [here](#). As a reminder, the open house that had been scheduled for April 14 at the Wooddale Fire Station is canceled.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [St. Louis Park](#).

Minneapolis Highlights

- Within the month, clearing and ground cover removal will begin on Chowen and Abbott Avenues in the project area. Expect a crane and other heavy equipment.
- Utility work will start on Depot Street in next couple weeks. Crews will construct a utility receiving pit requiring temporary excavation support. A backhoe will be pushing in the support, which is noisy.
- In the next few weeks, crews will begin 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 will conduct pipe jacking for utilities over the next few weeks.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Minneapolis](#).

[On-going Trail Detours:](#) Minnesota River Bluffs, South Cedar Lake Parkway, Kenilworth, Cedar Lake Trail

[On-going Eden Prairie Sidewalk and Roadway Detours:](#) Southwest Station, Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212, Upcoming: Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive

[On-going Minnetonka Roadway Detours:](#) Yellow Circle, Smetana Road

[Upcoming St. Louis Park Detours:](#) Wooddale Avenue

[On-going Minneapolis Roadway Detours:](#) Glenwood Avenue, Royalston Avenue

Eden Prairie

SouthWest Station Area

The former SouthWest Transit facility has been demolished and crews are working on clearing up the area. In the coming weeks, piling for the new facility will begin.

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 continue backfilling the retaining wall north of the park-and-ride structure and will begin removing the temporary sheeting.

Prairie Center Drive Bridge

The Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge, 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 Costco. 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 in the 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 will begin next week.

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. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place. The I-494 eastbound ramp to Highway 212 remains closed and will reopen shortly after temperatures allow work tasks to be completed. **See Eden Prairie detour map [here](#).**

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. In late April, overnight road closures on Valley View Road to set bridge girders (support beams) are planned. A date has not yet been set; we will give notice at least seven days in advance. **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 1 has begun and will last for about a month, until the week of April 20. The two inside lanes are closed and traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction on Flying Cloud Drive. The west bound exit from Highway 494 to Flying Cloud Drive is reduced to one lane and then later will close for the 2020 construction season. **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 Shady Oak Road. 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.

Minnnetonka

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 bypass road is complete on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will be in place until fall 2020. **See Minnetonka roadway changes [here](#).**

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 is 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. This month retaining wall work will begin in the area, as well as abutment work for the Smetana roadway bridge. Expect piling driving in late April.

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. Excavation work for the bridge piers has begun and piling will follow shortly. Work started north of the freight rail tracks and will progress to the north. Piling work for the bridge piers and will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season.

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. Southbound traffic will continue to be diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction. Crews are preparing to close the southbound lanes of Blake Road. Traffic will still be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. The exact date has not yet been determined but is anticipated at the end of April/early May. We will share details as soon as they are ready.

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 starting 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 sheeting and excavation work. Shoring and sheeting work for the southerly railroad connection, that will replace the current wye freight track, along Oxford Street will begin in the next few weeks. Later this spring crews will place bridge beams over the Louisiana Avenue roadway, two overnight roadway closures are anticipated but not yet scheduled.

Xcel Energy is relocating utilities along Louisiana Avenue. The northbound lanes of Louisiana Avenue will be close near the Oxford Road intersection on April 16 and 17 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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 36th Street and Highway 7, in the immediate vicinity of the Southwest Project, is reduced to one lane in each direction. Pedestrian access is maintained on Wooddale Avenue through the work area. 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 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.

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 will also begin in the area early April, 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.

Currently, utility work continues in the area. Clearing and grubbing of the Chowen/Abbott loop is anticipated to begin this month.

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. Sheeting 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: swlirt.org. A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique is also available.

In preparation for future tunnel work, a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' sanitary sewer force main will be temporarily relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. After this work is complete, 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 in May. We will provide updates when a start date for this work is established. Associated with this work, utility work will also start on Depot Street in the next few weeks. 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 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 will conduct pipe jacking for utilities over the next few weeks.

21st Street

Temporary surcharge work began this week south of 21st 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.

21st 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 early-April 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 5th and 7th 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 5th 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 5th 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 21st Street until Summer 2022. Access for automobiles, bikes and pedestrians remains open at Cedar Lake Parkway and at West 21st Street. **See detour map [here](#).**

North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis

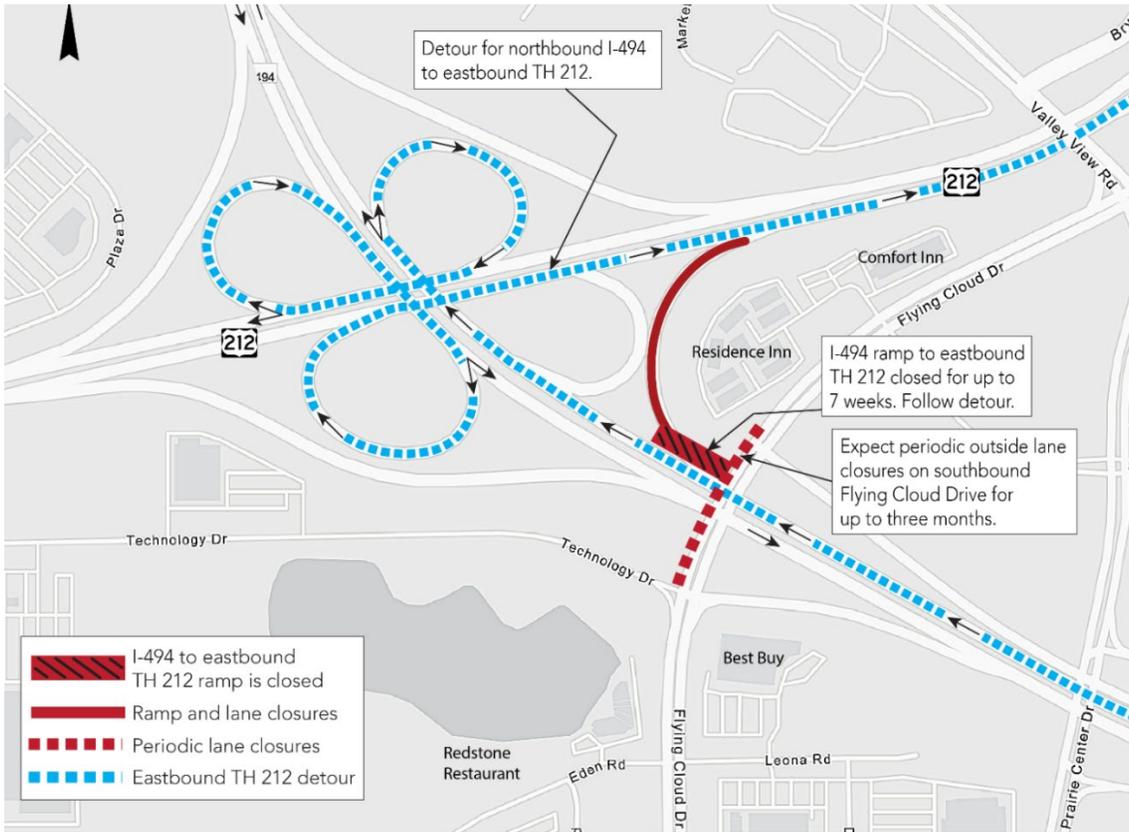
The North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is closed until mid-2021. **See detour maps [here](#).**

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

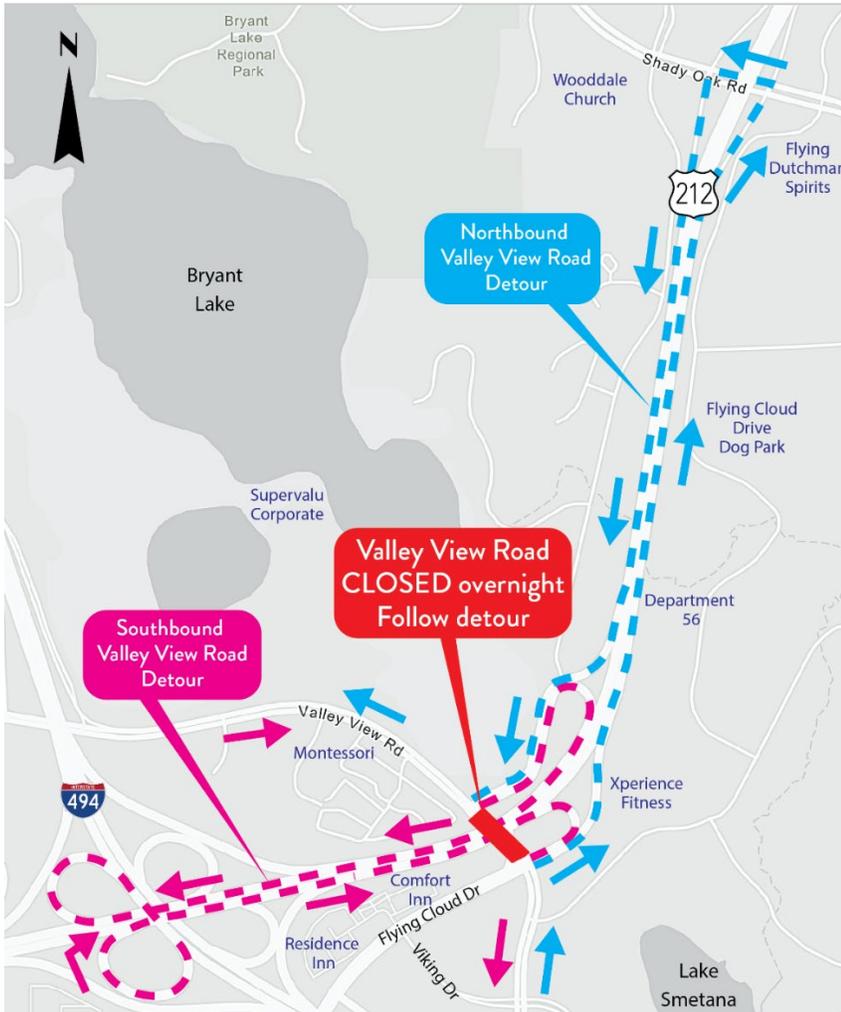


Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour





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



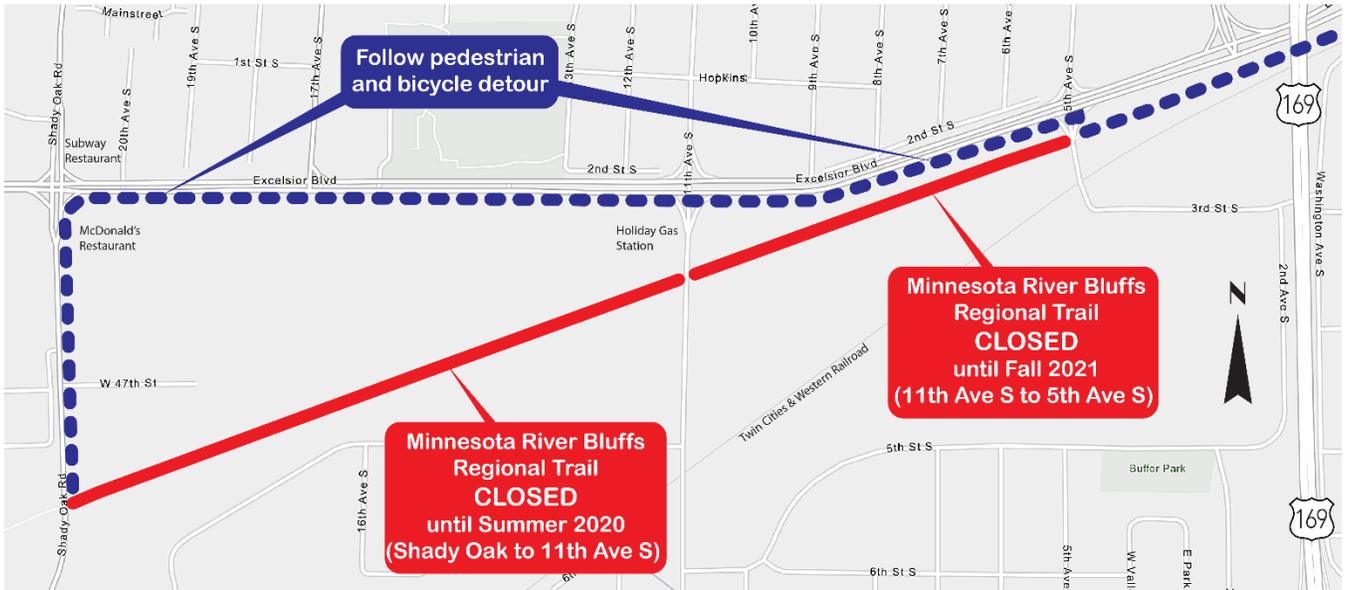
Bren Road West in Minnetonka Detour



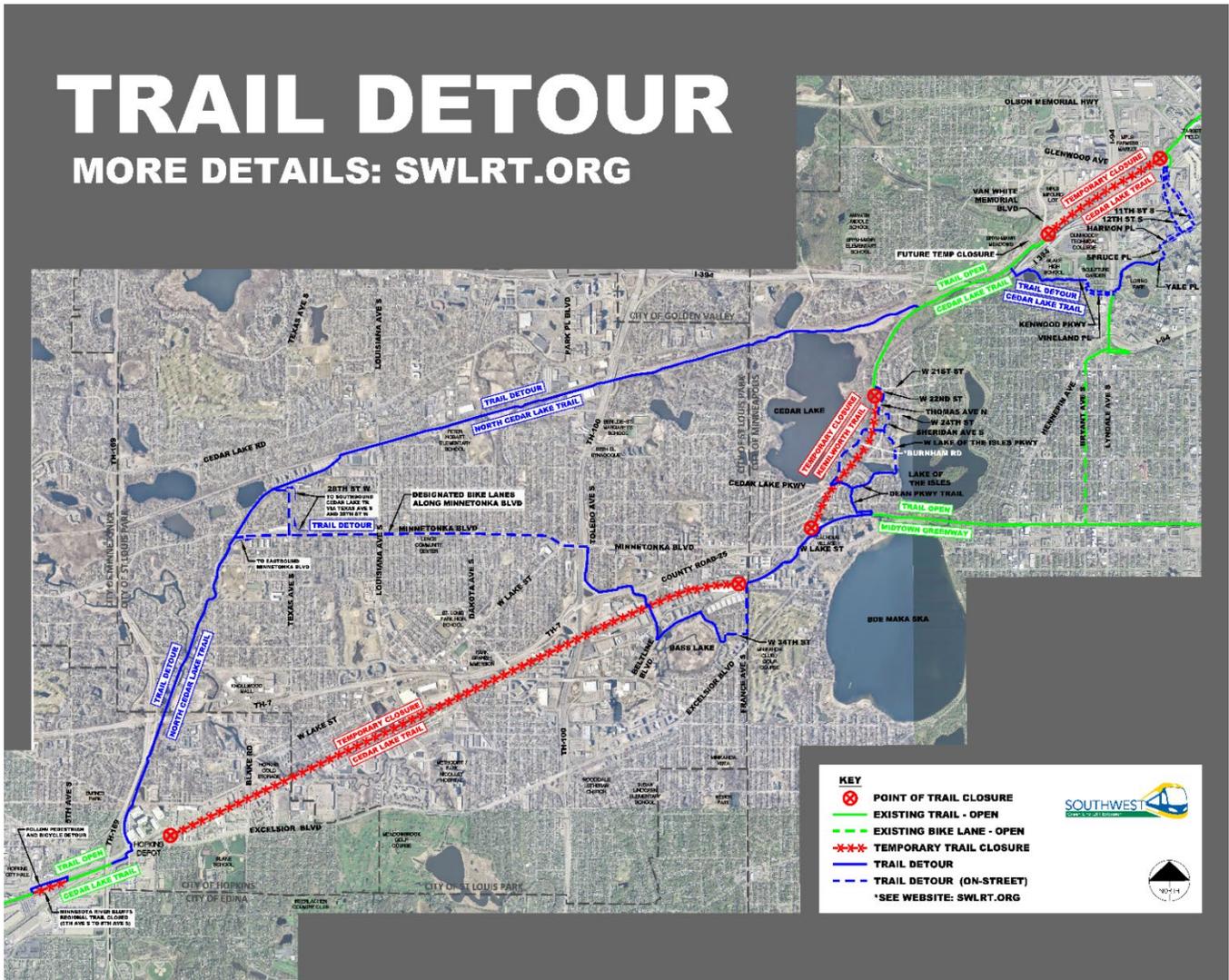
Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour



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



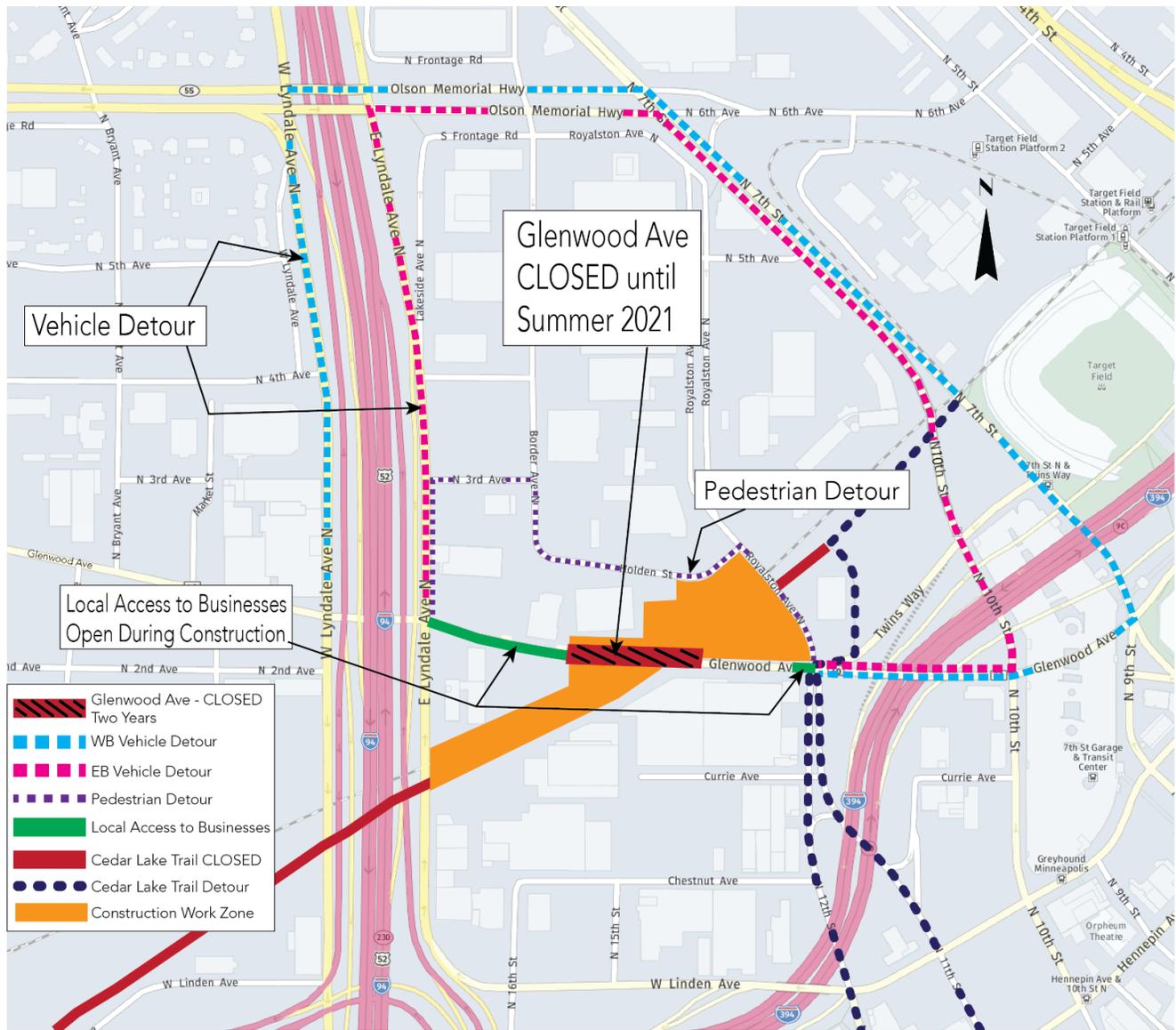
Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours



Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

