



**Construction Website Update: May 22, 2020**

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

**Twitter: [@SouthwestLRT](https://twitter.com/SouthwestLRT)**

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

### **Construction Dust Management**

As windows start to open and warmer, dryer weather appears in the forecast, construction dust at times can become more noticeable. The Southwest LRT civil construction contractor is taking an active approach to dust management. Water trucks spray down work areas, hydroseed is placed in areas after earthwork wraps up, and mulch is used for soil stabilization and truck haul routes. If you would like to report excessive dust, let us know through the construction hotline or an email to your community [outreach coordinator](#).

### **Weekly Construction Photo: Wooddale Avenue Regional Trail Underpass in St. Louis Park**



When the South Cedar Lake Trail reopens, bikers and pedestrians will be able safety travel under vehicle traffic to cross Wooddale Avenue. The underpass has clearly taken shape and crews are completing the tunnel form, and then will reconstruct Wooddale Avenue. The roadway is anticipated to open to traffic by early June.

## **Eden Prairie**

### **SouthWest Station Area**

The former SouthWest Transit facility is demolished, and crews are working on excavation and utilities in the area. Expect pile driving as crews work on the bus loop, retaining walls, utilities and the new parking ramp.

Removal of the temporary sheeting for the retaining wall next to the Highway 212 off-ramp is completed and the wall has been backfilled. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed.

### **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 north of Singletree Lane, will be under construction until fall 2020. Crews have finished many of the piers. Piling will resume in the coming weeks for the bridge piers. Work also continues next to Purgatory Creek Park along Prairie Center Drive, where crews are advancing concrete work for the piers. Work has also progressed on the southeastern side of the roadway near Bachman's. Temporary pedestrian access remains in place until the piers closest to the roadway are formed. Expect ongoing piling in the area into the summer. This includes ongoing work on Saturdays.

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

### **Eden Road Area**

Work on retaining walls as well as utility work in the area has begun. The intersection of Eden Road and Flying Cloud Drive will close early June and remain closed through July 2020.

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

LRT will travel on a bridge over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive. Abutment work is nearly complete, with crews removing the supports for excavation and backfilling. Work continues on the walls for the approaches to the bridge. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place in the immediate vicinity of the work zone. A full weekend closure will be needed this summer to set bridge beams. We will provide more detail when the date for the work is scheduled.

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

Work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is shifting to bridge deck construction, concrete pours for the deck start in early June.

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 through the summer. Currently the left-turn lane to the ramp for traffic traveling south on Valley View Road is detoured.

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 relocated, 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 planned traffic changes continues on Flying Cloud Drive. Traffic has been shifted to the south side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road. The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive and the off-ramp from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive remain closed. These intersections will remain closed until July of 2020. **See Eden Prairie detour maps [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 north of the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Expect ongoing activity including pile driving 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 has resumed in this area. The storm sewer work will be ongoing into the summer. Expect pipe jacking activities in the area. One of the two right-turn lanes from eastbound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road is currently closed to allow for utility work, this closure will be in place until early June. On the north side of Shady Oak Road multiple lane closures will be needed in June. We will provide more detail when work is scheduled.

## **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 the fall of 2020. Crews finished constructing the bottom leveling slab of the north tunnel section, have advanced concrete and water proofing work, and are starting structural work for the tunnel walls.

### **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 has begun on Red Circle Drive for bridge reconstruction. On Tuesday, May 26, the southern portion of Red Circle Drive will be changed temporarily to two-way traffic and Red Circle Drive will become a dead ended cul-de-sac where it connects with the other Red Circle Drive access. Yellow Circle traffic will be able to connect to the southern portion of Red Circle Drive to travel west until the cul-de-sac closure point. **See Minnetonka roadway changes [here](#).** Additional information about area activities is also available on the city's website [here](#).

### **Opus Station Area**

Crews are working on station utilities and later in June station foundation work will begin. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area, including a significant portion of the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl Roads. Over the few next weeks, crews will install piles for retaining walls. The piles are installed by first drilling a shaft, filling that shaft with concrete and pushing an H-shape pile into the concrete. This activity is noisy with some vibration.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle Drive to Bren Road East, is closed to vehicles and pedestrians through the 2020 construction season. **See Minnetonka detour map [here](#)**. Crews have removed pavement and have begun excavation work. Watermain work is underway in the area.

### **Smetana Road**

In this area, the project includes two roadway bridges to accommodate LRT travelling underneath the roadways. Utility work is ongoing in this area. Excavation has started for bridge abutments and approach walls. Piling is expected to begin late May/early June. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area.

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](#)**.

### **Hopkins**

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

The Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge is located east of Nolan 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. Crews are working south of the freight rail line and are moving south towards ongoing work underway at Smetana Road. Excavation and pile driving have begun at the north end of the bridge south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street South. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area. Crews will be working on the northern most abutment and piers on that end of the bridge. Piling activities for the bridge will move north to south. Piling work for the bridge piers will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season.

#### **Shady Oak Road Station**

Building demolition and soil correction for the station is complete. Utility work for the Shady Oak Station is ongoing. Station foundation work is anticipated to begin the week of May 25.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South**

Work is underway at the future LRT track crossing at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. LRT crosses this roadway just north of 5<sup>th</sup> Street South, south of Excelsior Boulevard. The roadway is reduced to one lane in each direction and crews have begun construction on the east side of the roadway as crews work on utilities and crossing signals.

#### **Downtown Hopkins Station**

Work to advance the station is ongoing. Crews have built the walls, advanced utility work and poured the base station slab.

### **Excelsior Boulevard Area**

Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. As piers are nearing completion bridge span forms are taking shape.

### **Blake Road**

The project is improving bike safety in the area by building a regional trail underpass. Crews continue constructing the trail underpass on the west side of Blake Road. Sheet piles have been driven to almost the center of the roadway. The southbound lanes on Blake Road are closed to vehicle traffic and will remain closed through the summer. Vehicle traffic will be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrians can access the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. Expect sheet pile driving, excavation and concrete work in the area. **See Hopkins detour maps [here](#)**. Once this portion of Blake Road is complete, traffic will be swapped to the other side so crews can complete the underpass.

### **St. Louis Park**

#### **Minnehaha Creek**

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges continues in the area. Bridge beams have been placed and crews will advance deck work. Crews also continue earthwork activities to prepare the area for the permanent location of the freight rail tracks.

### **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 regional trail 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 trail underpass. Expect sheet pile driving and excavation work. Shoring and sheet pile driving work for the southerly freight rail connection, that will replace the current wye freight track, along Oxford Street will begin in the next few weeks.

Crews are also working on the west abutment for the regional trail bridge. Later this spring crews will place bridge beams over the Louisiana Avenue roadway, two overnight roadway closures are anticipated in early June.

### **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 is closed between West 36<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 7, in the immediate vicinity of the Southwest LRT Project. The full roadway closure will remain into early June. **See St. Louis Park detour maps [here](#).** Crews continue to advance the trail underpass through the roadway by setting prefabricated concrete segments. During the first week of June the northwest corner service road will be closed for three days. Expect pile driving and excavation work in the area.

### **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 regional trail bridge over the roadway. The main truss for the regional trail bridge has been set and work on the trail bridge deck continues. After some more deck work, crews will switch their focus to building the freight rail track bed and shift the freight rail track to its permanent location. Major earthwork to prepare the freight rail track bed west to Highway 100 has begun. Beltline Boulevard Trail bridge work will then resume after the shift is completed.

Reconstruction of Beltline Boulevard in this area will begin in early June. This work will be done in phases, no full closures are expected.

### **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 Street Station construction and the realignment of Chowen/Abbott roadways. Utility work is currently ongoing in the area.

### **Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction**

From the Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of an LRT tunnel is ongoing through 2022. Sheet piling for the Kenilworth tunnel is ongoing south of Cedar Lake Parkway. Today, May 22 the press-in-piler will resume south towards West Lake Street. Sheet pile installation for the tunnel is expected to last through summer of 2020.

Tunnel excavation is anticipated to begin in mid-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: [swlrt.org](http://swlrt.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 is being relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. The 28<sup>th</sup> Street/Dean Court intersection is now closed and Dean Court has been changed temporarily to a two-way roadway and will remain in this configuration until mid-June. Associated with this work, utility activities have started on Depot Street, crews have constructed a utility receiving pit.

### **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 rail bridge were set in late March. Crews are almost complete with deck work. Crews are also advancing earth work and track building activities on the approaches to the bridge. Freight is anticipated to be shifted onto the new bridge in early to mid-June. As soon as freight rail is shifted, the existing bridge will be removed and piling for the LRT bridge will begin.

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

Temporary surcharge continues to be in place south of 21<sup>st</sup> Street for the station. Surcharge work will consist of periods of activity moving soil followed by periods to consolidate the underlying soil. The surcharge is currently in a settlement period into the summer. Some additional dirt may need to be added periodically in the future.

West 21<sup>st</sup> Street Station construction is expected to begin in the summer after removal of the surcharge.

### **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 into the summer to consolidate the underlying soil to provide a suitable foundation for the station.

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

Pier protection work continues on the I-394 bridge. Trail construction to move pedestrians to their permanent location in the area is upcoming later spring or early summer.

### **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. Much of the pavement on the northern portion of Royalston Avenue is being removed and piling for retaining walls is starting. 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 through 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](#).

During the week of May 18, anticipate pavement patching along the trail south of the Bryn Mawr Station in the open segment of the trail.

### **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.

Later this summer, utility work in the Linden Yards area will require a detour for the Cedar Lake Trail. Bicyclists and pedestrians will be detoured to Kenwood Parkway. The connection to the Luce Line Trail will remain open, accessible via the connection under I-394 by Spring Lake. See trail detour maps [here](#).

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



### Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie



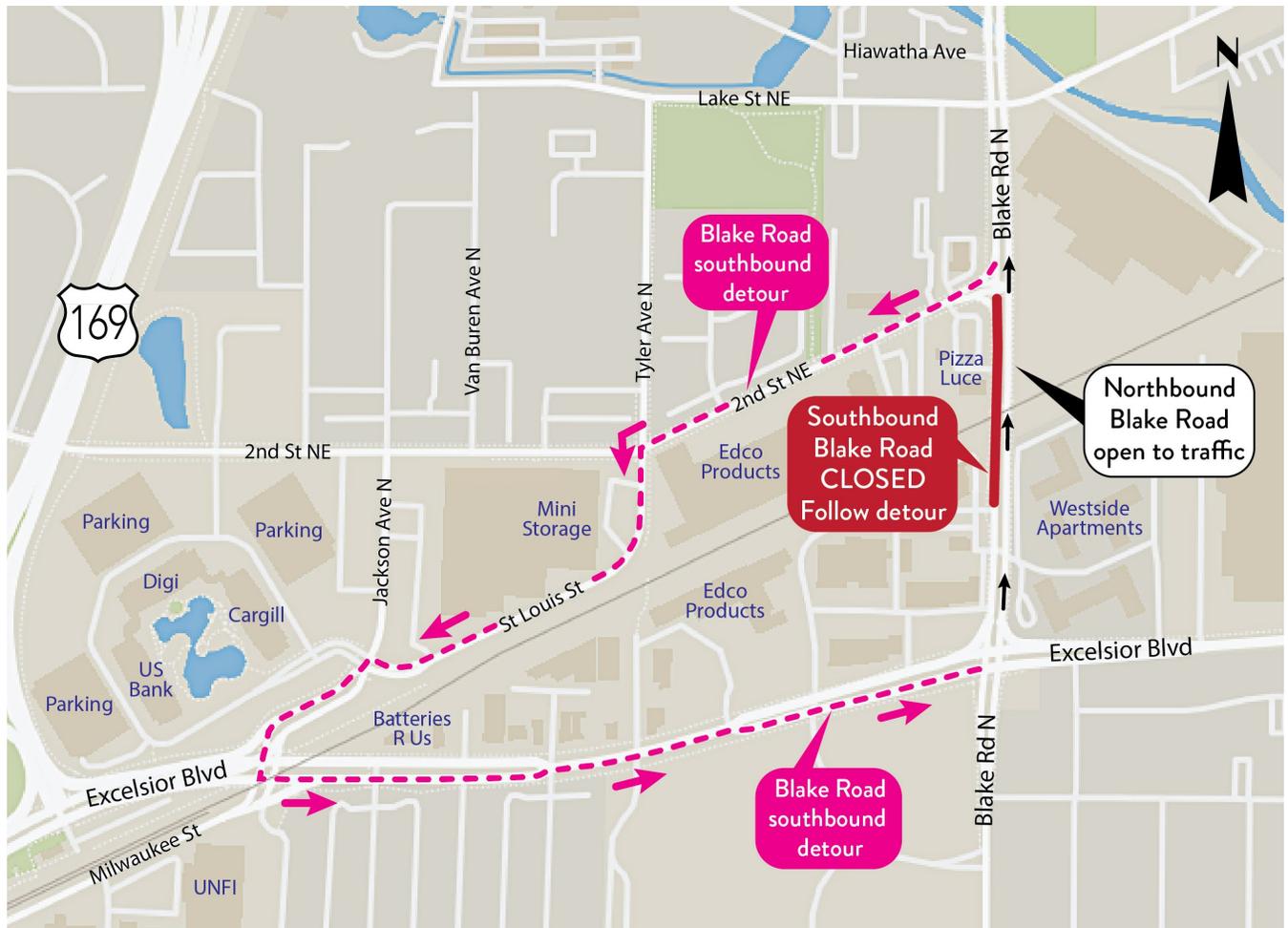
### Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles



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



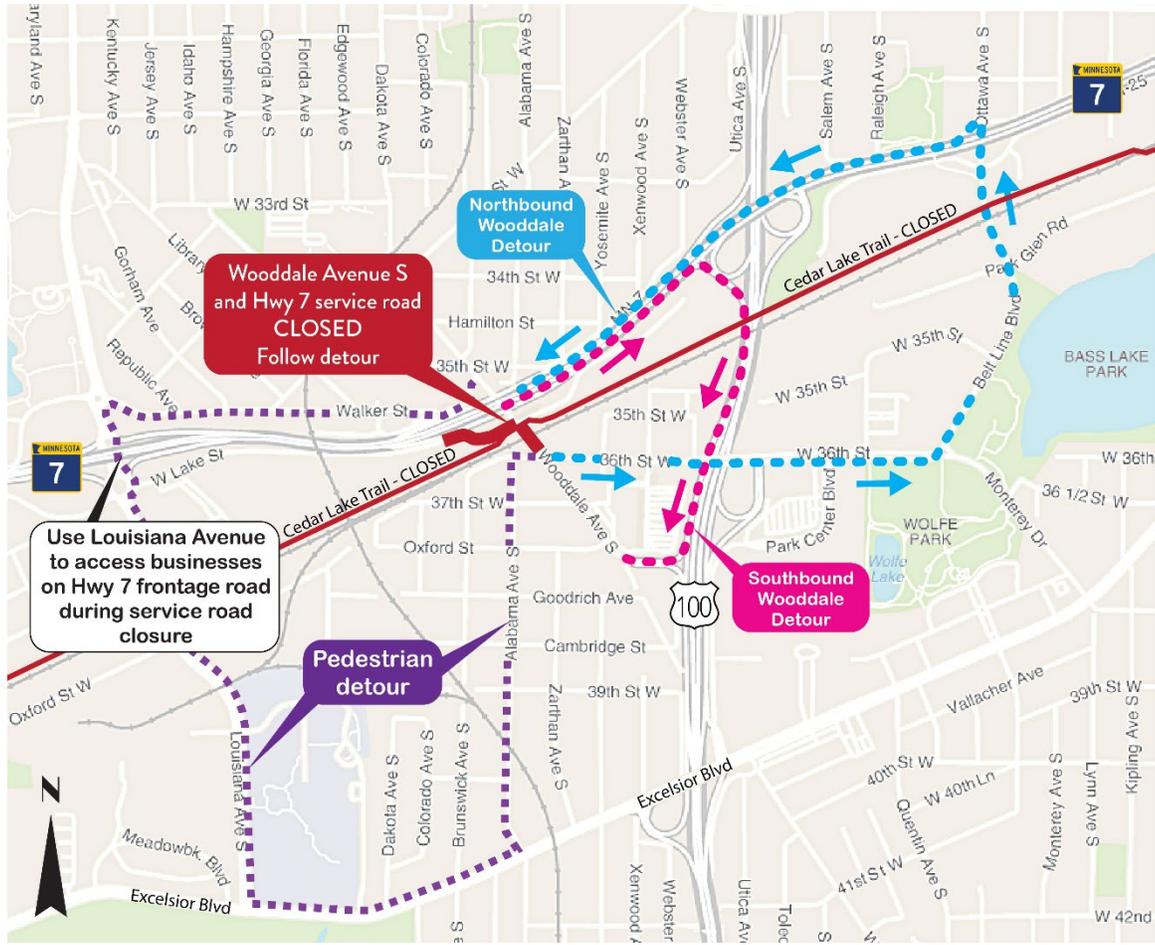
# Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



# Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park



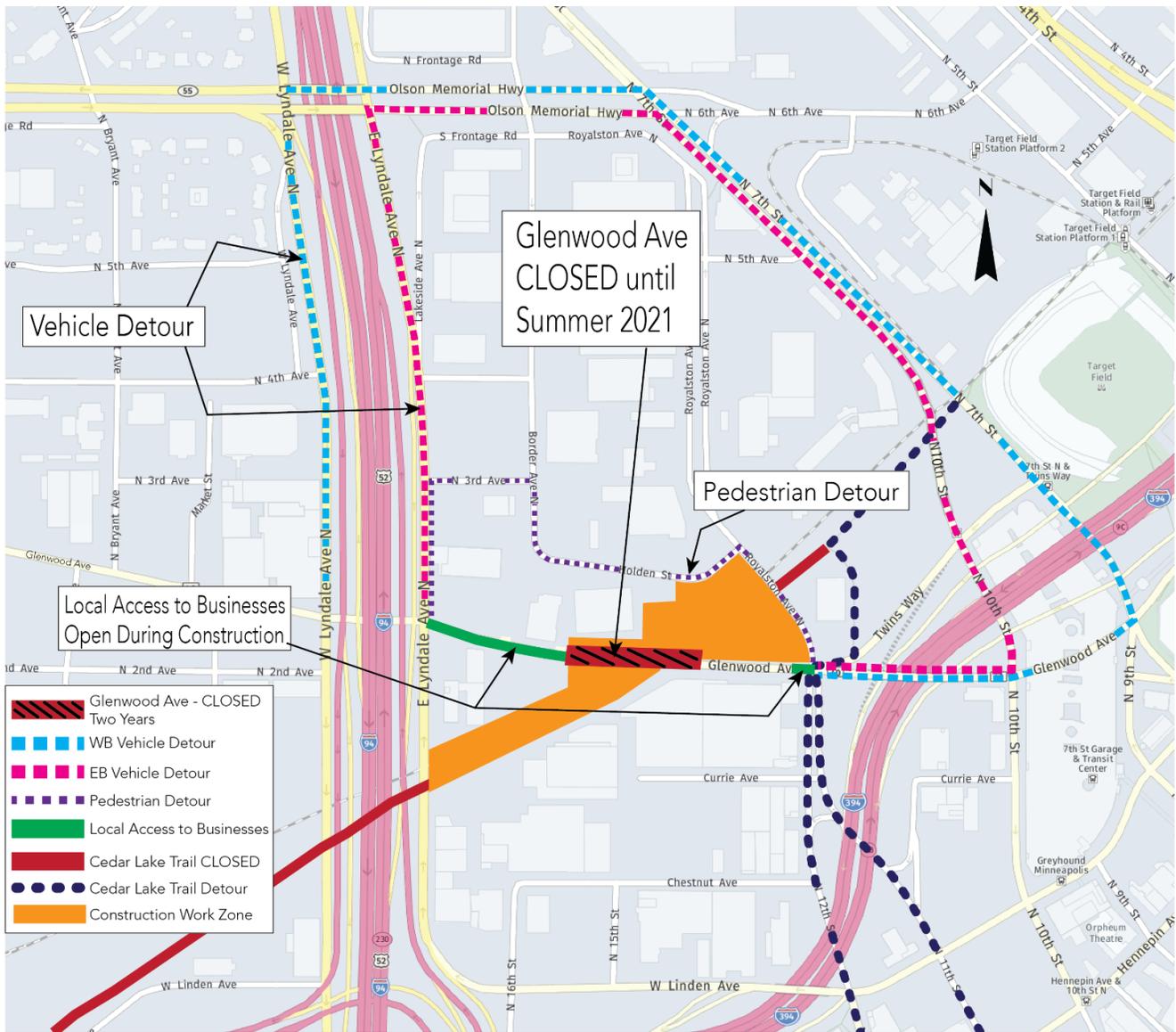
# Upcoming: Highway 7 Service Road in St. Louis Park



# Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



# Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



# Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

