



Construction Update: September 11, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

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Labor Day Weekend Work Complete

For the Southwest Project Office Labor Day weekend really lived up to its name. Most of the construction and outreach staff were on hand to ensure the weekend was successful in achieving construction milestones. We are pleased to report that all major planned construction activities were completed. We successfully moved a 1.2-million-pound bridge about 50 feet to its permanent home over Highway 100. Now with the freight rail bridge moved and much of the freight rail infrastructure in place in St. Louis Park and Minneapolis, other construction activities are free to follow. Thank you to our residents and businesses as we were able to achieve this weekend's success with your patience and understanding.

Weekly Construction Photo: Highway 100 Freight Bridge in St. Louis Park



The freight railroad bridge is just starting to be pulled off of its old abutments and shifted to its new permanent location. Moving the bridge took a fraction of the time intended due to its excellent design and advanced construction planning. [Watch the full bridge move here.](#)

Eden Prairie

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 1 of 2



SouthWest Station Area

In this area crews are building a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and constructing the joint bus and LRT station. Crews are working on excavation, utilities, and pile supports for foundations for the structures, the bus loop and utilities. Some of the new structure is starting to take shape. A stationary tower

crane is assisting crews with the work. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed.

Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge

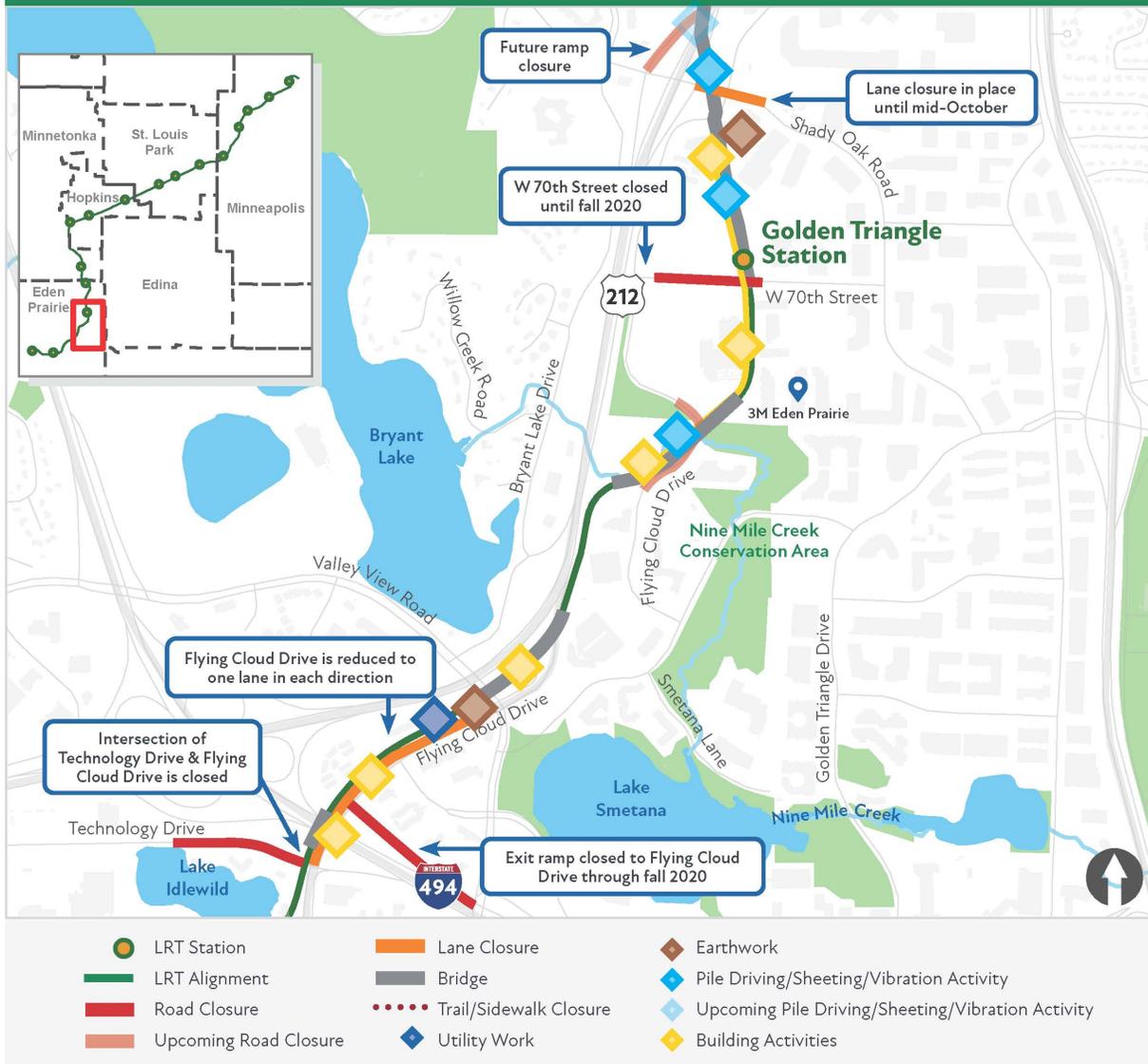
The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge begins by the SouthWest Transit station, crosses over Technology Drive, follows the east side of Purgatory Creek Park and then crosses Prairie Center Drive to land north of Bachman's on the east side of the road. The bridge structure will be under construction until fall 2020, however all of the piles to support the bridge pier are installed. There are close to 500 piles supporting the bridge, making the completion of piling a major milestone. Bridge deck work is well underway with the installation of rebar and falsework. In late August crews placed all of the beams. Prairie Center Drive is now open to vehicle traffic, however, expect ongoing lane closures. Technology Drive will have lane closures at Prairie Center Drive to set rebar and pour decking over the roadway. While these dates may move, the westbound lanes are currently planned to be closed on Monday, September 14, and the eastbound lanes will be closed on Tuesday, September 15. Work will occur between 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM on both days.

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

Eden Road Area

Work on retaining walls as well as utility work continues in the area. Eden Road is closed just west of Glen Lane as construction is advanced in that area. Just west of Eden Road, preparation work and utility construction are beginning for the Eden Prairie Town Center Station.

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2



LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive

LRT will travel on a bridge over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive. Work to complete the bridge deck is ongoing. An overnight closure of I-494 to pour concrete for the bridge deck is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, September 15 at 10:00 PM and will reopen the following morning at 5:00 AM on Wednesday, September 16.

Flying Cloud Drive

Along Flying Cloud Drive, between Eden Road and Valley View Road, crews are conducting major utility work while the roadway is under construction. Crews are grading for the LRT track guideway and building retaining walls.

Traffic is shifted to the south or east side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road until mid-September and then will be swapped to the north. The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive will remain closed until mid-September. The off-ramp from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive remains closed into the fall. [See Eden Prairie detour maps here](#). Access to area businesses on the north of the roadway remain open, follow posted signage.

Overall, there will be four phases of temporary traffic changes, specifically lane reductions and closures to complete the construction of LRT and associated utility work. We are currently in phase two. These four phases will last into the 2021 construction season.

Valley View Road

Deck work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is ongoing. Work at this time can be completed without impacting the roadway below.

Nine Mile Creek

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure at Nine Mile Creek will continue through the fall. Many of the piers are complete with deck work underway. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side. In late September Flying Cloud Drive near West 70th Street will have a short-term closure to set bridge beams for the Nine Mile Creek bridge. Notice will be posted in advance of the closures.

West 70th Street at Flying Cloud Drive is closed into October to advance LRT infrastructure through the roadway. Access to businesses in the area will be maintained.

Golden Triangle Station

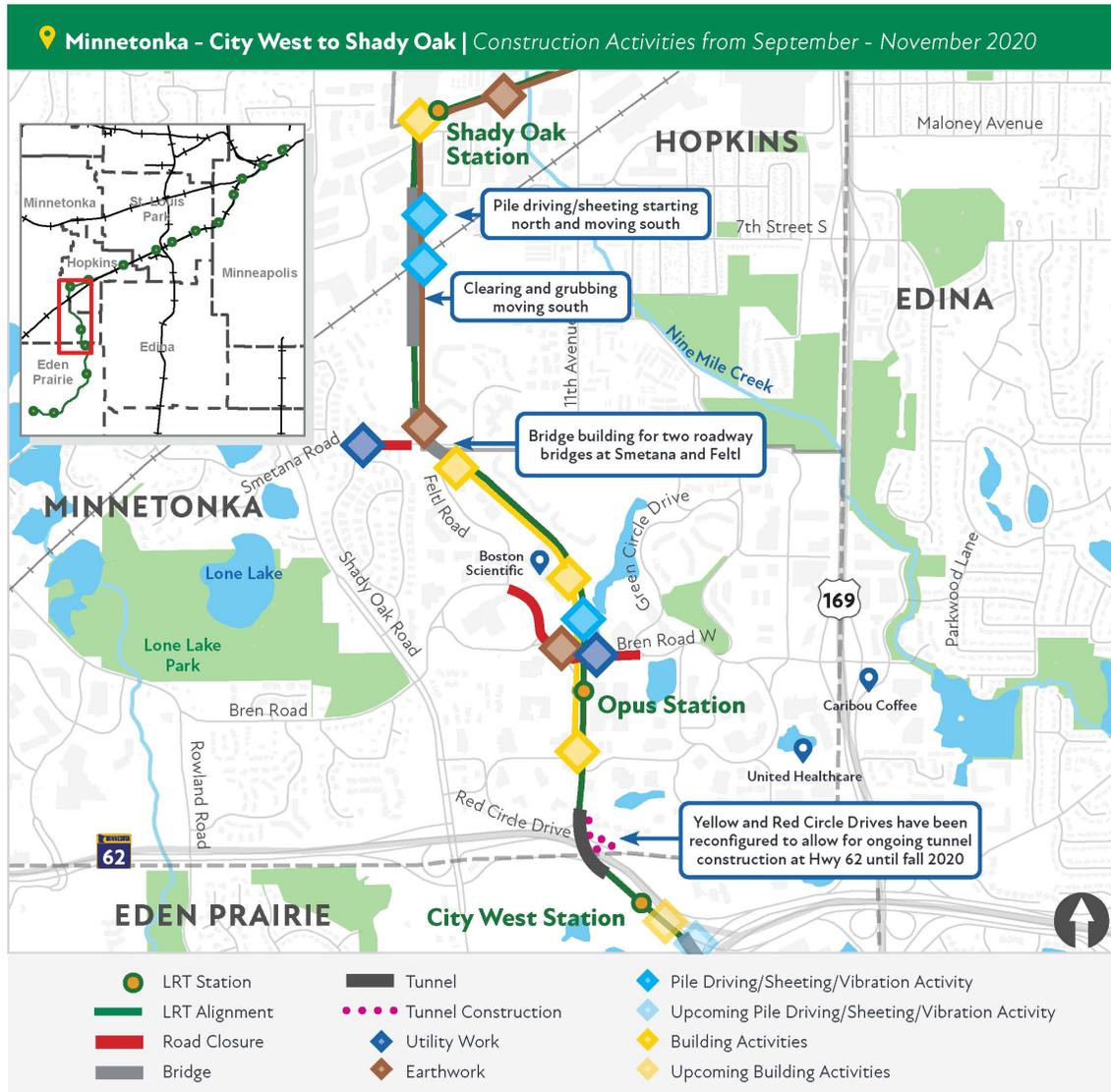
Throughout the 2020 construction season, crews will advance work on the Golden Triangle Station, the land bridge for the LRT tracks north of the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Crews are working on details for the Golden Triangle Station and completing the construction of area bridge piers.

Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Three lanes on the north side of Shady Oak Road are closed for pier construction for the LRT bridge that will span Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. This lane closure will remain in effect into the fall. Work in the median of Highway 212 will start in September to advance the LRT bridge, expect lane shifts. The off-ramp from west bound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road will close later this fall for a few months. Expect construction activities on the west side of Highway 212 in the coming months, as work progresses north.

Minnetonka

Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1



Highway 62

Construction of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 is ongoing through the 2021 construction season. The work is divided into two phases, work on the north then the south side of the highway. 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 2020. Crews finished constructing the bottom leveling slab of the north tunnel section, have advanced concrete and waterproofing work, and are forming the concrete for the tunnel walls and base slab. Work to construct the tunnel roof has also started and crews will begin to backfill sections.

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 the spring. [See Minnetonka roadway changes here.](#)

Additional work has begun on Red Circle Drive for bridge reconstruction. The southern portion of Red Circle Drive is modified temporarily to accommodate two-way traffic. Red Circle Drive is a dead ended cul-de-sac where it connects with the other Red Circle Drive access. Yellow Circle traffic connects 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

Station construction will continue to advance in the coming months. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area, including a significant portion of the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl Roads.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle Drive to Bren Road East, is closed to vehicles and pedestrians into the fall. [See Minnetonka detour map here.](#) Crews are advancing utility work in the area. Piling for retaining walls near the roadway continues.

From Bren Road West to Smetana Road, crews are grading and doing other preparation work for LRT track construction. Expect earth moving equipment in the area.

Smetana Road

In this area, the project includes two roadway bridges to accommodate LRT travelling underneath the Smetana and Feltl roadways. Work on the bridge continues to advance.

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 local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)

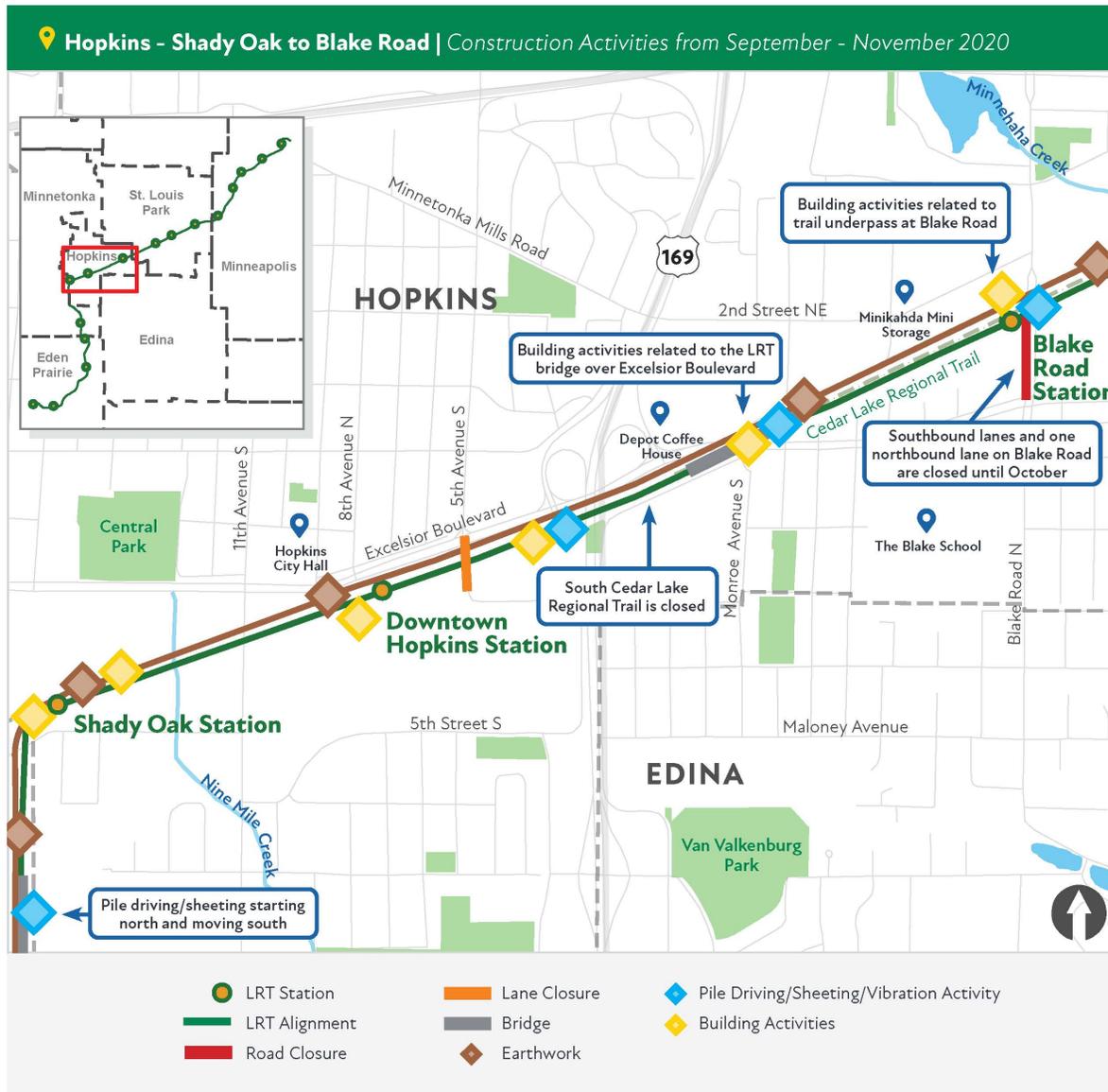
Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT Bridge Area

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. Excavation and pile driving

continue at the north end of the bridge near K-Tel Drive. Work on the bridge piers will move south towards Smetana Road. Piling work for the bridge piers will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving activities, which includes work on Saturdays.

Hopkins

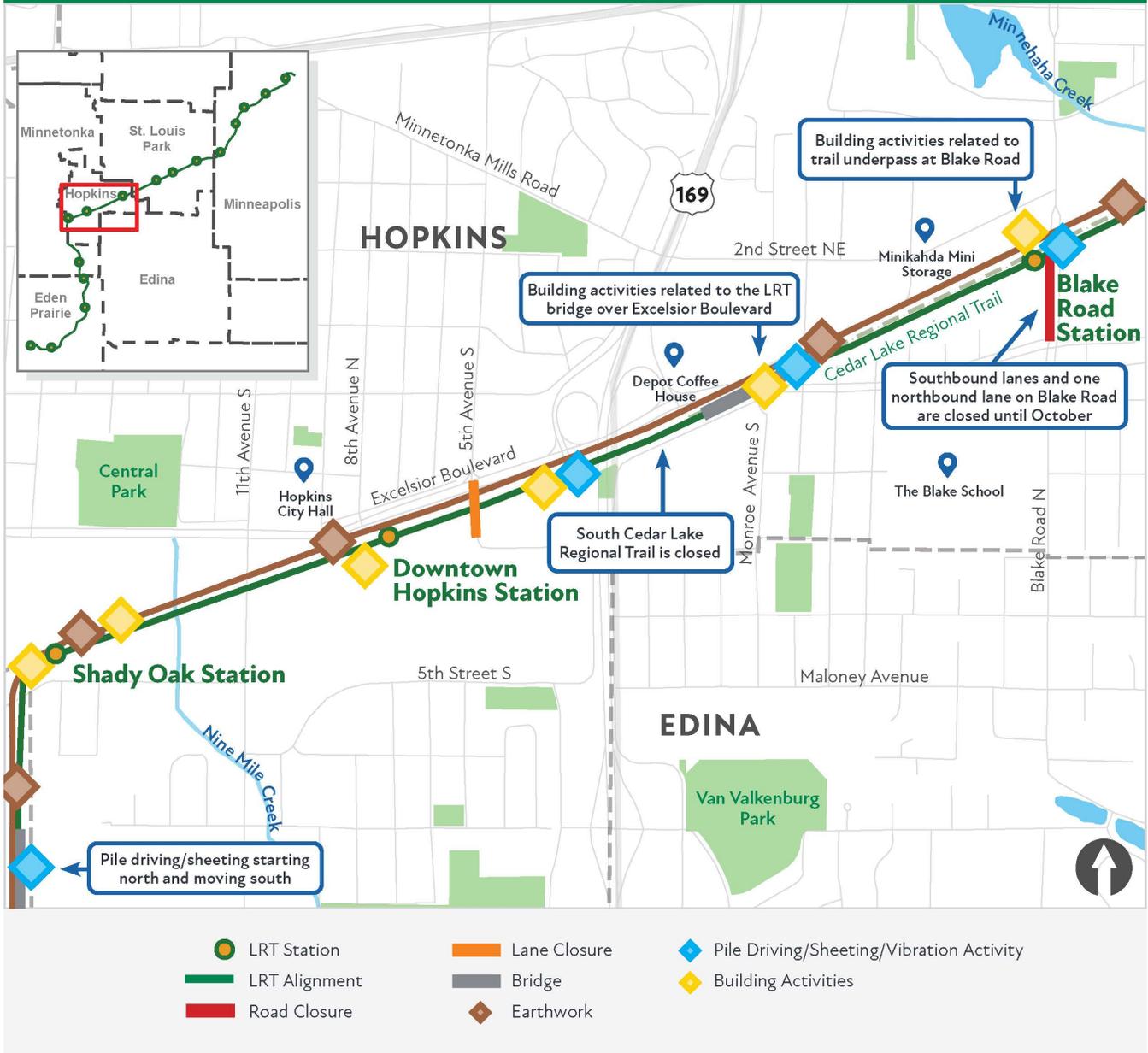
Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1



Shady Oak Road Station

Shady Oak Station construction continues, and the station structure has emerged.

Hopkins - Shady Oak to Blake Road | Construction Activities from September - November 2020



11th Avenue South

The LRT crossing at 11th Avenue will be completed early next week and then traffic lanes will reopen. LRT tracks will be pulled through the intersection at a later date.

5th Avenue South

Reconstruction of 5th Avenue has begun and will be ongoing through October. Work on 8th Avenue will occur next spring.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Station work continues. Crews have built the walls, advanced utility work and poured the base slab.

Excelsior Boulevard Area

Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. With the LRT bridge piers nearing completion, the structural forms to take the bridge over the roadway and freight rail are starting to take shape. Crews are building “pier tables”, which taken quiet literally means the base or “table” for the bridge to be placed on the piers. Concrete work for the top of the piers is advancing and concrete work for the spans is upcoming in the next months. The bridge structure is a post-tensioned box girder. This type of bridge can efficiently span long distances. The initial shape of the box girder is now visible from the roadway. Using a piece of equipment called a form traveler the bridge will begin to span the roadway in September.

Blake Road

The project is improving bike safety in the area by building a regional trail underpass. Crews are constructing the trail underpass on the west side of Blake Road. The southbound lanes on Blake Road are closed to vehicle traffic and will remain closed. Vehicle traffic continues to be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrians can access the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. [See Hopkins detour maps here](#). The roadway will reopen in October. Crews will work to complete the regional train underpass in the spring.

St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park Construction: Map 1 of 1

St. Louis Park - Louisiana Ave to Beltline Blvd | Construction Activities from September - November 2020



Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges is nearing completion, tracks just need to be pulled across the freight bridge, anticipated this fall. Crews are finishing details of the bridges and area retaining walls.

Louisiana Avenue

In the Louisiana Avenue area, the project is constructing the following elements: Louisiana Station and park and ride areas, reestablishing the regional trail, LRT and freight bridges, a pedestrian/bicyclist 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.

Crews are working on the trail underpass. Shoring and sheet pile driving work for the southerly freight rail connection, that will replace the current wye freight track, along Oxford Street is well underway with the abutment taking shape.

The abutments for the regional trail and freight rail bridge at Louisiana Avenue are complete and bridge beams have been placed across the roadway.

Wooddale Avenue

Construction of the new regional trail underpass structure and freight rail infrastructure is complete. An additional closure will be needed at a future date to install LRT infrastructure through the intersection.

Highway 100

Highway 100 reopened the morning of Tuesday, September 8 after the freight rail bridge was moved to its new permanent location. Additional short-term closures to set LRT bridge beams will be scheduled at a later date.

Beltline Boulevard

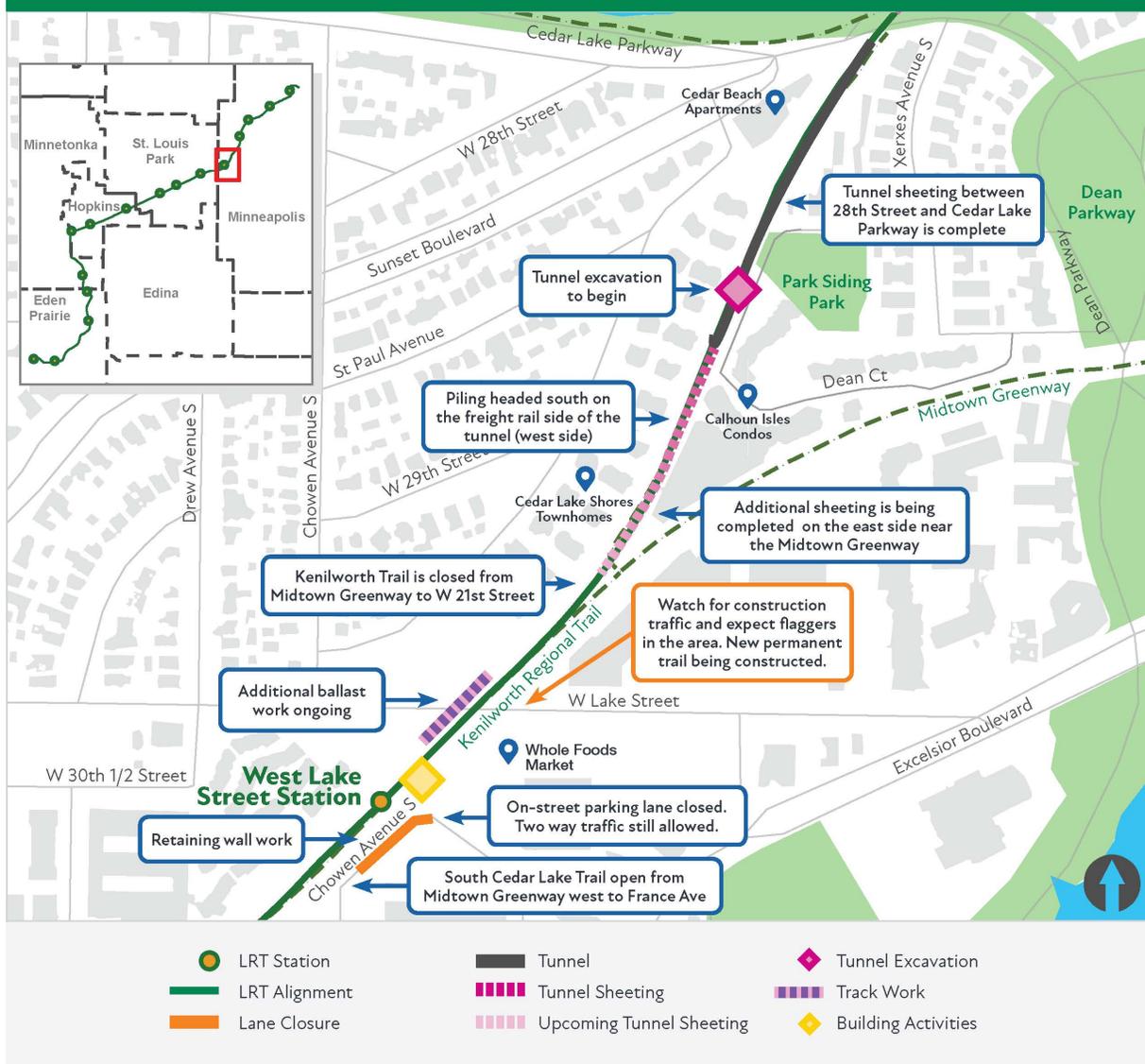
Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a regional trail bridge over the roadway. The main truss for the regional trail bridge has been set and work on the trail bridge deck continues. To complete the bridge, crews will first need to move the freight rail tracks to their final location. Preparation for that move is ongoing.

Reconstruction of Beltline Boulevard in this area continues. Beltline Boulevard is open to traffic with one lane in each direction. Roadwork will be completed in late-September and the remaining lanes will open. The LRT track crossing will be completed at a future date.

[Minneapolis](#)

Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5

Minneapolis - Lake Street to Cedar Lake | Construction Activities from September - November 2020



There are five Minneapolis maps with each illustrating where construction crews are working today and approximately through August. General activities are highlighted for your convenience. Please refer to text descriptions in this section for more details on major elements being constructed in specific areas.

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.

The intended freight rail work under the West Lake Street bridge was completed over the Labor Day weekend. Crews will continue to add ballast material over the coming weeks.

Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction

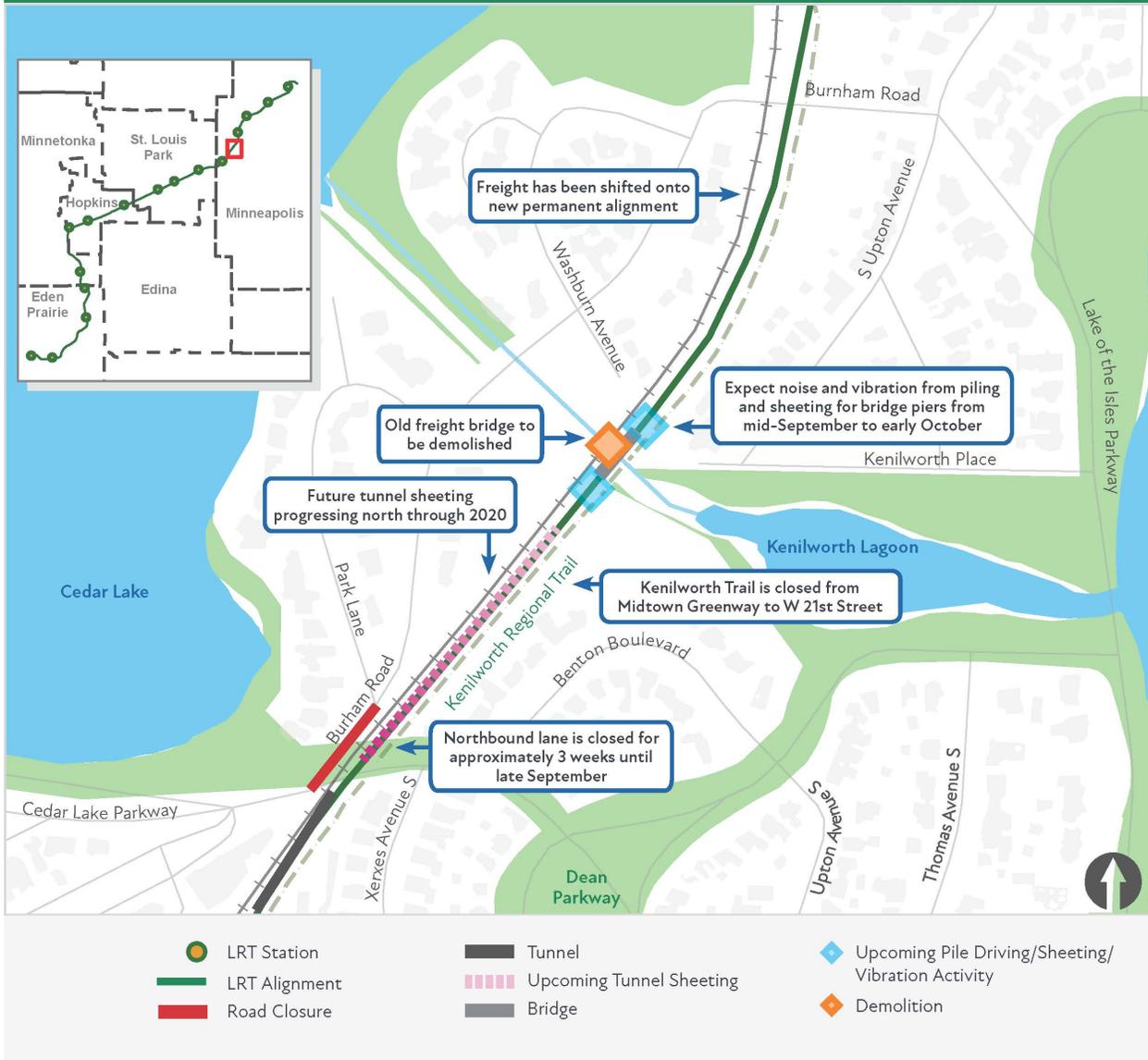
From the West Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of the LRT tunnel is ongoing through 2022. Sheet pile installation for the tunnel is expected to last through 2020.

Two press-in-pilers are working south of 28th Street. One piler is on the track side of the tunnel moving south. The other is working near Lake Street. The pilers will also be used to complete some area utility work.

Crews have installed a tunnel cell bulkhead south of 28th Street, which will allow them to excavate and construct the LRT tunnel itself. In mid-to-late September excavation activities will commence. Crews will begin shallow excavation activities and installing bracing. Deeper excavation and concrete work will follow. Expect additional truck traffic moving through the corridor as the need to remove and bring in materials increases. In addition to the press-in-pilers and associated cranes, additional heavy construction equipment and more crew members have begun arriving in the corridor.

For more information about tunnel construction, see the [tunnel FAQ](#) information under the construction tab of our webpage: swlrt.org. A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique that is being used for the tunnel is also available.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 2 of 5



Cedar Lake Parkway

A six-month closure of Cedar Lake Parkway will be needed at a later date to complete tunnel excavation and construction.

Burnham Road

The northbound lane of Burnham Road is closed for approximately three weeks into late September. During this time crews will perform additional utility work on the east side of the roadway. This is follow-up work from the activities that occurred earlier in 2020. [Detour information.](#)

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 complete and the LRT then trail bridges will follow in sequence.

Freight rail is now on the new track alignment and bridge over the Cedar Lake Channel. Demolition of the old freight bridge is expected to begin next week. It will take approximately a week to remove the bridge.

Construction of the new LRT bridge over the channel will follow the removal, expected around mid-to-late September. A closure of the channel is currently not anticipated to be needed to complete this next phase of work. Flaggers for water traffic will be present when the old freight rail bridge is removed, and traffic may be required to wait for a short period. If a closure is needed, notice will be posted at least 14 days in advance.

Expect noise and vibration for piling and sheeting activities beginning in September and lasting through the month.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5



West 21st Street

The surcharge has reached its intended compaction level and the soil beneath can now support station construction. Most of the surcharge materials have been removed. Expect continued excavation equipment and dump trucks in the area.

West 21st Street Station construction is expected to begin next week with preparation activities.

The freight track crossing at West 21st Street along with utility work was completed over the Labor Day weekend. The roadway was fully restored late this week and now open to all traffic.

Minneapolis - Bryn Mawr to Bassett Creek | Construction Activities from September - November 2020



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 surcharge has reached its intended compaction level and the soil beneath can now support station construction. Expect excavation equipment and more dump trucks in the area as excess material begins to be removed in the coming weeks.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5



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 North 12th Street is closed until mid-2021. The roadway is closed to vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic. [See detour map here](#). Local access to businesses is maintained. Crews are finishing retaining walls in the area. Work on the west abutment is nearing completion with crews removing supports for excavation. Grading work is also proceeding to shift the BNSF track.

Royalston Avenue

This area will see the development of the Royalston Avenue/Farmer's Market Station, an LRT bridge crossing over North 5th Avenue and North 7th Street and connecting to the Target Field Station. The Holden/Royalston/Border loop will also be reconstructed.

Expect pile driving activities in this area as bridge and retaining wall work advances. Work on the bridge piers adjacent 6th Street are starting. Lane closures along 6th Avenue to complete pier work are upcoming in September.

A closure of Royalston Avenue/5th Street is being planned for the morning of Thursday, September 17 to set bridge beams over the roadway. Business access will be maintained via flaggers. All other traffic is detoured to Border Avenue and Lyndale Avenue.

The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue from North 5th Street to Holden Street is closed; 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 through early 2021.
- 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, bikers and pedestrians, with separate closures of roadways upcoming at various dates. [See detour maps here.](#)

Utility work near the West Lake Street Station is almost complete. Crews have begun grading work to construct the new permanent trail alignment under the West Lake Street bridge. Pedestrians and cyclists can use the new

trail once completed. The trail will be fenced off and separated from construction activities. Until that work is complete expect flaggers in the area directing pedestrians and cyclists. Be mindful of construction equipment in the area and the directions given by the flaggers. Flagging activity is allowing the trail in this connecting segment to remain open during this phase of construction.

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, bikers 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.](#)

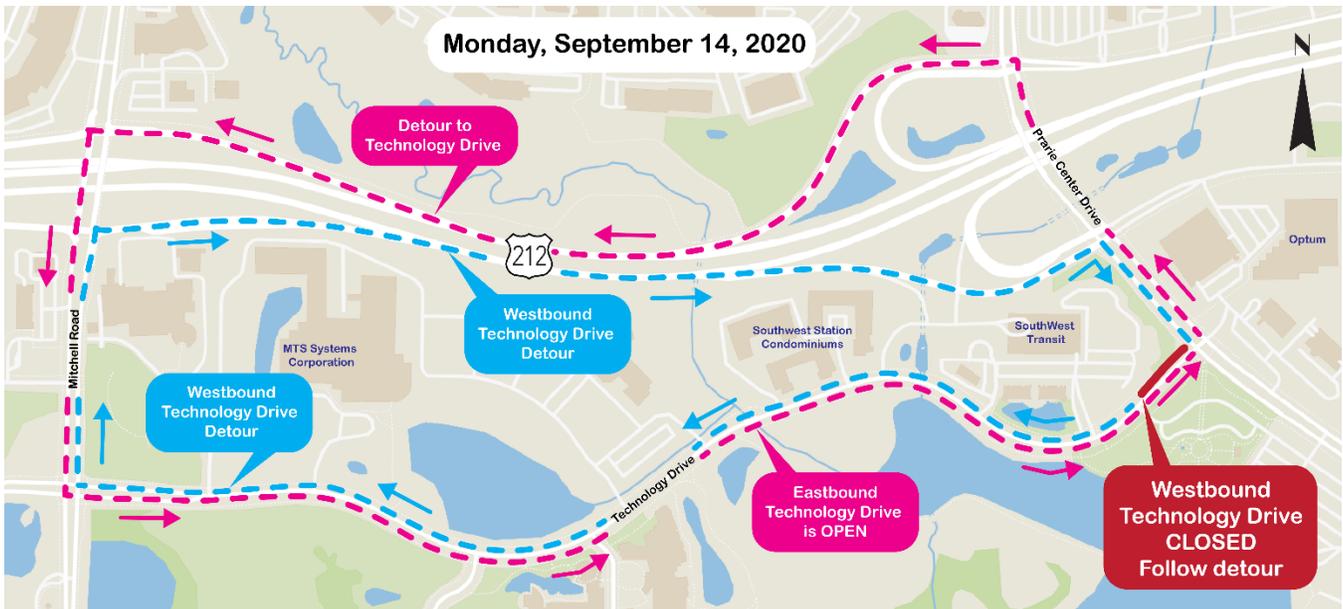
Please note, construction vehicles cross the trail as they enter and exit staging areas. Construction vehicles yield to trail users but please be aware that you may encounter construction traffic in this area.

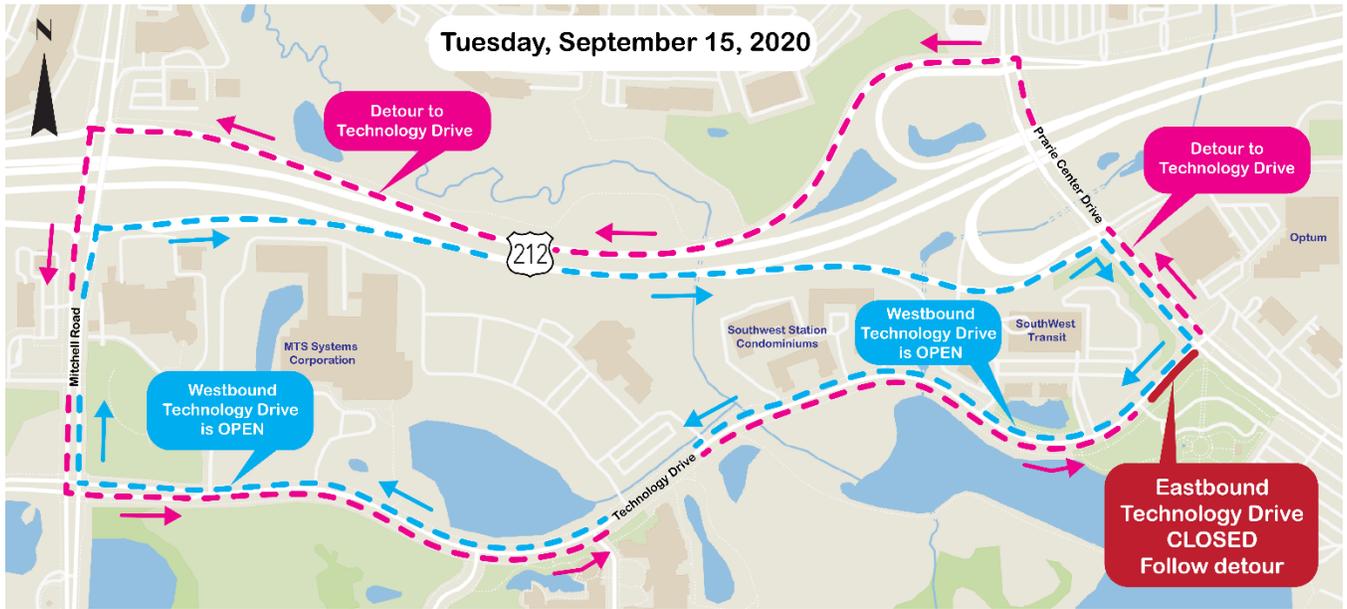
The Cedar Lake Trail by Highway 394 and Linden Yards is detoured to Kenwood Parkway until late September. The connection to the Luce Line Trail will remain open, accessible via the connection under I-394 by Spring Lake. [See trail detour maps here.](#) Crews are conducting utility work in the area.

SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



Technology Drive in Eden Prairie: East and West Bound Detours





Flying Cloud Drive Detours in Eden Prairie



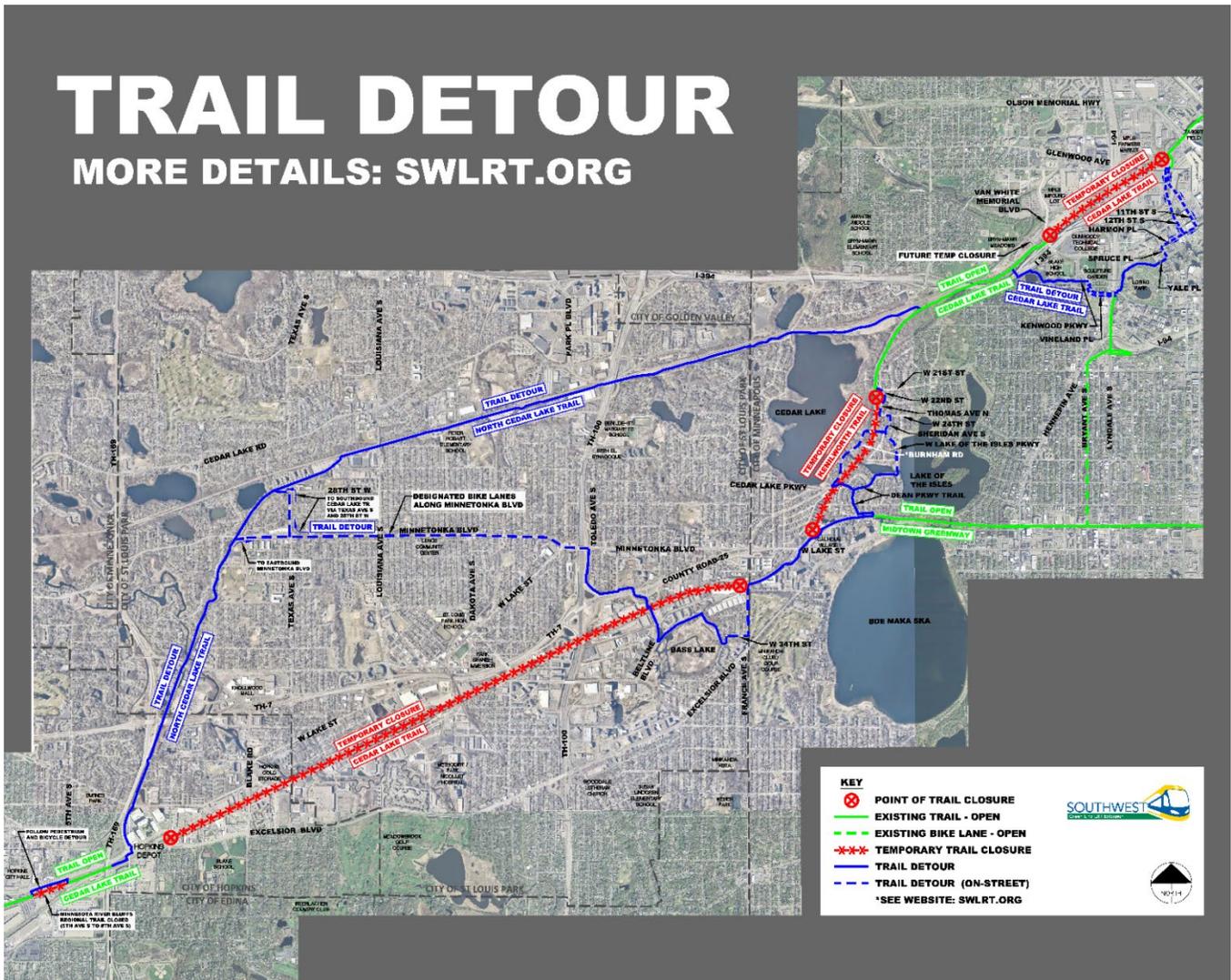
Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles



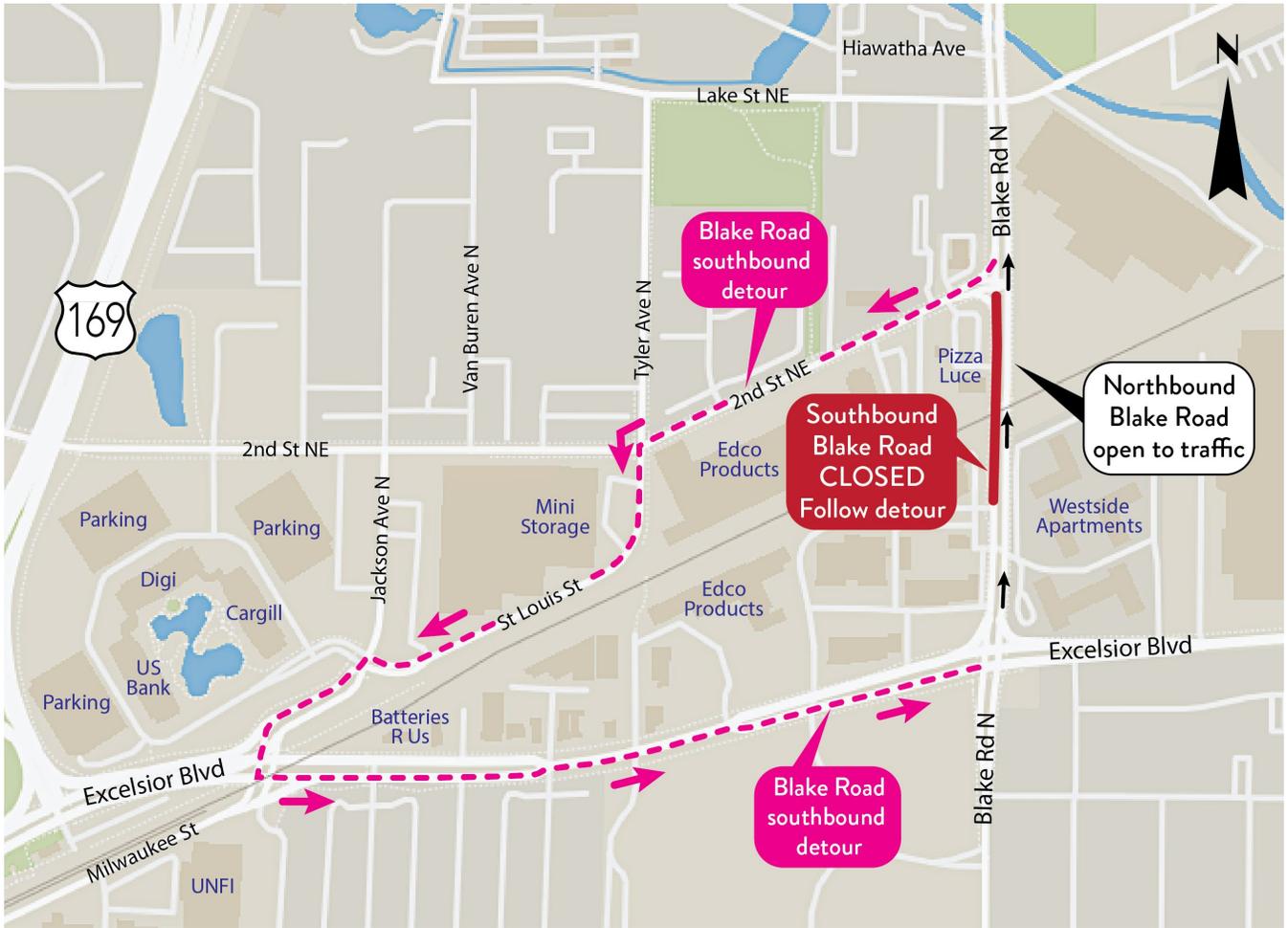
Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour



Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours



Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



5th Avenue Detour in Hopkins (Upcoming)



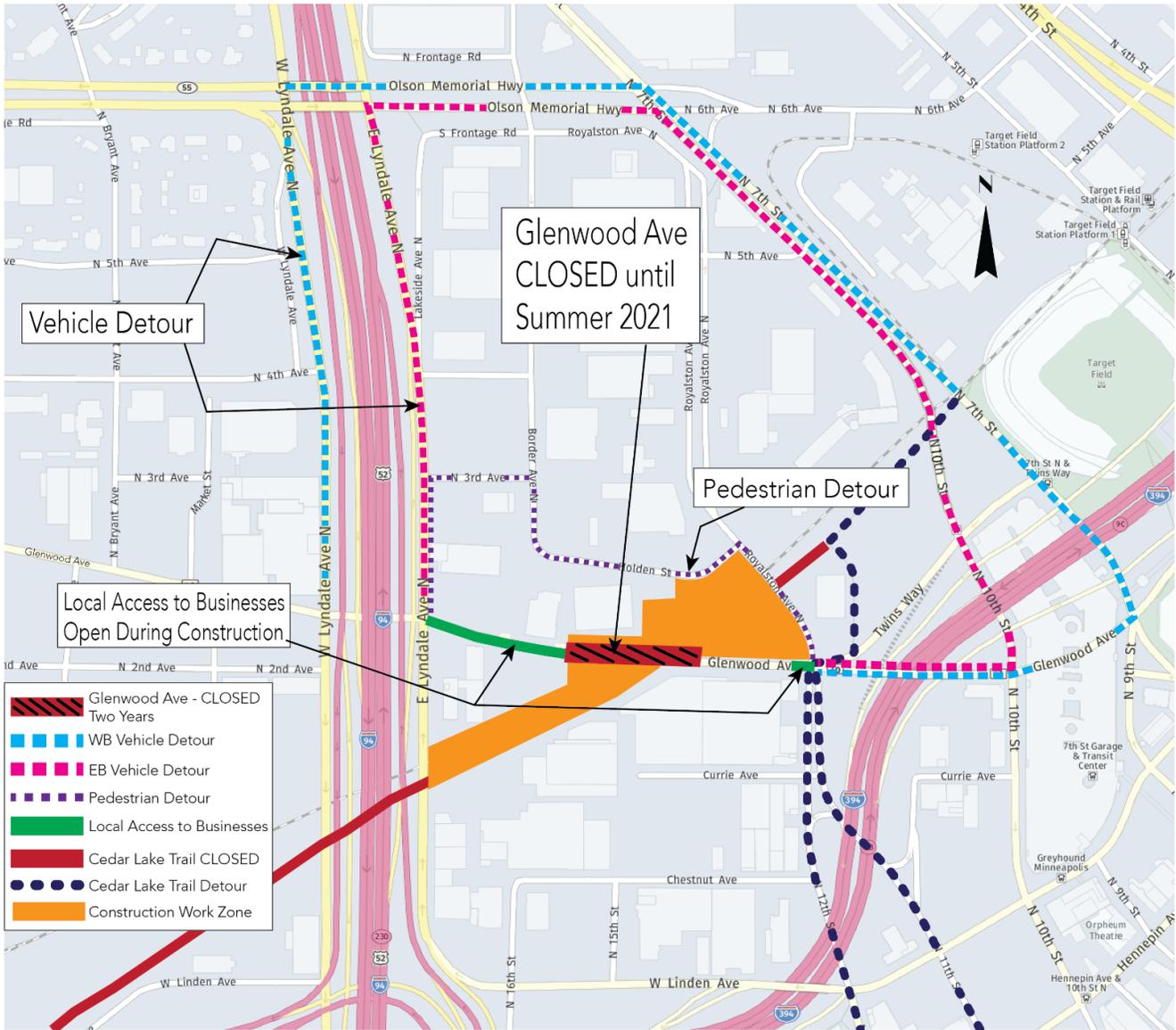
Burnham Road in Minneapolis



Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

