



Construction Update: February 7, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

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

Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

Piles, Piling, and More Piles

A common theme in the Construction Updates is piling activities. Almost every project segment has had piling activities since construction began. In many areas, piling is the predominant activity of 2019 and into 2020. Piles are used to support the foundations of bridges, track, and other structures. Sheet piling is used to support excavation work, build cofferdams, abutments, walls, and other construction elements. In fact, if you laid all the piles being used on the project end to end they would stretch from the Twin Cities to Duluth! Once the foundations of structures are in place, the region's new LRT line will start to take shape.

Weekly Construction Photo: Bridge Pier Work on Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis



Progress is being made on the LRT bridge spanning from Royalston Avenue over North 5th Avenue and North 7th Street. Crews are working on the bridge piers and abutments, with intermittent pile driving in the area.

Highlights

- This weekend, February 7-9, a crane will be “walked” across the eastbound Highway 212 entrance from Prairie Center Drive in Eden Prairie. Crews will move the crane during the overnight hours. Expect an intermittent lane closure with flaggers for this activity.
- Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park will be reduced to one lane in each direction starting as early as February 17 to begin the west approach for the regional trail tunnel that will extend under the roadway. Expect traffic lanes shifts in the area, please follow area construction signs. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

On-going Activities Update

SouthWest Station Area in Eden Prairie

SouthWest Transit bus riders moved to a new temporary facility on January 20 (**see pedestrian detour map below**). The former bus loop and waiting area are now part of the active construction site. Demolition activities, like disconnecting utilities, for the former facilities started in February and will continue into the coming weeks. Most of the work is still within the building and will become more noticeable as crews advance activities.

Pier work for the new LRT bridge that wraps around the SouthWest Station park-and ride structure will continue into Spring 2020. Sidewalks along Prairie Center and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow local signage to ensure your safety. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed until Spring 2020, to accommodate the completion of retaining wall work. The retaining wall is nearly complete, crews will need warmer weather to backfill.

Beginning the week of February 10, for about three weeks, traffic will be routed to the HOV lane for the eastbound Highway 212 entrance from Prairie Center Drive, as crews install lighting. A crane will also be walked across the entrance ramp this weekend. Expect intermittent lane closure and flaggers in the area.

Purgatory Creek Park/ Prairie Center Drive in Eden Prairie

On the west side of Prairie Center Drive, near Purgatory Creek Park, the area is being prepped for bridge pier work. Piling will begin in this area the week of February 10. As work progresses, sidewalk detours will be needed, and later there will be impacts to roadways. More details to follow as work ramps up.

Eden Road Area in Eden Prairie

Retaining wall work has concluded for the winter; backfilling will resume in the spring. Work to remove storm sewer in the area is beginning the week of February 10, as well as general preparation work for the next phase of construction. All of this work is in the established work zone.

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

Crews are working on both the south and north abutments. Sheeting to support excavation and foundation piles are being installed. Pile driving activities will continue through late-February. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place. The I-494 eastbound ramp to Highway 212 remains closed until Spring 2020. **See detour map below.**

Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie

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 winter. Crews are constructing multiple piers for the new LRT bridge. The piers are at different stages of completion, with crews working on pile supports and formwork. As early as the week of February 17, overnight road closures will be needed to set bridge girders (support beams). We will provide notice of the date at least seven days in advance of the closure. **See the upcoming detour map below.**

Nine Mile Creek in Eden Prairie

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure and abutments at Nine Mile Creek will continue through the winter. Crews are working on the south abutment and piers are starting to take shape. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie

Daytime pile driving for bridge piers will be the focus of work activities in this area through the spring. Crews are removing an abandoned pipe, which is related to the construction of the piers. This activity will be ongoing for approximately a month. The work with abandoned pipe may require nighttime sheeting activities next week. Overall, work has progressed to a point where we can shift more construction activities to daytime. Additional night work may be scheduled in the future as work between the Golden Triangle Station and the bridge over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212 continues.

Highway 62 in Minnetonka

The traffic lanes have been shifted to the south side of the highway to accommodate tunnel construction which is underway on the north side of the highway. This traffic configuration will be in place through 2020. Crews continue excavation and sheet piling work for the LRT tunnel. In late-February crews will begin laying the bottom leveling slab of the tunnel.

Red Circle Drive and Yellow Circle Drive in Minnetonka

Yellow and Red Circle Drives have been reconfigured. Yellow Circle Drive is temporarily dead ended with a cul-de-sac where it connects to Red Circle Drive, and Yellow Circle has become a two-way roadway in the area south of Blue Circle Drive. A temporary by-pass road has also been completed on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will allow for ongoing tunnel construction on Highway 62 and will be in place until Fall 2020. **See a map of the roadway changes below.**

Opus Station Area in Minnetonka

Earthwork is underway in this area. Retaining wall work is ongoing.

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins

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 detour maps below.** Watermain and sanitary sewer work continues in the area. Retaining wall work is anticipated to begin in early February in the area just north of Smetana Road.

Feltl Court/Nolan Drive Area in Hopkins

Preparation work including tree clearing and ground cover removal for the Minnetonka-Hopkins Bridge will begin the week of February 10. Crews will start clearing work closest to the railroad line and will move south.

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 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.

Downtown Hopkins Station

The Downtown Hopkins Station is starting to look like an LRT station. Work on the station's structural steel elements to support the walls and roof canopy will continue through the month of February.

Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins

Crews continue to work on the LRT bridge and underground utilities in the area. Piers in the area are beginning to take shape and work on both bridge abutments is ongoing with pile driving and sheeting work.

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 below.**

Blake Road in Hopkins

Crews are constructing a cut and cover tunnel for the regional trail under Blake Road. Southbound traffic will continue to be diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction, through the winter. Next spring, crews will move to the east side of the roadway and traffic will remain reduced to one lane in each direction.

Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park

Work on the new freight and trail bridge abutments continues in this area. The west abutments are almost complete.

Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park

Later this winter crews will begin work to place bridge beams over the roadway. East of Louisiana Avenue, crews are beginning the excavation for the pedestrian/bike tunnel to the station. Pile driving for the retaining walls to construct the trail underpass is anticipated to begin the week of February 10.

Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park

Wooddale Avenue will be reduced to one lane in each direction starting as early as February 17 to begin the west approach for the regional trail tunnel. A full road closure will be needed in the late spring, more details to follow. Utility work also continues in the area, with roadway impacts to the southwest. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

Highway 100 in St. Louis Park

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and will build a new LRT bridge over Highway 100 in the Summer/Fall of 2020. Bridge abutment work is ongoing.

Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park

Work on the new South Cedar Lake Trail Bridge continues. Crews are installing falsework. The falsework is used to temporarily support concrete when it is placed for the bridge decking and will be removed once the concrete achieves its appropriate strength.

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 below.**

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street in Minneapolis

Storm sewer and watermain work will occur during the winter months. Work is anticipated to begin the week of February 10. Work will not impact the trails, but flaggers may be in the area as construction equipment is moved.

Kenilworth Area Construction in Minneapolis

Sheet piling for the Kenilworth tunnel continues. One of the press-in-pilers is currently working south from 28th Street. The second press-in-piler is moving north from 28th Street on the freight rail side. It will stop short of Cedar Lake Parkway and return south, working towards Lake Street. Sheeting installation is expected to last until Summer 2020.

Tunnel excavation is anticipated to begin Spring 2020. 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 is also available.

In preparation for future tunnel work, a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services sanitary sewer force main needs to be temporarily relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. Limited tree and shrub removal is anticipated to occur next week, with fencing following. Then construction of a pipe receiving pit will begin, followed by the installation of a new pipe. Construction crews refer to this process as “pipe jacking,” which means a prefabricated pipe is pushed through the ground. As soon as February 17, Dean Court will become a two-way roadway and will remain in this configuration for six to eight weeks.

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

Crews are finishing the concrete for the final freight bridge pier and have removed temporary sheeting. Abutment work on the north side of the channel is ongoing. Progress on a retaining wall directly north of the channel is also ongoing with concrete work.

21st Street in Minneapolis

Retaining wall activities are being completed in the area. Intermittent work will continue.

Bryn Mawr Station Area in Minneapolis

Crews continue earthwork in the future Bryn Mawr Station area in Minneapolis. Activities include excavating unsuitable soil followed by placing a surcharge consisting of new soil over the station area. Overall, the surcharge will remain for five months to consolidate the underlying soil so that structures can then be built.

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 below.**

Crews constructed a temporary trail bypass in the area where the North Cedar Lake Trail connects to the Kenilworth Trail. New signage is in place to direct trail users onto this newly constructed segment. This work is in preparation for station construction in Spring 2020.

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 begin in the Bryn Mawr Station area in the next few months.

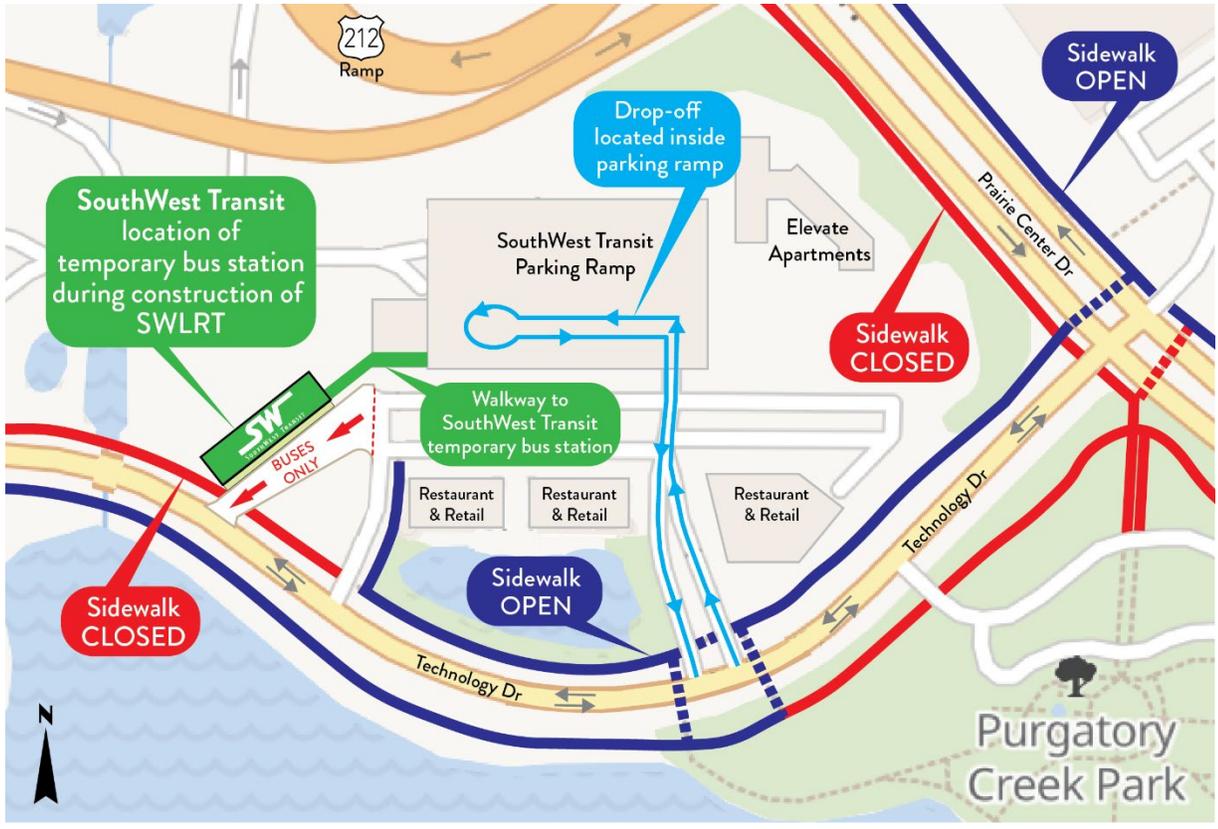
Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis

Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North is closed until mid-2021. **See detour map below.** 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 has begun.

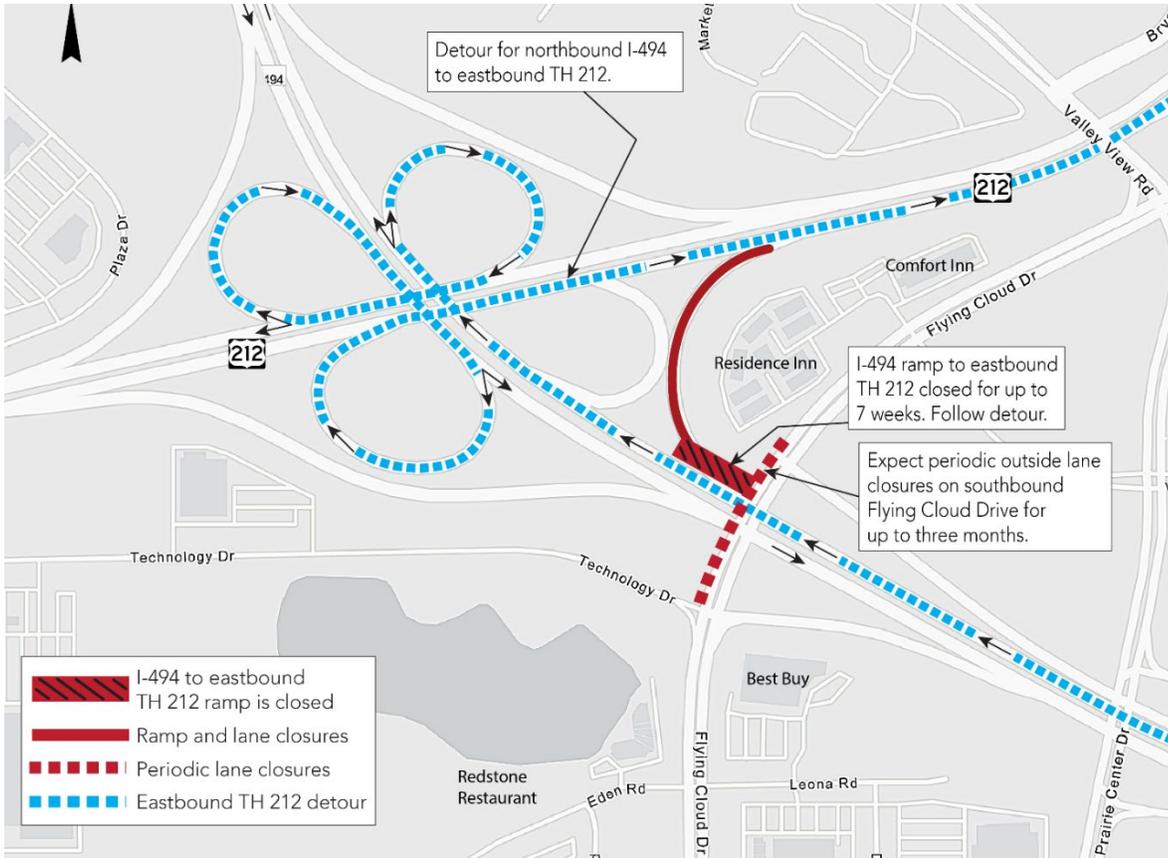
Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

Work on the LRT bridge piers on the east side of Royalston Avenue is ongoing and will continue through the winter. Expect pile driving activities in this area. Northbound Royalston Avenue is reduced to one lane and southbound Royalston Avenue is closed between Border Avenue and 5th Avenue until Summer 2021. **See the roadway impact map below.**

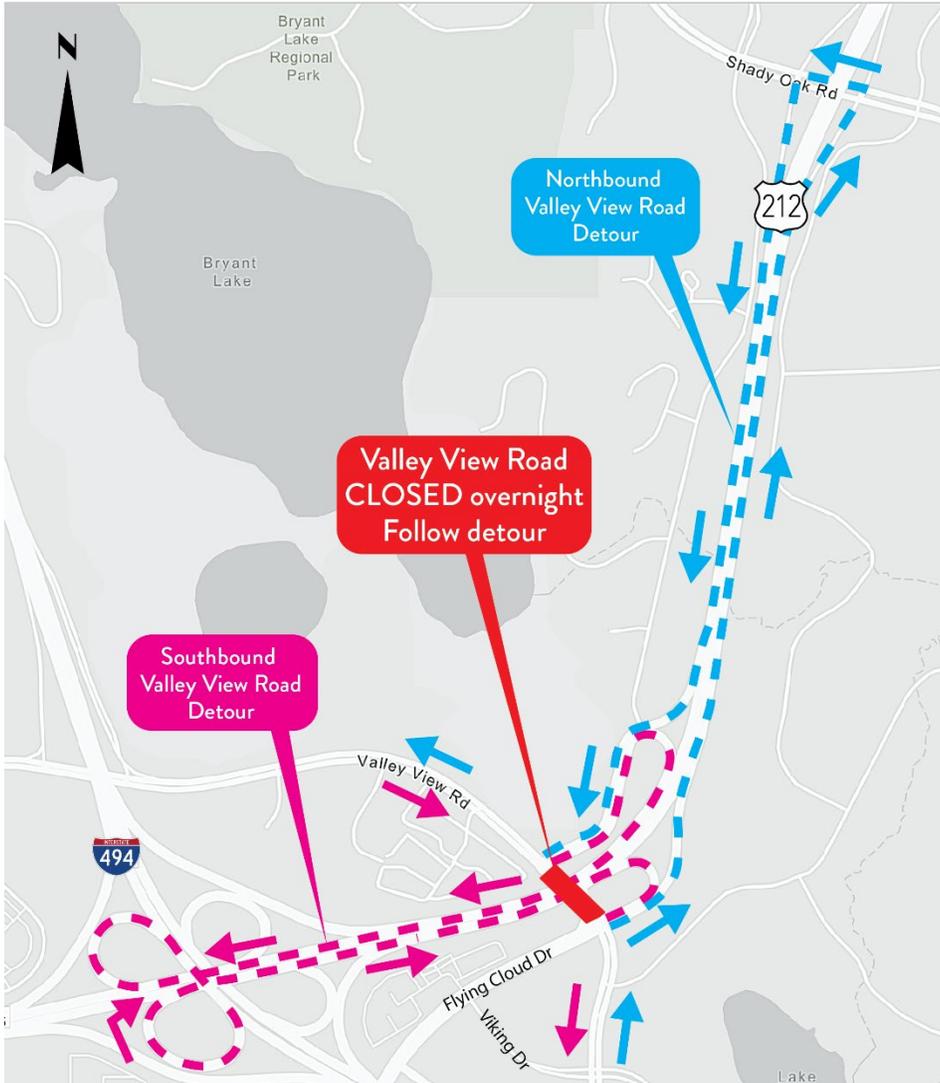
SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



Upcoming: Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie



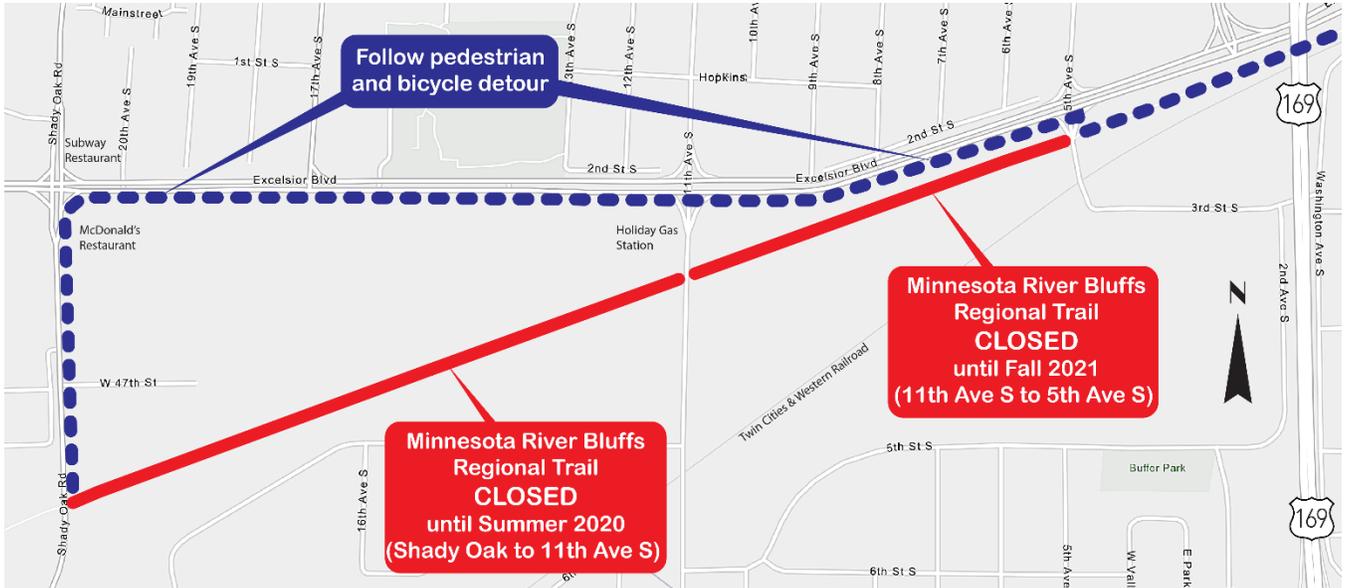
Yellow Circle Roadway Changes in Minnetonka



Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour

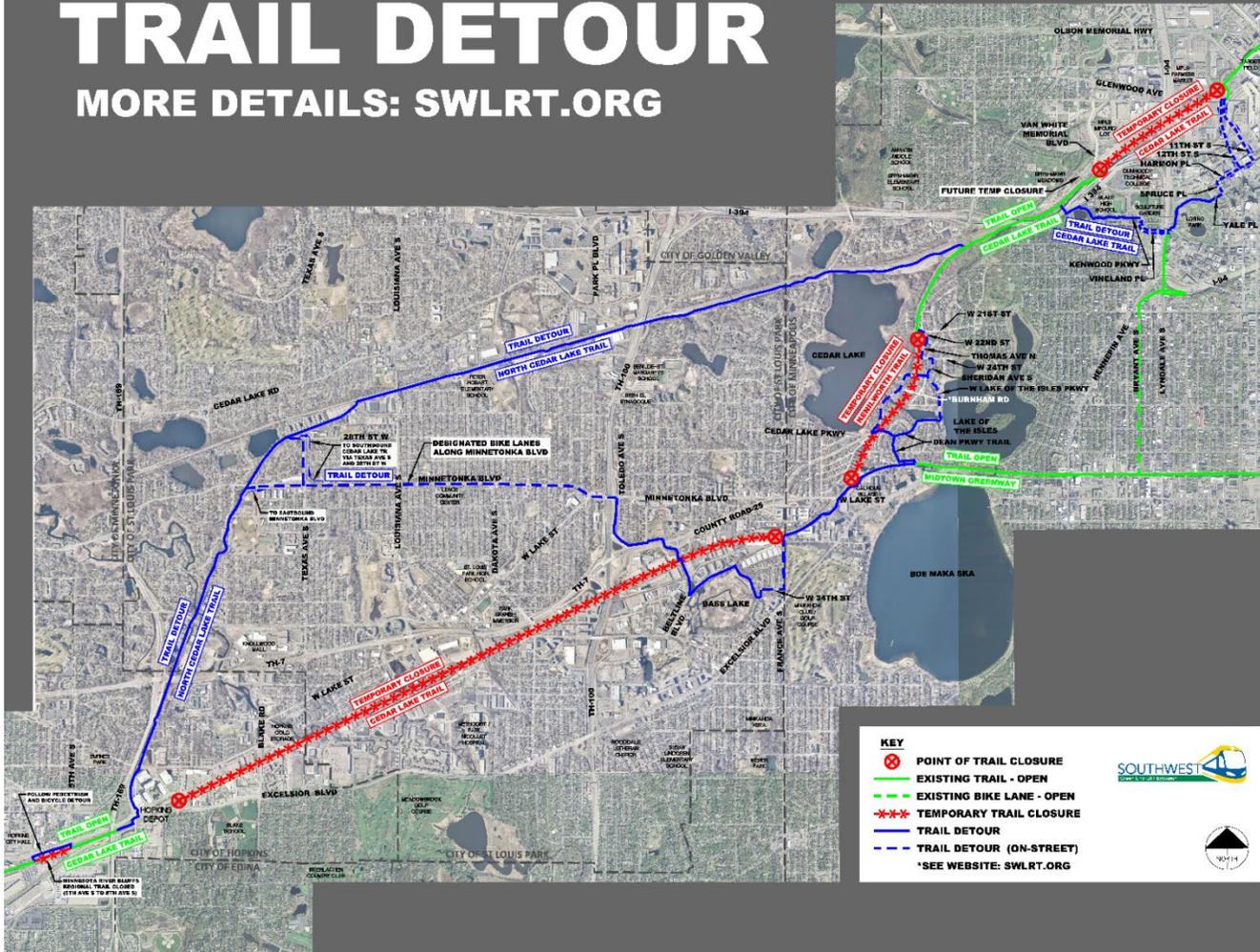


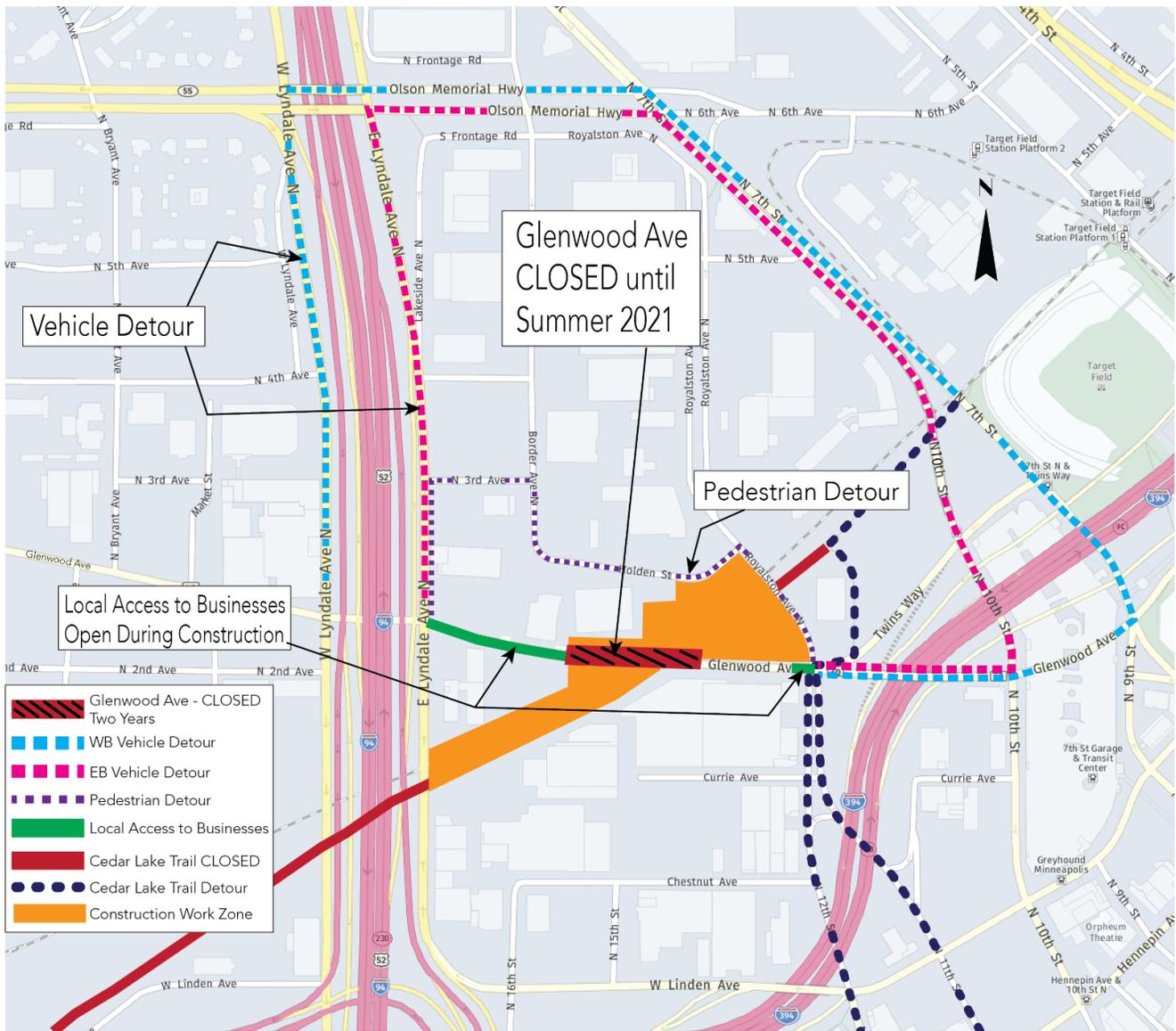
Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour



TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG





Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

