



**Construction Update: August 14, 2020**

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

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

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

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### **Upcoming Road Closures**

The next few weeks of August will see many traffic changes along the project corridor. The Eden Prairie segment in particular has multiple traffic impacts and are detailed below. Also, of note, the full closure of Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park is expected to begin the week of August 17 to install freight rail and LRT infrastructure. During the Beltline Boulevard closure, pedestrians and cyclists should expect delays as flaggers will direct them through a temporary crossing. This week crews swapped lanes of traffic so they could continue preparation work through the intersection. More details of upcoming traffic impacts are included in the city highlights.

### **Weekly Construction Photo: I-494 at Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie**



With beams already set-in place crews are advancing bridge deck construction for the I-494 Bridge at Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie. Crews build forms in the daytime while the majority of concrete is poured at night during a road closure.

Eden Prairie  
**Eden Prairie Construction: Map 1 of 2**



*There are two Eden Prairie 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.*

### **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. The former SouthWest Transit facility was demolished earlier in 2020. 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 just starting to take shape. Crews have erected a stationary tower crane to assist with ongoing 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 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 has begun with the installation of rebar and falsework (forms that support the concrete until it cures and is strong enough to support itself). Crews will begin setting bridge beams starting at 5:00 a.m. on August 17 and will continue for approximately two weeks. Crews will move from near SouthWest Transit station, south along Purgatory Creek Parkway and across the roadway. Southbound Prairie Center Drive will close on Monday, August 17, through Thursday, August 20. Technology Drive near Prairie Center Drive and the off-ramp from Highway 212 will also be closed on August 18 and 19. Northbound Prairie Center Drive will close on Monday, August 24 through Wednesday, August 26. [See upcoming detour information here.](#)

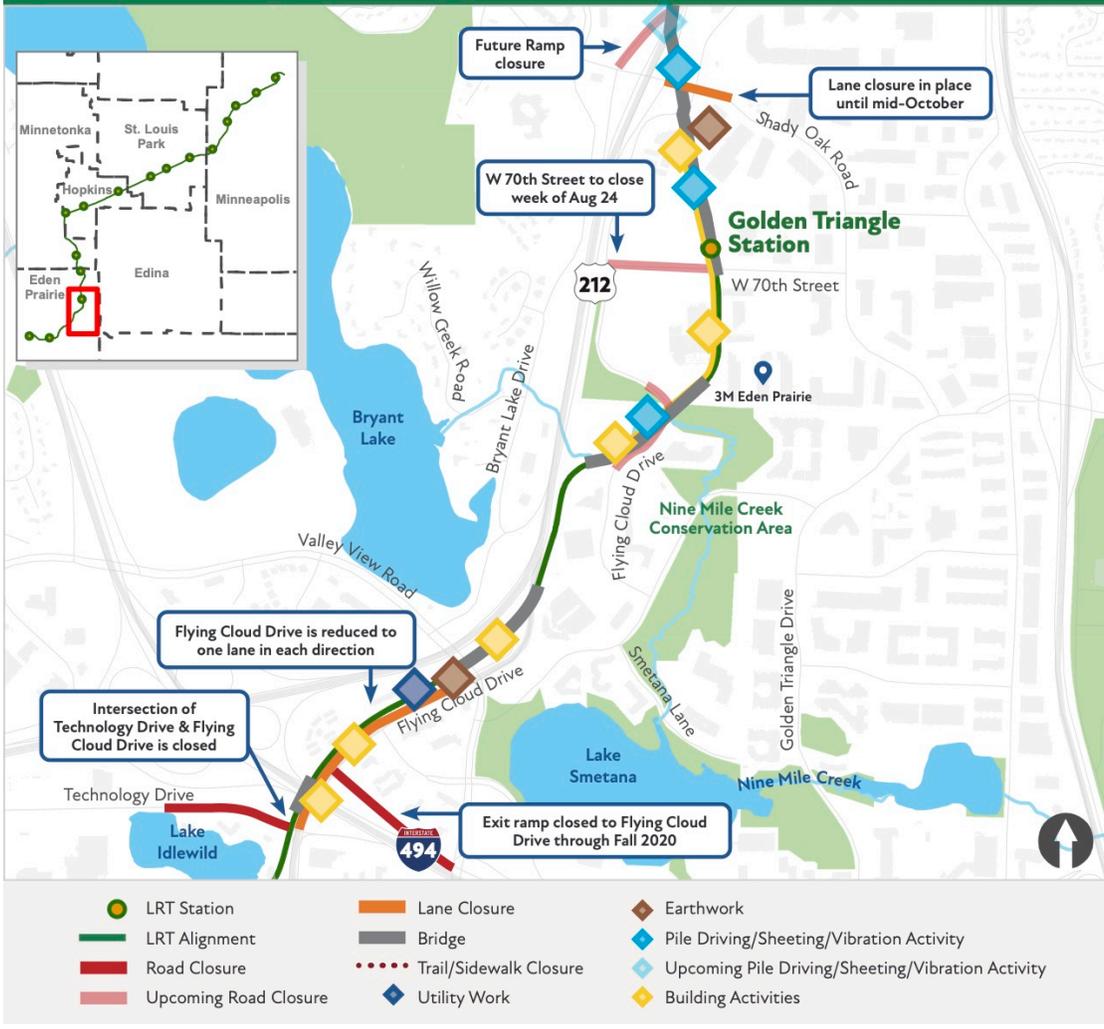
Sidewalks near the intersection of Prairie Center Drive and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow signage to ensure your safety. ([See the SouthWest pedestrian detour map](#)).

### **Eden Road Area**

Work on retaining walls as well as utility work continues in the area. The intersection of Eden Road at Flying Cloud Drive opens on Saturday, August 15, then the closure will shift to just west of Glen Lane as construction moves west on Eden Road.

### **Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2**

**Eden Prairie - Technology Drive to Shady Oak Road | Construction Activities from August - October 2020**



**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 currently anticipated on Monday, August 24, beginning at 10:00 p.m. through 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 25. Additional night closures will be needed later this summer to complete deck work.

**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 late August or early September and then will be swapped to the north. The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive will remain closed until early 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 the duration of the 2020 construction season.

### **Valley View Road**

Deck work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is ongoing. Valley View Road near Flying Cloud Drive will close for the day on Thursday, August 20 from 5:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to pour concrete for the bridge deck. The Highway 212 on and off ramps will close the following day, on Friday, August 21 to continue bridge deck work.

### **Nine Mile Creek**

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure at Nine Mile Creek will continue through the summer. Crews have advanced abutment work and continue to complete piers. Deck work for the bridge is getting underway. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side. In late August or early September Flying Cloud Drive near West 70<sup>th</sup> 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 70<sup>th</sup> at Flying Cloud Drive will close for two months to advance LRT infrastructure through the roadway, starting the week of August 24. 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 north of the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Crews are working on the roofing for the Golden Triangle Station and completing the construction of area bridge piers.

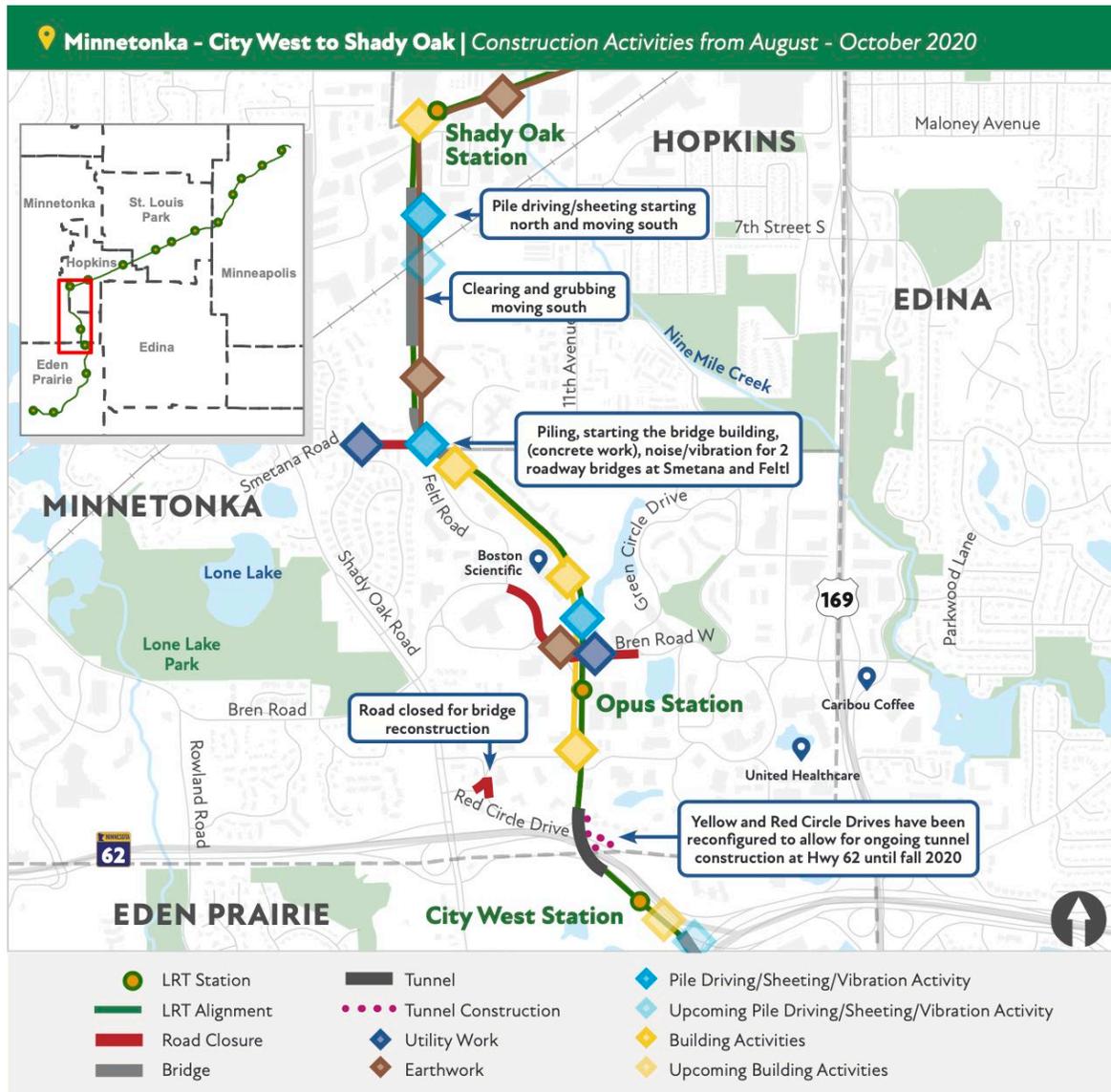
### **Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive**

Three lanes on the north side of Shady Oak Road are closed to begin 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 also start later this month to advance the LRT bridge, expect lane shifts. The off-ramp from west bound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road will close later this summer 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



*This Minnetonka map illustrates 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.*

## 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 the fall of 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 is also starting.

### **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. 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**

The station's form has emerged and 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 through the 2020 construction season. **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 also 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. Utility work is ongoing in this area. Excavation continues for bridge abutments and approach

walls. Sheet piling installation is occurring and piling for the bridge abutments continues. 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 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. Clearing and ground cover removals also continues in the area, moving south.

### **Hopkins**

#### **Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1**



*This Hopkins map illustrates 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.*

### Shady Oak Road Station

Foundation work for Shady Oak Station is underway. The station structure is beginning to emerge.

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

Work is underway at the future LRT track crossing at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. LRT crosses the roadway just north of 5<sup>th</sup> Street South, south of Excelsior Boulevard. The roadway is reduced to one lane in each direction. The LRT crossing panels to transverse the roadway have been placed on the east side. Traffic is swapped to the east side of the intersection so work can advance on the west. The LRT tracks will be pulled across the intersection at a later date. The lanes will reopen in at the very end of August.

Once work on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South is complete, the reconstruction of 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues will begin. Reconstruction of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue is anticipated on September and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the winter. The roadway is anticipated to close for five days.

On 5<sup>th</sup> Street South, utility work is expected to begin later this fall. Roadway impacts are anticipated. More detail will be provided as the closure dates nears.

### **Downtown Hopkins Station**

Station work continues. Crews have built the walls, advanced utility work and poured the base slab. Currently crews are working on roofing and steel finishes.

### **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. Crew 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 late August.

### **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. 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 continues to 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](#).** Crews will start to build the top of the regional trail tunnel, which will allow the roadway on the west side to be reconstructed later this summer or early fall. Once this portion of Blake Road is complete, traffic will be swapped to the other side and a single lane will be allowed in the southbound direction so crews can complete the underpass.

### **St. Louis Park**

#### **St. Louis Park Construction: Map 1 of 1**



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. Additional lane closures will occur to advance deck work. No detours are expected.

### **Wooddale Avenue**

For the new regional trail underpass structure and freight rail infrastructure the majority of the work that will impact the roadway is now complete. An additional closure will be needed at a future date to install LRT infrastructure through the intersection.

### **Highway 100**

The project will re-position the existing freight rail bridge and build a new LRT bridge over Highway 100 later this year. A closure of Highway 100 is currently on track for Labor Day weekend, more details to follow.

Crews are working on storm water management, erosion control, freight rail and trail infrastructure from Highway 100 to Beltline Boulevard.

### **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 need to move the freight rail tracks to their final location. Preparation for that move is ongoing.

Reconstruction of Beltline Boulevard in this area has begun. Beltline Boulevard has been reduced to one lane in each direction for utility work. Expect shifting lane closures as work moves through the intersection. A full closure of Beltline Boulevard is expected the week of August 17 to install the new freight rail crossing. The closure will last five days. During this closure pedestrians and cyclists should expect delays as flaggers will direct them through a temporary crossing. The LRT track crossing will be completed at a future date.



*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.

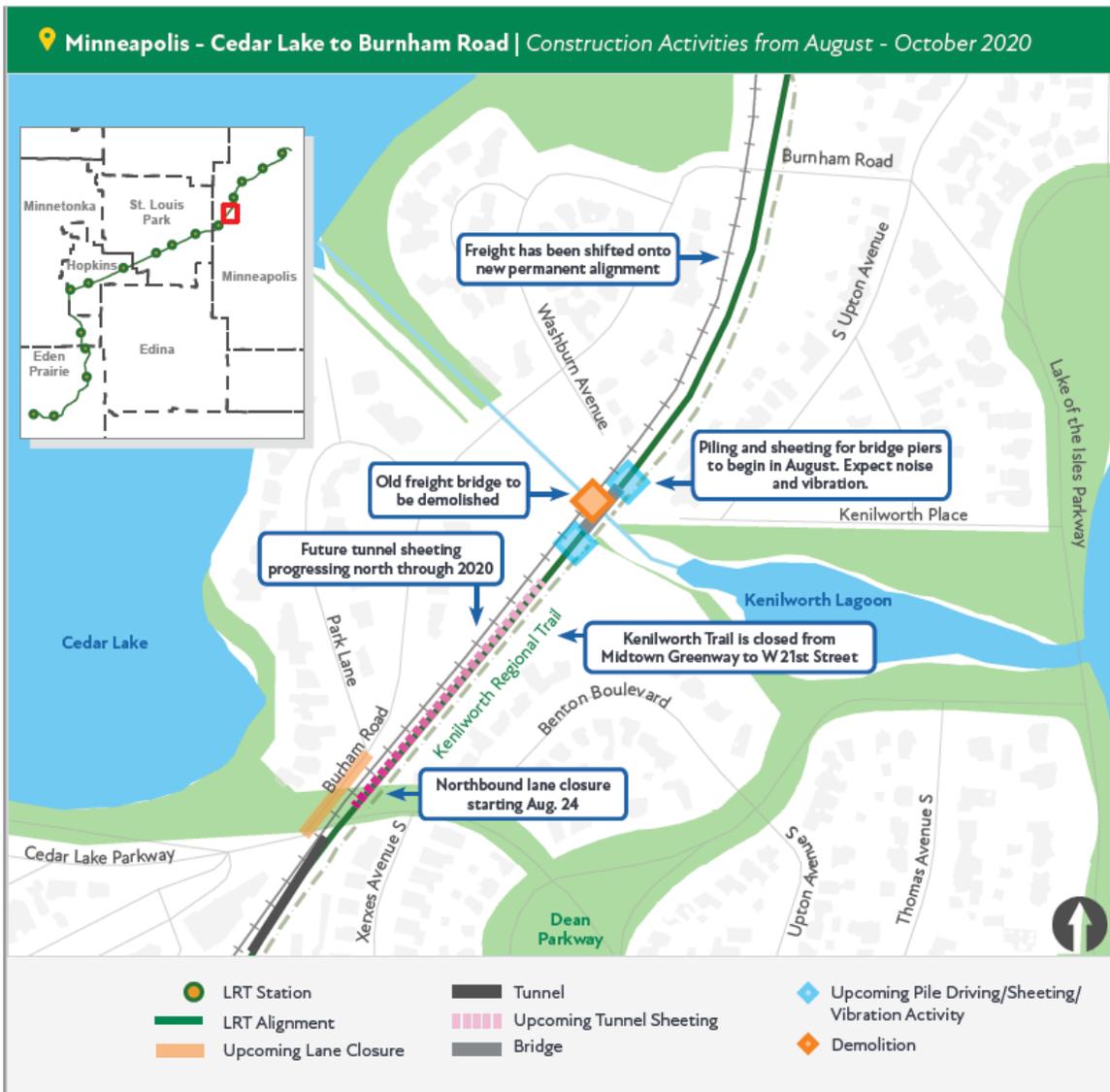
**Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction**

From the 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 28<sup>th</sup> Street. One piler is on the track side of the tunnel moving south. The other is working near Lake Street.

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.

### 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**

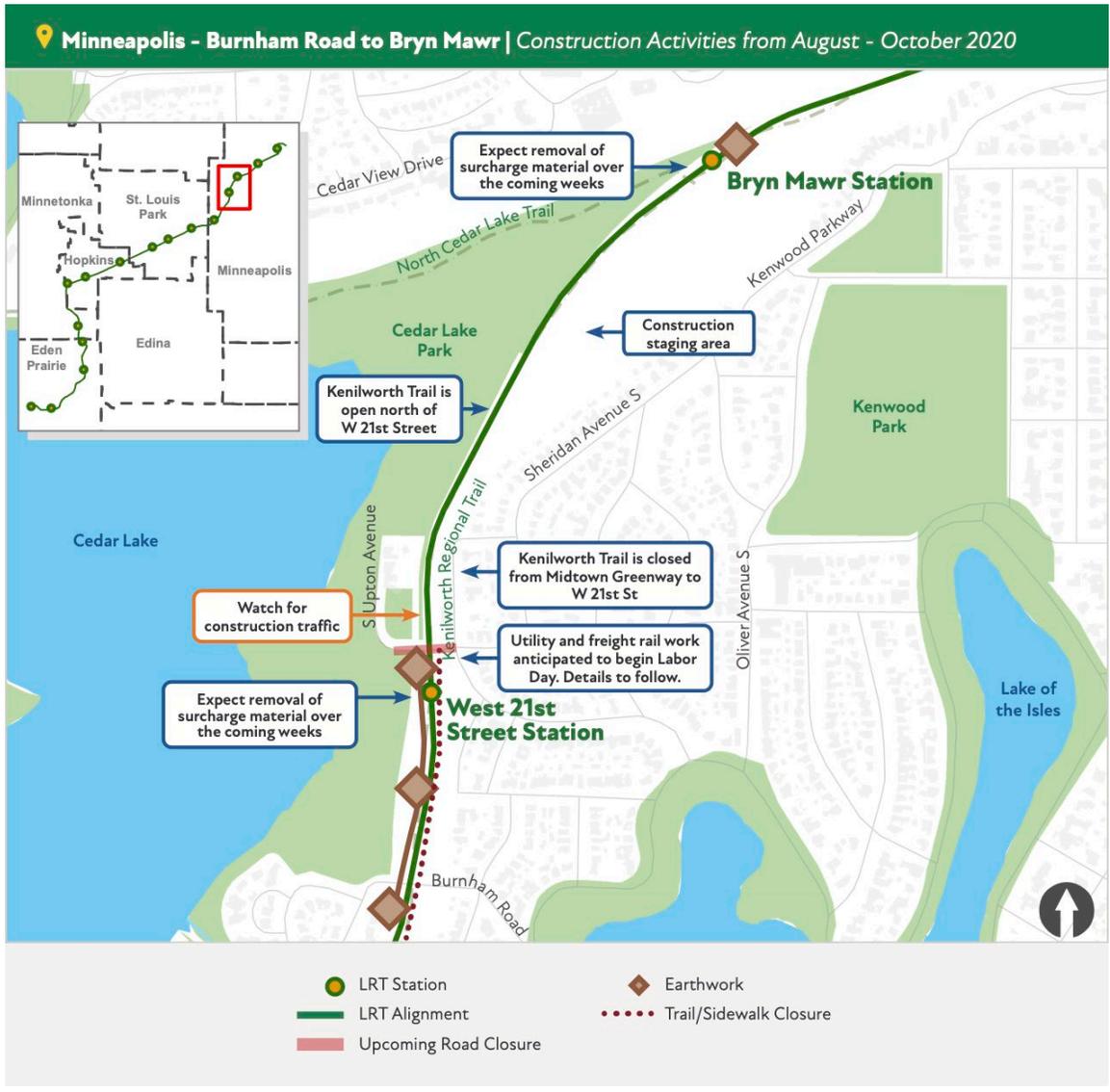
The northbound lane of Burnham Road will close for follow on utility work the week of August 24. This closure will be in place for approximately three weeks. [Detour information.](#)

### **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 was swapped onto the new track alignment on at the Cedar Lake Channel on Wednesday, July 22. Demolition of the old freight bridge could begin in late August or early September, as soon as track crews are available. It will take approximately a week to remove the bridge. Then construction of the new LRT bridge over the channel will begin after Labor Day following removals. A closure of the channel is currently not anticipated to be needed to complete this next phase of work. Flaggers for boat traffic are expected to be present when the old freight rail bridge is removed, and boaters 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.

### **Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5**



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

Temporary surcharge continues to be in place south of West 21<sup>st</sup> Street for the station. Surcharge work consists of periods of moving soil activities followed by periods underlying soil consolidation. The surcharge has reached their intended compaction levels and the soil beneath can now support station construction. Expect excavation equipment and more dump trucks in the area as excess materials begin to be removed in the coming weeks.

West 21<sup>st</sup> Street Station construction is expected to begin this fall after surcharge removal. Minor grading and trail paving work around West 21<sup>st</sup> Street is complete and additional fencing is being installed between the trail and haul route.

Planning is underway for utility and freight rail work at 21<sup>st</sup> Street. Preparation work will begin late August followed by work at the freight track crossing in early September. This will require a closure for vehicle traffic on 21<sup>st</sup> Street to East Cedar Lake beach; residential vehicle access to homes along Upton and pedestrian/bike access will be maintained. More details will be forthcoming.

**Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5**



**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 place. The surcharge has finished settling and necessary compaction to build the station foundation has been achieved. Expect excavation equipment and more dump trucks in the area as excess material begins to be removed in the coming weeks.

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

Construction to move the trail to its permanent location in the area will occur later this fall.

#### **Linden Yards**

Utility work continues in the area. Construction of the Bassett Creek Valley Station will begin later this year. Preparation earthwork for the Bassett Creek Station is anticipated to begin later in August.

#### **Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5**

## Minneapolis - Bassett Creek to Royalston | Construction Activities from August - October 2020



### 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 continue to work on retaining walls in the area. Work on the west abutment for the new roadway bridge continues.

General construction activities will occur in the Glenwood/Royalston area this Saturday, August 8. Additional Saturday work will be scheduled.

### Royalston Avenue

This area will see the development of the Royalston Avenue/Farmer's Market Station, an LRT bridge crossing over North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and North 7<sup>th</sup> 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 that follow 6<sup>th</sup> Street are starting. Lane closures along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to complete pier work are upcoming in the coming weeks.

The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue from North 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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, 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 in mid-to late-August. 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 21<sup>st</sup> Street until summer 2022. Access for automobiles, bikers and pedestrians remains open at Cedar Lake Parkway and at West 21<sup>st</sup> 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](#).**

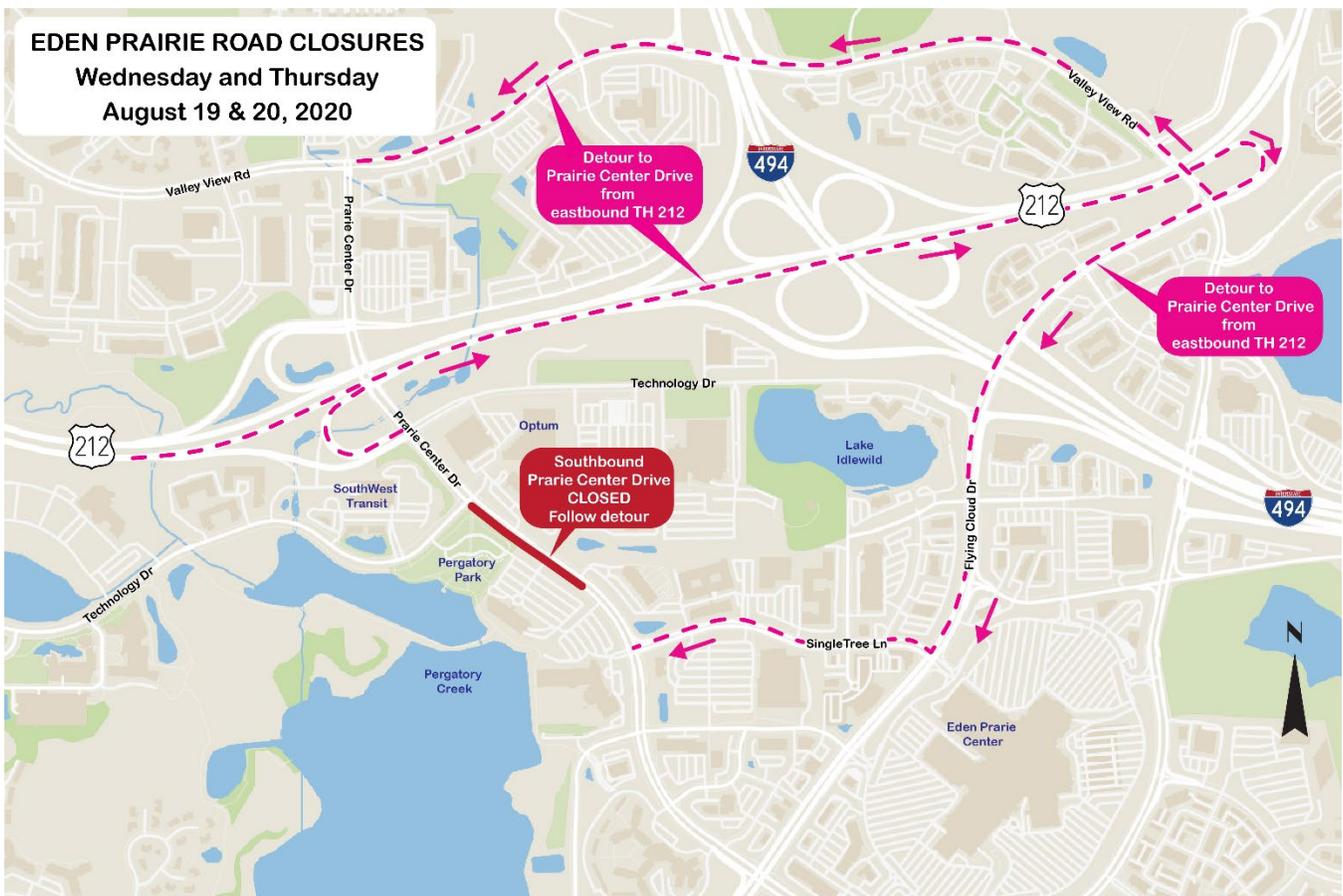
Please note, construction vehicles cross the trail as they enter and exit staging areas. Construction vehicles yield to trail users but please be aware that you may encounter construction traffic in this area.

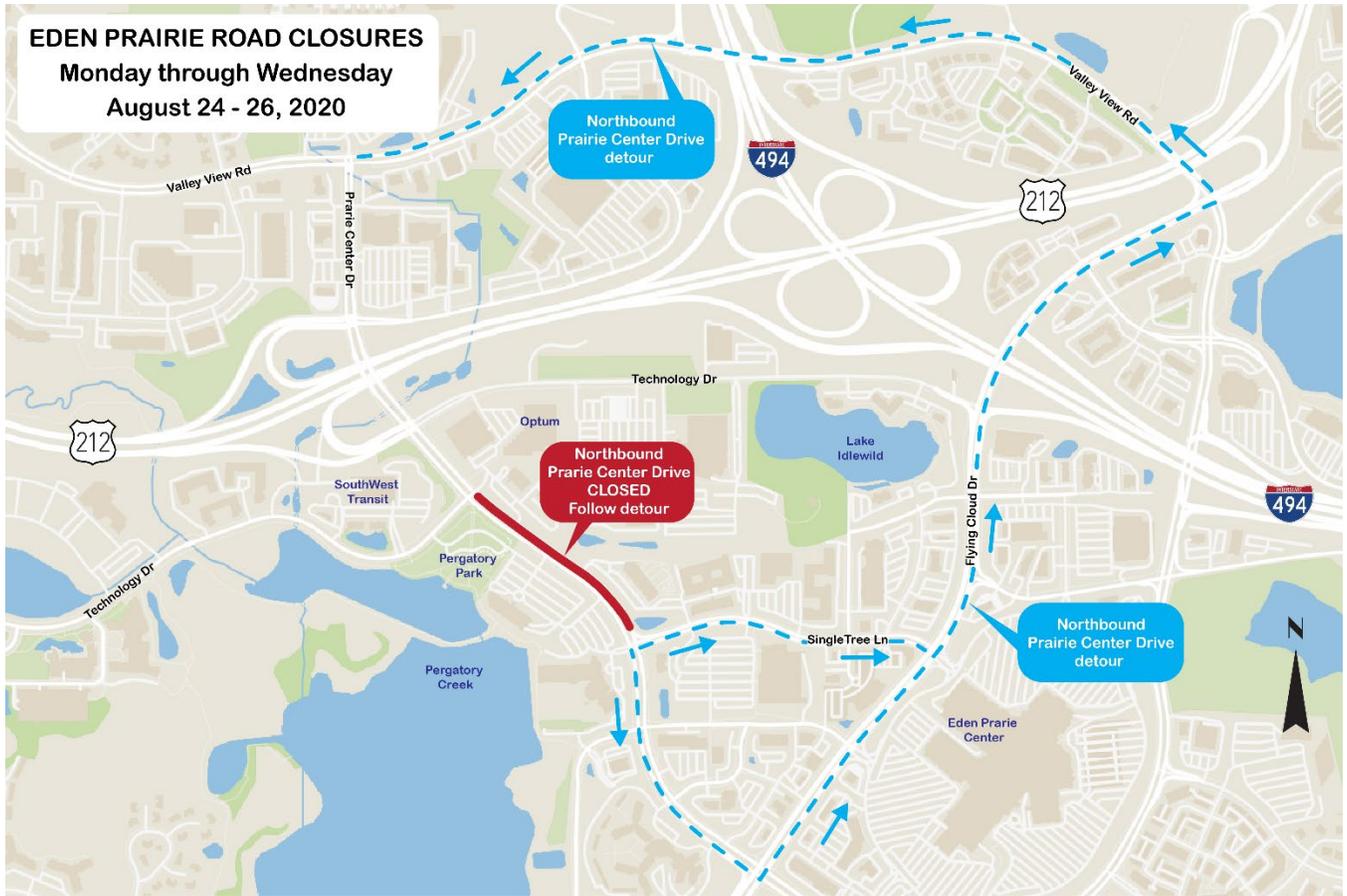
The Cedar Lake Trail by Highway 394 and Linden Yards is detoured to Kenwood Parkway into August. The connection to the Luce Line Trail will remain open, accessible via the connection under I-394 by Spring Lake. **See trail detour maps [here](#).** Crews are conducting utility work in the area.

### SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



## Upcoming Prairie Center Drive Bridge Beams in Eden Prairie

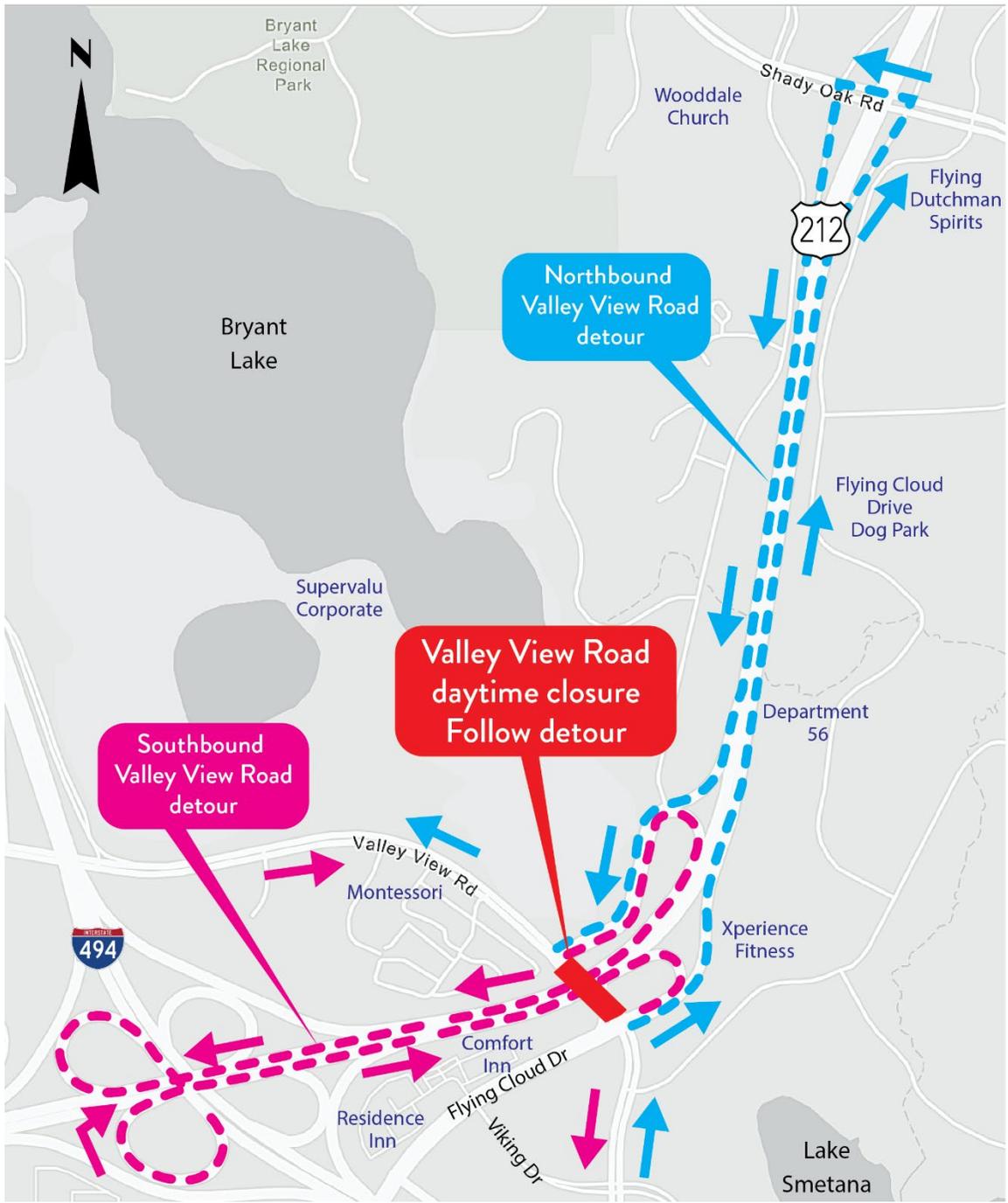




### Flying Cloud Drive Detours in Eden Prairie



## Valley View

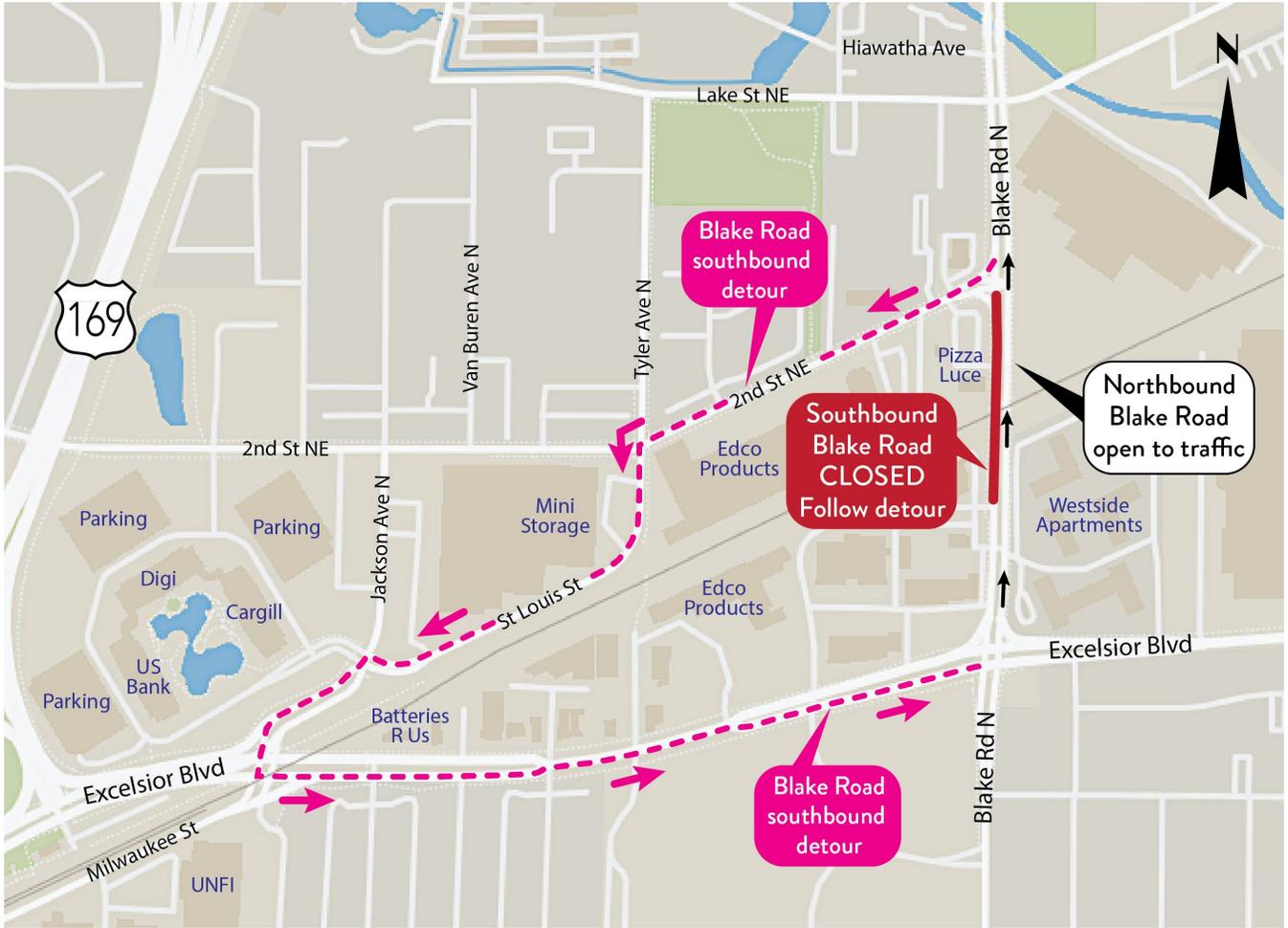


**Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles**



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

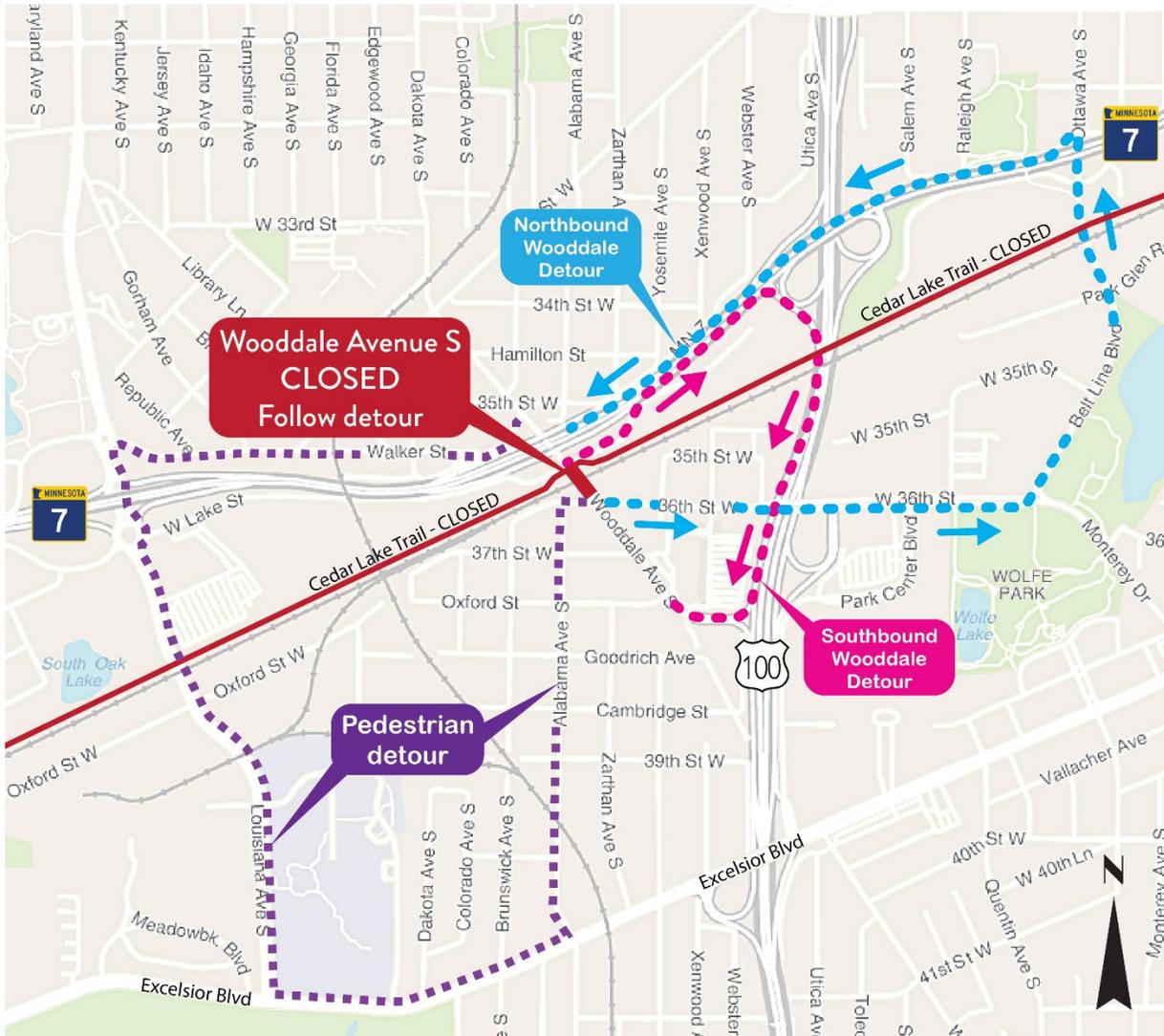




**Burnham Road in Minneapolis**



**Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park**



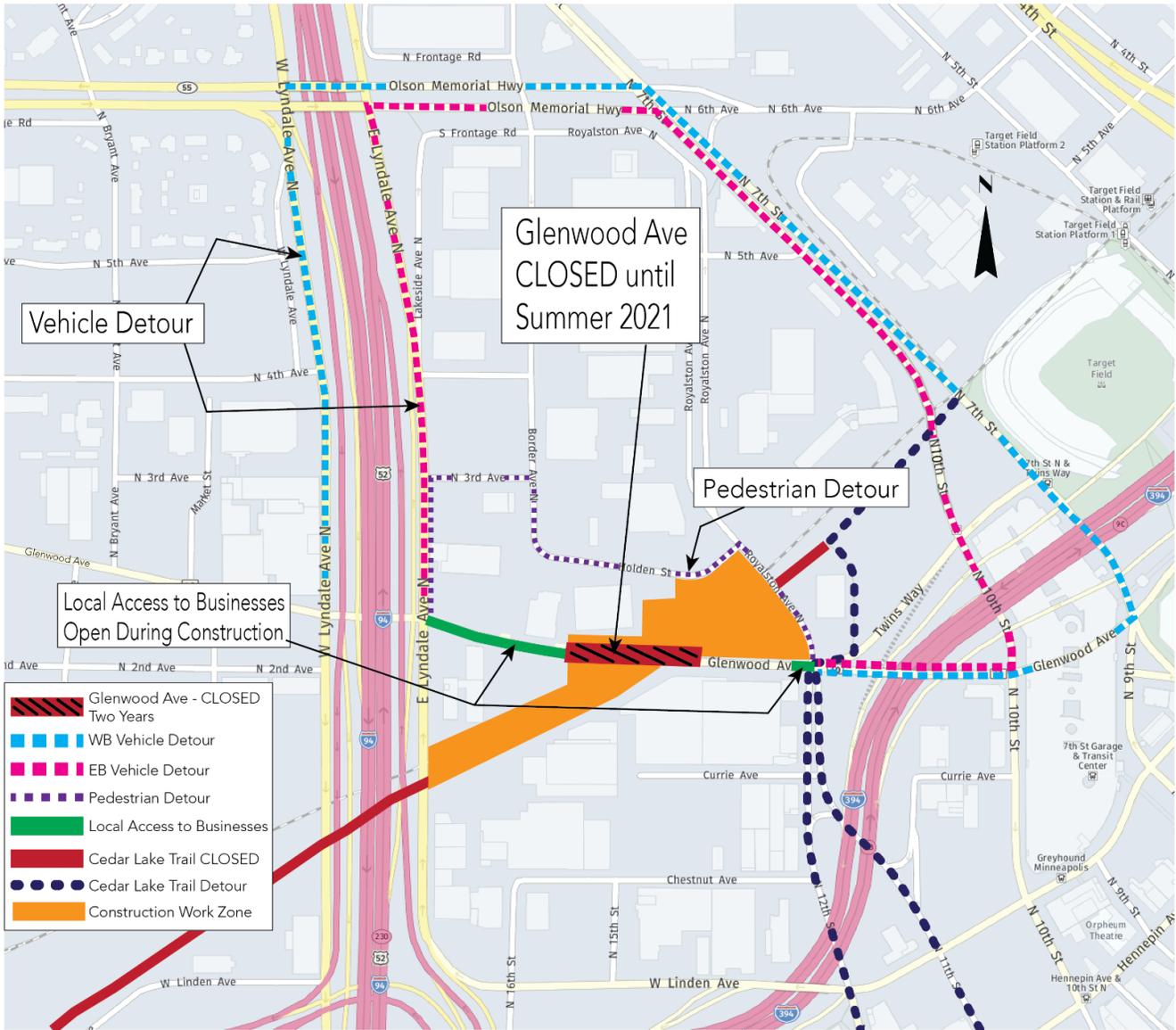
Upcoming: Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park



Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



**Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis**



# Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

