



**Construction Update: July 23, 2021**

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

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

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

### **Systems Work Underway**

Southwest LRT will need systems equipment to help with communications and power. Before these elements are placed along the Southwest LRT project, teams work to fabricate and test the equipment. The Southwest Project Office reached a major milestone last week as crews installed the first Traction Power Substation (TPSS) on the project. There are 19 more to install. TPSS facilities help convert power to run the light rail vehicles.

### **Weekly Construction Photo: System Signal House Testing**



**Time-lapse video of the installation of a Traction Power Substation (TPSS)**



Crews place the TPSS into position, which had been fabricated off site. As the day progresses you can see crews plan, inspect, and install the TPSS.

[Eden Prairie](#)

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



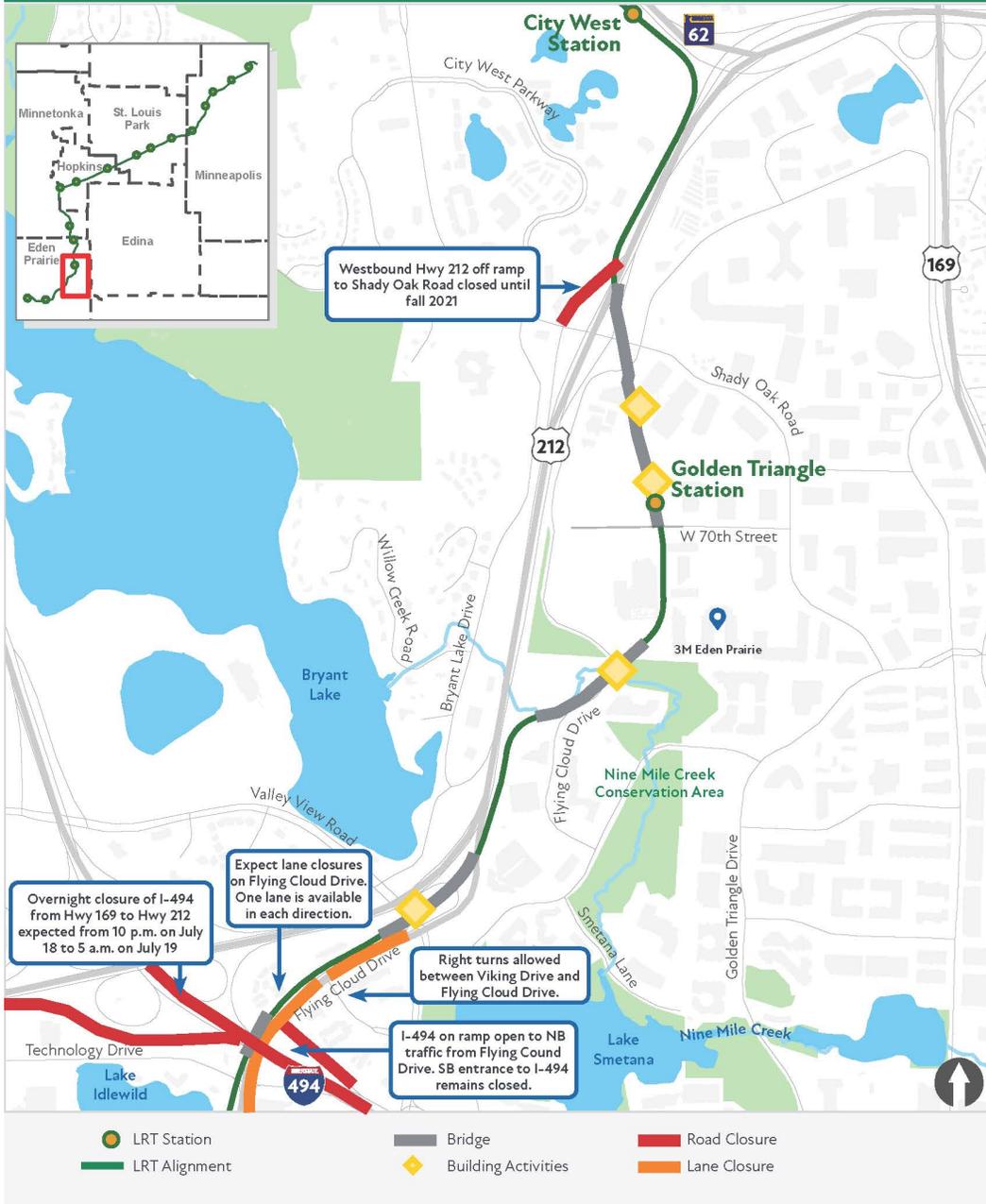
### SouthWest Station to Eden Prairie Town Center Station

*Construction Overview:* At the SouthWest Station we are constructing a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and a combined bus and LRT station. Moving east, the Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge extends from the SouthWest Station area over Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive. Moving east, LRT will enter the Eden Prairie Town Center Station area.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- On Prairie Center Drive, from Technology Drive to Singletree Lane, expect southbound and northbound lane closures through July as crews advance work on the Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge. Crews are working on finishing details and laying tracks.

### Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2



### LRT Bridge at I-494 to Shady Oak Road

**Construction Overview:** In this portion of Eden Prairie, an LRT bridge will cross over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive; this bridge is almost complete. Flying Cloud Drive is being reconstructed and LRT track installed. LRT will travel on bridges over Flying Cloud Drive and Nine Mile Creek. The Golden Triangle Station is being constructed as well as an LRT bridge over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- The I-494 off-ramp to Flying Cloud Drive is closed for the 2021 construction season. The I-494 on-ramp from Flying Cloud Drive is open to northbound traffic. Traffic traveling southbound on Flying Cloud Drive will continue to follow a detour to I-494. See [Eden Prairie detour maps](#).
- Flying Cloud Drive is reduced to one lane in both directions between Town Center Place to Valley View Road through the summer as crews progress LRT infrastructure on the northern portion of the roadway. Left turns in and out of Technology Drive at the Flying Cloud Drive intersection are not allowed through the summer.
- Expect lane closures along Shady Oak Road between Flying Cloud Drive and Bryant Lake Drive the week of July 26 while crews perform bridge deck work. Eastbound Highway 212 on-ramp from Shady Oak will be closed on July 28 while bridge deck work is underway.
- The eastbound Highway 212 off-ramp to Valley View Road is closed through today, Friday, July 23.
- The westbound Highway 212 off-ramp to Shady Oak Road will remain closed into the fall.
- The overnight lane closures on Highway 212, which began on July 19, will continue. Lanes will continue to be closed every night starting at 7:00 PM until Wednesday, July 28 to advance work on the Shady Oak Road bridge.
- Crews are advancing the southern portion of the Highway 62 LRT tunnel and area retaining walls. Anticipate noise and vibration associated with installation of piling and sheeting between Highway 62 and southbound Highway 212.
- Starting the week of July 26, the Highway 62 on-ramp from Shady Oak Road will be closed through August while crews advance tunnel work. Expect lane closures along eastbound Highway 62 between Shady Oak Road and Highway 212 while tunnel work is underway. See [Eden Prairie detour maps](#).

**Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1**



### City West Station in Eden Prairie to Shady Oak Station in Hopkins

**Construction Overview:** The City West Station area continues with preparation work for retaining walls. Major elements in this segment include an LRT tunnel under Highway 62, the Opus Station, many large retaining walls, the Smetana/Feltl roadway bridges over LRT and the Hopkins/Minnetonka LRT Bridge ending at the Shady Oak Road Station.

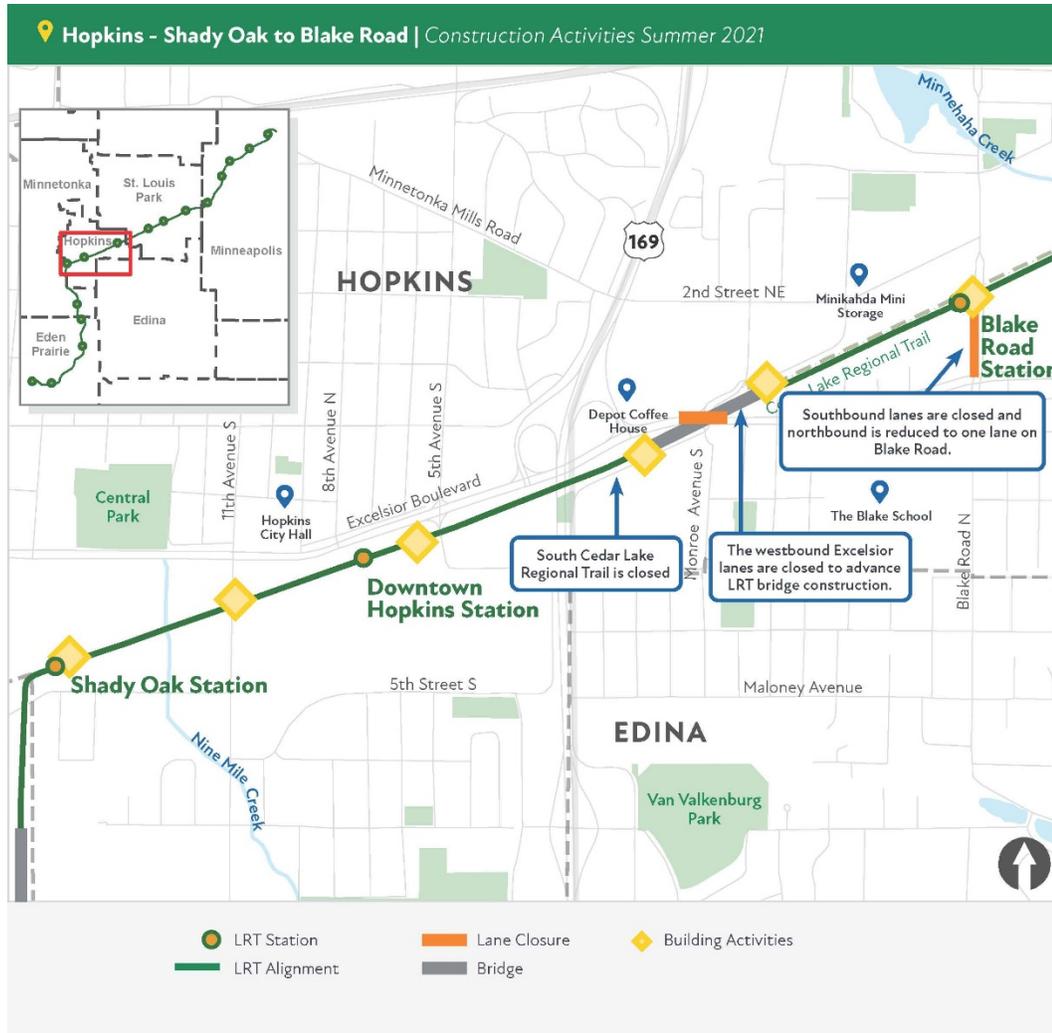
#### Current activities to expect in this area:

- The westbound lane on Green Circle Drive near the intersection with Bren Road West is closed through the 2021 construction season to complete work in the LRT corridor.
- The City of Minnetonka is closing the Blue Circle Drive bridge for construction starting Monday, August 2. This closure will impact traffic flow within the Opus area. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)
- Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive remains closed until later this summer. A bypass is in place east of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)

- Crews continue to work on the Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge. Expect noise from piling as bridge piers are constructed.

## Hopkins

### Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1



### Shady Oak Road Station to Blake Road Station

*Construction Overview:* There are three stations in Hopkins: Shady Oak Road, Downtown Hopkins and Blake Road. Major structures in Hopkins include an LRT bridge over Excelsior and a regional trail underpass at Blake Road. In addition to LRT track construction there is also freight rail and regional trail work in the area. There are multiple LRT and freight railroad crossings at roadways.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- Westbound Excelsior Boulevard is closed at Jackson Avenue. Traffic will remain detoured while crews advance the construction of the cantilevered LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. [See Hopkins detour maps.](#)
- Expect intermittent right lane closures for traffic travelling eastbound along Excelsior Boulevard between Highway 169 and Milwaukee Street the week of July 26. Traffic traveling eastbound along Excelsior Boulevard will not be able to turn right onto Milwaukee while the lane closure is in place.
- The construction of the regional trail underpass at Blake Road North is underway. Blake Road traffic has been reduced to one northbound lane between Excelsior Boulevard and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street N.E. while southbound Blake Road traffic is detoured at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street N.E. [See Hopkins detour maps.](#)

**St. Louis Park**

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



**Louisiana Avenue to Beltline Boulevard**

*Construction Overview:* Like in Hopkins, the project includes the construction of LRT track, freight rail track, and the regional trail. There are also three stations in St. Louis Park: Louisiana Avenue, Wooddale Avenue and

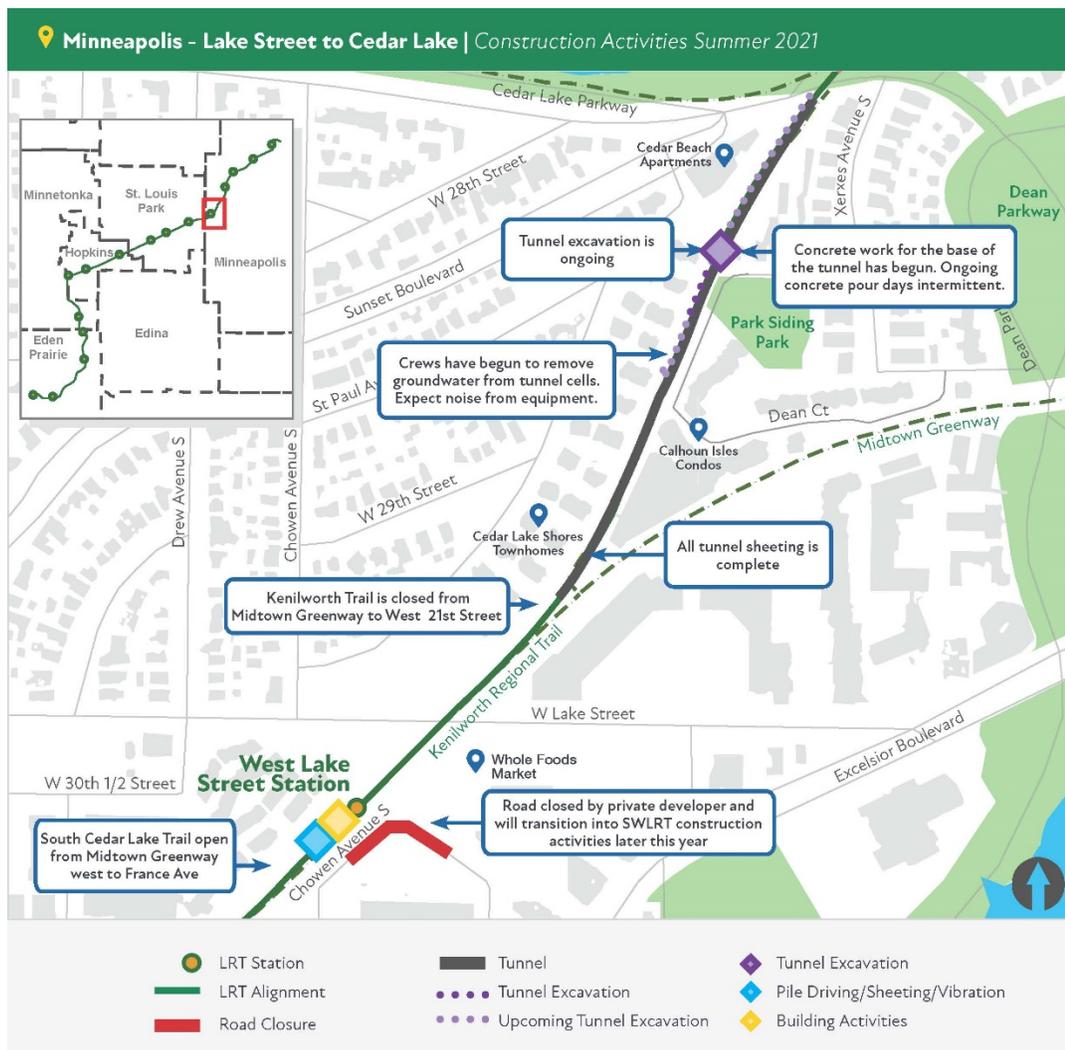
Beltline Boulevard. Structures in this area include LRT and freight rail bridges over Louisiana Avenue, a connection between freight lines, a pedestrian/trail underpass east of Louisiana Avenue, freight, LRT and trail bridges over Minnehaha Creek, a regional trail underpass at Wooddale Avenue, freight, LRT and trail bridges over Highway 100 and a regional trail bridge crossing over Beltline Boulevard.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- Expect lane closures through summer along Louisiana Avenue between West Lake Street and Oxford Street while crews advance bridge construction. Piling operations are expected.
- At Beltline Boulevard, expect intermittent northbound lane closures the week of July 26 while crews install new freight rail signals. Crews have also begun new roadway construction to provide access to the future Beltline Station Park-and-Ride.

Minneapolis

**Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5**



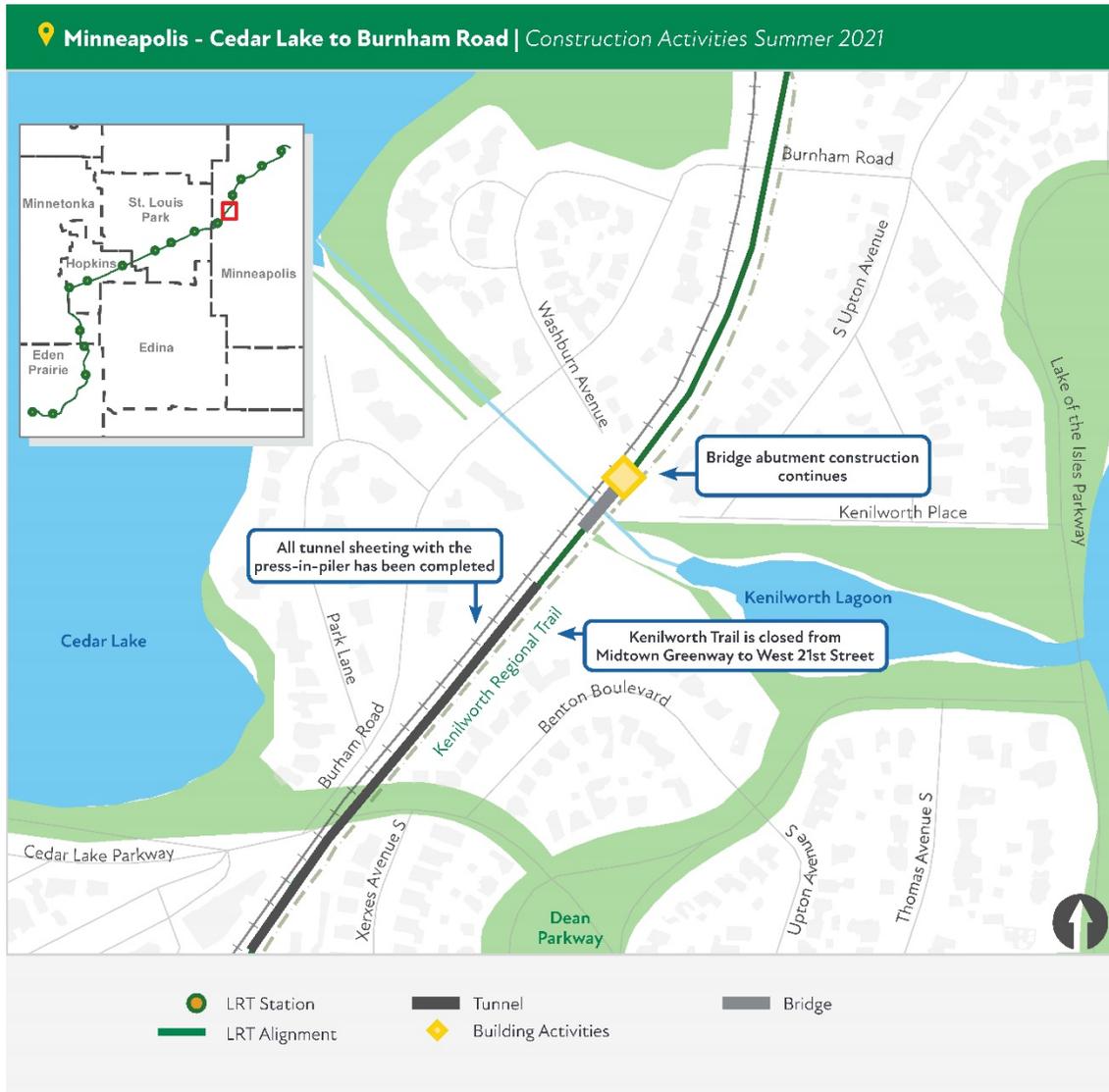
## **Chowen Avenue to Cedar Lake Parkway**

*Construction Overview:* In addition to the West Lake Street Station, crews will be reconstructing the Chowen/Abbott roadway connection. The LRT tunnel is being constructed in this area, running between the West Lake Street Station and the Cedar Lake Channel. To complete work in this area there is also freight rail infrastructure and trail facilities.

### *Current activities to expect in this area:*

- Private development work is occurring next to Southwest LRT construction along Abbott and Chowen Avenues. They are conducting utility work and have closed the roadway. The closure will then transition to accommodate Southwest LRT construction activities. Trail access remains open through this area.
- Preparation work for excavation near the Cedar Isles Condominiums continues through summer. Expect noise from equipment such as vacuum trucks and excavators as crews conduct these activities.
- Excavation activities continue for the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel, progressing in the direction of Cedar Lake Parkway. In addition to soil removal, these activities include power washing and water management. Expect to hear generators for water management activities.
- Various concrete activities continue at the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel. Expect concrete truck traffic to and from the site. Loud noise can result from some concrete application techniques and drilling activities.
- The Southwest LRT Project is preparing to use segments of Sunset Boulevard, Depot Street, France Avenue and Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis as an additional haul route for the construction of the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel. We anticipate crews using this haul route later in August.
- Excavation at Depot Street for pipe installation under the freight rail tracks will occur as early as next Monday, July 26. Hoses will be run through the pipe to pump concrete for tunnel construction activities. Expect loud noise and intermittent vibration from excavators installing support-of-excavation.

## Minneapolis Construction: Map 2 of 5



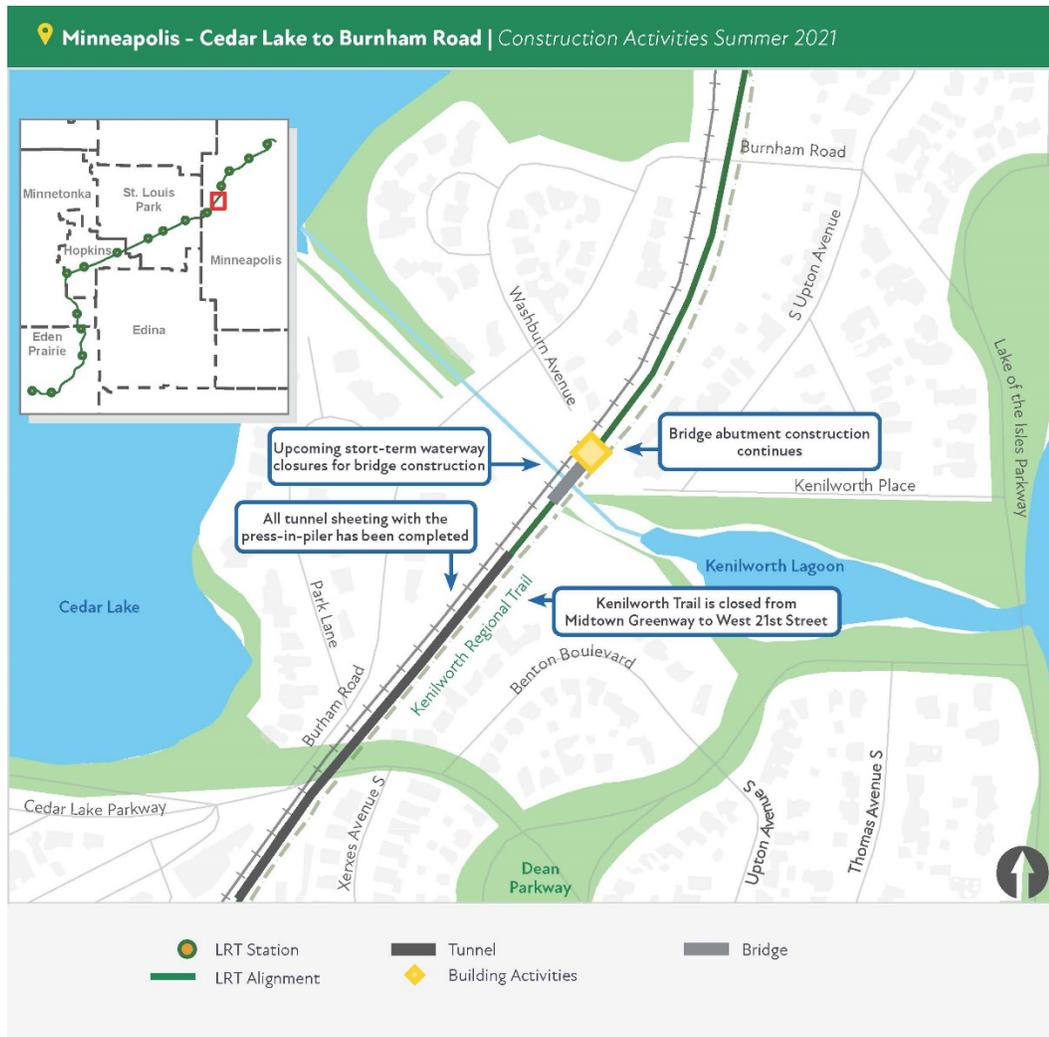
### Cedar Lake Parkway to Burnham Road

**Construction Overview:** The LRT tunnel continues in this segment. Other elements include the construction of retaining walls (complete), and freight, LRT and trail bridges over the Cedar Lake Channel.

**Current activities to expect in this area:**

- The Cedar Lake Channel is expected to close on Monday, July 26 for about one week. Crews will be drive piles to erect temporary structures to advance bridge construction over the channel. The Channel will reopen for the weekend to recreational traffic.

## Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5



### Burnham Road to Bryn Mawr Station

**Construction Overview:** In addition to the LRT, freight rail and trail construction, this area has two stations: West 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Bryn Mawr. The Bryn Mawr Station includes a pedestrian bridge that will extend over the freight tracks from the bluffs to the station platform.

*Current activities to expect in this area:*

- Truck traffic and noise from moving materials to and from laydown areas.
- Work on the 21st Street Station is ongoing. The West 21st Street Station will be under construction throughout 2021.

## Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5



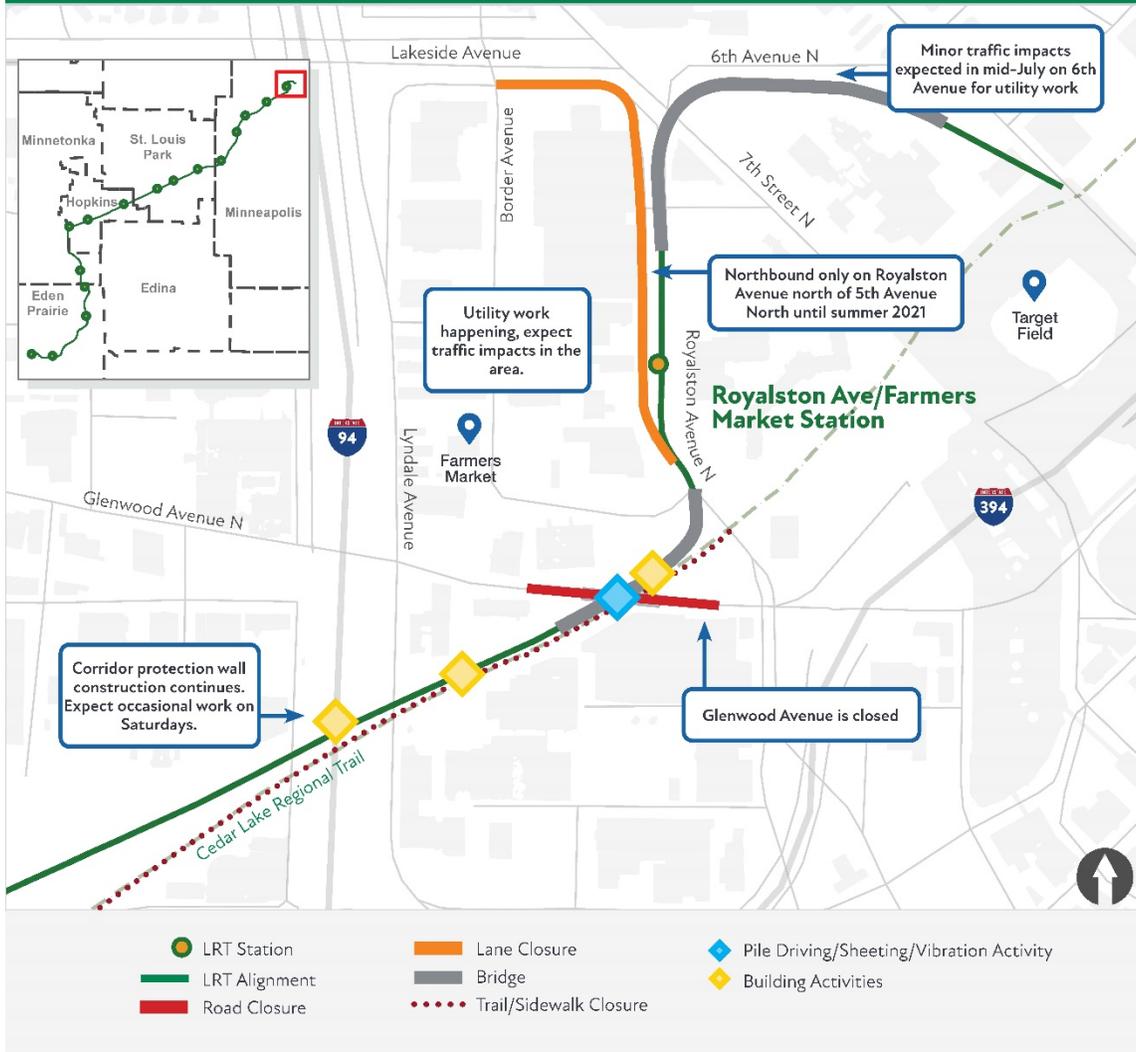
### Bryn Mawr Station to Bassett Creek Valley Station Area

**Construction Overview:** There are two stations serving residents in this area; Bryn Mawr Station and the Bassett Creek Valley Station. In addition, area construction includes LRT track, trails and the corridor protection wall.

**Current activities to expect in this area:**

- Pile driving near Van White Boulevard for the new Luce Line Trail bridge is paused until the old bridge is demolished to make way for new bridge construction. Demolition is anticipated in late July or August.

### Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5



### Glenwood Avenue to Target Field Station

**Construction Overview:** LRT will cross a new Glenwood Avenue bridge at the roadway grade. To make that happen three bridges need to be constructed, freight rail shifted, and extensive retaining walls built. 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 LRT connecting to the Target Field Station. The Holden/Royalston/Border roadway loop will also be reconstructed with improvements.

#### Current activities to expect in this area:

- Construction activities to advance the LRT bridge at Glenwood Avenue continues. High-vibration sheeting installation and pile-driving will be ongoing in this area for most of the summer.

- Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and North 12<sup>th</sup> Street remains closed. [See detour map.](#)
- Crews continue to build a corridor protection wall between Glenwood Avenue and I-94, including work on Saturdays.
- Bridge pier work near 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues is set to resume next week. This work entails high-vibration activities for sheeting installation and pile driving. This work is expected to continue through the construction season. Construction activities to advance the Glenwood Avenue LRT bridge continues. High-vibration sheeting installation and pile-driving will be ongoing in this area for most of the summer.
- Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and North 12<sup>th</sup> Street remains closed. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#)
- Crews continue to build a corridor protection wall between Glenwood Avenue and I-94, including work on Saturdays.
- Bridge pier work near 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues has resumed. This work entails high-vibration activities for sheeting installation and pile driving. This work is expected to continue through the construction season.

## Regional Trails

### Opus Area in Minnetonka

- Various trails within the Opus area are closed as crews work to advance many project elements.

### 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 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South is closed due to storm sewer construction activities. This portion of the trail is closed until 2022.
- The section between 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South is closed until 2022.

### 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 2022. 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. [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. We are currently assessing the tunnel schedule which impacts the opening of this trail segment and we will provide an update when the schedule is known. 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

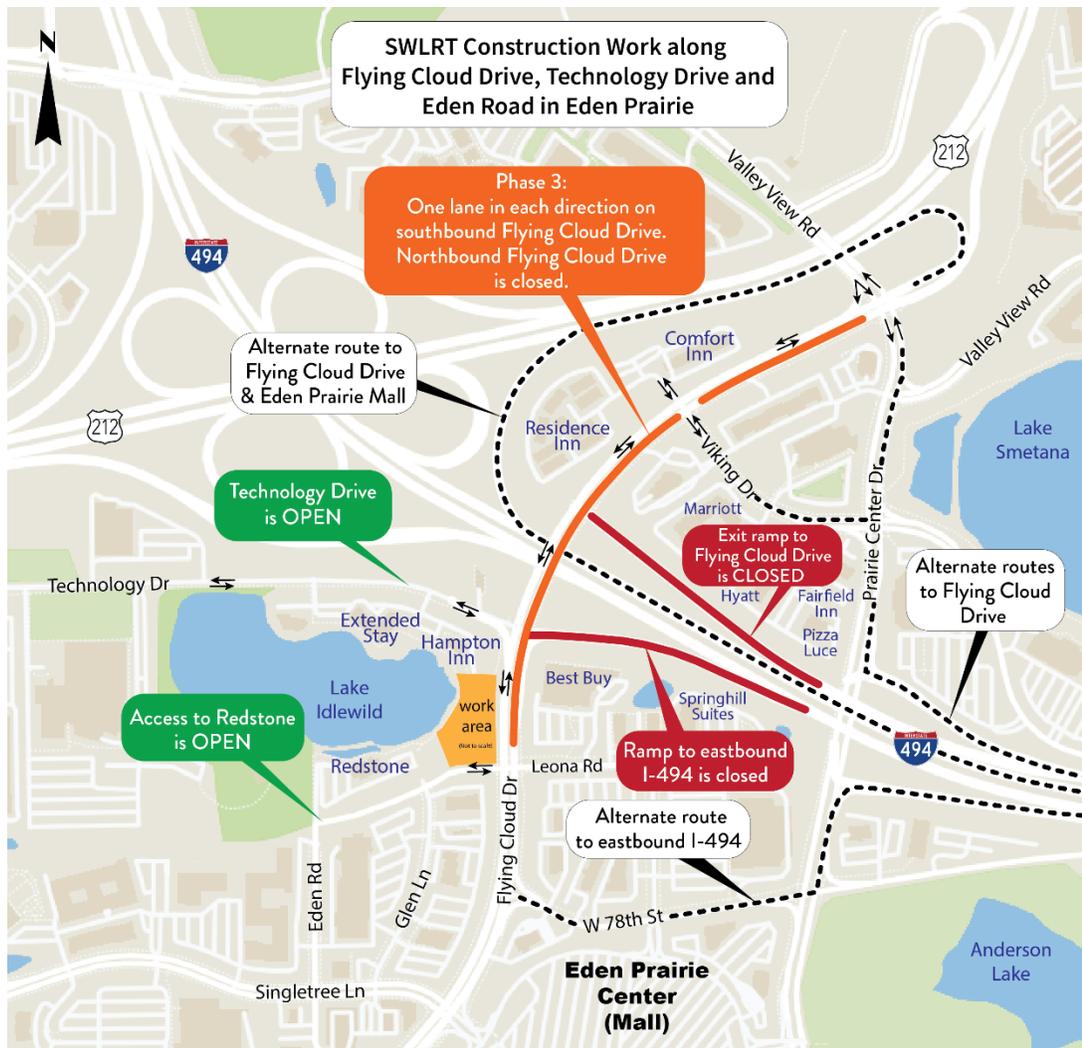
The North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is now anticipated to be closed until 2022. [See detour maps here.](#)

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.

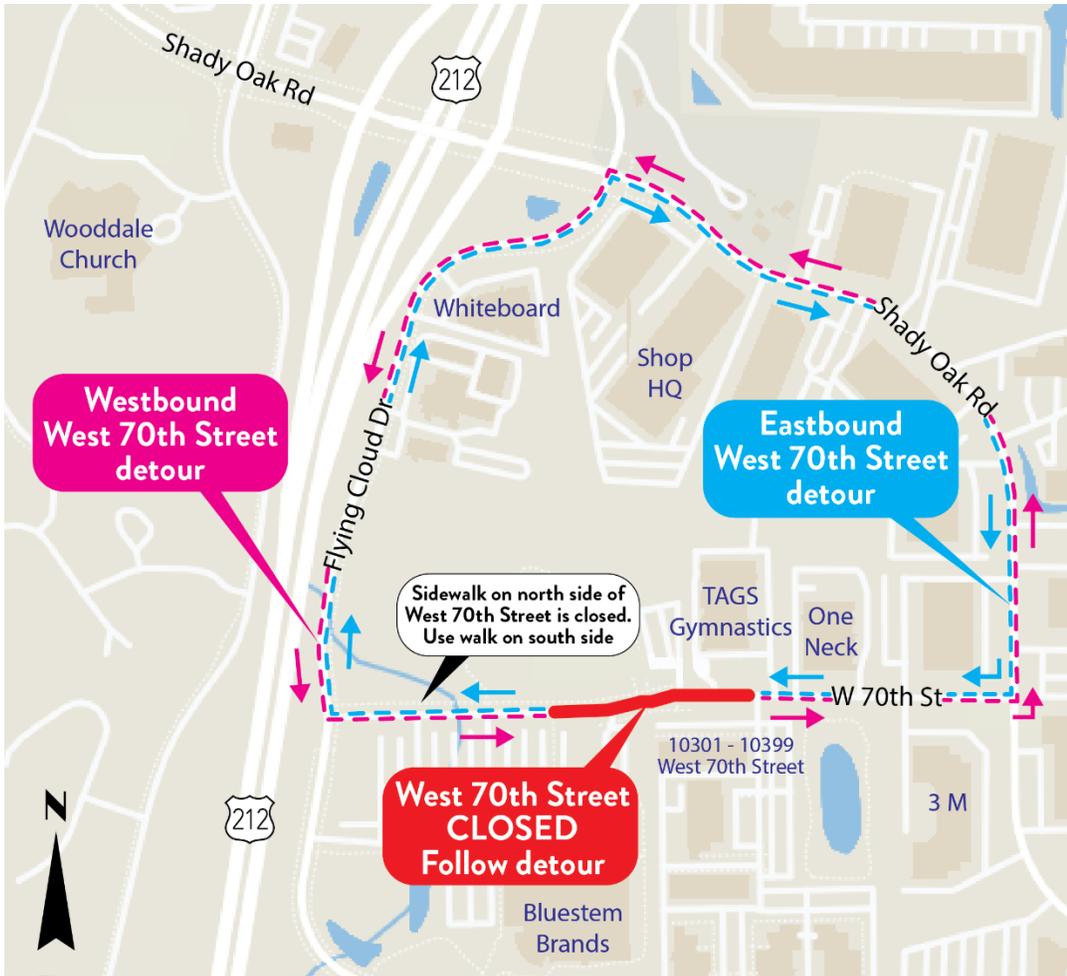
### SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



# Flying Cloud Drive & Highway 494 Ramps in Eden Prairie



### Upcoming West 70<sup>th</sup> Street in Eden Prairie



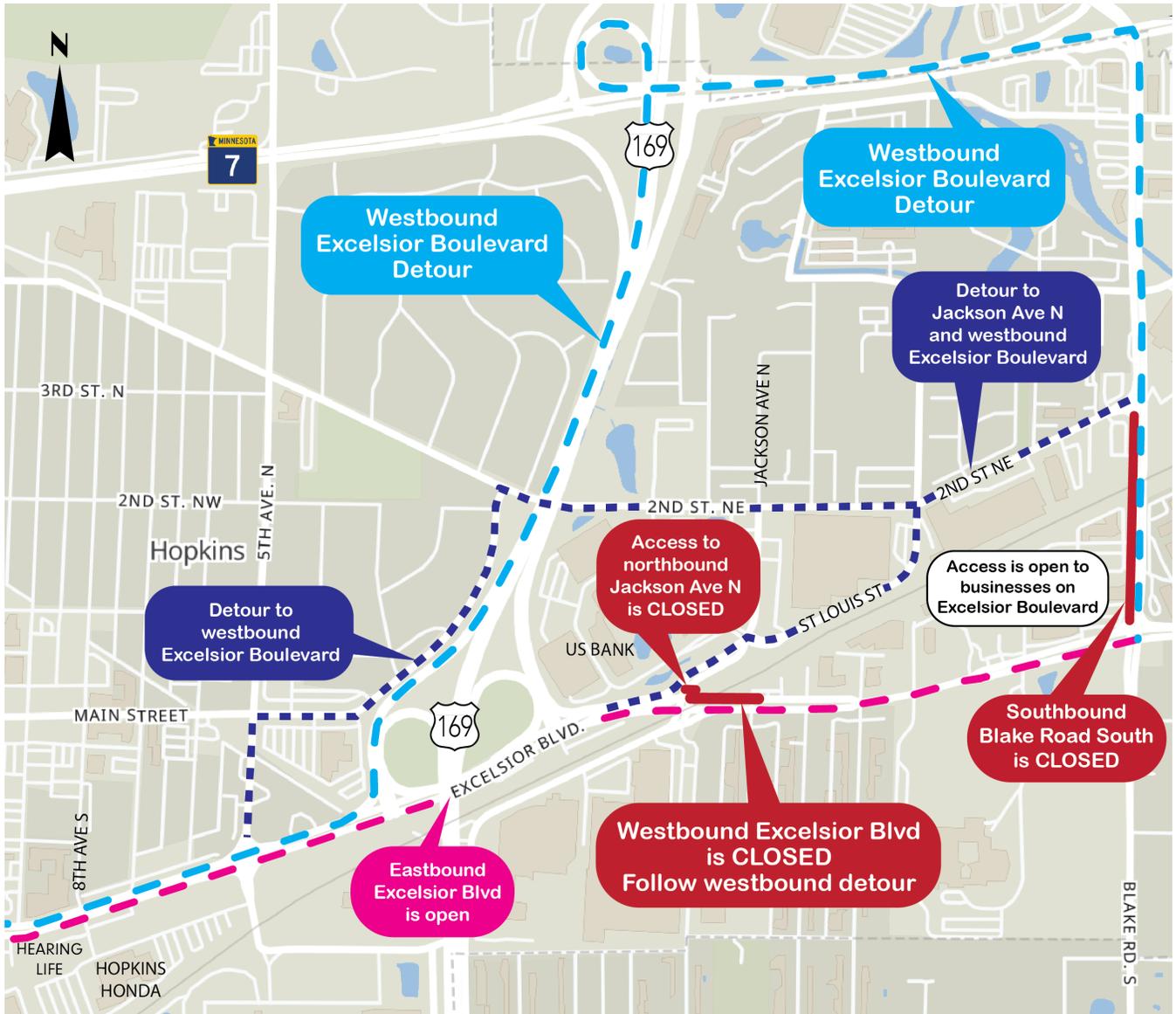
### Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Red and Yellow Circles



Smetana Road in Minnetonka



# Blake Road in Hopkins





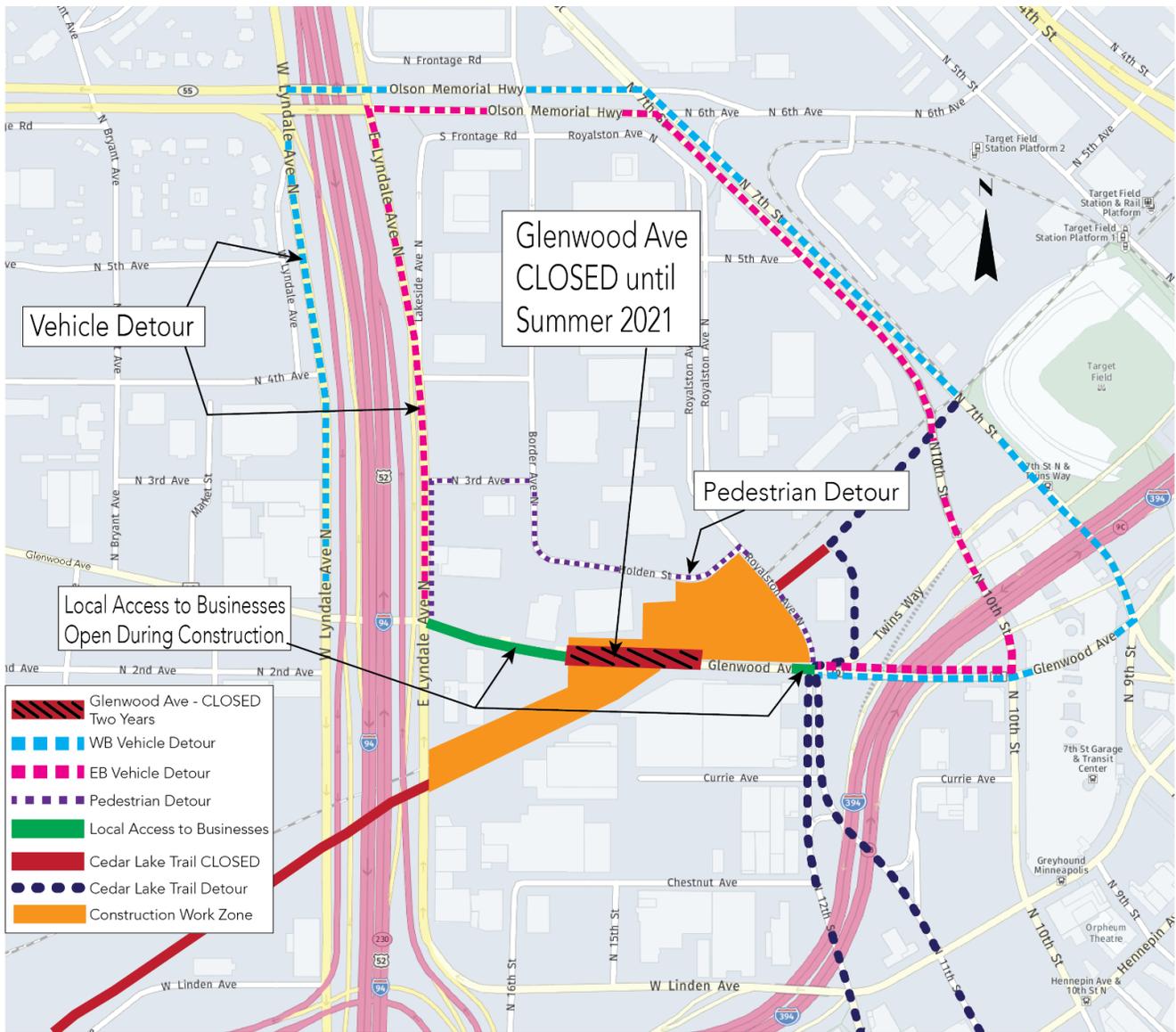
# CEDAR LAKE REGIONAL TRAIL

## TEMPORARY ALIGNMENT

MORE DETAILS: [SWLRT.ORG](http://SWLRT.ORG)



# Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



# Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

