

**Construction Update: May 8, 2020**

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

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

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

### **Social Distancing Protocols on Site**

While working on site, when possible, workers practice social distancing. When workers are in the public realm, gather for meetings/discussions, or when traveling in vehicles together, face coverings are part of the standard safety protocol. Met Council and contractor staff continue to emphasize this practice during daily safety briefings at each construction site.

### **Weekly Construction Photo: Light Rail Vehicles in Production at Siemens' Plant in California**



Metro Transit's signature blue and yellow vehicles stand out at the Siemens' production facility in Sacramento, California. These new LRV's will begin arriving in Minnesota later this year. In fact, a few will be beginning their voyage via freight rail to Minnesota soon. These vehicles require a long "breaking-in" period before they begin revenue service. They will be tested on existing light rail lines while the Southwest corridor is under construction and right up to opening day.

## Eden Prairie Highlights

- In the SouthWest Station area, construction activities are intensifying on the western portion of the site as crews advance the next phase of station construction which includes utility work, retaining walls, and piling. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area.
- The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge is advancing quickly with work continuing north of SouthWest Station, near Purgatory Creek Park and across to Prairie Center Drive. Temporary access for pedestrians around the work site will be provided as crews begin work on the eastern portion of the roadway.
- Phase two of planned traffic changes is beginning 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 is currently closed. Eden Road at Flying Cloud Drive is anticipated to close in late May. These intersections will remain closed until July of 2020. **See Eden Prairie detour maps [here](#).**
- The bridge beams for the LRT bridge over Valley View Road and the Highway 212 ramp have been set. The roadway has reopened, and these impressive structures are visible to the public. Crews will continue to advance bridge deck work in the coming months.

*Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Eden Prairie](#).*

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## Minnetonka Highlights

- The Highway 62 tunnel continues to advance as crews work on the base of the tunnel, with walls starting to take shape over the next month. Roadway detours remain in place for the duration of this work, which is anticipated to extend through fall of 2020. **See Minnetonka detour maps [here](#).**
- Utility work is ongoing around the Opus Station and later in May, station foundations will be constructed.
- Retaining wall work from Bren Road West to Smetana Road is ongoing in various phases of completion. Beginning this month, crews will install piles for the retaining walls. The piles are installed by first drilling a shaft, filling that shaft with concrete and pushing an H-shaped pile into the concrete. This activity is noisy with some vibration.
- In the Smetana Road area, expect earthwork as crews begin preparation work for the LRT track grade and associated bridge and retaining wall work. Piling driving will begin in late May.

*Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Minnetonka](#).*

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## Hopkins Highlights

- Work on Minnetonka/Hopkins LRT bridge continues. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area. Crews are working on the north section of the bridge and will progress south.
- Work on the Shady Oak Station is progressing. Crews are bringing utilities to the station site. In the next month, the base shape of the station as well as some of the park and ride elements will start to become discernable.
- Work is underway at the future LRT track crossing at 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The roadway has been reduced to one lane in each direction and crews have begun removal of pavement and construction on the east side of the roadway.
- The southbound lane of Blake Road is closed for the next four months. Traffic is still permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrian access is maintained on the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. **See Hopkins detour maps [here](#)**. Expect sheet pile driving, excavation and concrete work in the area. Crews are working on retaining walls and advancing the trail underpass through the roadway.

*Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Hopkins](#).*

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## St. Louis Park Highlights

- Earthwork continues along most of the alignment in St. Louis Park as crews prepare the area for the permanent location of freight rail in the corridor.
- Bridge beams were set last week over Minnehaha Creek. Deck work will be ongoing in the coming weeks.
- The closure of Wooddale Avenue remains in place through the month of May. **See St. Louis Park detour maps [here](#)**. Crews are beginning to build the underpass in the roadway. Later in May, the northwest corner service road will be closed for a few days. We will provide notice as the closure nears.
- The southbound ramp from Highway 7 to Highway 100 ramp closure will be Saturday, May 9 between 7:00 am and 3:00 pm. Crews will use that time to pour the west abutment for the freight bridge.

*Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [St. Louis Park](#).*

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## Minneapolis Highlights

- Utility work on Depot Street is ongoing. The 28<sup>th</sup> Street/Dean Court intersection will close on Monday, May 11.
- On Monday, May 11 sheeting for the tunnel and storm sewer repair will require a day closure of the sidewalk on the south side of Cedar Lake Parkway in the immediate vicinity of the project. Pedestrians will still have access on the north side of Cedar Lake Parkway.

- Preparation for freight rail tracks to shift north by the Cedar Lake Channel is underway. Both bridge and track base work has advanced. The official shift is expected to take place in about a month.
- Both the surcharge at 21<sup>st</sup> Street and near the future Bryn Mawr Station continue in a settlement period into the summer. The contractor continues to monitor settlement progress and may periodically add more soil to achieve the desired settlement at periodic intervals. This work will be done on an as-needed basis.
- In the next week or two, 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](#).**
- Progress is being made both on the 5/7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Glenwood bridges. Area retaining walls are starting to take shape. Expect the continuation of ongoing activity in this area.

Visit our website for more details on construction activities in [Minneapolis](#).

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**[Trail Detours:](#)** Minnesota River Bluffs, South Cedar Lake Parkway, Kenilworth, Cedar Lake Trail

**[Eden Prairie Sidewalk and Roadway Detours:](#)** Southwest Station, Technology/Eden/I-494 and Flying Cloud Drive Intersection

**[Minnetonka Roadway Detours:](#)** Opus area: Yellow Circle, Red Circle (ongoing and upcoming), Bren Road, Smetana Road

**[Hopkins Detours:](#)** Blake Road

**[St. Louis Park Detours:](#)** Wooddale Avenue, (Highway 7 Service Road, upcoming)

**[Minneapolis Roadway Detours:](#)** Glenwood Avenue, Royalston Avenue



**Construction Website Update: May 8, 2020**

## Eden Prairie

### SouthWest Station Area

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

The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed until later this spring to accommodate the completion of retaining wall work. Removal of the temporary sheeting for the retaining wall is completed and the wall has been backfilled.

### **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 some piers and are currently working north of Parking Ramp and next to Purgatory Creek Park along Prairie Center Drive. Work has also started on the east side of the roadway near Bachman's, temporary pedestrian facilities will be in place as crews begin pier work in the area. Expect ongoing piling in the area through the summer. This includes ongoing work on Saturdays.

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

The outside southbound lane on Prairie Center Drive will intermittently close for pier work. Additional roadway lane closures will be needed later this spring as work for piers advances.

### **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 in late May and remain closed until July of 2020. Eden Prairie Town Center Station work is also anticipated to begin in the next month.

### **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.

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

Work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is shifting to bridge deck construction. The bridge beams for the LRT bridge over Valley View Road and the Highway 212 ramp have been set. The roadway has reopened, and these impressive structures are visible to the public. Crews will continue to advance bridge deck work in the coming months.

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 into the spring.

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 is beginning 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 is currently 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 around the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Expect ongoing activity 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. As work advances, there will be minor traffic impacts on the east side of the Shady Oak/Highway 212 intersection. The storm sewer work will take approximately four months. Expect pipe jacking activities in the area.

## **Minnnetonka**

### **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 fall of 2020. Crews began 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 bypass 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. Next week the southern portion of Red Circle will be changed temporarily to two-way traffic and Red Circle will become a dead ended cul-de-sac where it connects with the other Red Circle access. Yellow Circle traffic will be able to connect to the southern portion of Red Circle to travel west until the cul-de-sac closure point. Preparation work is complete for this area. **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 utilities for the station and later in May foundation work for the Opus Station will begin. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area, including much of the extent of the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl roads. Over the next weeks crews will be installing piles for retaining walls. The piles are installed by first drilling a shaft, filling that shaft with concrete and pushing an H shapes pile into the concrete. This activity is noisy with some vibration.

Bren Road West, just west of Green Circle 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. Utility work has been ongoing in this area. Bridge and track work in the area is getting underway, starting with excavation. Work will start on bridge abutments and approach walls to the bridge. Piling is expected to begin in the area in late May. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving in the area.

Currently, 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 Bridge Area**

The Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT Bridge is located east of Noland 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. Tree clearing and ground cover removal is paused for the moment but will continue at a later date. 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. 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 and will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season.

### **Shady Oak Road Station**

Building demolition and soil correction for the station is complete in the area. Utility and foundation work for the Shady Oak Station is ongoing. Foundation work for the station is anticipated to begin in late May.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Street**

Work is underway at the future LRT track crossing at 11<sup>th</sup> Street. LRT crosses this roadway just north of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 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.

### **Downtown Hopkins Station**

Work to advance the station will be ongoing as crews begin to work on plumbing and concrete elements.

### **Excelsior Boulevard Area**

Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. As piers are nearing completion, focus will shift to construction of the bridge girders.

### **Blake Road**

The project is improving bike safety in the area by building an underpass for the regional trail. Crews continue constructing the underpass on the west side of Blake Road. The southbound direction of Blake Road has closed to vehicle traffic and will remain closed for approximately four months. 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](#).**

### **St. Louis Park**

#### **Minnehaha Creek**

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges continues in this area. Bridge beams have been placed and crews will advance deck work. Throughout this area, crews also continue excavation work to remove topsoil that will allow them to build track foundation in the area.

### **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 area around the old Sam's Club 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 pedestrian/bicycle underpass. Expect sheet pile driving and excavation work. Shoring and sheet pile driving work for the southerly railroad connection, that will replace the current wye freight track, along Oxford Street will begin in the next few weeks. Clearing work and fencing is being placed in the area.

Later this spring crews will place bridge beams over the Louisiana Avenue roadway, two overnight roadway closures are anticipated in early June. An additional lane closure is also anticipated in the coming weeks.

### **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 Project. The roadway closure will last 30 days. **See St. Louis Park detour maps [here](#)**. Crews are beginning to build the underpass in the roadway. Later in May the northwest corner service road will be closed for a few days. We will provide notice as the closure nears. Crews have been setting prefabricated concrete segments for the Wooddale Avenue regional trail underpass. 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 trail bridge over the roadway. The main truss for the regional trail bridge has been set. Work on the trail bridge deck continues. After some more deck work, crews will switch their focus to building the track bed to shift freight. Major earthwork has begun in the area, extending west to Highway 100. Beltline Trail bridge work will then resume after the shift is completed.

### **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.

#### **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. On Monday, May 11 sheeting for the tunnel and storm sewer repair will require a day closure of the sidewalk on the south side of Cedar Lake Parkway in the immediate vicinity of the project. Pedestrians will still have access on the north side of Cedar Lake Parkway. Sheet pile installation for the tunnel is expected to last through summer of 2020.

Tunnel excavation is anticipated to begin late spring 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 will be relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. Dean Court will become a two-way roadway and will remain in this configuration for six to eight weeks. We anticipate the roadway reconfiguration will be implemented on May 11. Associated with this work, utility activities have started on Depot Street, crews will construct a utility receiving pit requiring temporary excavation support. A backhoe will be pushing in the support, on the sides of the excavation, which is noisy.

### **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 bridge were set in late March. Crews will focus on finishing deck details over the next couple months. 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 summer.

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

Temporary surcharge work began 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. In May earthwork will begin

for the new trail. Retaining wall work in the Penn Avenue/Wayzata Boulevard area is anticipated to begin in the next month.

### **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 in May.

### **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. 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 until 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](#).**

### **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

In the next few weeks 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**



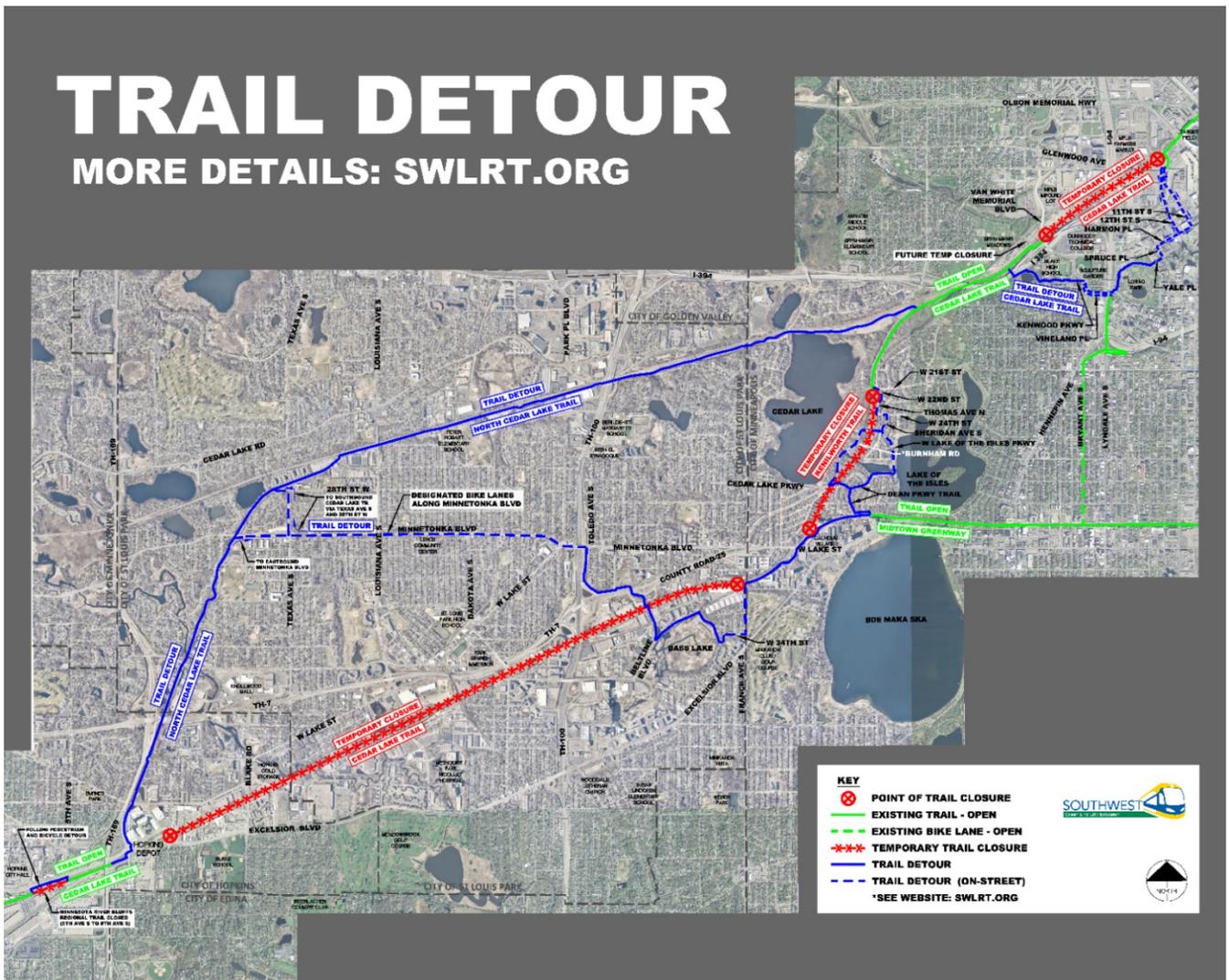
**Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles**



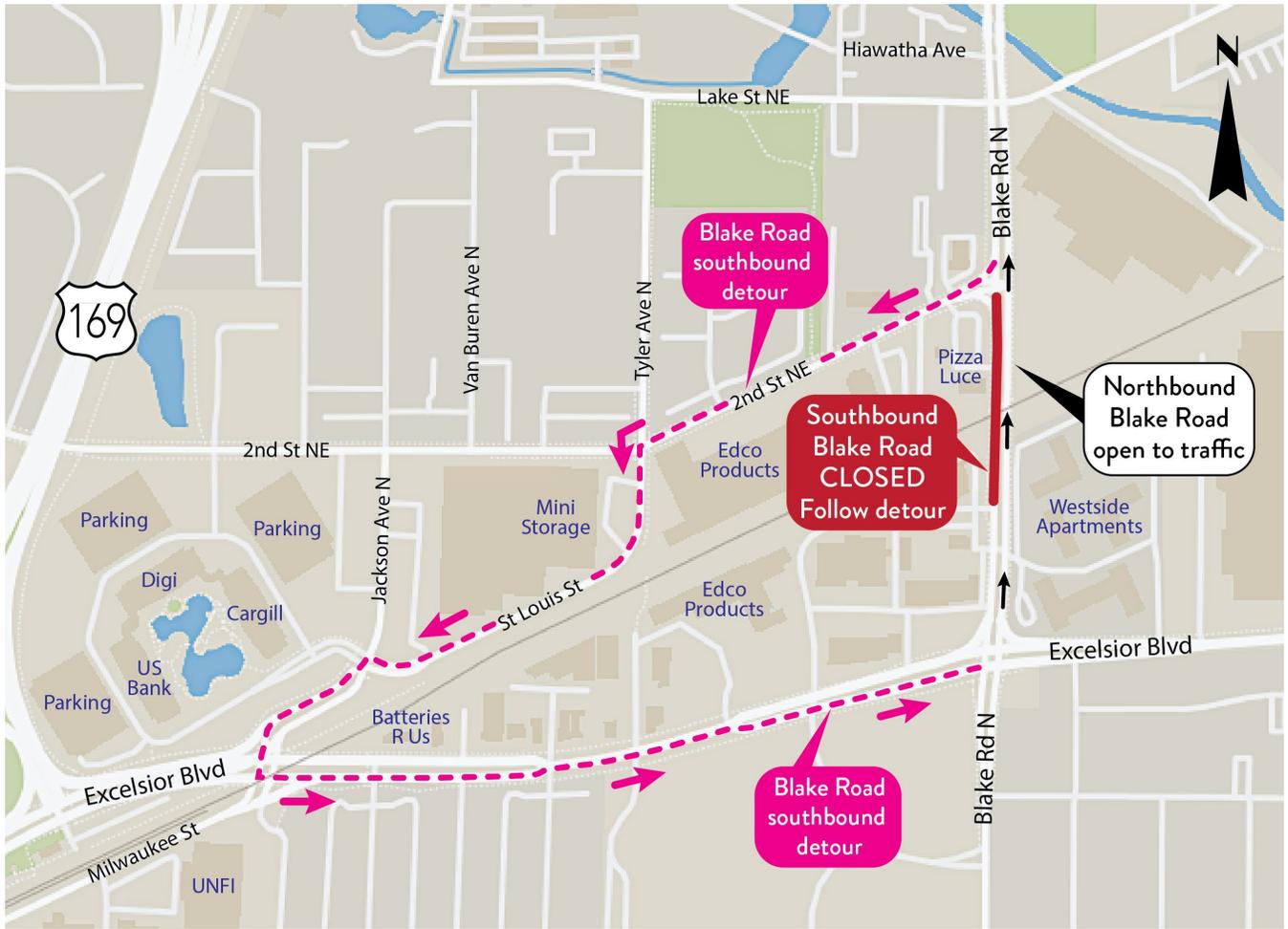
**Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour**



**Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours**



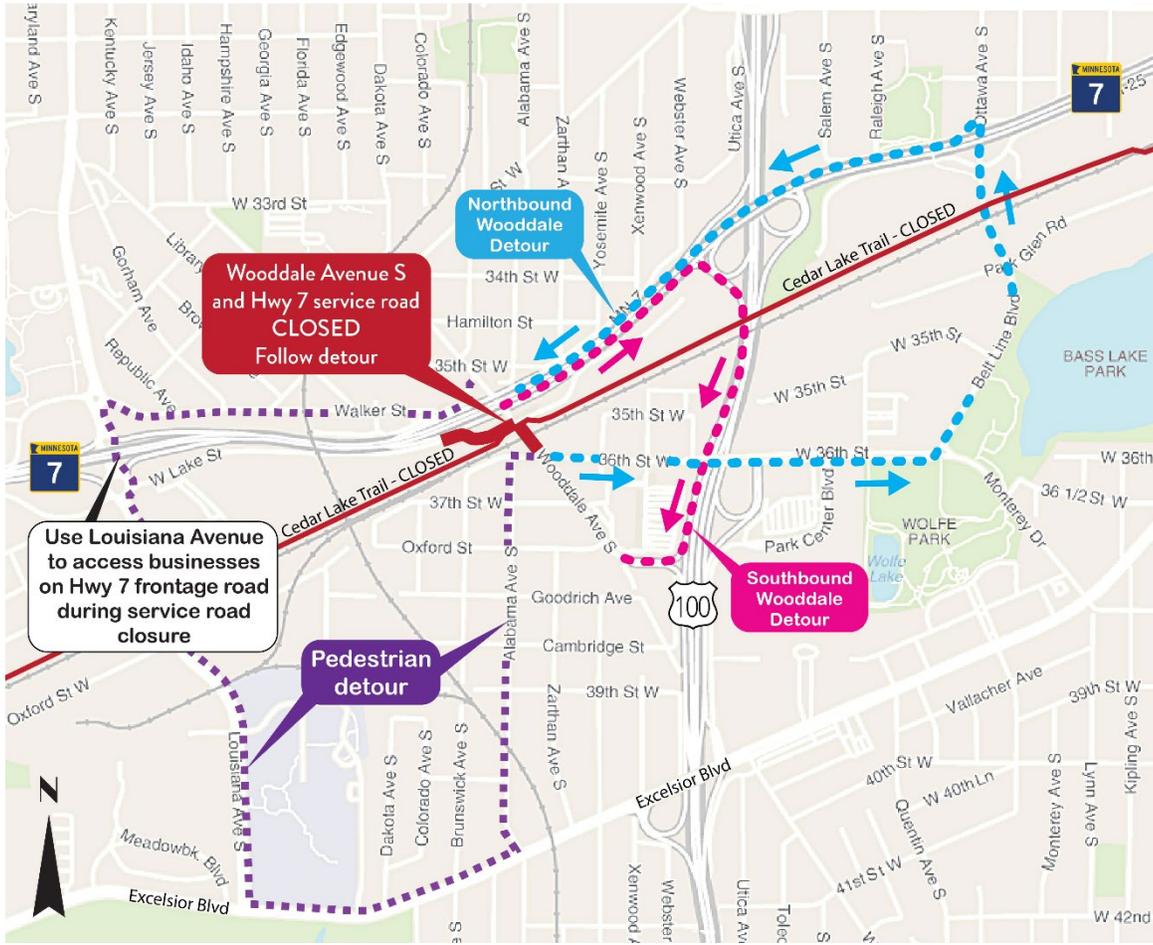
**Blake Road Detour in Hopkins**



## Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park



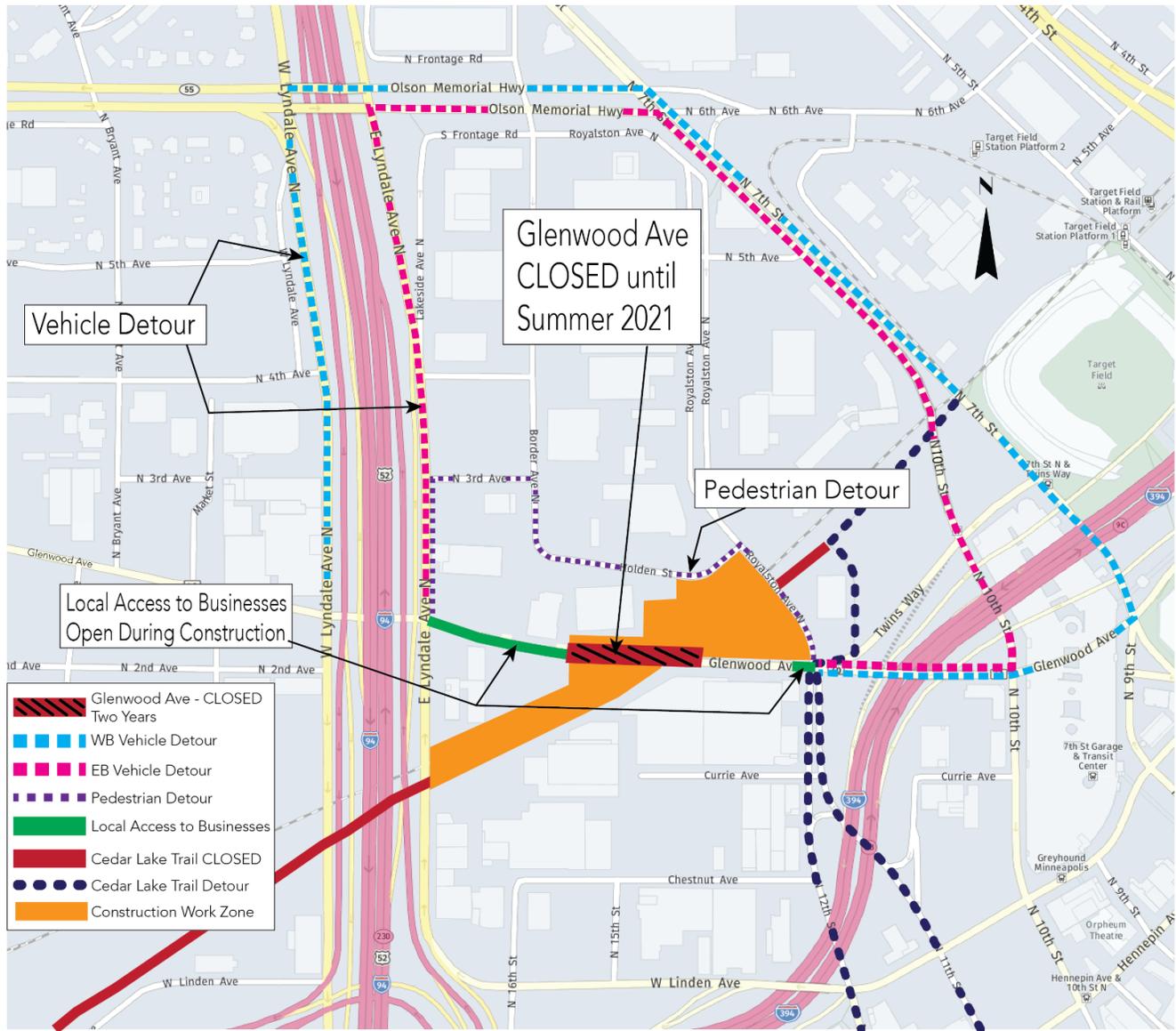
Upcoming: Highway 7 Service Road in St. Louis Park



Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



# Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



# Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

