



Construction Update: October 30, 2020

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Reflecting on 2020 Construction Milestones

During 2020 every mile of the corridor had active construction activities occurring. Particularly in Eden Prairie and Minnetonka, most of the project structures took shape including bridges, tunnels, retaining walls and LRT stations. While intense construction activities will continue into the 2021 construction season, during the height of this past construction season much was accomplished. Highlights include:

- 94% of private utility work in the project corridor has been completed.
- The LRT bridge over I-494 at Flying Cloud Drive and the Valley View Road LRT bridge in Eden Prairie are 90% complete and will be finished this year.
- The first half of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 in Minnetonka is more than 75% complete.
- The regional trail underpass at Blake Road is 50% complete with the second half getting underway in the spring.
- The Minnehaha Creek and Louisiana Avenue freight and pedestrian bridges in St. Louis Park are 95% complete.
- The Cedar Lake Channel freight rail bridge in Minneapolis is complete.

Weekly Construction Photo: Kenilworth Tunnel Excavation in Minneapolis



The construction of the Kenilworth tunnel is progressing with a cell-by-cell excavation approach, where 100 feet are excavated at a time. Once sufficient depth is reached, concrete work begins. Specialized equipment is being brought into the corridor to help with excavation.

[Eden Prairie](#)

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 1 of 2

Eden Prairie - SW Station to Eden Road | Construction Activities from October - December 2020



SouthWest Station Area

In this area crews are building a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and constructing the joint bus and LRT station. Crews are working on excavation, utilities, foundations for the structures, the bus loop and utilities. Pile driving activities will continue at the SouthWest Station through the winter into next year. Crews have made significant progress with piling, having completed those needed for the buildings' footprint. Crews are also conducting concrete work and installing supports for excavation in the area. A stationary tower crane is assisting crews with the work. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed.

Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge

The Prairie Center Drive LRT bridge begins by the SouthWestStation, 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

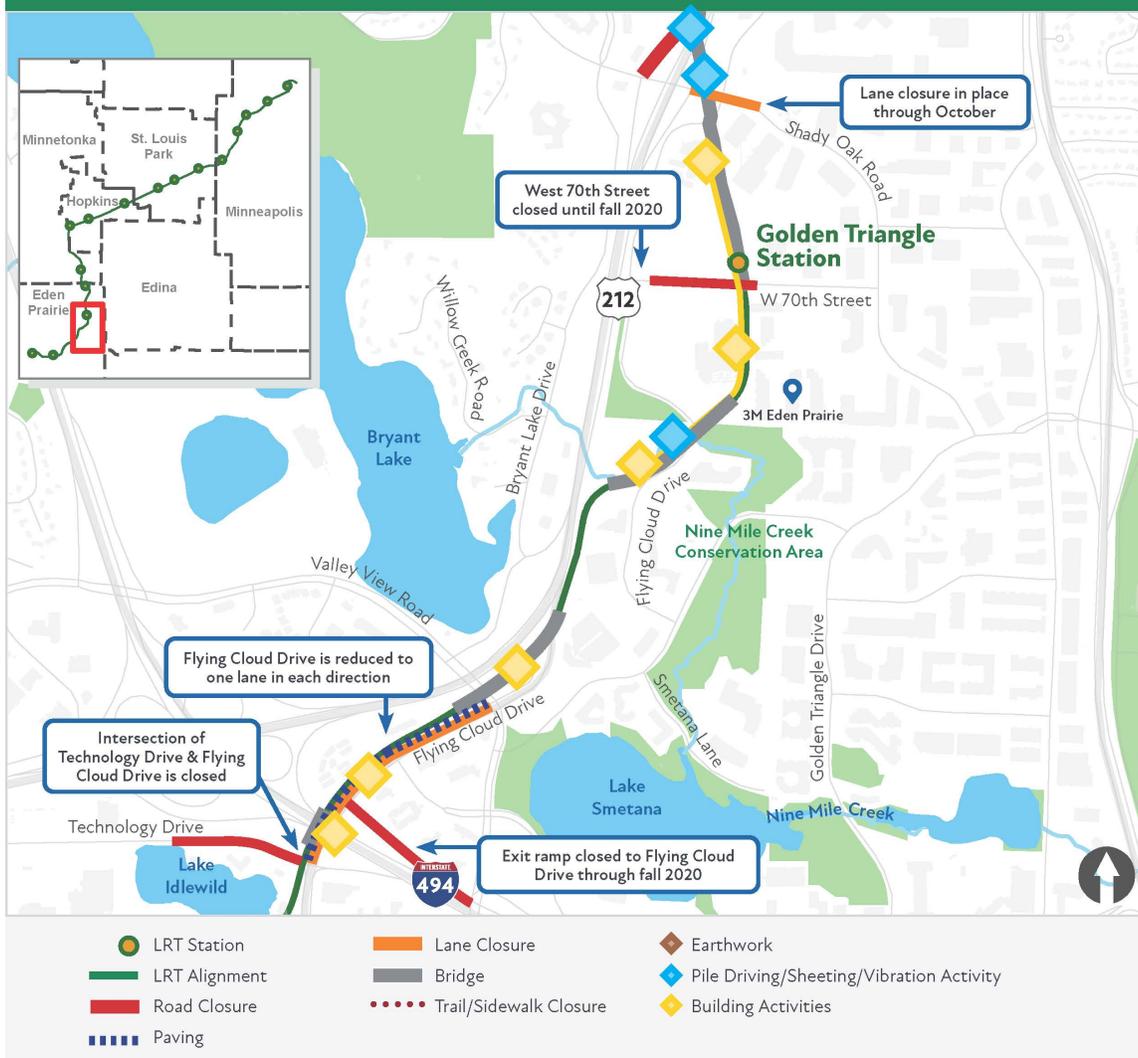
side of the road. The bridge structure will be under construction through fall 2020, the bridge structure is nearing completion with all the piles driven and beams set. Bridge deck work is well underway with the installation of rebar, falsework and concrete work. The full closure of Prairie Center Drive for crews to pour concrete for the bridge deck over the roadway has been rescheduled to Wednesday, November 4 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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](#)).

Town Center Place (Eden Road) Area

Eden Road is closed just west of Glen Lane as construction is advanced in that area. Just west of Eden Road, underground electrical work for Eden Prairie Town Center Station is underway, as well as excavation and grading work for the station.

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2



LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive

LRT will travel on a bridge over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive. Bridge work is nearing completion.

Flying Cloud Drive

Along Flying Cloud Drive, between Eden Road and Valley View Road, crews are restoring the area. Traffic is shifted to the south or east side of Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road until mid-November. Traffic will then be open on both sides of the roadway until spring 2021 when traffic will be shifted to the north or west side.

The intersection of Technology Drive and Flying Cloud Drive and the off-ramp from I-494 to Flying Cloud Drive remain closed also until mid-November. [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 extend into the 2021 construction season.

Valley View Road

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

Nine Mile Creek

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure at Nine Mile Creek is nearing completion. Most of the piers are complete with deck work underway. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side.

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

Golden Triangle Station

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

Shady Oak Road/Flying Cloud Drive

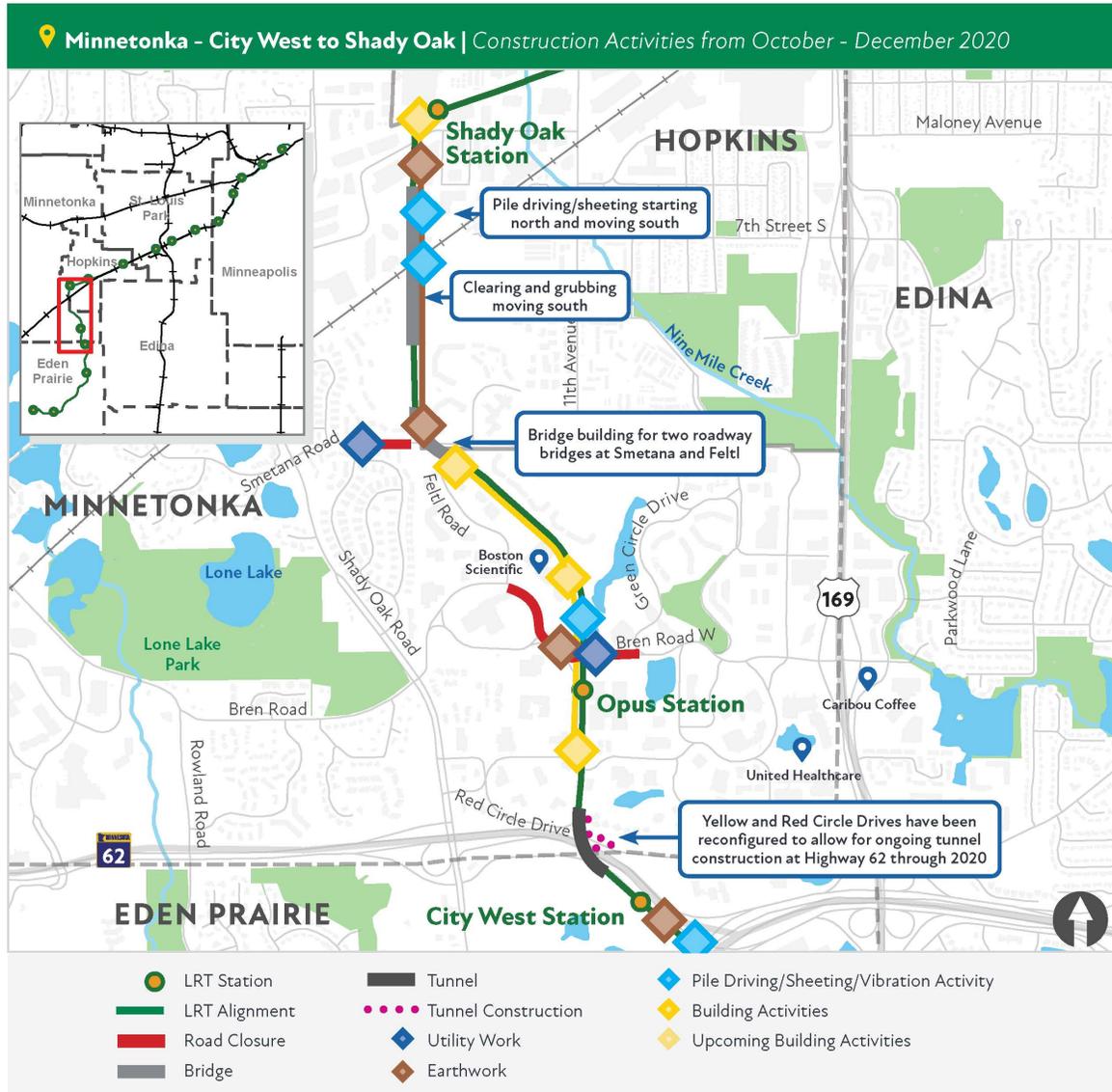
Three lanes on the north side of Shady Oak Road are closed for pier construction for the LRT bridge that will span Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. This lane closure will remain in effect through early November. Work continues in the median of Highway 212 to advance the LRT bridge; expect lane shifts. The off-ramp from west bound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road is closed through the fall. Continue to expect construction activities on the west side of Highway 212 as work progresses north.

City West Station Area

Construction is underway at the City West Station area, where crews are beginning earthwork and preparation for the station. The ramp from Shady Oak to eastbound Highway 62 is closed for approximately two months, through October and November. This closure allows construction vehicles to access to the City West Station site.

Minnetonka

Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1



Highway 62

Construction of the LRT tunnel under Highway 62 is ongoing through the 2021 construction season. The work is divided into two phases, work on the north then the south side of the highway. Traffic lanes have been shifted to the south side of the highway corridor to accommodate LRT tunnel construction on the north side of the highway. This traffic configuration will be in place through 2020. There has been significant progress on the

tunnel with most of the first half of the structure in place, such as walls and roofing. Crews are finishing walls and roofing and beginning to backfill the tunnel.

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.

Opus Station Area

Station construction will continue to advance with crews working on the station roof. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area and along the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl roadways.

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

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

Smetana Road

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

Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive is closed until spring 2021. A temporary bypass is in place west of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl Roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here](#).

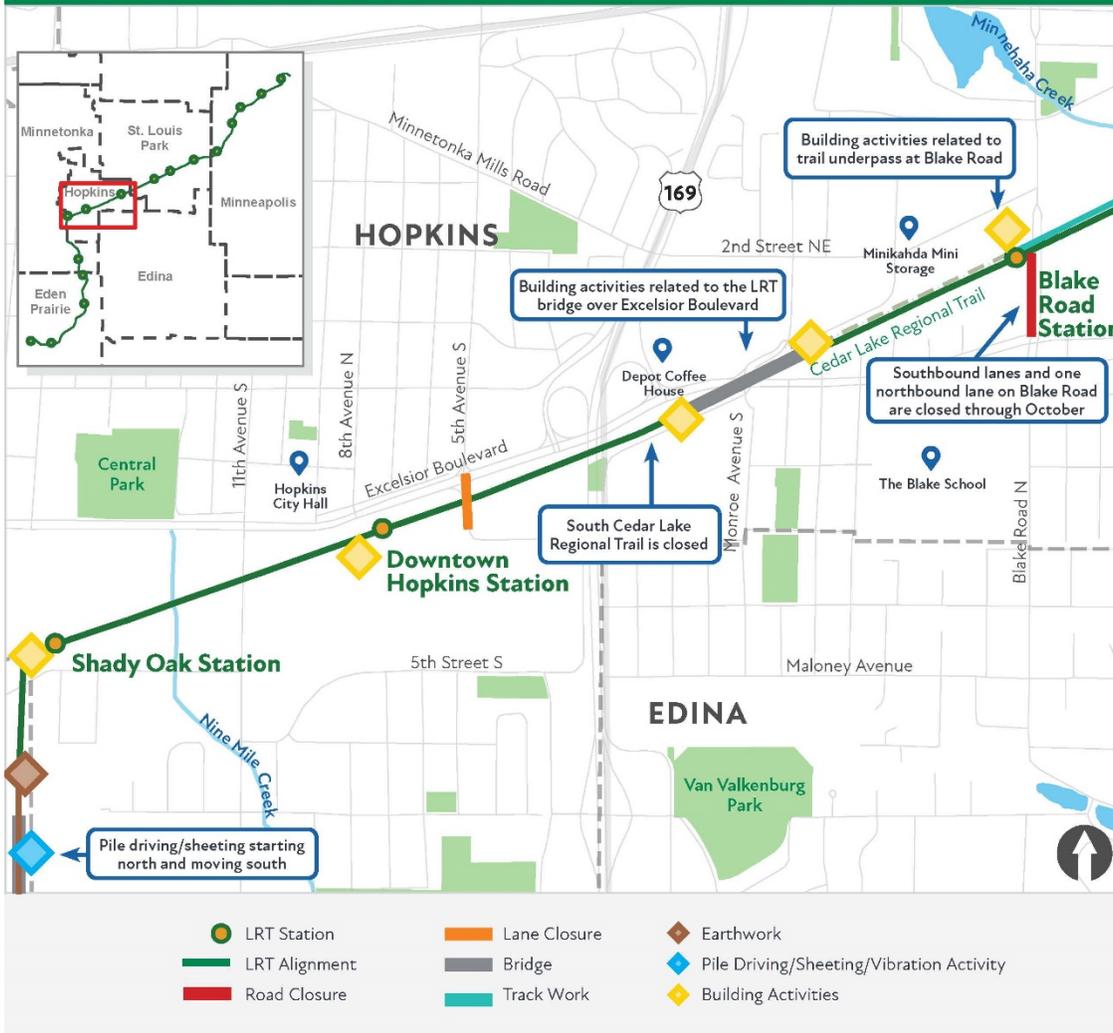
Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT Bridge Area

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. Piling continues for piers south of the freight rail tracks. Work on the bridge piers will move south towards Smetana Road. Piling work for the bridge piers will be ongoing through spring 2021, with work continuing through the winter. Expect noise and vibration from pile driving activities, which includes work on Saturdays.

Hopkins

Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1

Hopkins - Shady Oak to Blake Road | Construction Activities from October - December 2020



Shady Oak Road Station

Shady Oak Station construction continues, and the station structure has emerged. Structural steel is being installed.

11th Avenue South

All lanes of traffic have been restored at the LRT crossing at 11th Avenue South. LRT tracks will be pulled through the intersection at a later date.

5th Avenue South

Reconstruction of 5th Avenue South continues and will be ongoing into November. Southbound access on 5th Avenue South from westbound Excelsior Boulevard will continue. Work on 8th Avenue South will occur next spring.

Downtown Hopkins Station

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

Excelsior Boulevard Area

Crews continue building the LRT bridge over Excelsior Boulevard. Crews have shifted their focus to erecting the bridge spans. Crews have assembled the form-traveler system and the cantilevered structure is starting to take shape. The bridge structure is a post-tensioned box girder. This type of bridge can efficiently span long distances. The shape of the box girder is now visible from the roadway. Expect westbound lane impacts and closures on Excelsior Boulevard as construction advances. Other lane impacts are expected as the bridge continues to progress over the roadway.

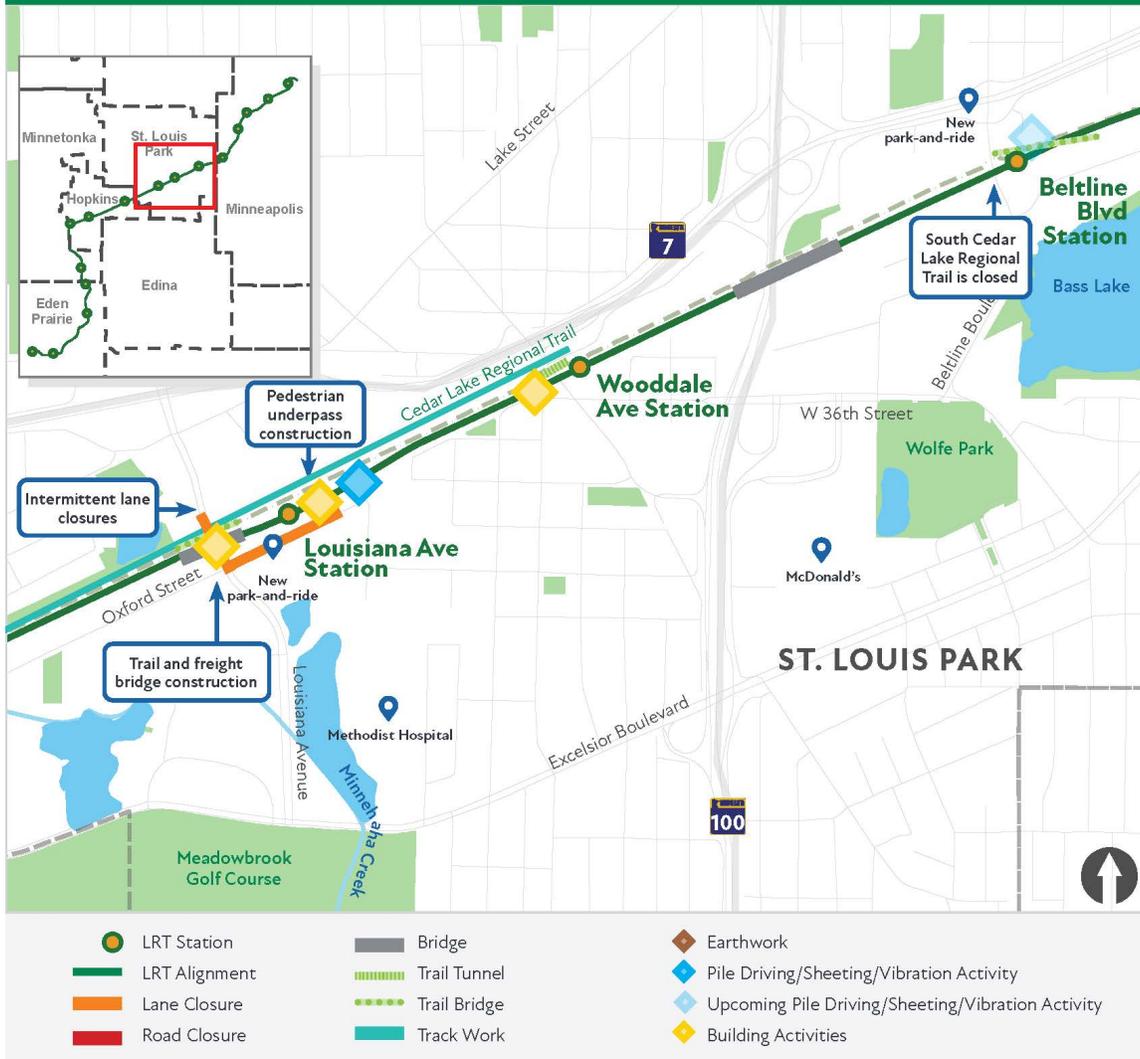
Blake Road

The project is improving safety in the area by building a regional trail underpass. Crews are completing the west segment of the underpass under Blake Road. The southbound lanes on Blake Road remain closed to vehicle traffic. Vehicle traffic continues to be permitted in one lane in the northbound direction. Pedestrians can access the sidewalk on the east side of Blake Road. [See Hopkins detour maps here](#). Later this fall vehicle traffic will open to one lane in each direction. Crews will work to complete the regional train underpass beginning this spring.

St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park Construction: Map 1 of 1

St. Louis Park - Louisiana Ave to Beltline Blvd | Construction Activities from October - December 2020



Minnehaha Creek

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

Louisiana Avenue

In the Louisiana Avenue area, the project is constructing the following elements: Louisiana Station and park and ride areas, reestablishing the regional trail, LRT and freight bridges, a pedestrian/bicyclist underpass (which connects the regional trail to the station), and a new Southerly Connector for freight rail to connect to the MN&S freight line. View the area’s [visualization](#) to see how this all comes together.

Crews are working on miscellaneous details for the trail underpass. Work along Oxford Street is well underway including the abutment and retaining walls for the new freight rail connection between the Bass Lake Spur and MN&S tracks.

Wooddale Avenue

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

Construction continues in the area to advance various project elements.

Highway 100

There will be no additional closures of Highway 100 in 2020. Thanks to the traveling public for accommodating the recent weekend closures! Work will continue in 2021 to complete the deck for the LRT bridge.

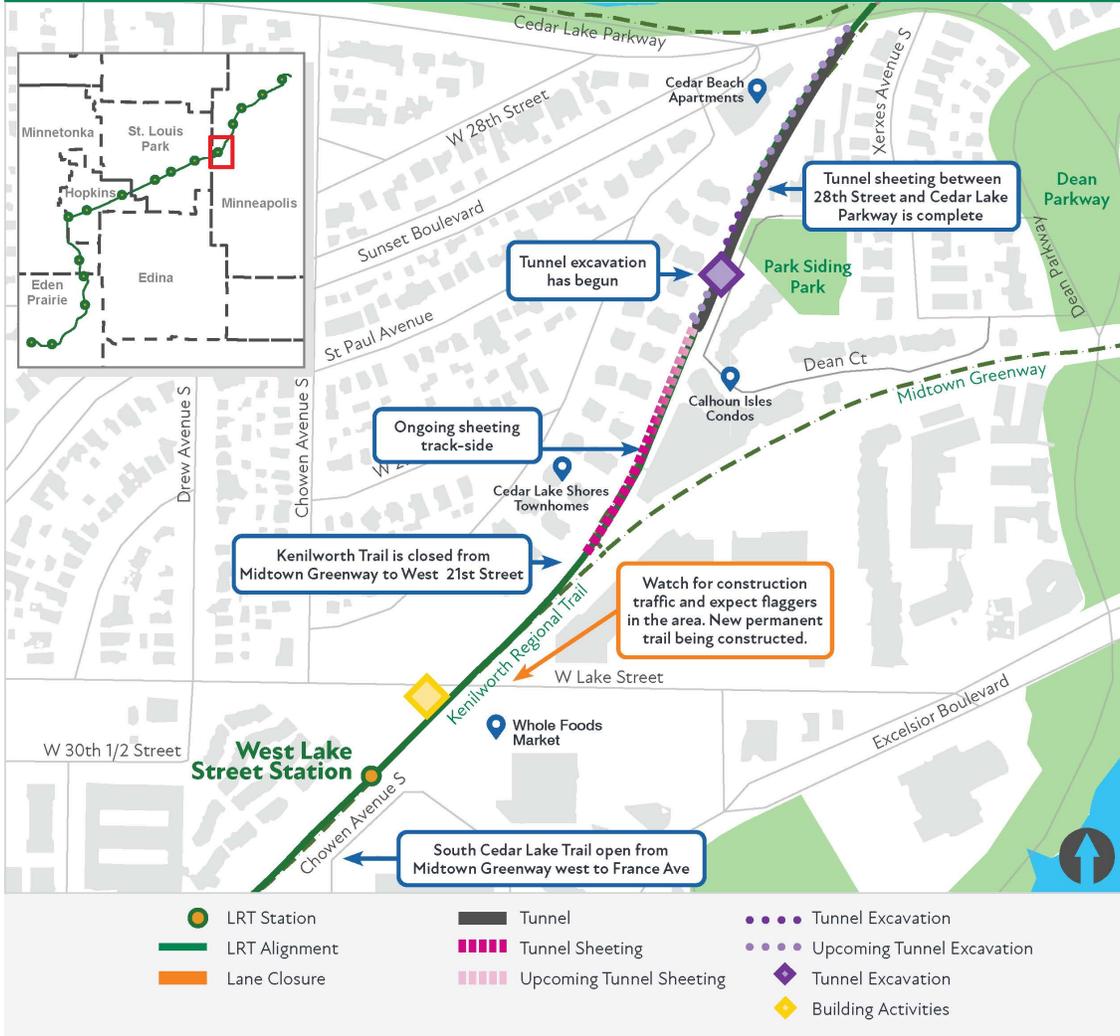
Beltline Boulevard

Beltline Boulevard is being improved by the addition of a regional trail bridge over the roadway. Piling for the remaining bridge piers will be ongoing in November.

[Minneapolis](#)

Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5

Minneapolis - Lake Street to Cedar Lake | Construction Activities from October - December 2020



Chowen Avenue to Lake Street

Work to shift the South Cedar Lake Trail to its new permanent location around the Lake Street Bridge is underway and is expected to be completed before winter work conditions fully set-in.

Kenilworth Tunnel Area Construction

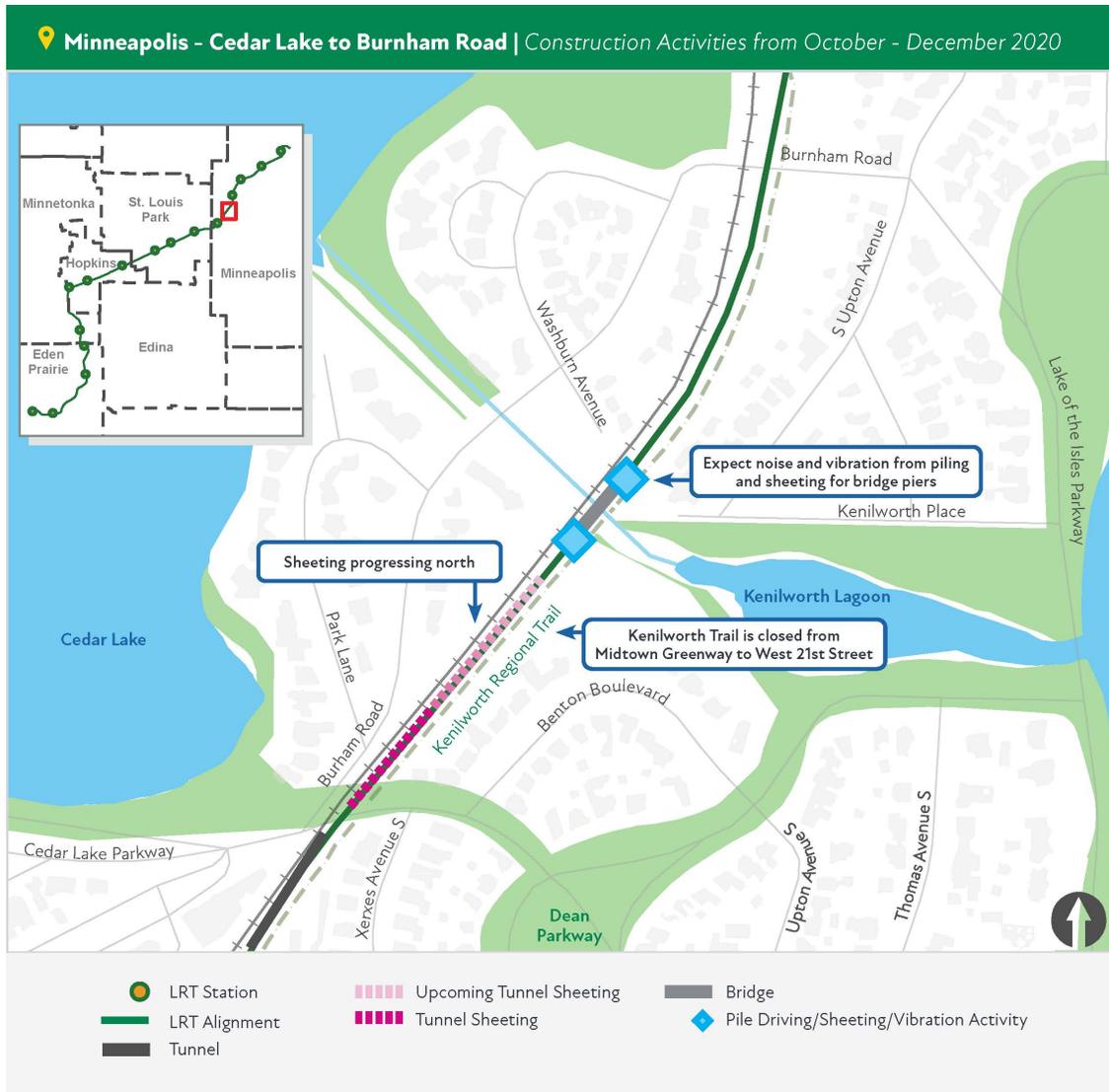
From the West Lake Street Bridge to just south of the Cedar Lake Channel, construction of the LRT tunnel is ongoing through 2022.

One press-in-piler is working north of Cedar Lake Parkway and is progressing towards the channel installing sheets, the other piler will continue to work near West Lake Street, moving east on the freight rail side of the tunnel. Residents should expect ongoing work in the area, including occasional vibration when obstructions are encountered. Crews also continue to progress with tunnel excavation near West 28th Street. Crews have been

excavating material and installing cross braces called struts. Concrete work is anticipated to begin in the next month and specialized equipment has been brought into the corridor to help with deep excavation.

For more information about tunnel construction, see the [tunnel FAQ](#) information under the construction tab of our webpage: swlрт.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

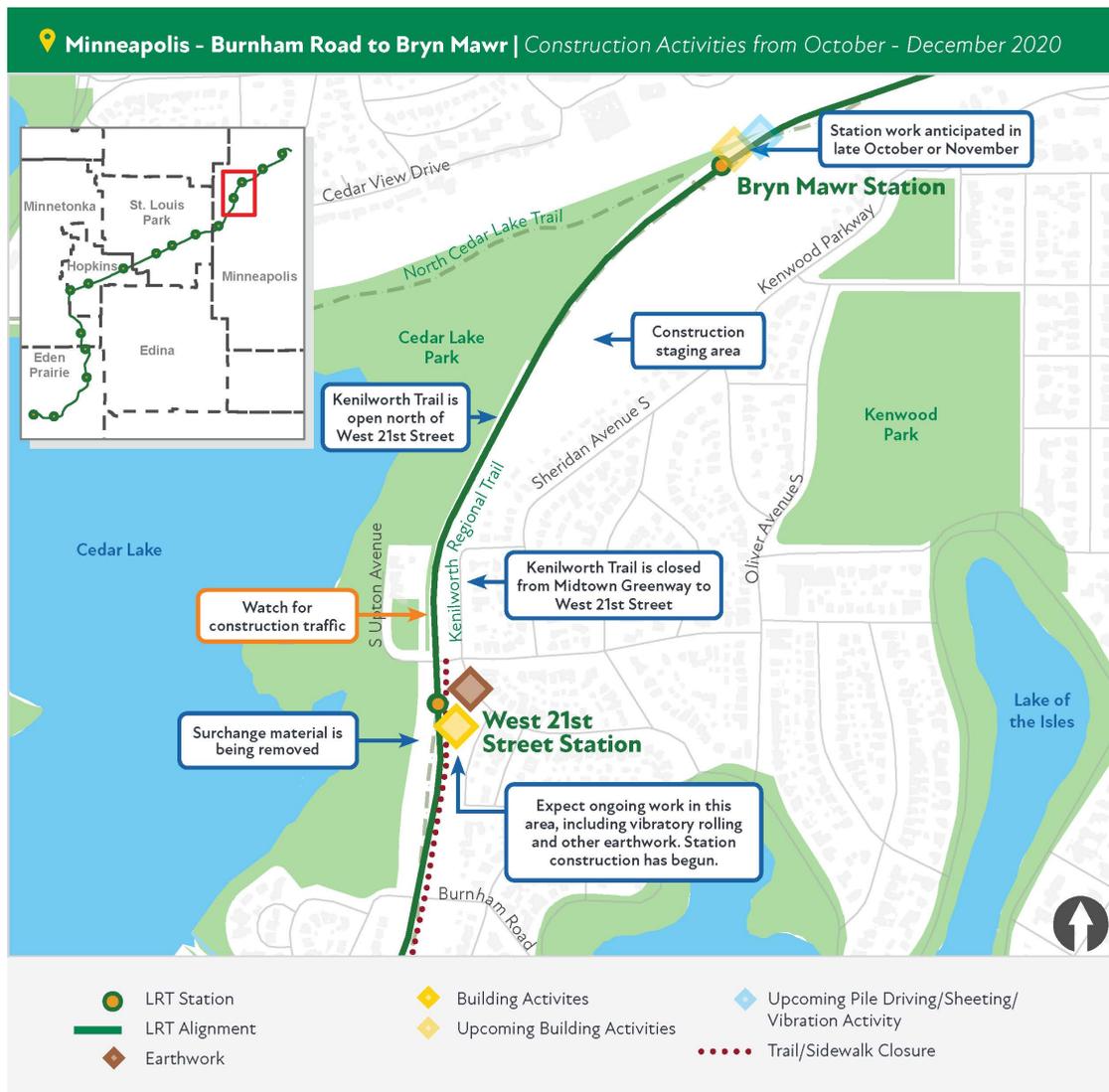
An approximately six-month closure of Cedar Lake Parkway will be needed at a later date to complete tunnel excavation and construction, currently anticipated in spring 2021.

Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel

Three bridges will be constructed over the channel for freight, LRT, and the Kenilworth Trail. Construction for the freight rail bridge is complete and the LRT then trail bridges will follow in sequence.

Freight rail is operating on the new track alignment and bridge over the Cedar Lake Channel. Demolition of the old freight bridge is complete. Construction of the new LRT bridge over the channel has begun; expect noise and vibration from piling and sheeting activities. A closure of the channel is currently not anticipated to be needed to complete the next phase of work. Flaggers for water traffic will be present when the old freight rail bridge is removed, and traffic may be required to wait for a short period. If a closure is needed notice will be posted at least 14 days in advance.

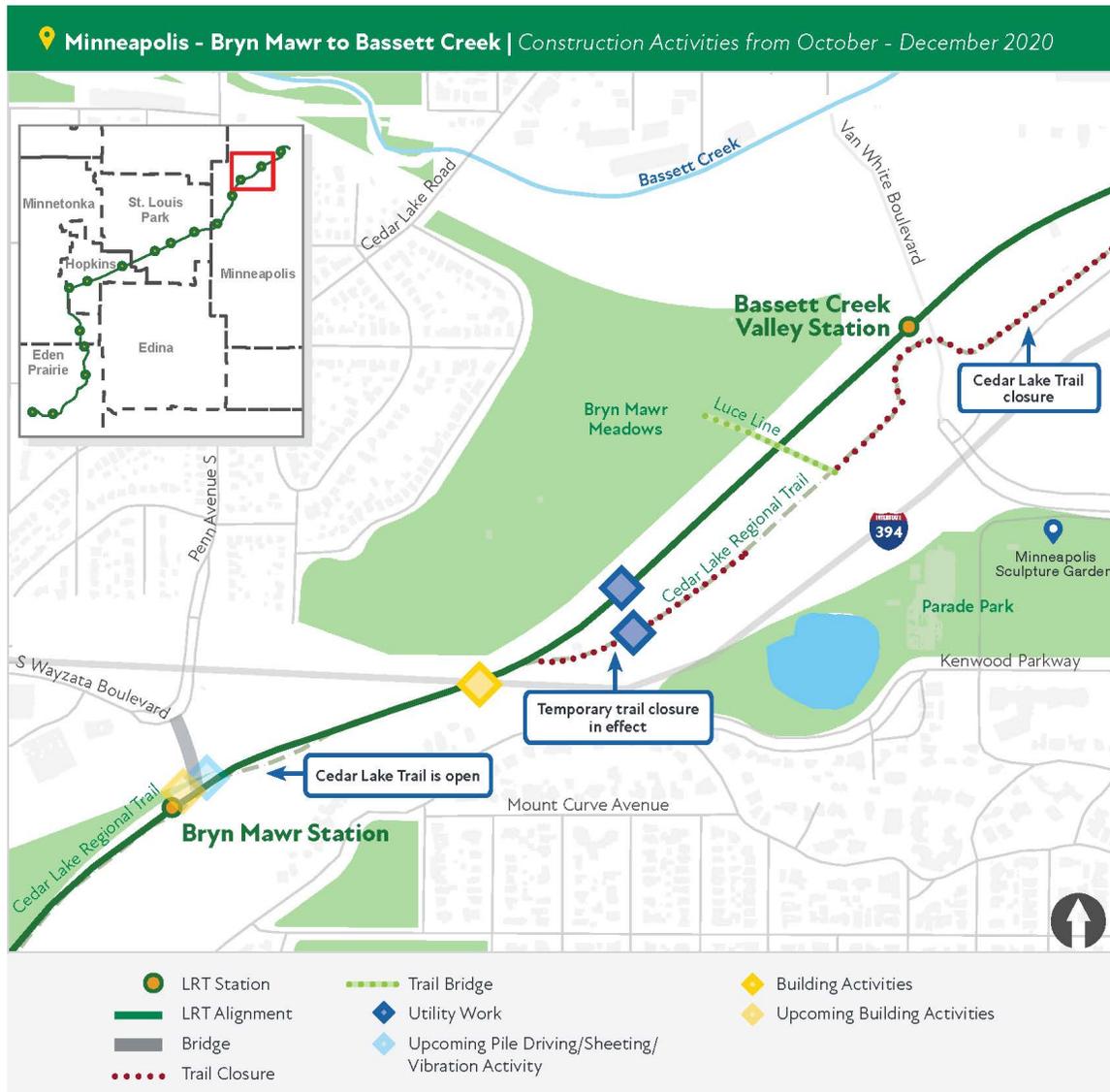
Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5



West 21st Street

West 21st Street Station construction continues. Crews have poured concrete for some of the station utilities. Expect ongoing station construction activities and periodic vibration as soils are compacted by a roller.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5

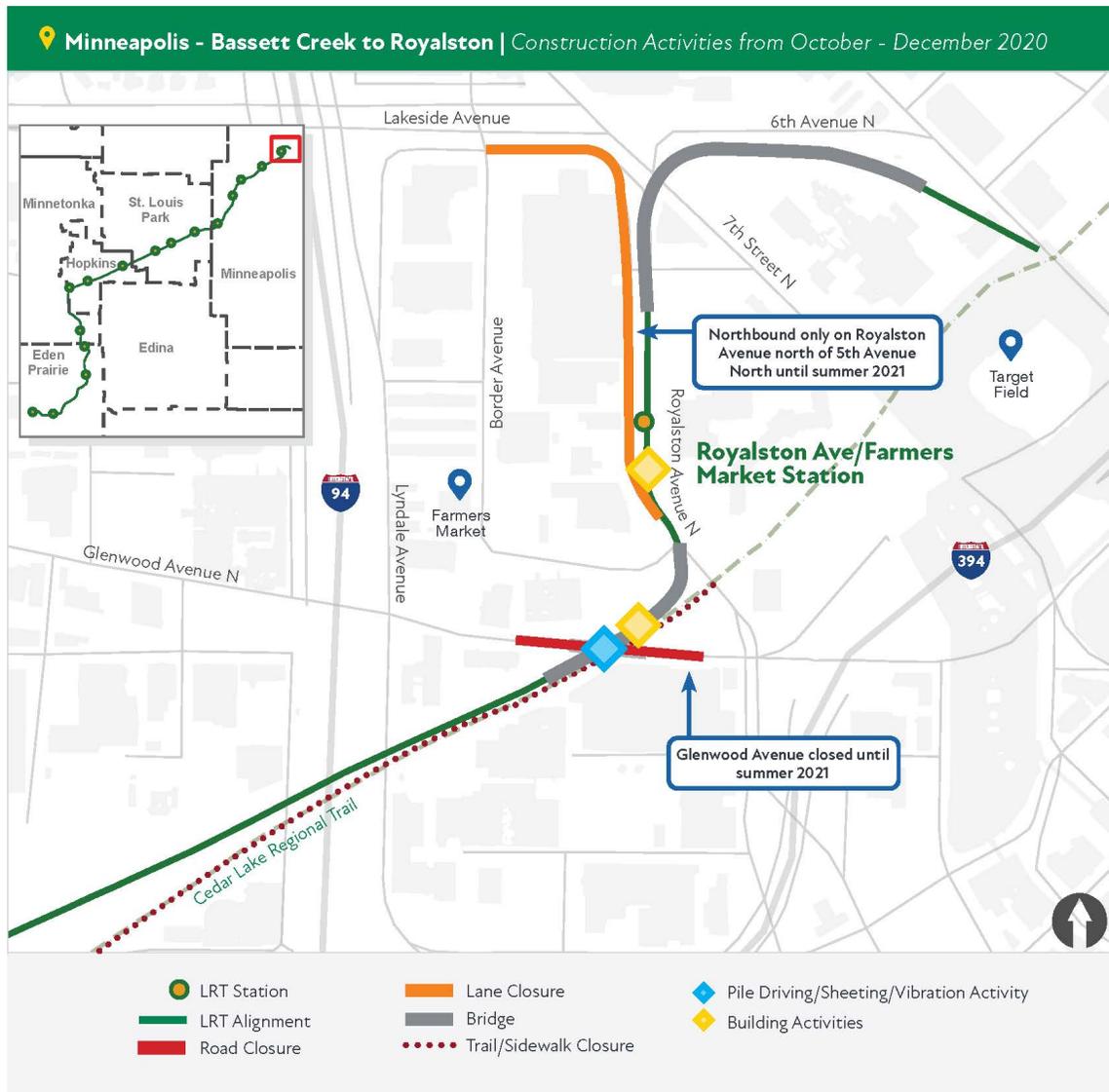


Bryn Mawr Station Area

To provide access to 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 terrain in the area and build a stable foundation for the LRT tracks.

The soil beneath the surcharge has reached its intended compaction level and can support station construction. Expect excavation equipment and dump trucks in the area as excess material is removed. Pile driving for the foundation of Bryn Mawr Station is anticipated to start this fall, as well as preparation work such as survey and excavation. Work will begin as crews become available; however, a date has not yet been scheduled.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5



Glenwood Avenue

When the project is complete, 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. 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. BNSF crews worked this past week to shift the track to its new position to the north in this area. The freight rail track shift allows LRT bridge construction to advance.

Royalston Avenue

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

The southbound travel lane on Royalston Avenue from North 5th Street to Holden Street is closed; the closure will last until summer 2021. Business access is available via the northbound lane. [See the roadway impact map here](#).

Regional Trails

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is closed between Shady Oak Road and 5th Avenue South. [See detour map here](#).

- The section between Shady Oak Road and 11th Avenue South is closed due to storm sewer construction activities. This portion of the trail is closed through early 2021.
- The section between 11th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until fall 2021.

South Cedar Lake LRT Trail

The South Cedar Lake Trail from just east of the North Cedar Lake Trail connection in Hopkins to France Avenue in St. Louis Park is closed until fall 2021. The South Cedar Lake Trail will remain open between France Avenue in St. Louis Park and Kenilworth Trail/Midtown Greenway intersection in Minneapolis. The Midtown Greenway will remain open. Currently, cross streets remain open to automobiles, bikers and pedestrians, with separate closures of roadways upcoming at various dates. [See detour maps here](#).

Crews have begun grading work to construct the new permanent trail alignment under the West Lake Street bridge. Pedestrians and cyclists can use the new trail once completed. The trail will be fenced off and separated from construction activities. Until that work is complete expect flaggers in the area directing pedestrians and cyclists. Be mindful of construction equipment in the area and the directions given by the flaggers. Flagging activity is allowing the trail in this connecting segment to remain open during this phase of construction.

Kenilworth Trail Closure

The Kenilworth Trail is closed in Minneapolis at the intersection with the Midtown Greenway to just south of West 21st Street until summer 2022. Access for automobiles, bikers and pedestrians remains open at Cedar Lake Parkway and at West 21st Street. [See detour map here.](#)

North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis

The North Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue is closed until mid-2021. [See detour maps here.](#)

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

The Cedar Lake Trail by Highway 394 and Linden Yards is detoured to Kenwood Parkway. 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, which is expected to be completed later in November.

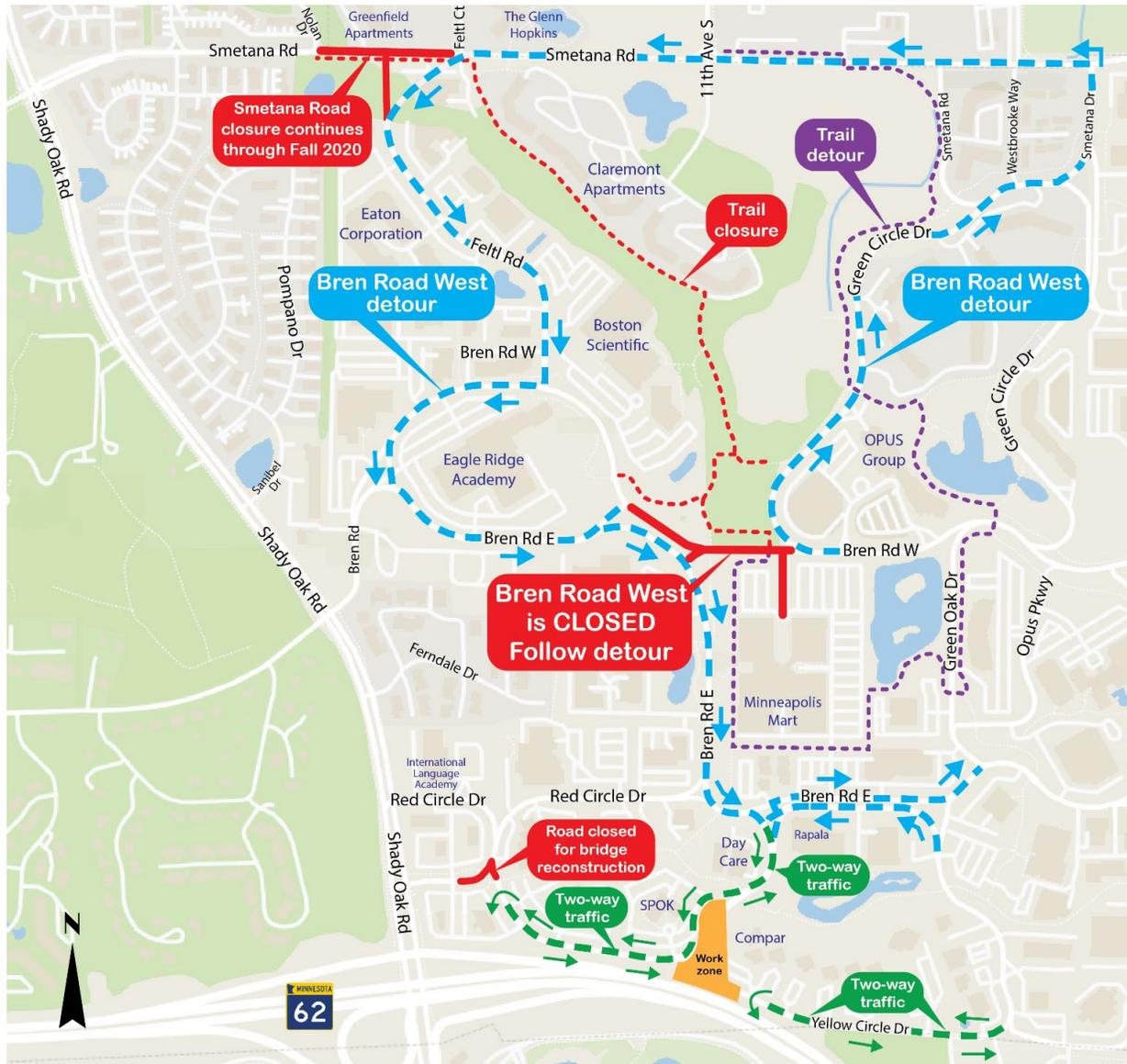
SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



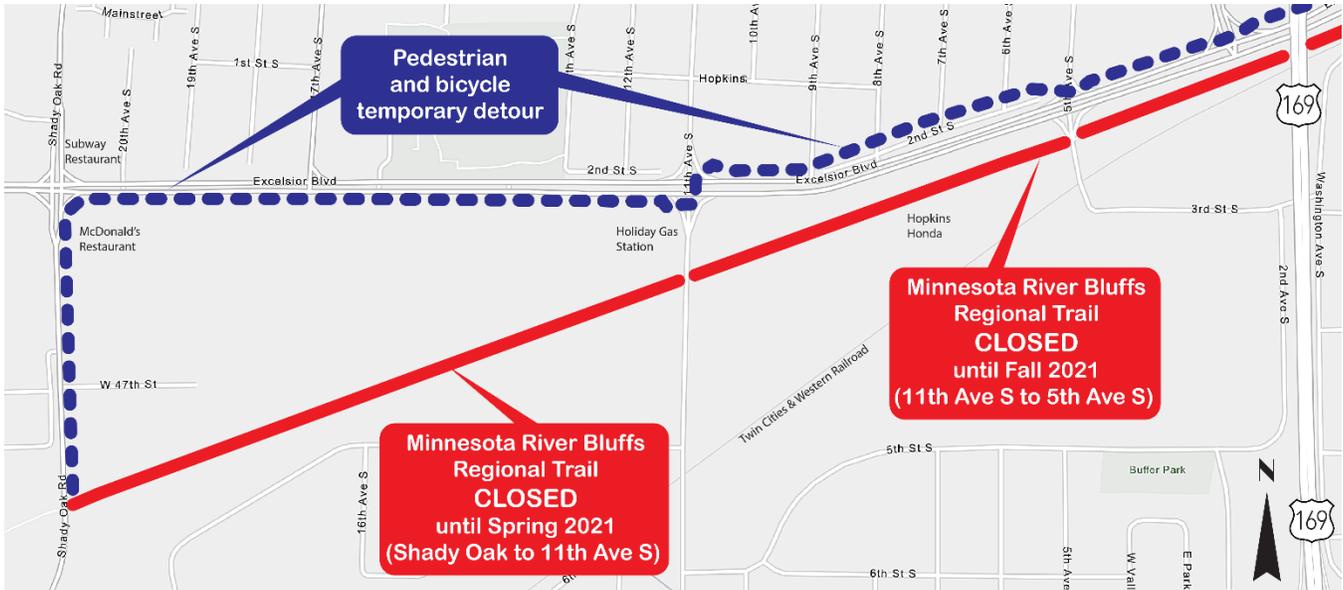
Flying Cloud Drive Detours in Eden Prairie



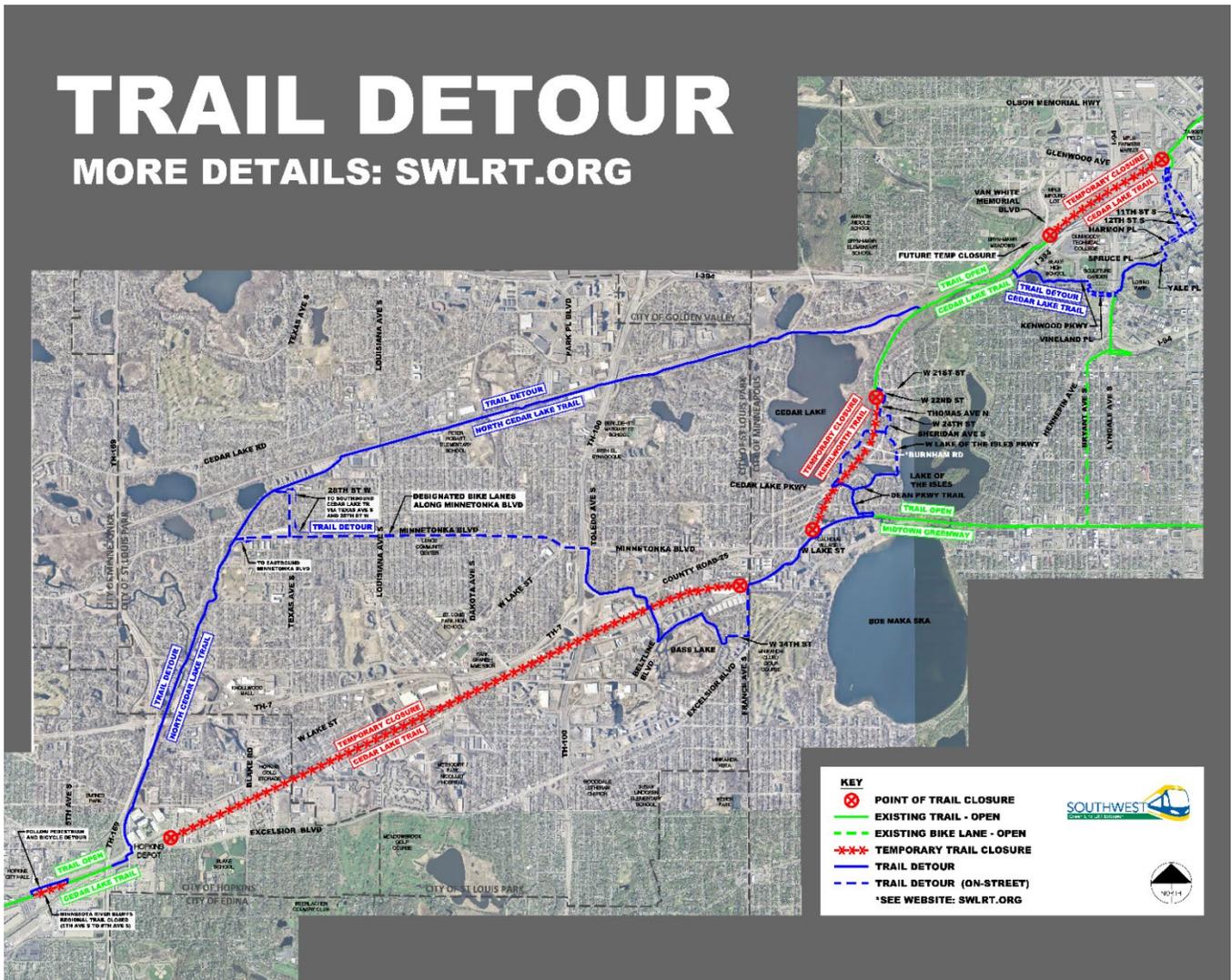
Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Smetana Road, Bren Road, Red and Yellow Circles



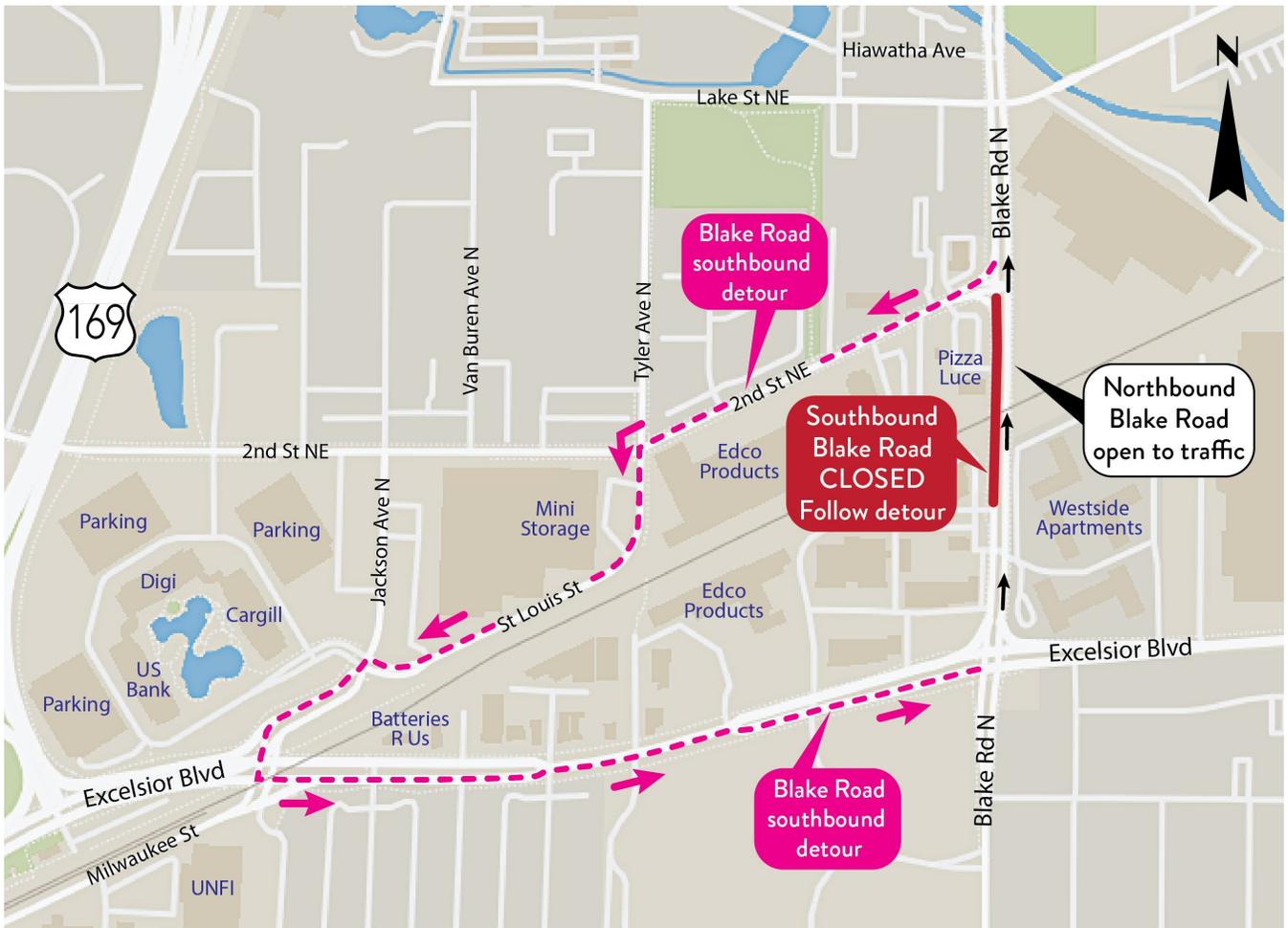
Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour



Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Trail Detours



Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



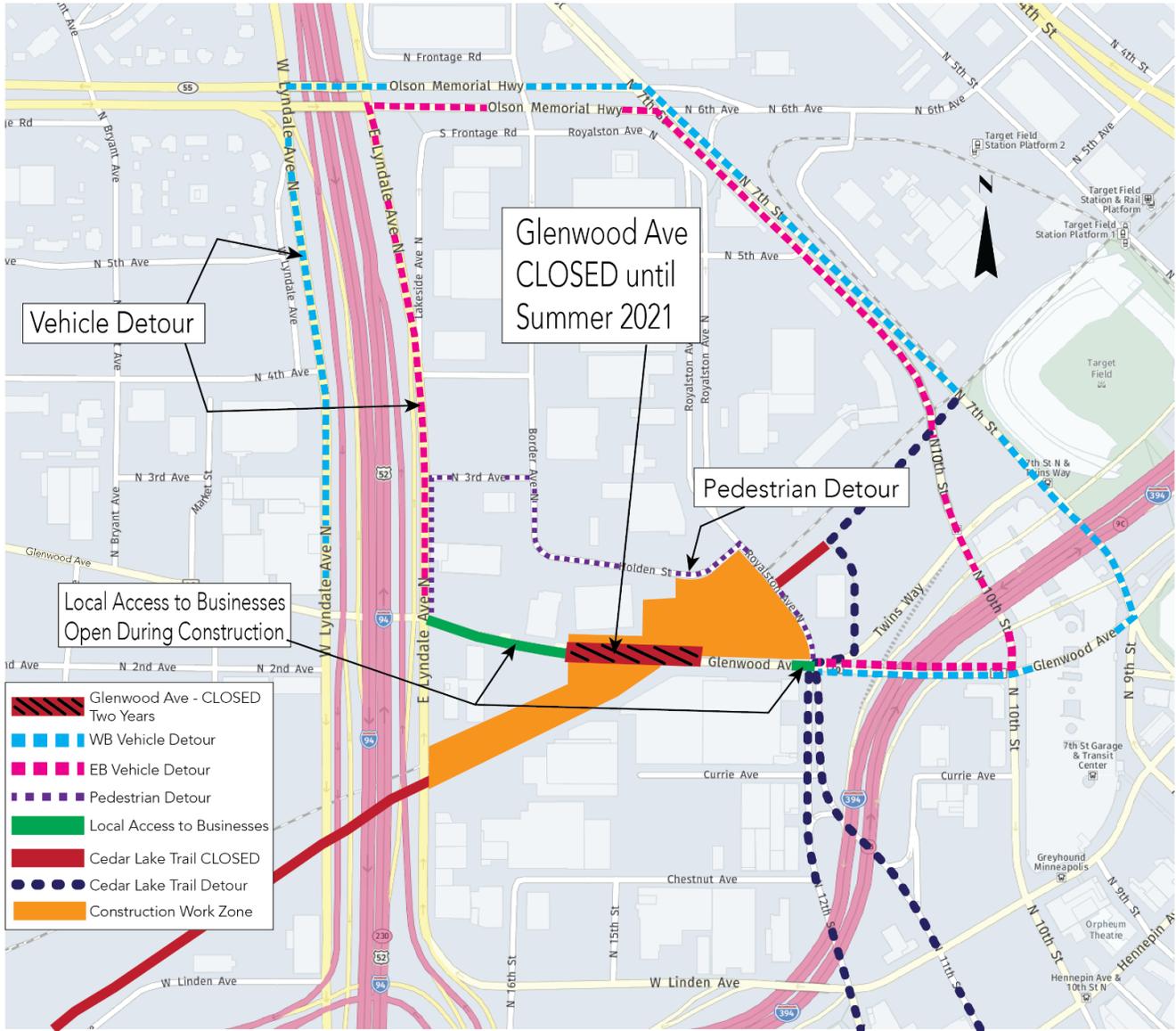
5th Avenue Detour in Hopkins



Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

