



Construction Website Update: May 29, 2020

Water Quality Management During Construction

The SWLRT Project spans multiple watersheds and water bodies along the corridor. The Council has coordinated extensively with local and statewide agencies responsible for monitoring water quality and permitting. We have developed a [water quality resource webpage](#) with more information about our efforts. You will find our commitments to water quality, a listing of permitting agencies, ways in which we handle water during construction, and additional resources.

Weekly Construction Photo: LRT Bridge over Excelsior Boulevard in Hopkins



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. The form work in the front image is called a pier table, which taken quite literally means the base or “table” for the bridge to be placed on the piers. The bridge structure is a post-tensioning box girder. This type of bridge can efficiently span long distances. The initial shape of the box girder is visible on the second pier in the background.

Eden Prairie

SouthWest Station Area

The former SouthWest Transit facility is demolished, and crews are working on excavation and utilities in the area. Expect pile driving as crews work on the bus loop, retaining walls, utilities and the new parking ramp. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed.

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 many of the piers. Piling continues for the bridge piers. Work continues next to Purgatory Creek Park along Prairie Center Drive, where crews are advancing concrete pier work. Work has progressed on the southeastern side of the roadway near Bachman's. Temporary pedestrian access remains in place until the piers closest to the roadway are formed. Expect ongoing piling in the area into the summer. This includes work on Saturdays.

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

Eden Road Area

Work on retaining walls as well as utility work in the area continues. The intersection of Eden Road and Flying Cloud Drive is closed and will remain closed through July 2020.

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 are in place in the immediate vicinity of the work zone. A full weekend closure is needed this summer to set bridge beams. We will provide more detail when the date is scheduled.

Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive

Work on the Valley View Road LRT bridge is shifting to bridge deck construction, and concrete pours for the deck start in early June.

The lane restriction on the ramp from Valley View Road to Highway 212 continues. Traffic is being diverted onto the HOV lane and will remain in this configuration through the summer. The left-turn lane to the ramp for traffic traveling south on Valley View Road is detoured.

Along Flying Cloud Drive between Eden Road and Valley View Road crews will conduct major utility work while the roadway is under construction. When 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 continues on Flying Cloud Drive. Traffic is 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 remain 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 north of the station, and the LRT bridge that will transition to cross over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. Expect ongoing activity including pile driving 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 continues in this area and will be ongoing into summer. Expect pipe jacking activities in the area. One of the two right-turn lanes from eastbound Highway 212 to Shady Oak Road is closed to allow for utility work, this closure will be in place until early June. On the north side of Shady Oak Road multiple lane closures will be needed in late June. Once in place, these lane closures will last approximately four months. We will provide more detail when work is scheduled.

Minnetonka

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 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. The southern portion of Red Circle Drive is modified temporarily to 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 can connect 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

Crews are working on station utilities. Station foundation work will begin later in June. Retaining wall work is ongoing north of the station area, including a significant portion of the LRT alignment to Smetana and Feltl Roads. Over the few next weeks, crews will install piles for retaining walls. The piles are installed by first drilling a shaft, filling that shaft with concrete and pushing an H-shape pile into the concrete. This activity is noisy with some vibration.

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.

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. Piling is expected to begin the week of June 8. 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](#).**

Hopkins

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. Crews are working south of the freight rail line and are moving south towards ongoing work underway at Smetana Road. Excavation and pile driving continue at the north end of the bridge south of 5th Street South. 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 will be ongoing through the 2020 construction season.

Shady Oak Road Station

Utility work for the Shady Oak Station is ongoing. Station foundation work is anticipated to begin mid-June.

11th Avenue South

Work is underway at the future LRT track crossing at 11th Avenue South. LRT crosses this roadway just north of 5th Street South, south of Excelsior Boulevard. The roadway is reduced to one lane in each direction. Crews started construction on the east side of the roadway and are also working on utilities and crossing signals. Traffic will be shifted multiple times to complete this work.

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. As piers are nearing completion the box girder that will span the piers are taking shape.

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 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](#).** Once this portion of Blake Road is complete, traffic will be swapped to the other side so crews can complete the underpass.

St. Louis Park

Minnehaha Creek

Work on the new freight and regional trail bridges continues in the area. Bridge beams have been placed and crews are advancing deck work. Concrete deck pours will happen soon, with crews advancing bridge forms. Crews continue earthwork activities to prepare the area for permanent freight rail track location. Additional retaining walls in the area are advancing.

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/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 the trail underpass. Expect sheet pile driving and excavation work. Shoring and sheet pile driving work for the southerly freight rail connection, that will replace the current wye freight track, along Oxford Street will begin in the next few weeks.

Crews are working on the west abutment for the regional trail bridge. Later this spring, crews will place bridge beams over Louisiana Avenue, two overnight roadway closures are anticipated in late June.

Wooddale Avenue

The project is implementing safety enhancements to the regional trail in this area with the construction of a trail underpass which continues. Wooddale Avenue is closed between West 36th Street and Highway 7, in the immediate vicinity of the Southwest LRT Project. The full roadway closure will remain into early June. **See St. Louis Park detour maps [here](#).** Crews are advancing the trail underpass through the roadway by setting prefabricated concrete segments.

Highway 100

The project will re-position the existing freight rail bridge and I 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.

Over the next few weeks from Highway 100 to Beltline Boulevard, ballast rock will be delivered for the relocated freight track. Expect construction vehicles moving material in the corridor. Unloading ballast rock can be noisy.

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. After some more deck work, crews will switch their focus to building the freight rail track bed and shift the freight rail track to its permanent location.

Reconstruction of Beltline Boulevard in this area will begin in early June. This work will be done in phases, no full closures are expected.

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. Utility work is ongoing in the area.

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. The press-in-piler is moving south towards West Lake Street. Sheet pile installation for the tunnel is expected to last through summer of 2020.

For more information about tunnel construction, see the [tunnel FAQ](#) information under the construction tab of our webpage: swlrt.org. A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique 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 is being relocated, with crews working around 28th Street and at Depot Street. The intersection will be partially

open to allow vehicle traffic in early June. Overall work for the sanitary force main will be completed in mid-June and the intersection will be fully open at that time.

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.

Crews are almost complete with freight rail bridge deck work. Crews are also advancing earth work and track building activities on the approaches to the bridge. In the next few weeks crews will be utilizing the timber ties to build the track. Freight is anticipated to be shifted permanently onto the new bridge in mid-June. As soon as freight rail is shifted, the existing freight bridge will be removed and piling for the LRT bridge will begin.

21st Street

Temporary surcharge continues to be in place south of 21st Street for the station. Surcharge work consists of periods of moving soil activities followed by periods underlying soil consolidation. The surcharge is currently in a settlement period into the summer. Additional dirt may be needed periodically.

West 21st Street Station construction is expected to begin this summer after surcharge removal.

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.

I-394/Cedar Lake Trail

Trail construction to move pedestrians to their permanent location in the area will occur in early summer.

Linden Yards

Utility work continues 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. **See detour map [here](#)**. Local access to businesses is 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 5th and 7th Streets and connecting to the Target Field Station. The entire Holden/Royalston/Border loop will also be reconstructed. Much of the pavement on the northern portion of Royalston Avenue is being removed and piling for retaining walls is ongoing. 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 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 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](#)**.

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.

Later this summer, 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](#).**

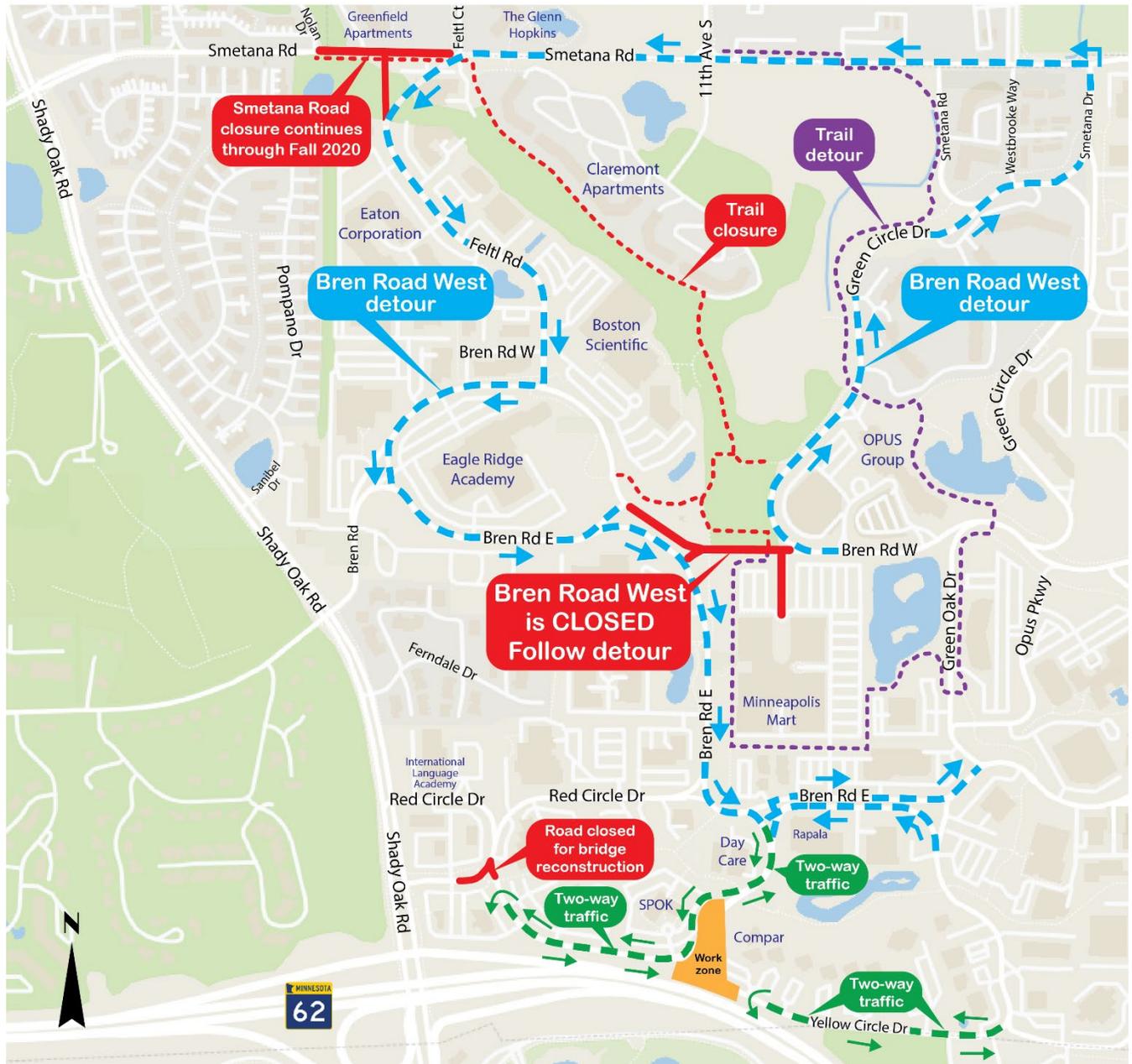
SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



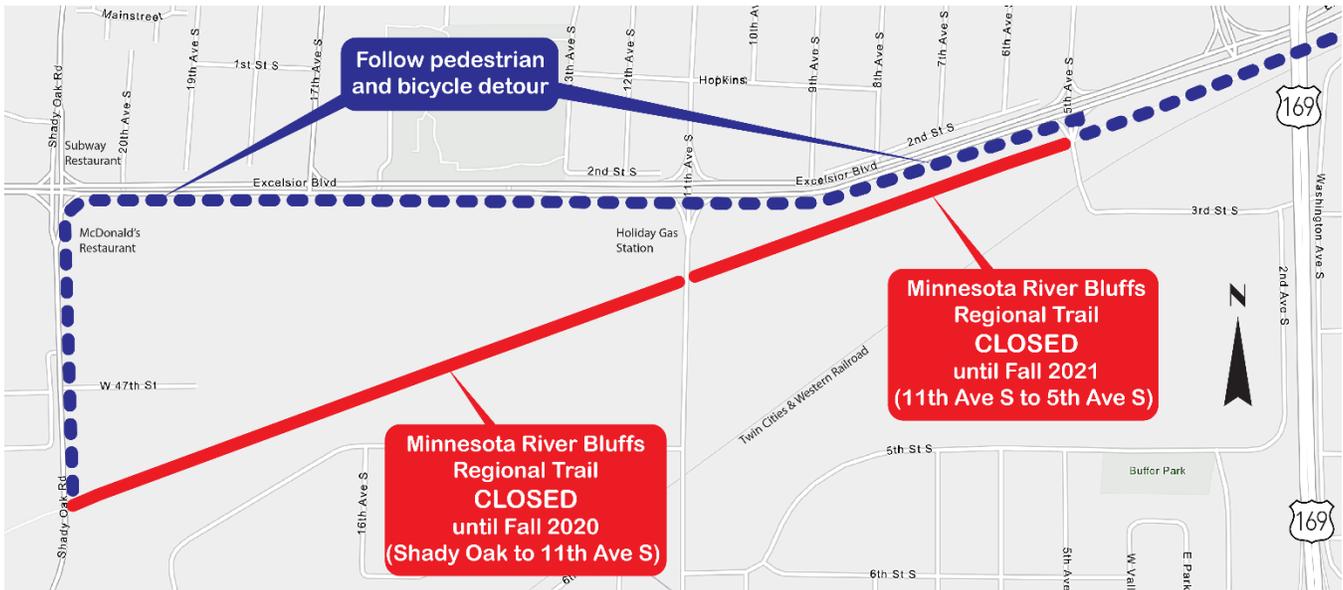
Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie



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

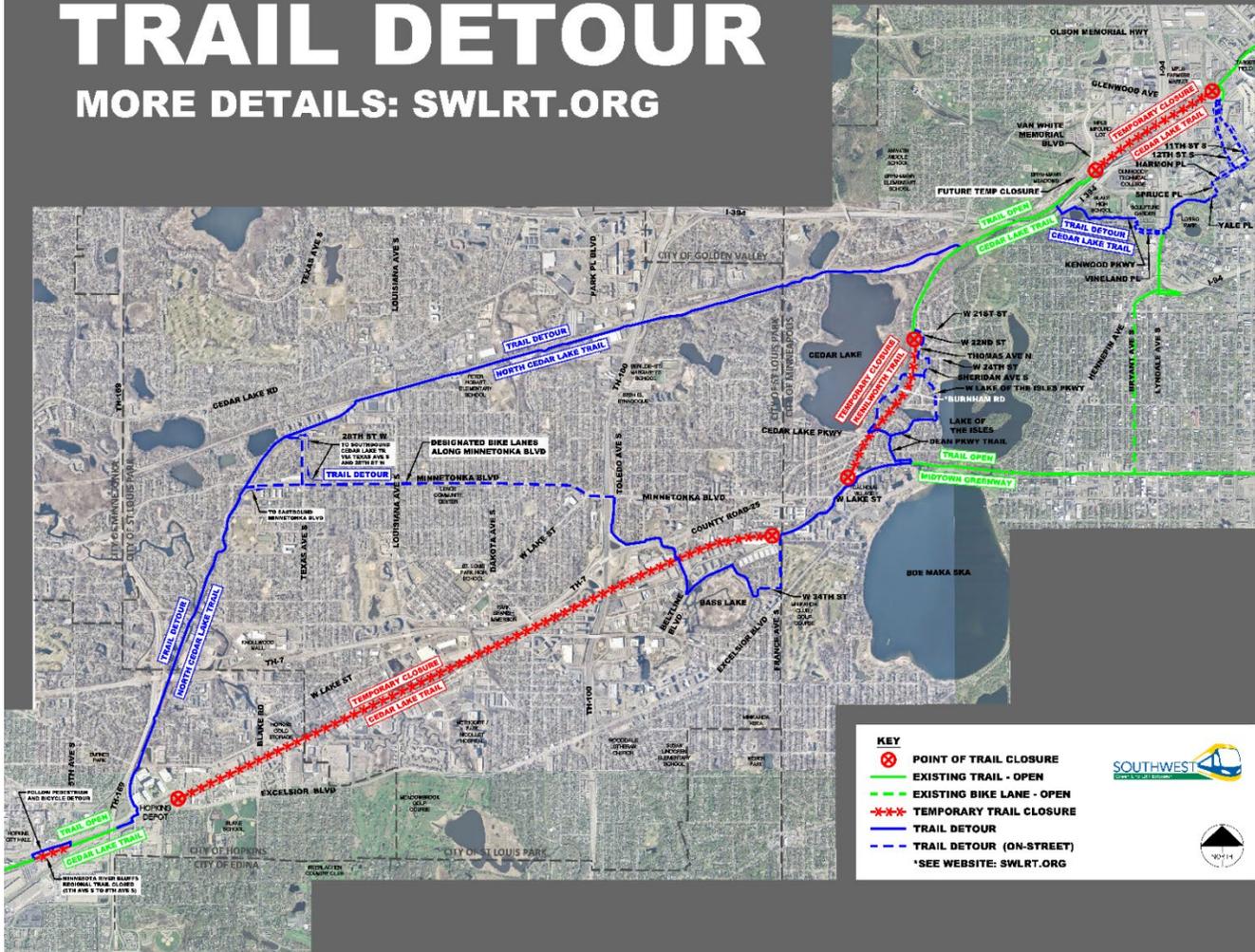


Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour

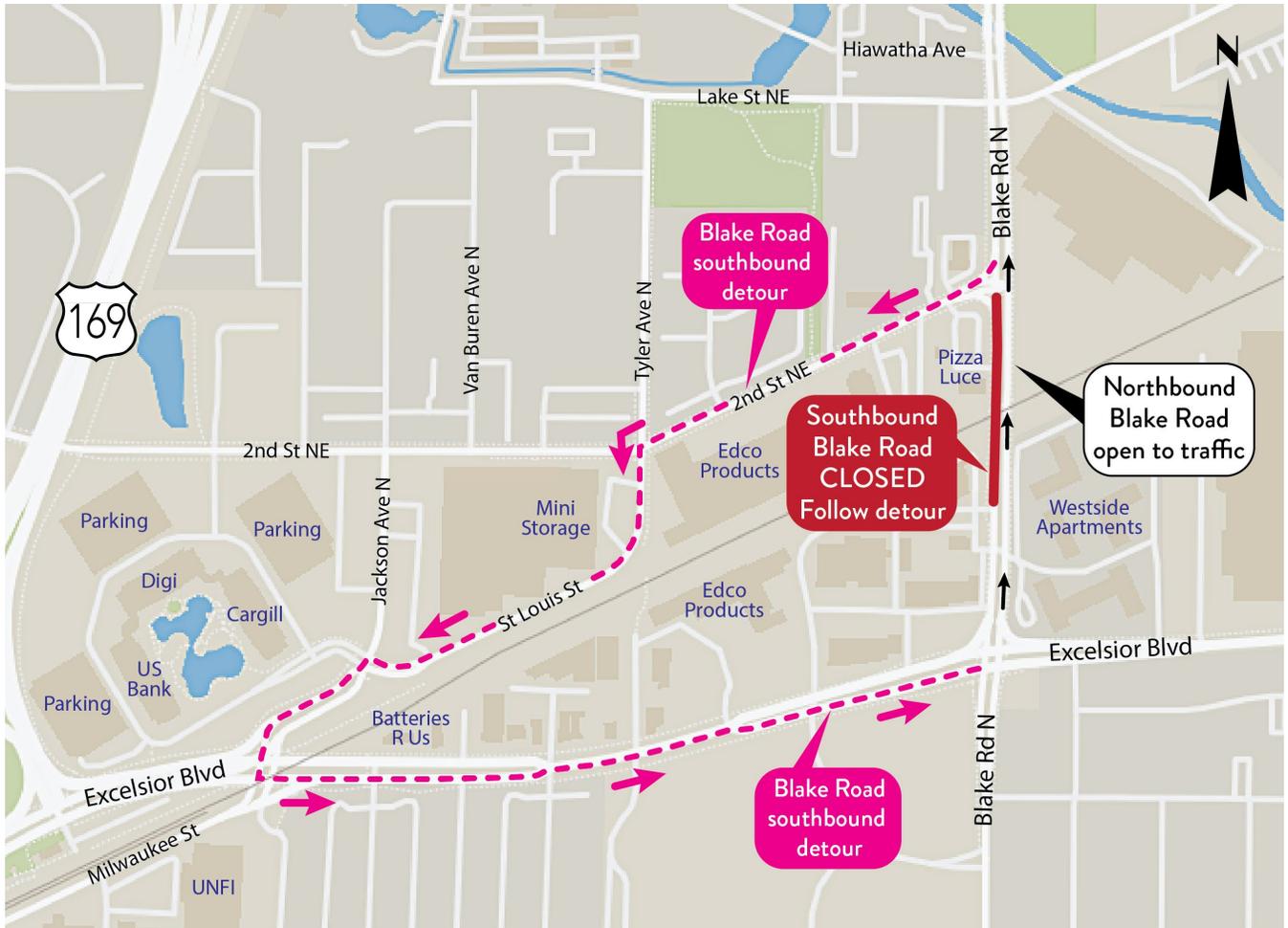


TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Blake Road Detour in Hopkins



Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park

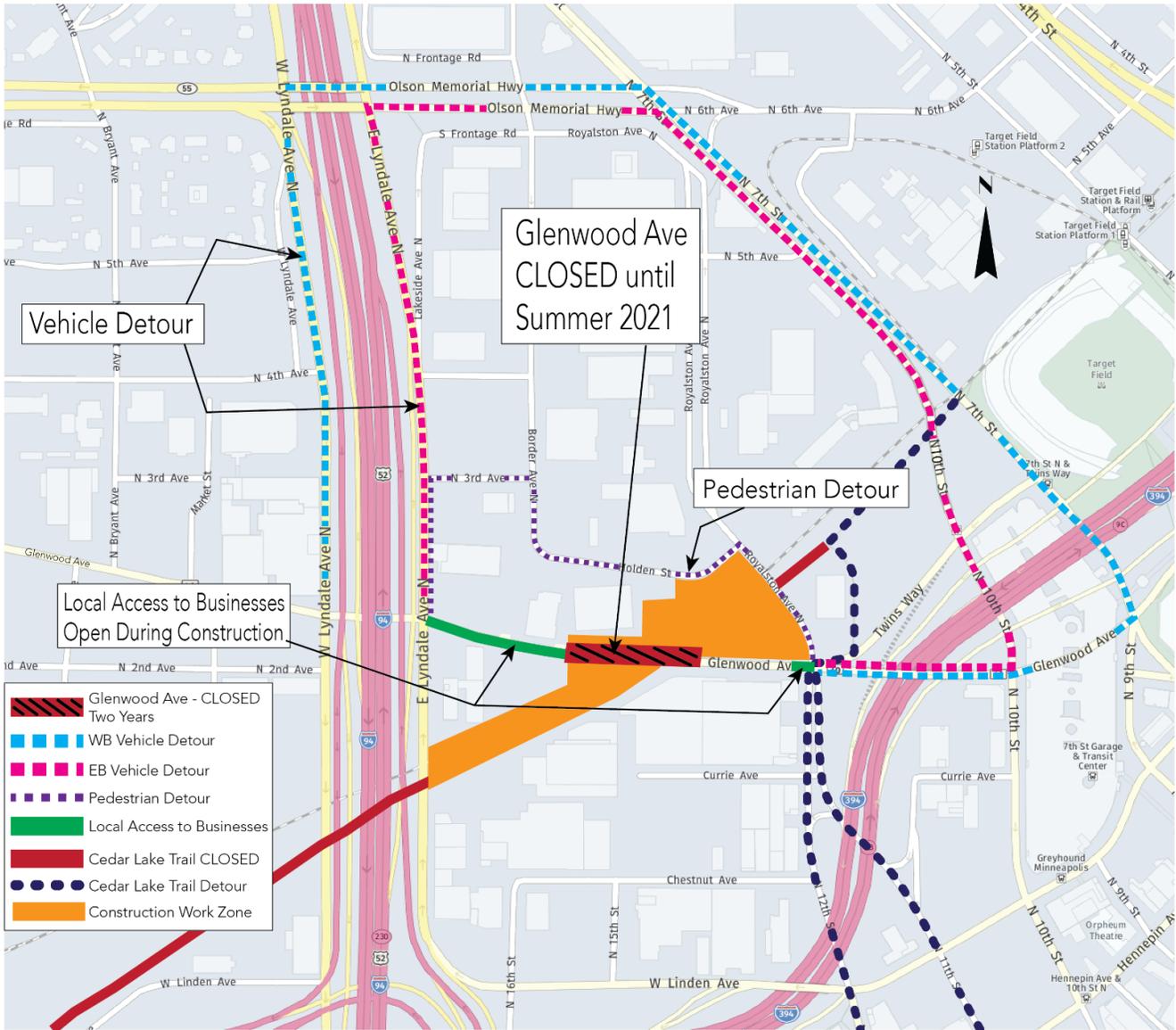




Cedar Lake Trail Detour Modification for Utility Work in Minneapolis



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

