



Construction Update: January 24, 2020

Web: swlrt.org

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

Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

Ongoing Utility Work

Utility relocation is one of the first activities in a construction area. There are multiple needs that drive utility work. Utilities need to be relocated and are placed in areas to minimize impacts to new LRT infrastructure while providing access to conduct regular maintenance. During construction, some utilities are temporarily rerouted so construction activities can occur. Utility companies are often working jointly with the civil contractor in the corridor. Utility impacts are noticed in advance of outages. Questions can always be directed to the project hotline or your Community Outreach Coordinator.

Example of utility work on Smetana Road in Hopkins/Minnetonka



Weekly Construction Photo: Cedar Lake Channel Freight Bridge in Minneapolis



Crews are working on the final pier and completing abutment work for the Cedar Lake Channel freight bridge, with final span work to follow. Once the new freight rail bridge is completed in the spring, the old freight rail bridge will be removed, and a new LRT bridge will be built.



Rendering of the future trail and LRT bridges, with the freight rail bridge in the background.

Highlights

- The SouthWest temporary Bus Station opened on Monday, January 20.
- Partial demolition of the old SouthWest Station facilities began this week. Demolition activities will be more notable starting in early February.

- Structural steel work for the Downtown Hopkins station has begun and will be ongoing through February.
- A few major utility relocations are nearing completion on Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis. Work to on the west abutments of the new road bridge starts early February. Three bridges are being constructed: an east roadway span, a west roadway span, and an LRT bridge.

On-going Activities Update

SouthWest Station Area in Eden Prairie

SouthWest Transit bus riders moved to a new temporary facility on January 20 (**see pedestrian detour map below**). The former bus loop and waiting area is now part of the active construction site. Demolition activities, like disconnecting utilities, for the former facilities have started this week and will continue into the coming weeks.

Pier work for the new LRT bridge that wraps around the SouthWest Station park-and ride structure will continue into Spring 2020. Sidewalks along Prairie Center and Technology Drive remain closed, please follow local signage to ensure your safety. The right-turn lane on the eastbound Highway 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed until Spring 2020, to accommodate the completion of retaining wall work. The retaining wall is nearly complete, crews will need warmer weather to property backfill.

Purgatory Creek Park/ Prairie Center Drive in Eden Prairie

On the west side of Prairie Center Drive, near Purgatory Creek Park, bridge pier work will begin next week. As work progresses, sidewalk detours will be needed, and later there will be impacts to roadways. More details to follow as work ramps up.

Eden Road Area in Eden Prairie

Retaining wall work has concluded for the winter; backfilling will resume in the spring.

LRT Bridge at I-494/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie

Pile driving activities for the north abutment started earlier in mid-January. Work on the south abutment will follow the north abutment. Pile driving for the abutments will last through February. Traffic control barriers continue to be in place. The I-494 eastbound ramp to Highway 212 remains closed until Spring 2020. **See detour map below.**

Valley View Road/Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie

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 winter. Crews are constructing multiple piers for the new LRT bridge. The piers are at different stages of completion, with crews working on pile supports and formwork.

Nine Mile Creek in Eden Prairie

Pile driving for the LRT bridge structure and abutments at Nine Mile Creek will continue through the winter. The sidewalk on the west side of Flying Cloud Drive is closed; pedestrians should use the east side.

Golden Triangle Station in Eden Prairie

Daytime piling for bridge piers will be the focus of work activities in this area next week. Major sanitary sewer work in the area as well as the structural steel for the station is nearing completion. Work has progressed to a point where we can shift more construction activities to daytime. Additional night work may be scheduled in the future as work between the Golden Triangle Station and the bridge over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212 continues. Pile driving will continue into Summer 2020.

Shady Oak Road & Highway 212 in Eden Prairie

Work will begin in this area as early as the beginning of February. More details on roadway impacts to follow in the coming weeks.

Highway 62 in Minnetonka

The traffic lanes have been shifted to the south side of the highway to accommodate tunnel construction on the north side of the highway. This traffic configuration will be in place through 2020. Crews continue excavation for the LRT tunnel.

Red Circle Drive and Yellow Circle Drive in Minnetonka

Yellow and Red Circle Drives have been reconfigured. Yellow Circle Drive is temporarily dead ended with a cul-de-sac where it connects to Red Circle Drive, and Yellow Circle has become a two-way roadway in the area south of Blue Circle Drive. A temporary by-pass road has also been completed on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will allow for ongoing tunnel construction on Highway 62 and will be in place until Fall 2020. **See a map of the roadway changes below.**

Opus Station Area in Minnetonka

Earthwork is underway in this area. Retaining wall and utility work is anticipated to begin late January.

Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins

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 detour maps below.**

Feltl Court/Nolan Drive Area in Hopkins

It is anticipated that in late-January preparation work including tree clearing and ground cover removal for the Minnetonka-Hopkins Bridge will begin. Bridge work will be ongoing into 2021.

Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is closed between Shady Oak Road and 5th Avenue South.

See detour map below.

- 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.

Downtown Hopkins Station

Foundation work for the station is complete. Work on the station's structural steel to support the walls and roof canopy started and will be going through February.

Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins

Crews continue to work on the LRT bridge and underground utilities in the area. Piers in the area are beginning to take shape and work on both bridge abutments is ongoing with pile driving and sheeting work.

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 below.**

Blake Road in Hopkins

Crews are constructing a cut and cover tunnel for the regional trail under Blake Road. Southbound traffic will continue to be diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction, through the winter. Next spring, crews will move to the east side of the roadway and traffic will remain reduced to one lane in each direction.

Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park

Work on the new freight and trail bridge abutments continues in this area. The west abutments are almost complete.

Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park

Later this winter crews will begin work to place bridge beams over the roadway. East of Louisiana Avenue, crews continue to build the trail underpass which will allow access under the freight rail line to the station area. Pile driving for the retaining walls for the trail underpass will start in early February.

Wooddale Avenue in St. Louis Park

Utility work started in the area to make way for upcoming work on the regional trail underpass and Wooddale Station. There will be minor impacts to roadways in the surrounding area. Retaining wall work will begin in the area as early as next week. Impacts to the roadway are anticipated as early as late February, more details to follow in the coming weeks.

Highway 100 in St. Louis Park

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and will build a new LRT bridge over Highway 100 in the spring/summer of 2020. Work on east bridge abutment is ongoing.

Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park

Work on the new South Cedar Lake Trail Bridge continues. Crews are constructing beams, rebar and “falsework” (items only needed to complete construction that are later removed) for the bridge.

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, bikes and pedestrians remains open at Cedar Lake Parkway and at West 21st Street. **See detour map below.**

Chowen Avenue to Lake Street in Minneapolis

Storm sewer and watermain work will occur during the winter months. Work is anticipated in this area in February.

Kenilworth Area Construction in Minneapolis

Sheet piling for the Kenilworth tunnel continues. One of the press-in-pilers is currently working south from 28th Street. The second press-in-piler, which arrived in the corridor in early January, is moving north from 28th street, on the freight rail side. It will also stop short of Cedar Lake Parkway and return south, working towards Lake Street. Sheet piling installation is expected to last until Summer 2020.

Tunnel excavation is anticipated to begin Spring 2020. 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 is also available.

In preparation for future tunnel work, a Metropolitan Council Environmental Services sanitary sewer force main needs to be temporarily relocated, with crews working around 28th Street. Limited tree and shrub removal will begin at the end of January, with fencing following. In February the installation of a new pipe will begin. Construction crews refer to this process as “pipe jacking,” which means a prefabricated pipe is installed through the ground.

Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel and Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Minneapolis

Crews are currently placing concrete for the last of the freight bridge piers. Abutment work is also being completed, outside of the waterway.

21st Street in Minneapolis

Retaining wall activities are being completed in the area. Intermittent work will continue.

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 below.**

Crews constructed a temporary trail bypass in the area where the North Cedar Lake Trail connects to the Kenilworth Trail. New signage is in place to direct trail users onto this newly constructed segment. This work is in preparation for station construction in Spring 2020.

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. Anticipate flaggers in this area as earthwork activities begin in the Bryn Mawr Station area in the next few months.

Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis

Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North is closed until mid-2021. **See detour map below.** 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 begins in February.

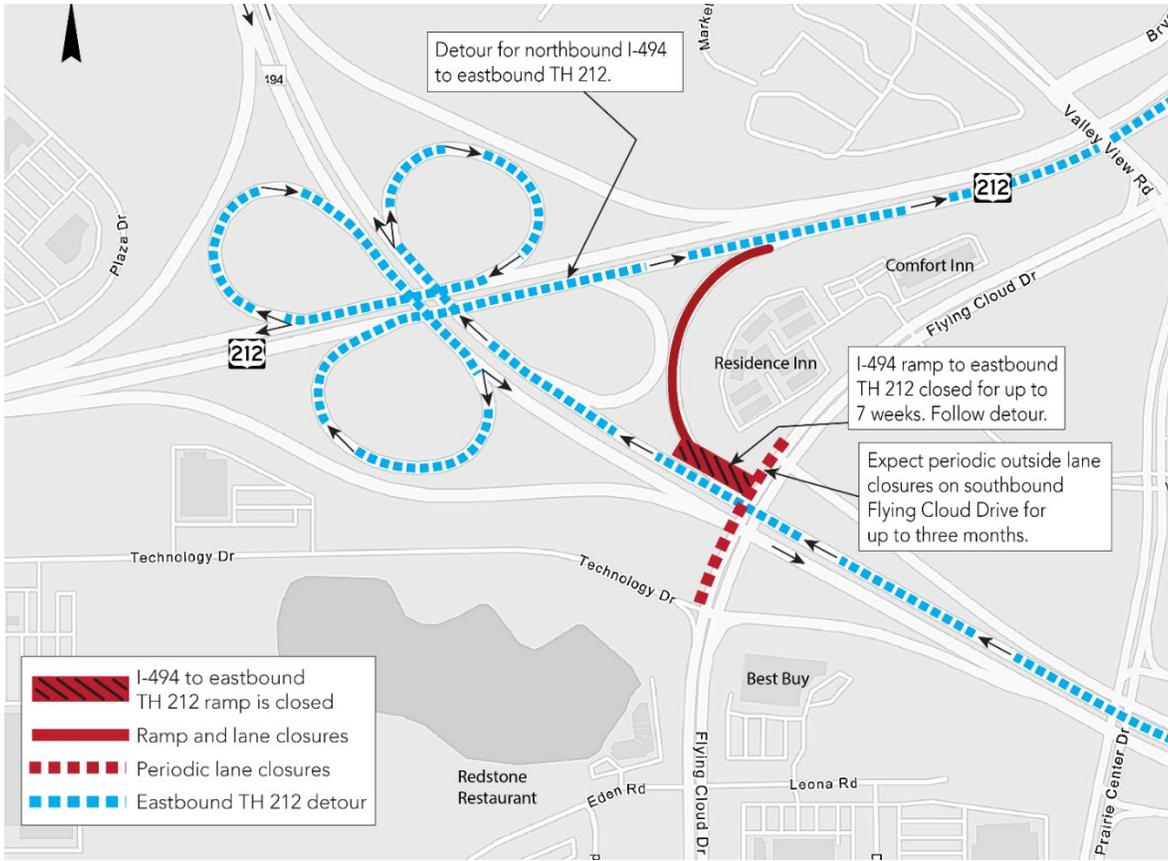
Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

Work on the LRT bridge piers on the east side of Royalston Avenue is ongoing and will continue through the winter. Expect pile driving activities in this area. Northbound Royalston Avenue is reduced to one lane and southbound Royalston Avenue is closed between Border Avenue and 5th Avenue until Summer 2021. **See the roadway impact map below.**

SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



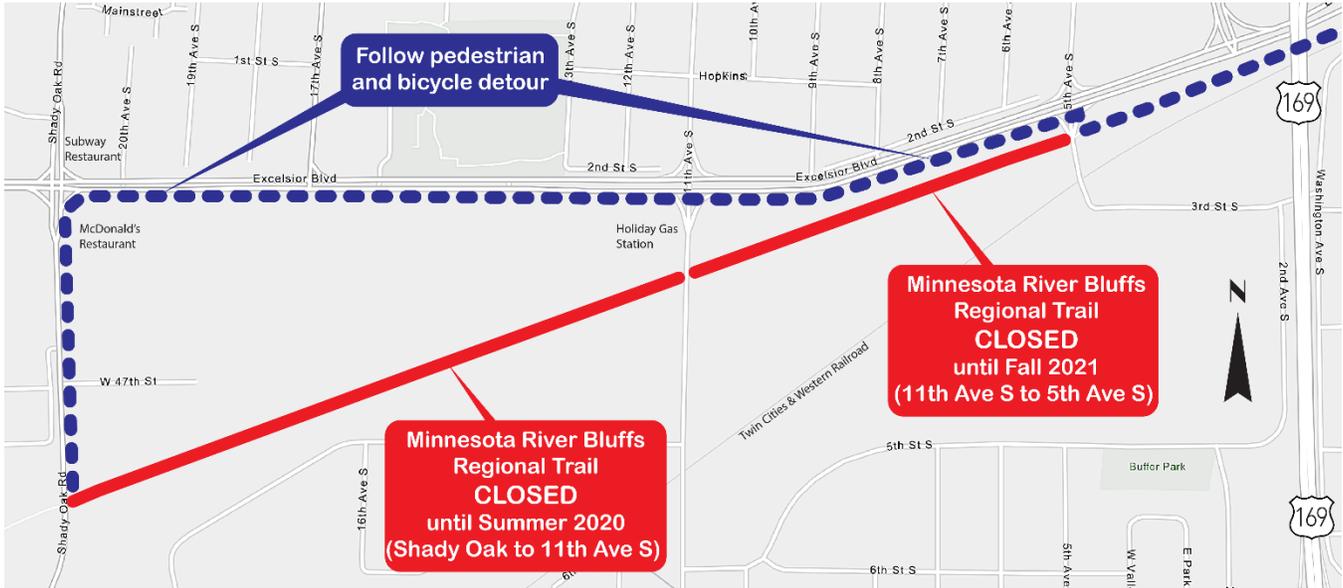
Yellow Circle Roadway Changes in Minnetonka



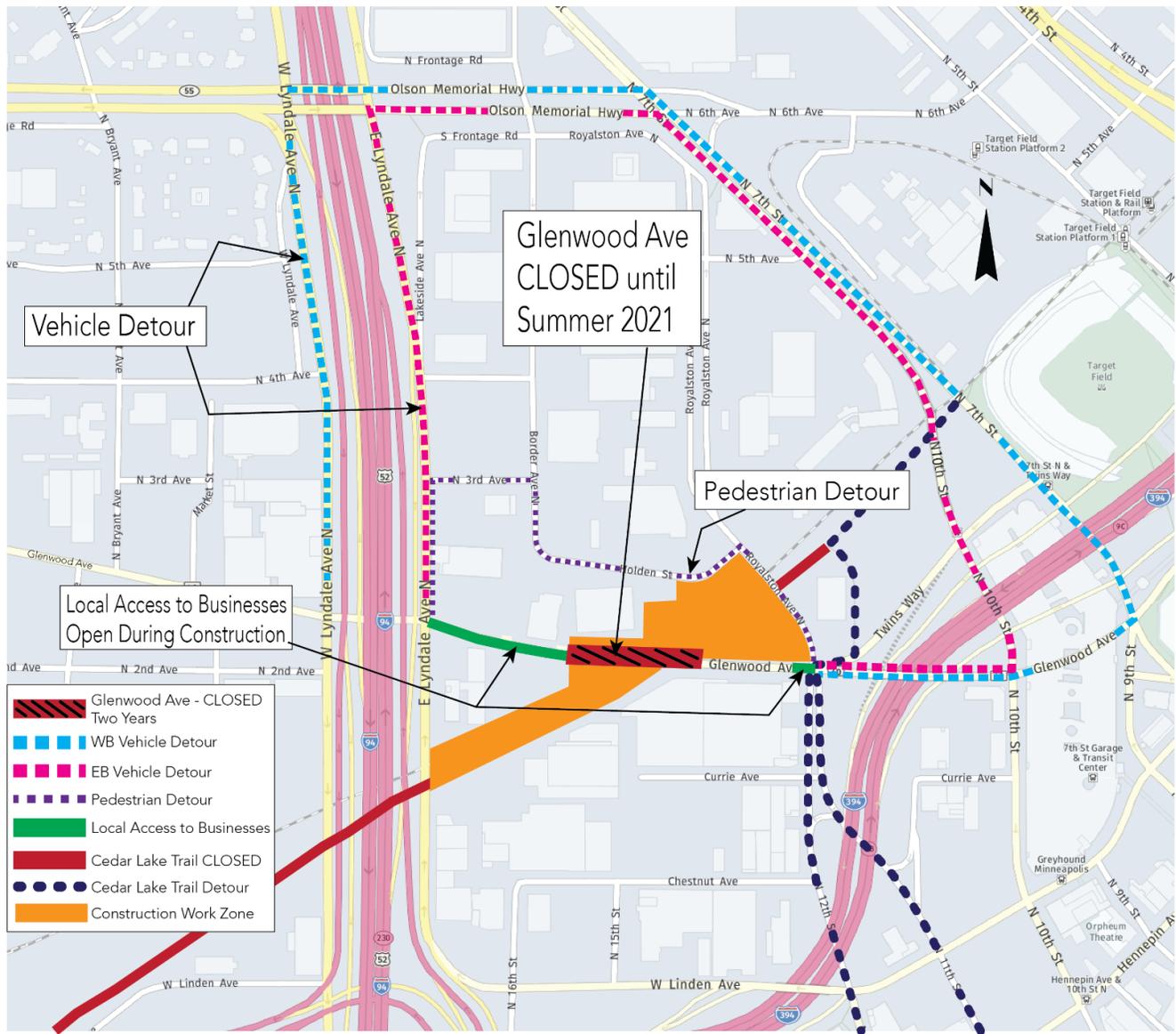
Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour



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



Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis

