



**Construction Update: September 20, 2019**

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### **Ongoing Interagency Coordination**

Coordination with corridor project partners has been a critical element of Southwest LRT planning, engineering and remains integral for the construction process. As the Southwest LRT project office began initial construction activities, staff met with project partners to review preliminary detour routes, closure durations, and staging of construction activities. Once construction began, regular meetings with project partners were scheduled. Every week we hold a series of meetings with the civil construction contractor, the corridor cities, county, MnDOT, public and private utilities, and often the park districts. We review schedules, traffic impacts, environmental compliance, safety, discuss upcoming work, and coordinate road closures and detours. These meetings allow issues to be addressed and multiple construction activities to be coordinated. With the duration of the Southwest LRT construction and Minnesota’s limited construction season, project partners seek to minimize disruption to the largest extent possible. However, overlapping impacts can’t be avoided, such as both the project office and the City of Hopkins working on Blake Road.

### **Weekly Construction Photo: SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie**



Crews install piles that will be part of the future SouthWest Station area. Coming this Fall, crews will construct a temporary passenger waiting area for bus riders and demolish the current SouthWest Transit Station passenger waiting area and former offices. Work will then progress on building the shared bus and LRT facility.

## **On-going Activities Update**

### **SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie**

The temporary passenger drop-off lanes at SouthWest Transit Station have been moved to the west end of the parking structure. SouthWest Transit Station and buses are operating as usual. Pile driving near the former Culver's site continues. Retaining wall work for the LRT guideway is also continuing in the area.

### **Prairie Center Drive/Eden Road Area in Eden Prairie**

Crews continue to perform ongoing grading and retaining wall work. Utility companies are also working in the area and near Flying Cloud Drive towards the east. Work will begin around the intersection of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive to build support for bridge piers and work on a temporary traffic signal.

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

The installation of sheet piling for pier construction for the new LRT bridge has begun and traffic control barriers are in place. The work on the center pier is ongoing, progressing well for crews to pour bridge columns. The I-494 eastbound ramp to TH 212, which closed the week of August 12, will remain closed until mid-October. **See detour map below.** While traffic control barriers will be in place, please remember to observe the posted speed limit to help ensure the safety of other motorists and our crews.

### **Valley View Road in Eden Prairie**

In the area of Flying Cloud Drive and TH 212, there will be lane restrictions as work begins on the ramp from Valley View to TH 212. Traffic will be diverted onto the HOV lane.

### **Golden Triangle in Eden Prairie**

Nighttime piling in the Golden Triangle area is planned to resume next week. Crews are currently working to construct noise dampening around the pile driver prior to the nighttime work. Night piling is needed for a portion of this work from Golden Triangle Station north of West 70th Street to a bridge over Shady Oak Road and Hwy 212 due to vibration sensitive businesses in the area. Generally, crews will start nighttime work at 1:00 AM. Construction work could start earlier in the night if schedules permit. The Southwest LRT project worked with the contractor to develop and test various noise reduction strategies for nighttime pile driving activities,

but residents may be able to hear construction activities. Please note, nighttime pile driving activities could last up to four months. Daytime piling work is ongoing and will continue until summer 2020. We appreciate your patience while we complete this necessary work.

### **TH 62 in Minnetonka**

Preparation work for the LRT tunnel under TH 62 has begun. Crews are working on installing temporary drainage and are preparing the median for future lane shifts to consolidate both east and westbound traffic on the south side of the highway. Expect traffic delays as periodic lane closures and traffic shifts occur. Once traffic is shifted to the south side of the highway, LRT tunnel construction can commence. Tunnel work is anticipated in late Fall.

### **Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins**

Smetana Road from Feltl Court to Feltl Road closed on August 21 for six weeks (**see detour map below**).

Following this six-week closure, Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive will be closed for up to a year. Signs will be posted seven days before each closure.

### **Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins**

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is now closed between Shady Oak Road and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. **See detour map below.**

- The section between 11th Avenue South and Shady Oak Road is closed due to storm sewer construction activities. This portion of the trail may be closed for approximately one year. Crews continue to evaluate options to reduce the duration of this closure.
- The section between 8th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until Fall 2021.

### **Excelsior Boulevard Area in Hopkins**

Excelsior Boulevard at the freight railroad crossing closed on Friday, September 6 to all vehicle traffic and will remain closed until approximately mid-October. Expect traffic delays in this area. **See detour map below.**

Additional closures will be needed later in the Fall to complete this phase of activity. Signs will be posted seven days before each closure.

### **Blake Road in Hopkins**

Crews are working to construct a tunnel for the regional trail. Blake Road southbound lanes are closed, and traffic is diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction, which will last for approximately 6

months. Once work is complete on the south-bound side of the road, work will shift to the north-bound side of the road and traffic will be diverted to the other side of the road.

### **Minnehaha Creek Trail Bridge in St. Louis Park**

Over the last week crews began to demolish the regional trail bridge that spans Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park. Demolition and preparation work will take about six weeks, into early November, as construction of new LRT, freight and trail bridges begin. Flaggers will be monitoring recreational water use as there will be times that construction activities make it unsafe to travel through the creek. Individuals using the waterway will encounter intermittent closures lasting approximately 20 minutes during construction activity.

### **Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park**

Vehicle traffic is reduced to one lane in each direction as crews have shifted lanes to work on abutments; expect sheet piling activity in the area. Pedestrian access across Louisiana Avenue has been restored. Localized detour information has been posted for safe sidewalk use. Another full closure of Louisiana Avenue is anticipated in mid-October.

### **TH 100 in St. Louis Park**

The project will be re-positioning the existing freight rail bridge and will build a new LRT bridge over TH 100. Center bridge pier work is complete, and TH 100 traffic has been shifted back to the original alignment. Crews continue to work on the abutments in the area. Expect to see fencing and erosion control work as well.

### **Beltline Boulevard in St. Louis Park**

Work on the new Cedar Lake Trail Bridge continues. Crews are excavating for bridge abutments and performing pier work.

### **Cedar Lake Trail**

Cedar Lake Trail through Hopkins, St. Louis Park, and Minneapolis is closed in three segments until Fall 2021 (**see detour maps below**). The 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 closure of roadways upcoming at various dates. The trail is closed between these segments:

- Between just east of the North Cedar Lake Trail connection in Hopkins to France Avenue in St. Louis Park.
- Minneapolis from Linden Yards located west of Van White Boulevard to east of Royalston Avenue.

### **Kenilworth Trail Closure**

The Kenilworth Trail is closed in Minneapolis until Summer 2022. At this time, automobiles, bikes and pedestrians will continue to cross at Cedar Lake Parkway and at W 21<sup>st</sup> Street.

- The Kenilworth Trail is closed at the intersection with the Midtown Greenway and extends northeast to just south of W 21st St.

### **Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis**

Cedar Lake Parkway reopened to vehicle traffic on Saturday, September 14. Crews continue to work in the area in preparation of shifting freight rail tracks in the coming weeks. A second closure of Cedar Lake Parkway will occur in Spring/Summer 2020 to construct the LRT tunnel. The roadway will be closed for six months for tunnel work. Signs will be posted, and area residents will be notified prior to the closure.

### **Burnham Road in Minneapolis**

On August 26 crews cut into the roadway to continue watermain work and the roadway is closed to through traffic. Two-way traffic will continue to be allowed on Burnham Road Bridge during the detours. **See detour maps below.** Burnham Road will remain closed through early October. Crews will begin to restore the roadway shortly. They will be paving with concrete to better tie into the existing roadway materials and help with future maintenance. However, compared to bituminous, concrete takes longer to construct and fully set before vehicle traffic can drive on it.

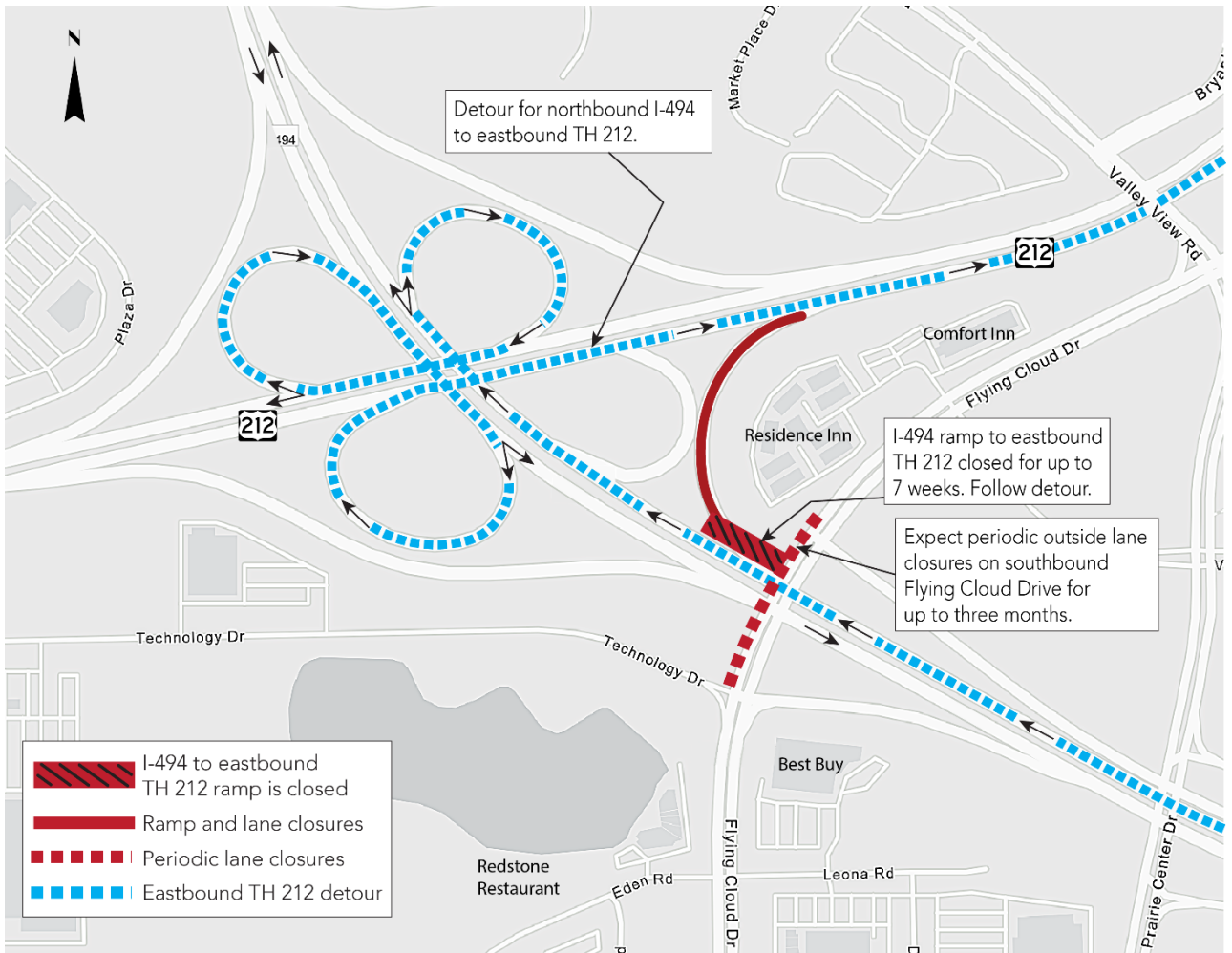
### **Cedar Lake (Kenilworth) Channel and Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Minneapolis**

Shoring for bridge pier construction is being installed and piling is underway. Individuals using the waterway between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake may encounter intermittent closures lasting approximately 20 minutes during construction activity. A full closure of the Cedar Lake Channel is expected later this Fall; a 14-day advanced notification will be provided prior to a full closure. Retaining wall work surrounding the channel has also commenced. Retaining wall work to the south of the channel will take place over the next week and the retaining wall immediately north of the channel will begin in early October.

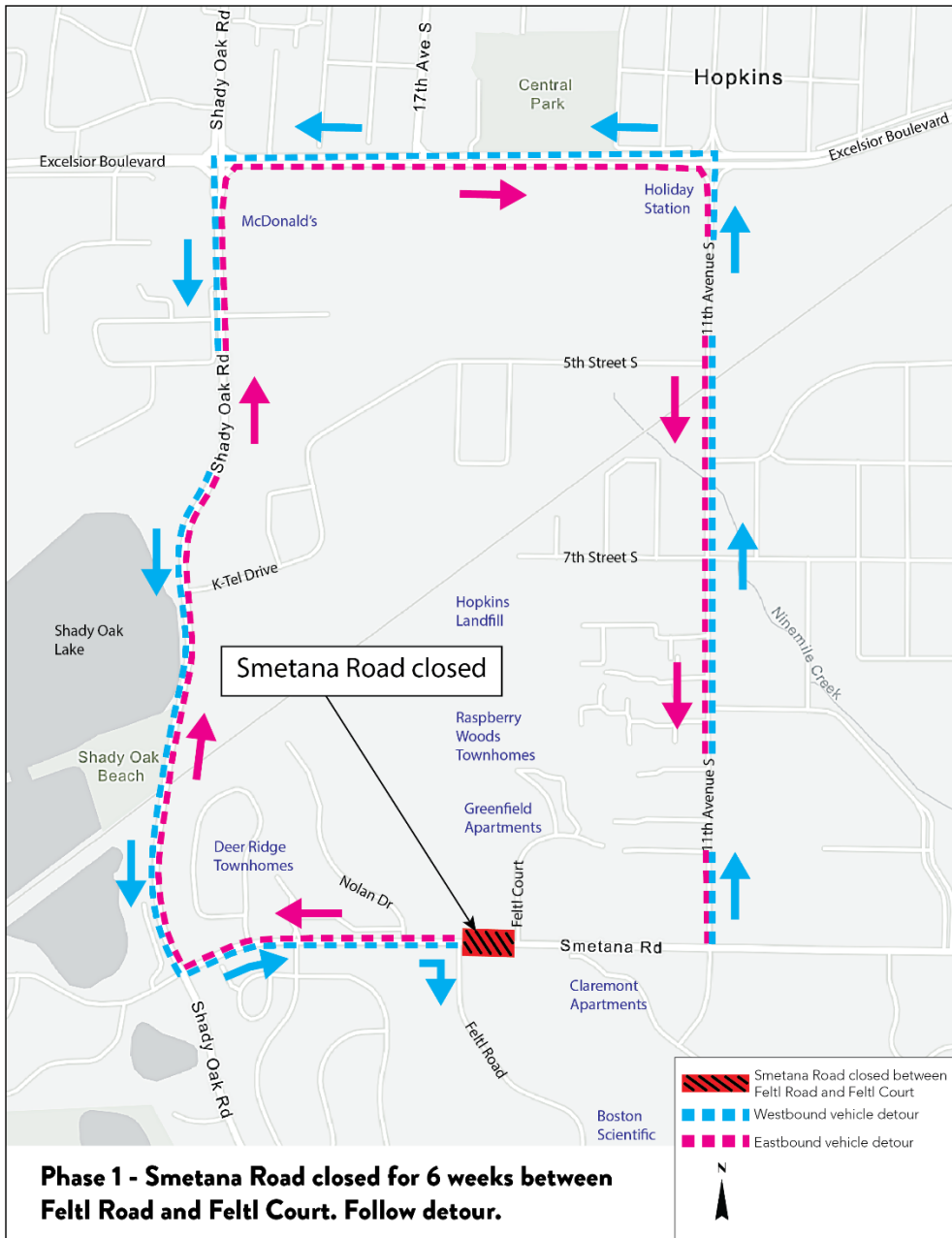
### **Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis**

The closure of Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North began on July 15, 2019 and will last approximately two years. Local access to businesses will be maintained. Generally, vehicle detours will use Lyndale Avenue, Olson Memorial Highway and 7<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Streets. The pedestrian detour will utilize Border Avenue, Holden Street and Royalston Avenue sidewalks. **See detour map below.**

# Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour

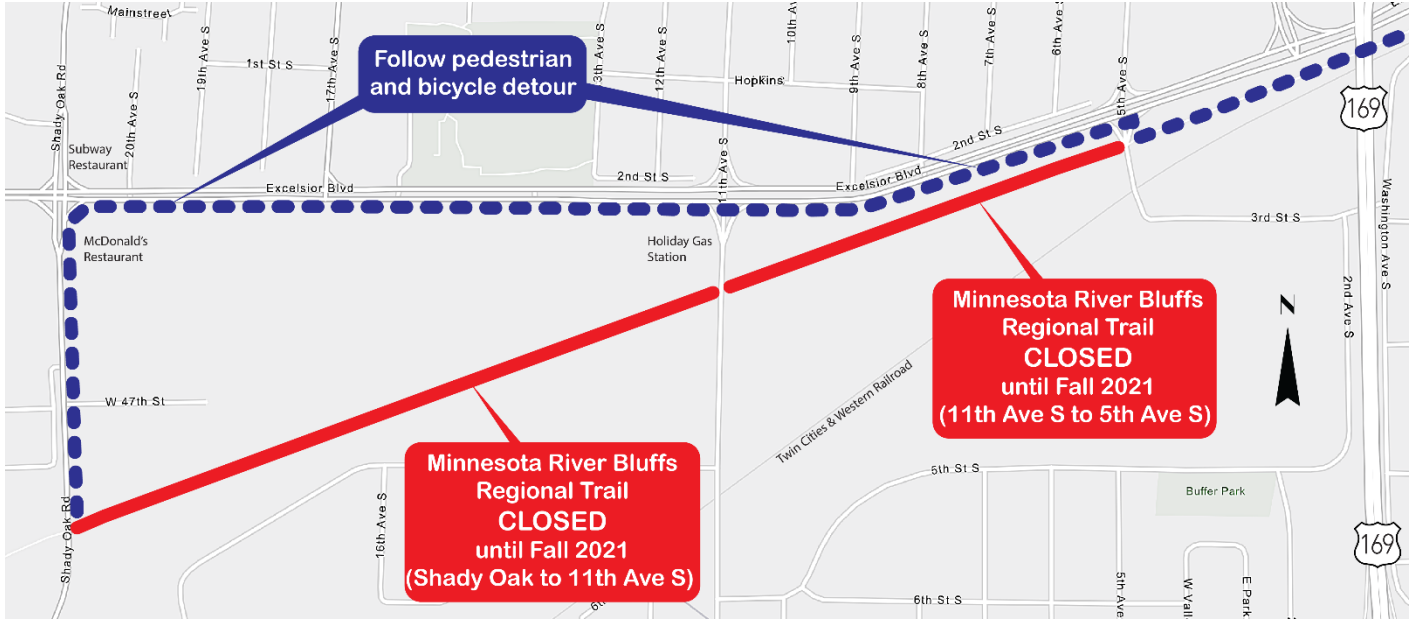


# Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour

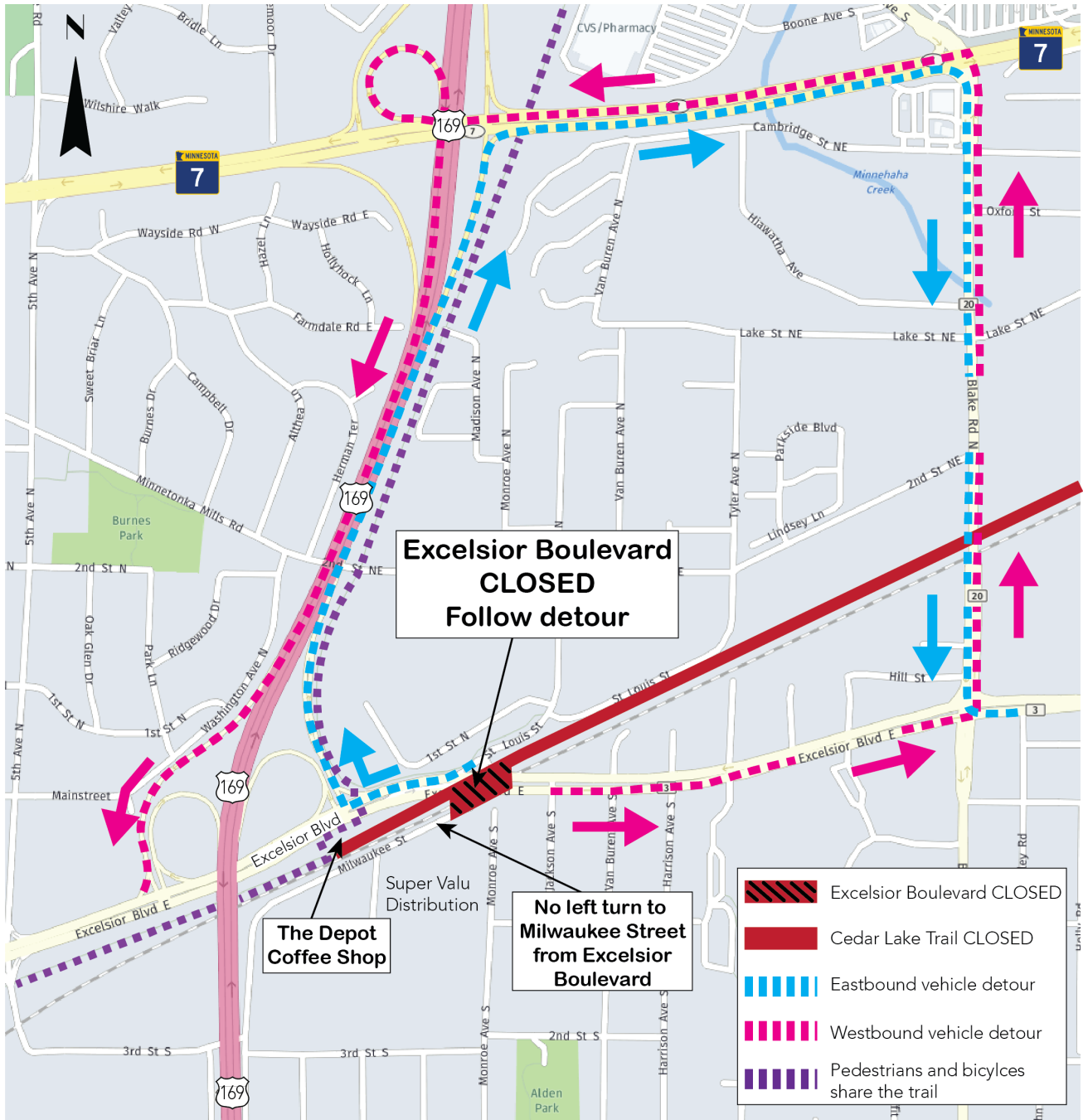




# Minnesota River Bluff Trail from Shady Oak Road to 5th Avenue Detour

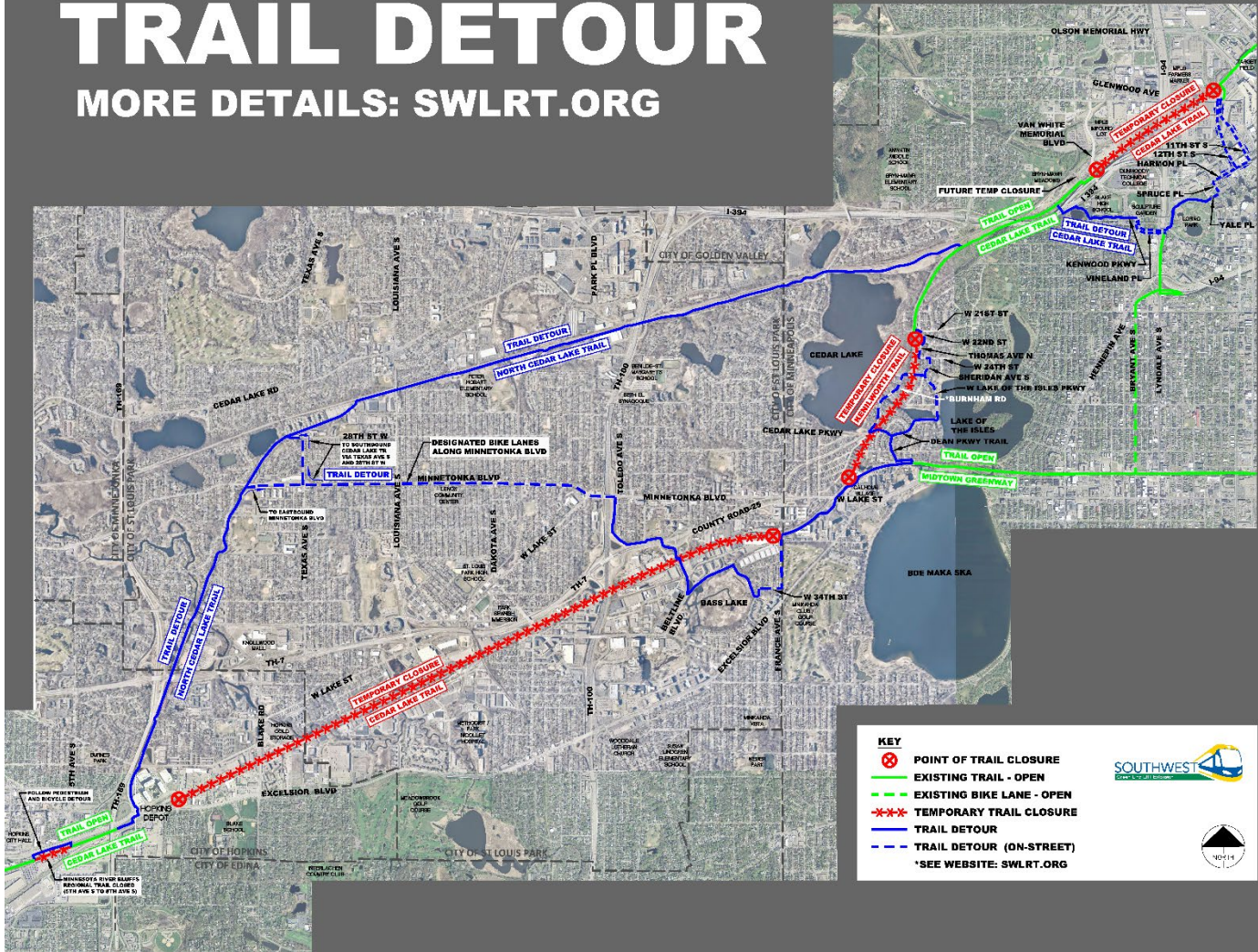


# Excelsior Boulevard Detour

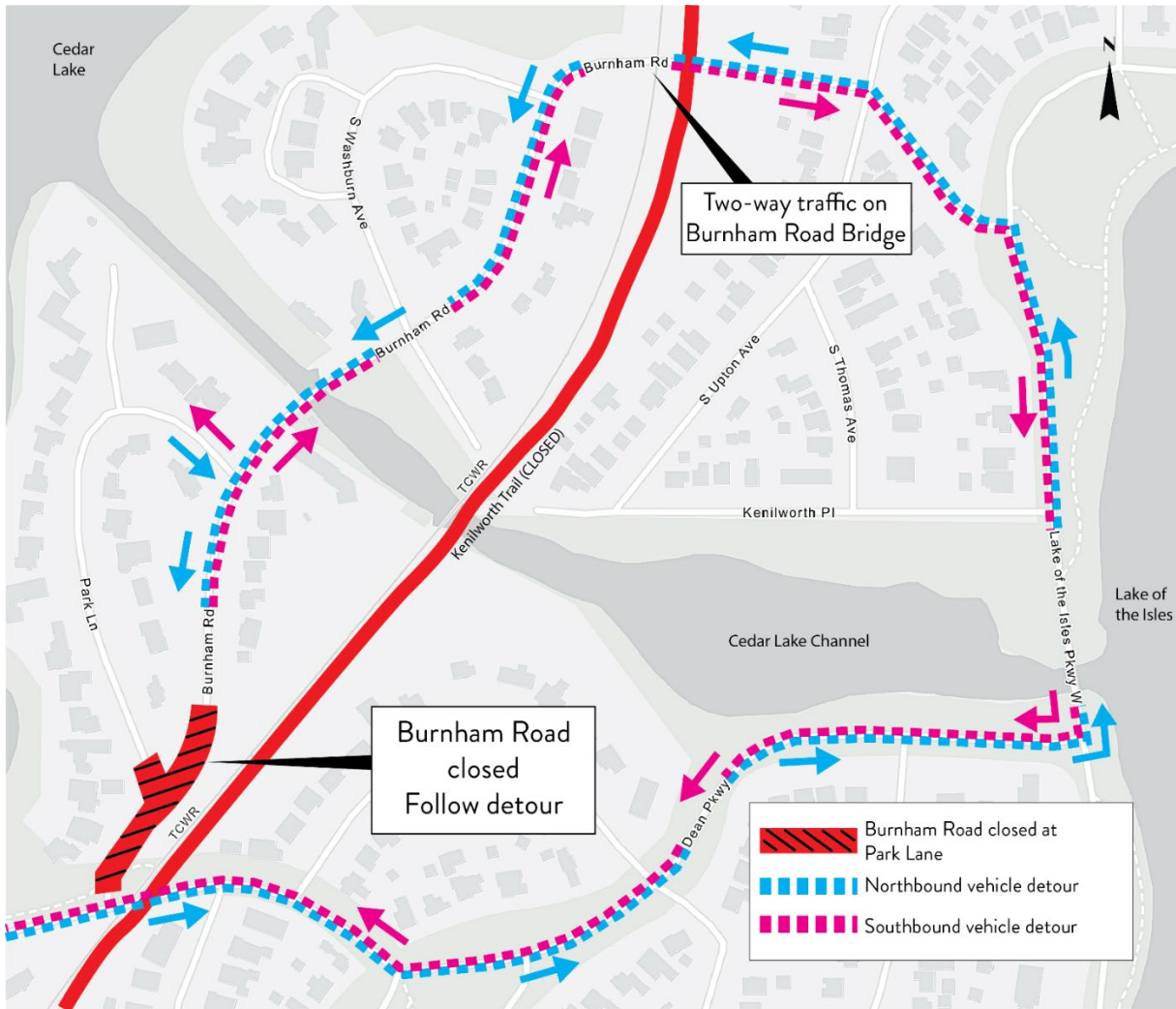


# TRAIL DETOUR

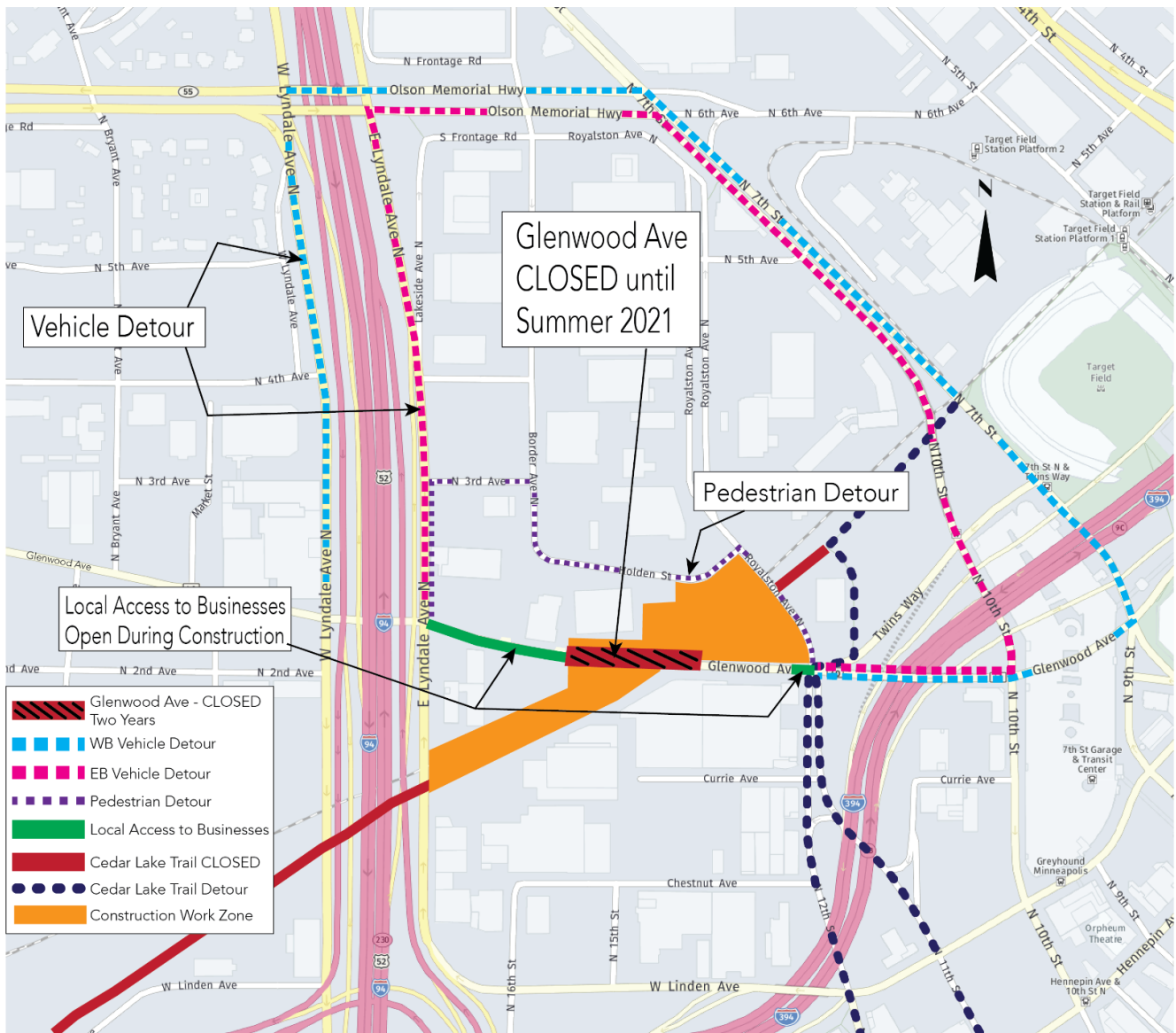
MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



# Burnham Road Closure at Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour



# Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour



# Cedar Lake Trail in Minneapolis Pedestrian and Bike Detour

