



Construction Update: August 27—September 10, 2021

Web: swlrt.org

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

Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933

Labor Day Weekend

This update provides construction details through Friday, September 10. The Southwest LRT civil construction contractor will not be working over the Labor Day holiday; however, crews may be on construction sites conducting inspections and checking equipment.

Upcoming Highway 494 Closure

Highway 494 will close overnight in both direction between Highway 169 and Highway 212 on Thursday, September 2 at 10:00 PM. The highway will reopen on Friday, September 3 at 5:00 AM. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)

Weekly Construction Photo: Senator Smith and FTA Administrator Fernandez Visit SWLRT



On Tuesday, August 24, Senator Tina Smith and Federal Transit Administration Administrator Nuria Fernandez toured the Royalston Avenue/Farmers Market Station area. Project Director Jim Alexander, pictured, provided an overview of construction activities in the area. Senator Smith and Administrator Fernandez also met and heard from field crews working on the project.

Eden Prairie

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 1 of 2



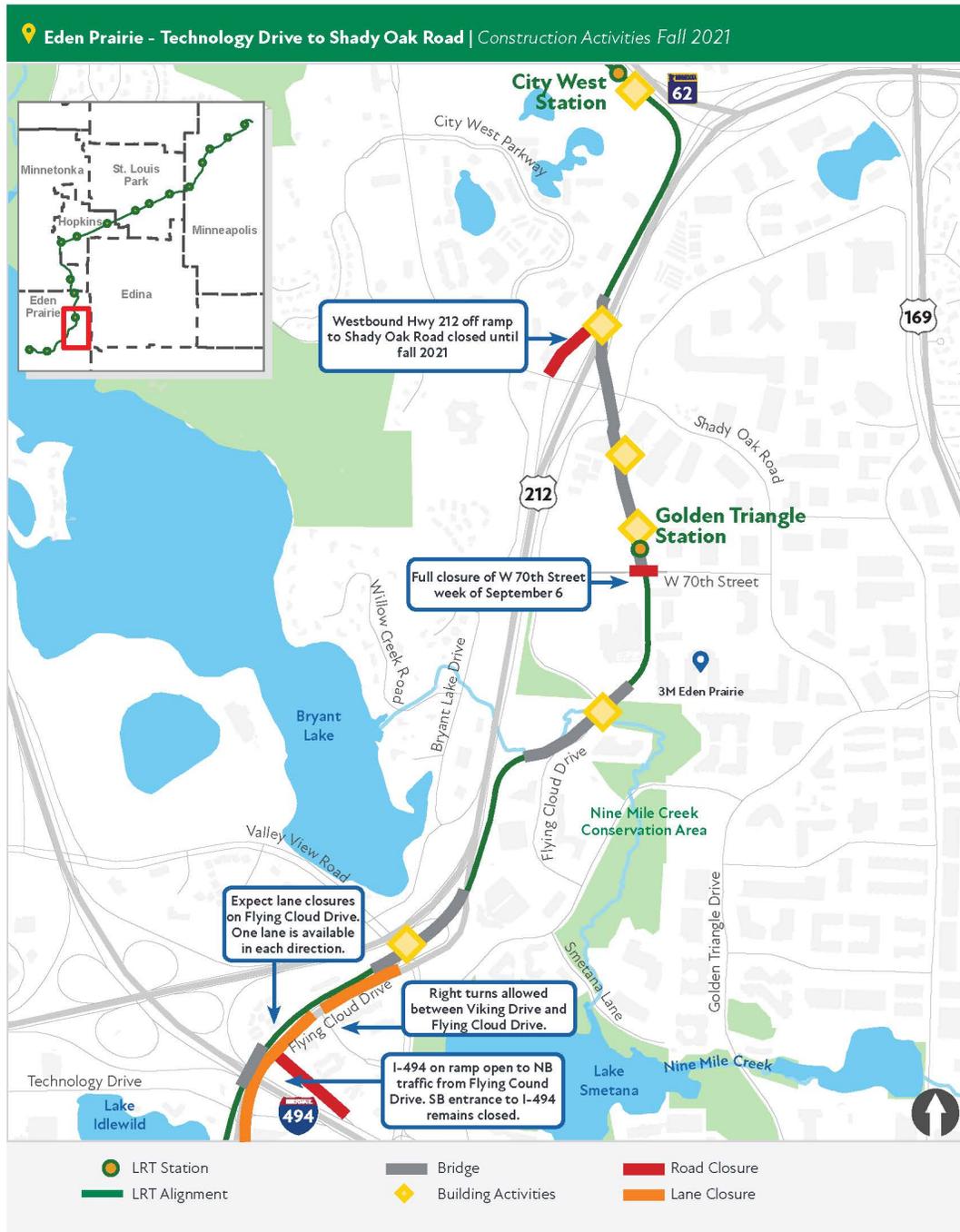
SouthWest Station to Eden Prairie Town Center Station

Construction Overview: At the SouthWest Station we are constructing a new park-and-ride ramp adjacent to the existing ramp and a combined bus and LRT station. Moving east, the Prairie Center Drive LRT Bridge extends from the SouthWest Station area over Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive. Moving east, LRT will enter the Eden Prairie Town Center Station area.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Construction of the new SouthWest Station parking ramp and waiting area continues to advance, with the main structure mostly in place.

Eden Prairie Construction: Map 2 of 2



LRT Bridge at I-494 to Shady Oak Road

Construction Overview: In this portion of Eden Prairie, an LRT bridge will cross over I-494, parallel to Flying Cloud Drive; this bridge is almost complete. Flying Cloud Drive is being reconstructed and LRT track installed. LRT will

travel on bridges over Flying Cloud Drive and Nine Mile Creek. The Golden Triangle Station is being constructed as well as an LRT bridge over Shady Oak Road and Highway 212.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- The I-494 off-ramp to Flying Cloud Drive is closed for the 2021 construction season. The eastbound I-494 on-ramp from Flying Cloud Drive is open. Traffic traveling westbound on Flying Cloud Drive should follow the posted detours to access eastbound I-494. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)
- Flying Cloud Drive is reduced to one lane in both directions between Town Center Place to Valley View Road through the summer. Left turns in and out of Technology Drive at the Flying Cloud Drive intersection are not allowed through the summer.
- A full closure of Flying Cloud Drive at Nine Mile Creek bridge will occur on Monday, August 30, 2021, to pour sidewalk on the bridge deck.
- Beginning the week of September 6, W 70th Street will fully close to pull LRT rail and install OCS foundations. Once closed, work is expected to last 3 to 4 days. Detour information will be available 7 days in advance.
- The westbound Highway 212 off-ramp to Shady Oak Road will remain closed through the end of the construction season.
- The Highway 62 on-ramp from Shady Oak Road is closed while crews advance adjacent construction. Expect lane closures along eastbound Highway 62 between Shady Oak Road and Highway 212. These closures are anticipated to last through the summer. [See Eden Prairie detour information.](#)
- Crews are advancing the southern portion of the Highway 62 LRT tunnel and area retaining walls. Most of the tunnel's structure is in place, and backfilling activities are underway.
- A weekend closure of Highway 62 is anticipated in mid-September. More details to follow.

Minnetonka Construction: Map 1 of 1



City West Station in Eden Prairie to Shady Oak Station in Hopkins

Construction Overview: The City West Station area continues with preparation work for retaining walls. Major elements in this segment include an LRT tunnel under Highway 62, the Opus Station, many large retaining walls, the Smetana/Feltl roadway bridges over LRT and the Hopkins/Minnetonka LRT Bridge ending at the Shady Oak Road Station.

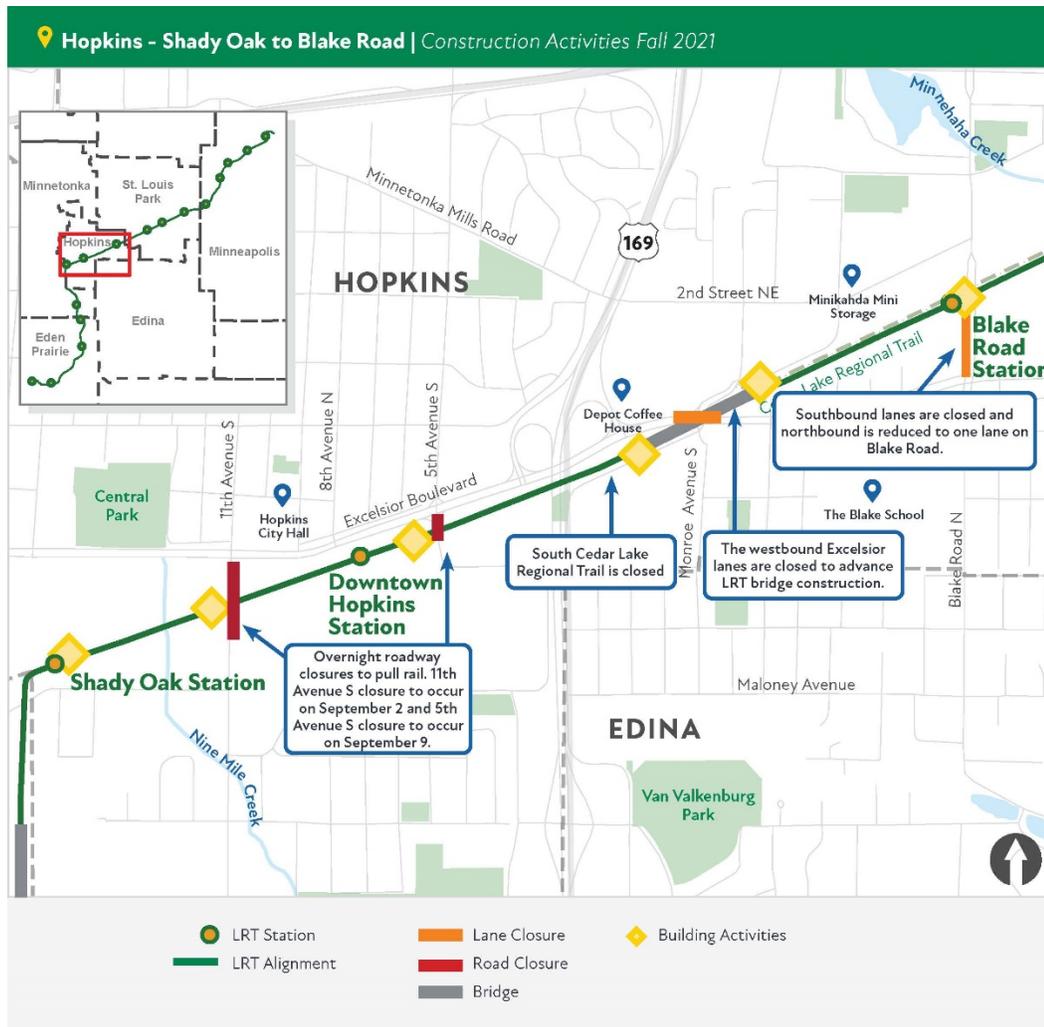
Current activities to expect in this area:

- The westbound lane on Green Circle Drive near the intersection with Bren Road West is closed through the 2021 construction season to complete work in the LRT corridor.
- A segment of Bren Road East is being reconstructed near the LRT corridor. Traffic on Red Circle Drive and Bren Road East temporarily connect with Yellow Circle Drive. Yellow Circle Drive is a two-way road during this phase of construction to accommodate through traffic and local businesses. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)
- The City of Minnetonka has closed the Blue Circle Drive bridge. This work is anticipated to continue through November. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)

- Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive remains closed until later this fall. A bypass is in place east of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl roads to accommodate local traffic. [See Minnetonka detour maps here.](#)
- Crews continue to work on the Minnetonka-Hopkins LRT bridge. Expect noise from piling as bridge pier construction continues.

Hopkins

Hopkins Construction: Map 1 of 1



Shady Oak Road Station to Blake Road Station

Construction Overview: There are three stations in Hopkins: Shady Oak Road, Downtown Hopkins and Blake Road. Major structures in Hopkins include an LRT bridge over Excelsior and a regional trail underpass at Blake Road. In addition to LRT track construction there is also freight rail and regional trail work in the area. There are multiple LRT and freight railroad crossings at roadways.

Louisiana Avenue to Beltline Boulevard

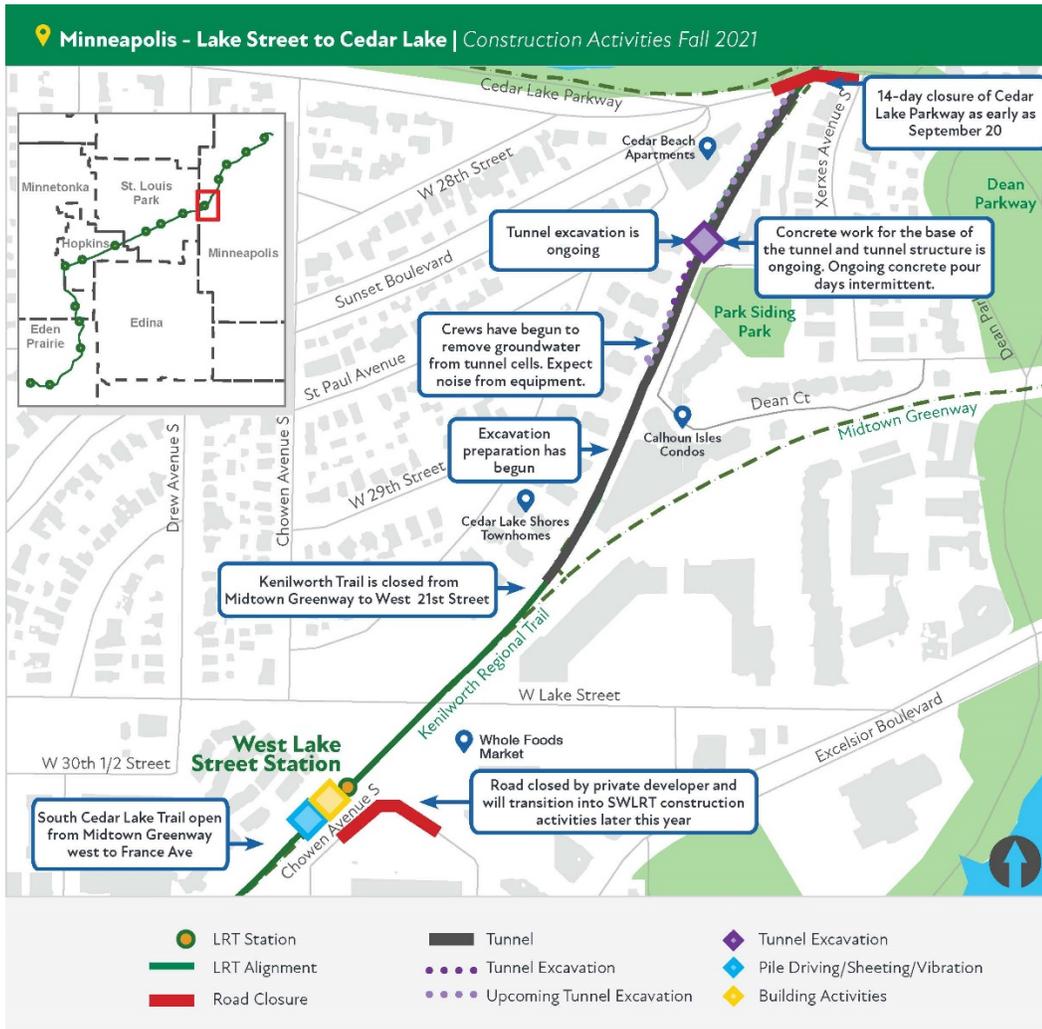
Construction Overview: Like in Hopkins, the project includes the construction of LRT track, freight rail track, and the regional trail. There are also three stations in St. Louis Park: Louisiana Avenue, Wooddale Avenue and Beltline Boulevard. Structures in this area include LRT and freight rail bridges over Louisiana Avenue, a connection between freight lines, a pedestrian/trail underpass east of Louisiana Avenue, freight, LRT and trail bridges over Minnehaha Creek, a regional trail underpass at Wooddale Avenue, freight, LRT and trail bridges over Highway 100 and a regional trail bridge crossing over Beltline Boulevard.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Crews are advancing construction of the LRT bridge over the Minnehaha Creek; expect to hear pile driving as work progresses.
- Expect lane closures through the summer along Louisiana Avenue between West Lake Street and Oxford Street while crews advance bridge construction. Piling operations are expected.
- Crews continue to advance the freight rail connection in the Louisiana Avenue area.

[Minneapolis](#)

Minneapolis Construction: Map 1 of 5



Chowen Avenue to Cedar Lake Parkway

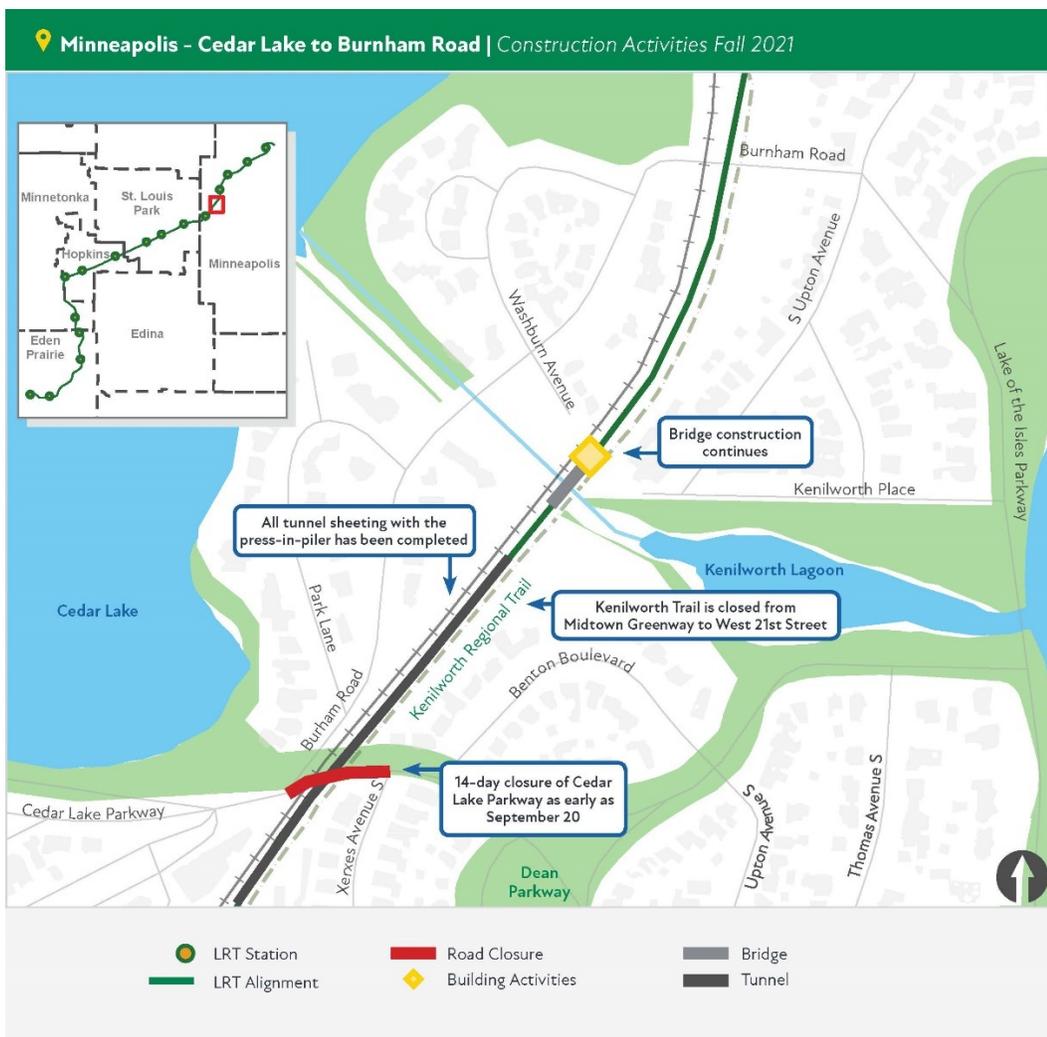
Construction Overview: In addition to the West Lake Street Station, crews will be reconstructing the Chowen/Abbott roadway connection. The LRT tunnel is being constructed in this area, running between the West Lake Street Station and the Cedar Lake Channel. To complete work in this area there is also freight rail infrastructure and trail facilities.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Freight rail work continues for the following weekend days: August 28-29. Work hours will be 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM. Crews will pull new rail, install spikes and ties, and tamp ballast. Work this weekend is expected between Burnham Road and West 21st Street, but residents could see additional activity anywhere between France Avenue and the BNSF Wayzata Junction near the Bryn Mawr Station area. Expect noise, equipment and materials moving through the corridor as well as vibratory activity from tamping ballast. These construction activities coincide with planned freight rail outages.
- Construction of the West Lake Street Station continues with excavation work and the installation of underground elements such as duct banks, and pier protection.

- Tunnel construction continues. Crews have poured base concrete slabs in some of the initial cells and will advance the structure of the tunnel. Expect noise from excavators, generators and pumps for water management, concrete application, and drilling.
 - Work activities include power washing and water management, and various concrete work. Expect concrete truck traffic to and from the site.
 - Grouting continues to fill any gaps between the sheets along the length of the tunnel. The grout is mixed on site. Expect heavy equipment.
 - Expect construction traffic along Sunset Boulevard, Depot Street, France Avenue and Cedar Lake Parkway. This route will primarily be used to deliver materials and equipment such as concrete and rebar for the construction of the Kenilworth LRT tunnel.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 2 of 5



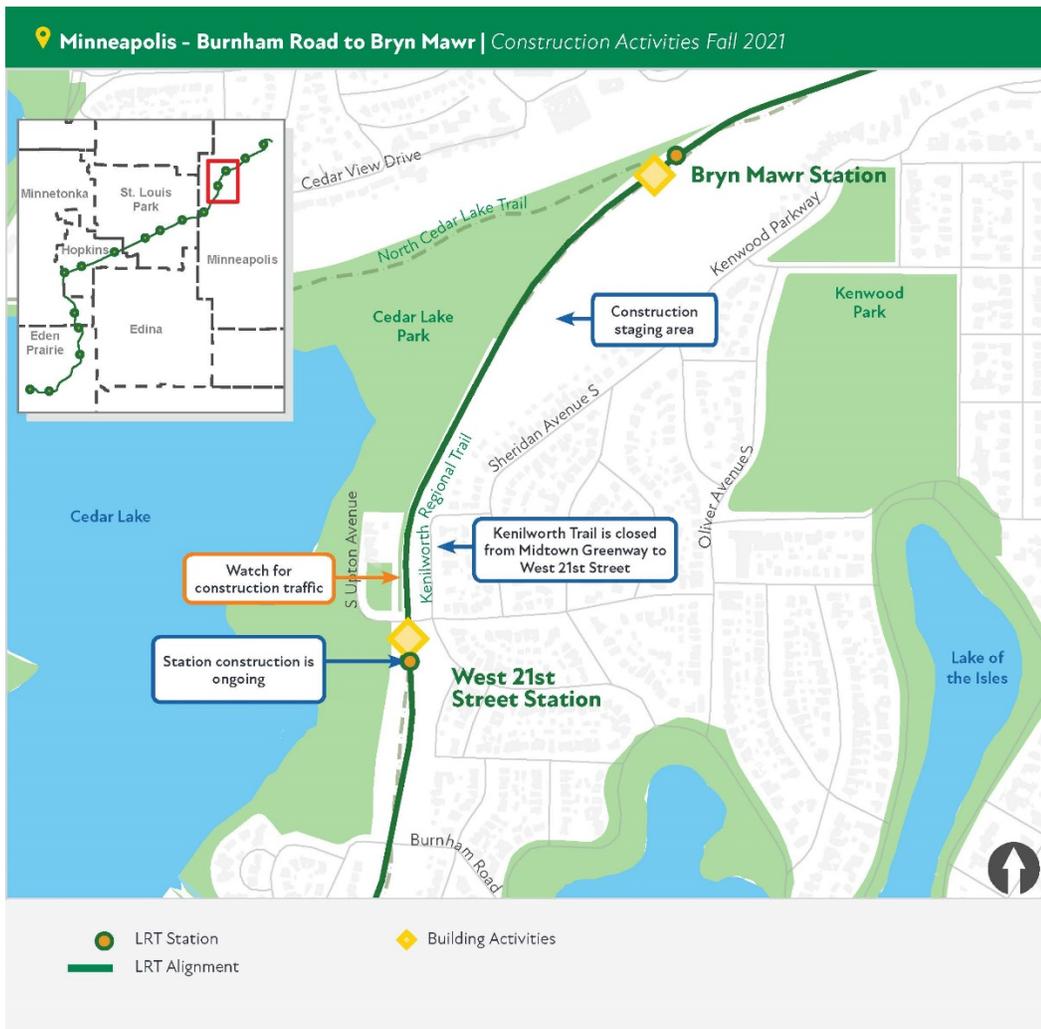
Cedar Lake Parkway to Burnham Road

Construction Overview: The LRT tunnel continues in this segment. Other elements include the construction of retaining walls (complete), and freight, LRT and trail bridges over the Cedar Lake Channel.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- As early as September 20, 2021, Cedar Lake Parkway at the Kenilworth Trail will close to vehicle traffic for two weeks. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be preserved for the duration of this closure. Crews will work on metal sheets under the Parkway and perform grouting work to seal gaps between sheeting. Expect noise and vibration. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#)
- The Cedar Lake Channel is closed until September 3. Crews will be constructing temporary support structures to construct the LRT bridge as well as set bridge beams. The Channel will reopen during weekends to recreational traffic.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 3 of 5



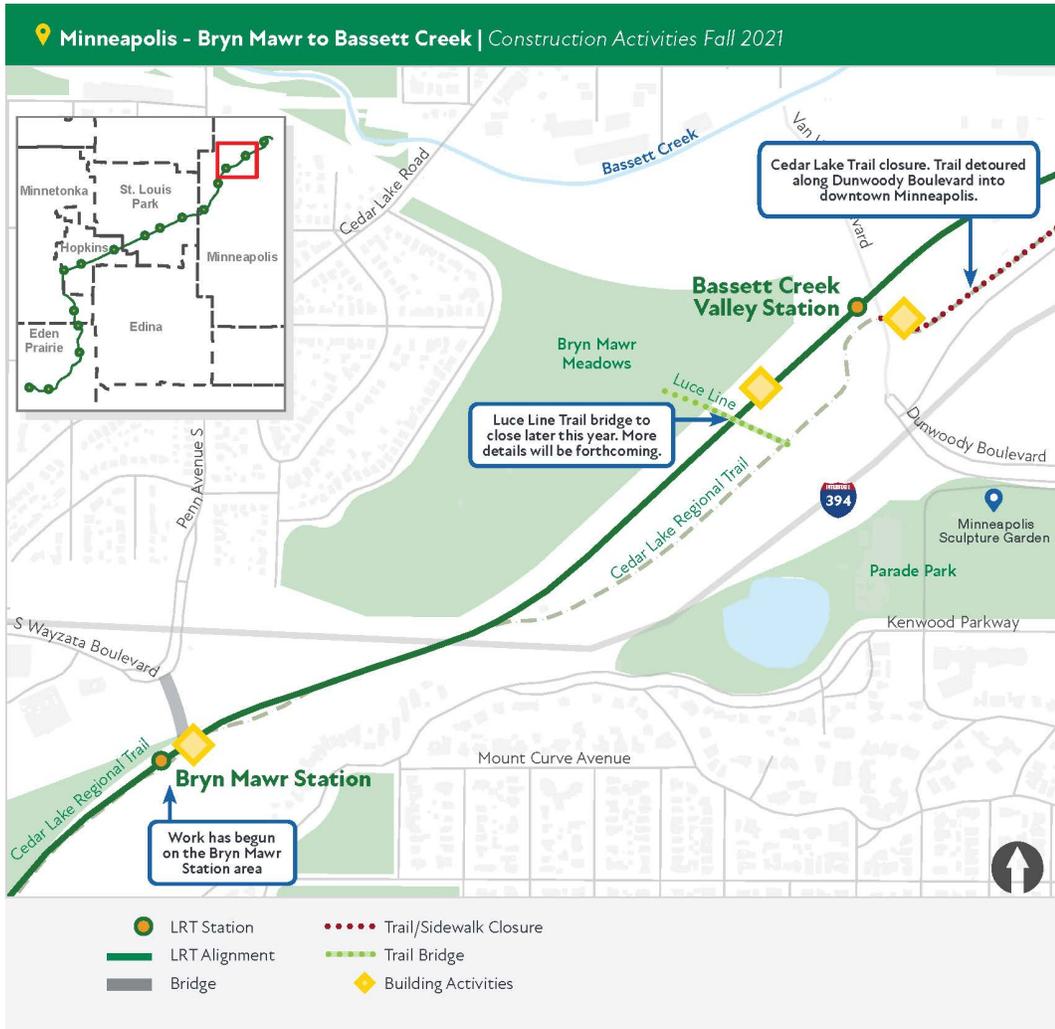
Burnham Road to Bryn Mawr Station

Construction Overview: In addition to the LRT, freight rail and trail construction, this area has two stations: West 21st Street and Bryn Mawr. The Bryn Mawr Station includes a pedestrian bridge that will extend over the freight tracks from the bluffs to the station platform.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Construction at Bryn Mawr Station is continuing with excavation and installation of piles to construct the pedestrian bridge. Retaining wall work on the bluff south of Wayzata Boulevard and Penn Avenue is expected to start toward the end of August.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 4 of 5



Bryn Mawr Station to Bassett Creek Valley Station Area

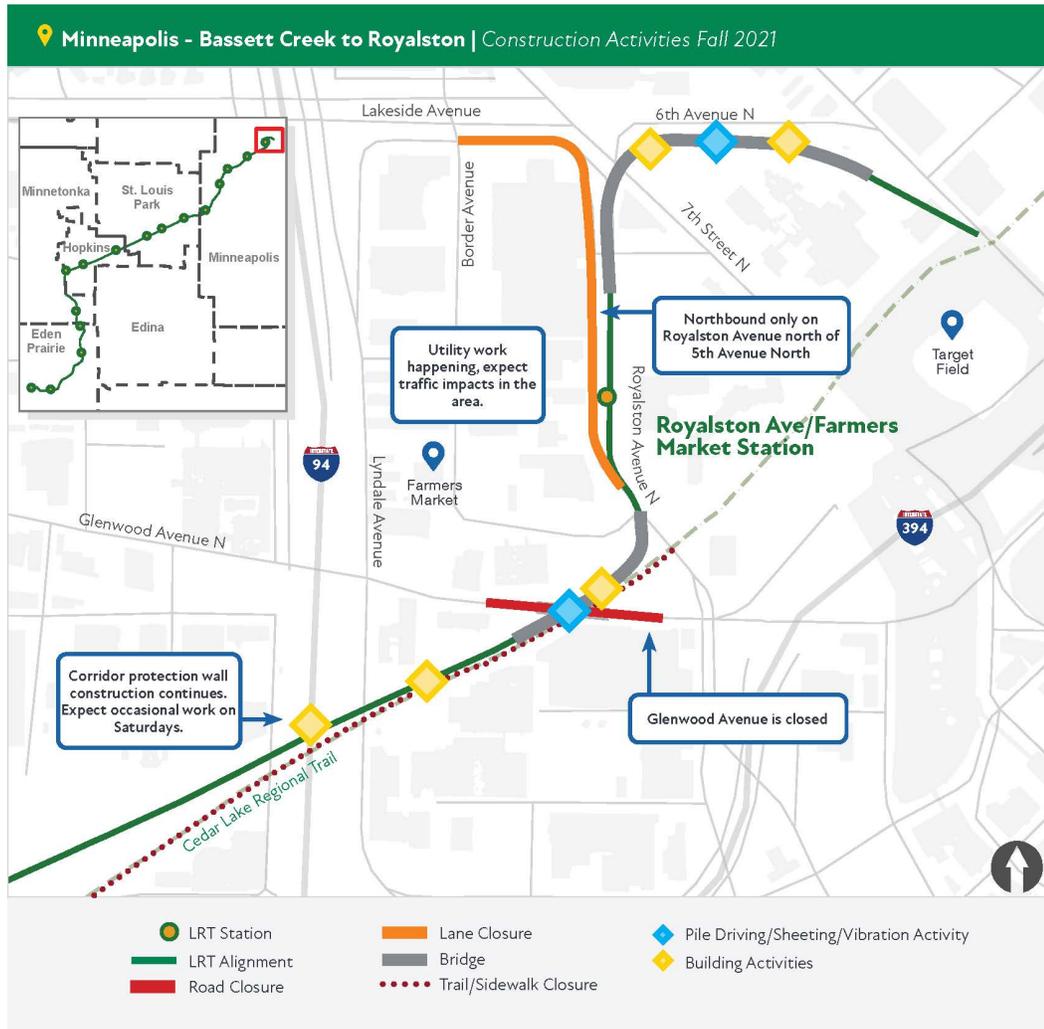
Construction Overview: There are two stations serving residents in this area; Bryn Mawr Station and the Bassett Creek Valley Station. In addition, area construction includes LRT track, trails and the corridor protection wall.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- The Luce Line Trail Bridge over Linden Yards and the BNSF railroad is expected to be demolished later in September. Trail users will cross the rail corridor to the west adjacent to Highway I-394. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#) The trail bridge will be closed for approximately a year, while a new bridge is constructed.

- Crews continue to build a corridor protection wall between Glenwood Avenue and Highway I-394, including work on Saturdays.

Minneapolis Construction: Map 5 of 5



Glenwood Avenue to Target Field Station

Construction Overview: 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. 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 LRT connecting to the Target Field Station. The Holden/Royalston/Border roadway loop will also be reconstructed with improvements.

Current activities to expect in this area:

- Construction activities to advance the Glenwood Avenue LRT bridge include high-vibration sheeting installation and pile-driving for most of the summer. Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and North 12th Street remains closed. [See Minneapolis detour maps here.](#)

- Bridge pier work near 7th and 6th Avenues has resumed. This work entails high-vibration activities for sheeting installation and pile driving. This work is expected to continue through the construction season. Expect lane closures on eastbound 6th Avenue.

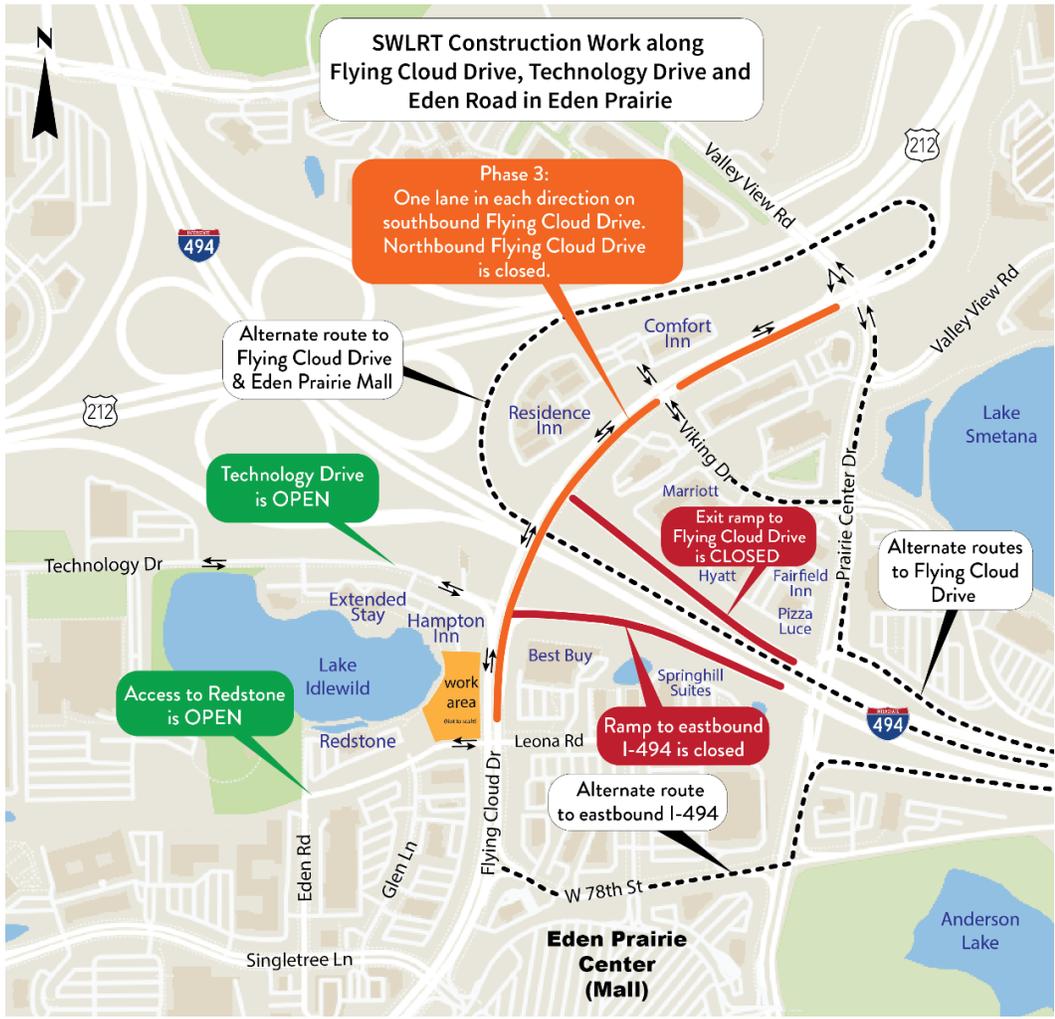
Regional Trails

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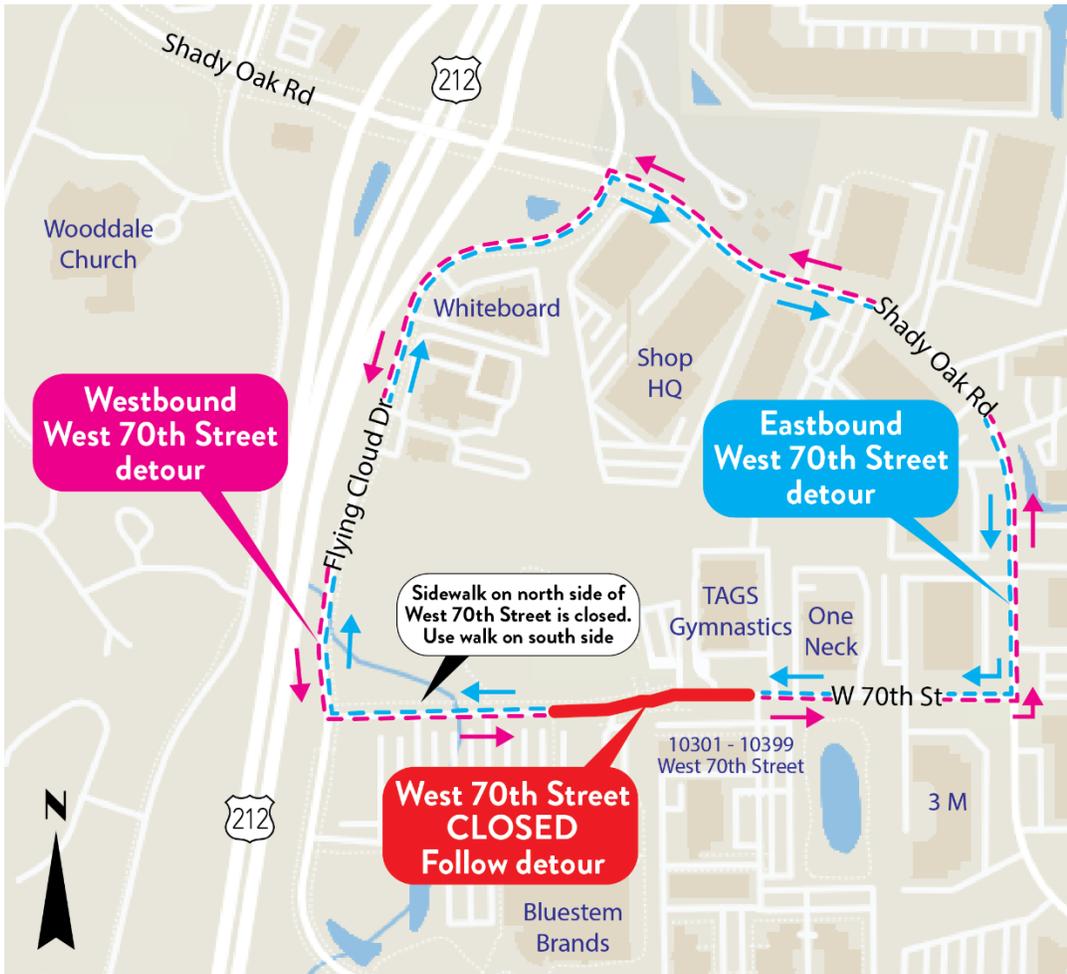
SouthWest Transit Station Pedestrian Detour in Eden Prairie



Flying Cloud Drive & Highway 494 Ramps in Eden Prairie



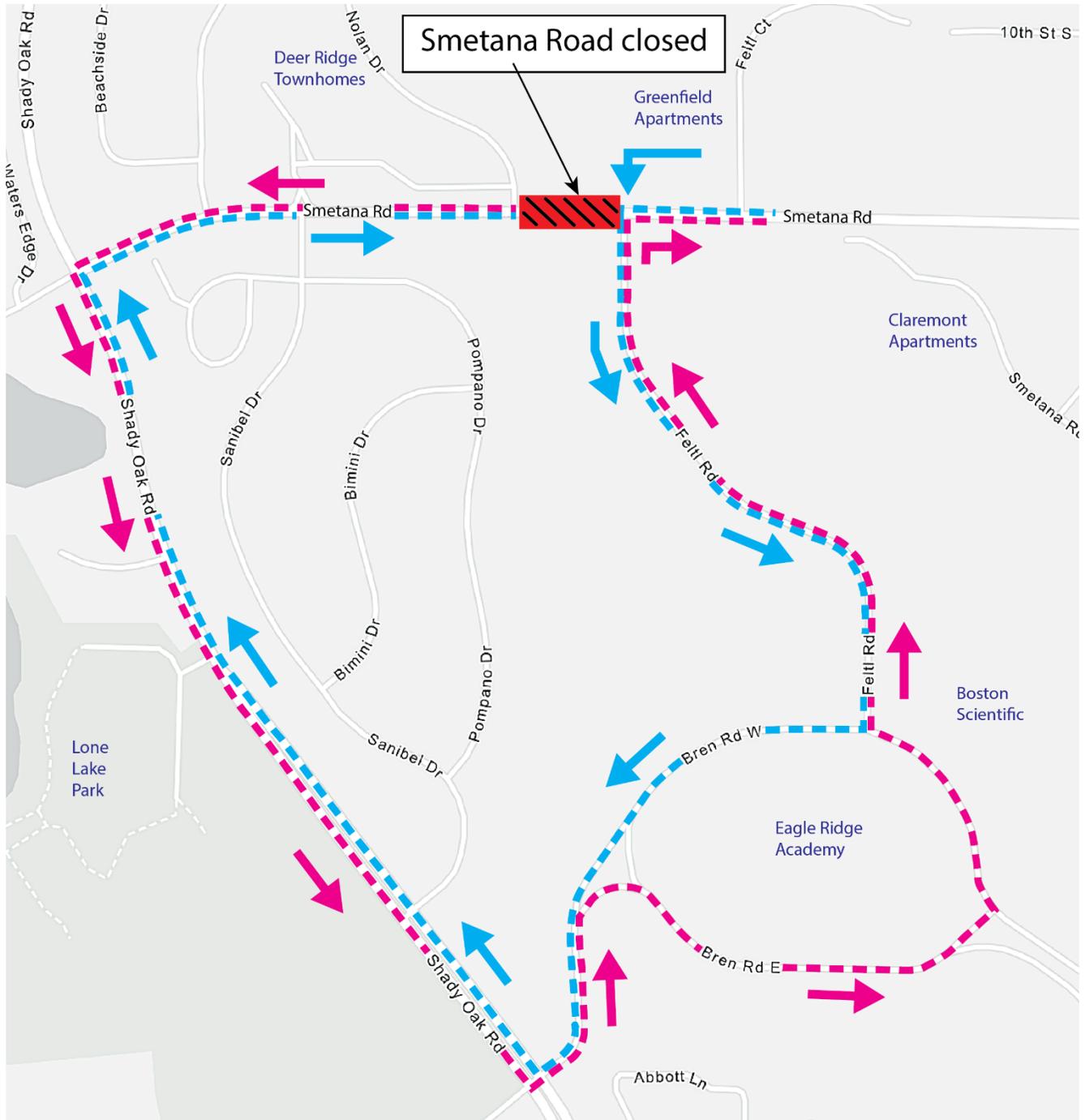
Upcoming West 70th Street in Eden Prairie



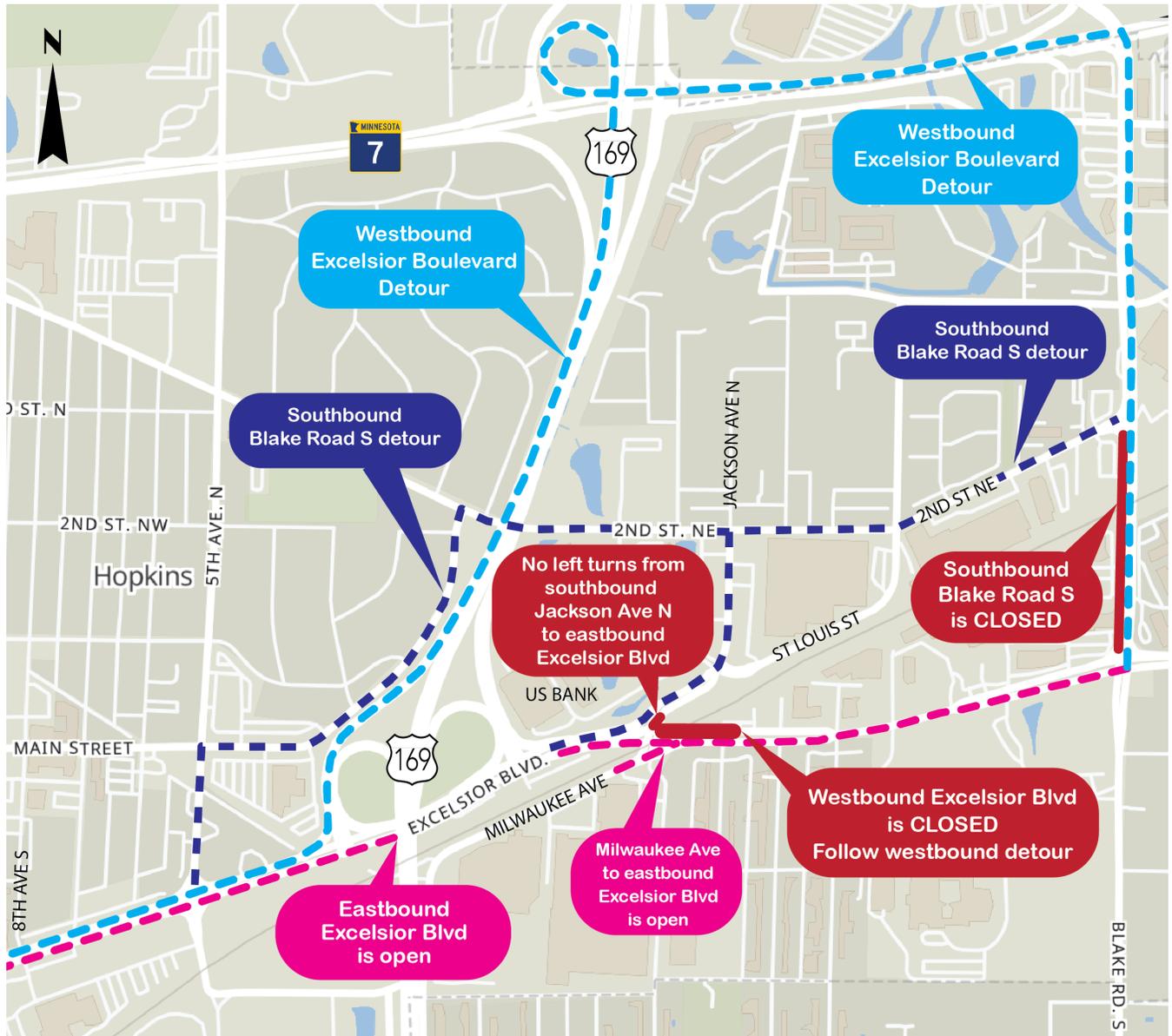
Opus Area Detours in Minnetonka: Red and Yellow Circles



Smetana Road in Minnetonka

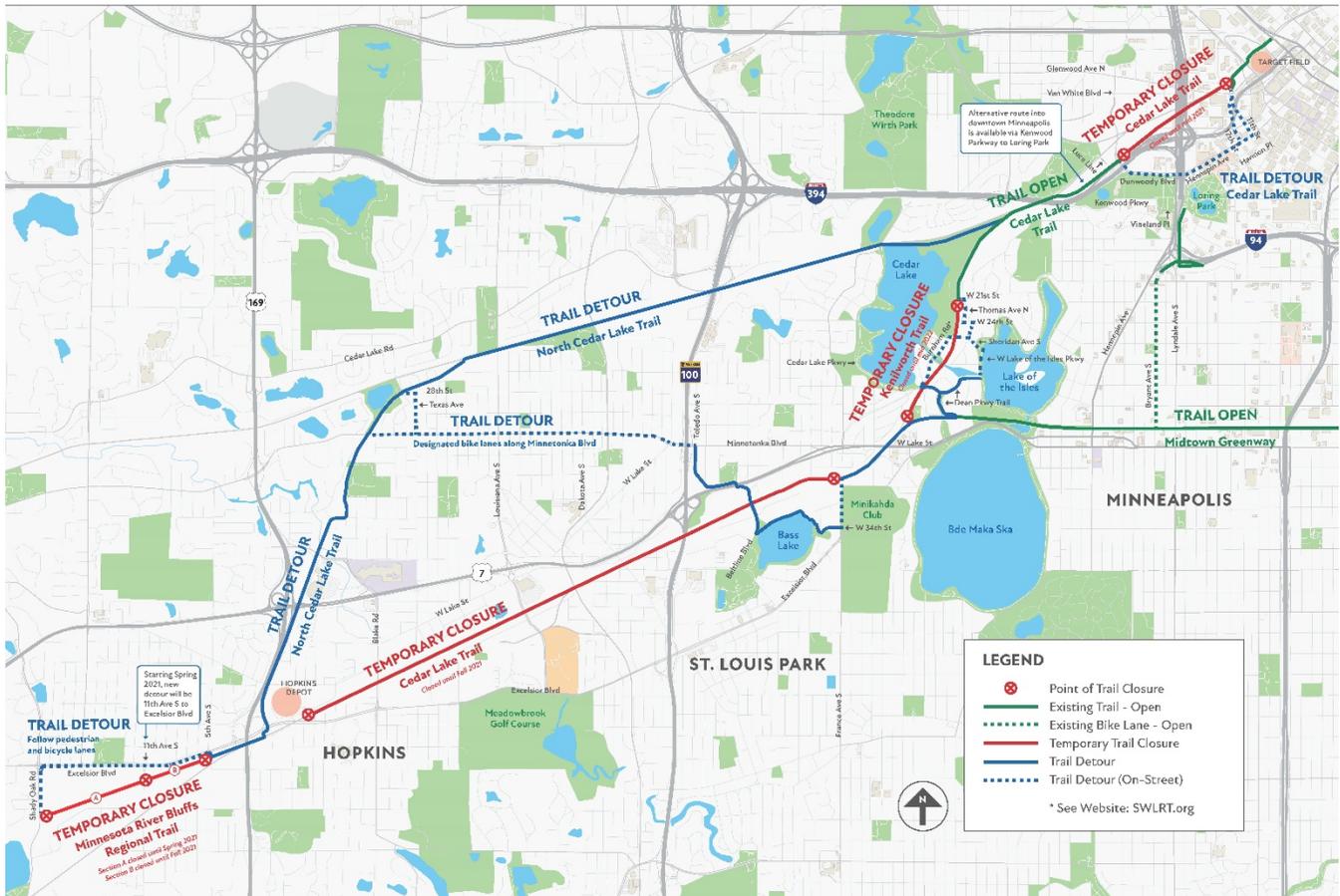


Blake Road in Hopkins



TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Cedar Lake Regional Trail in Minneapolis

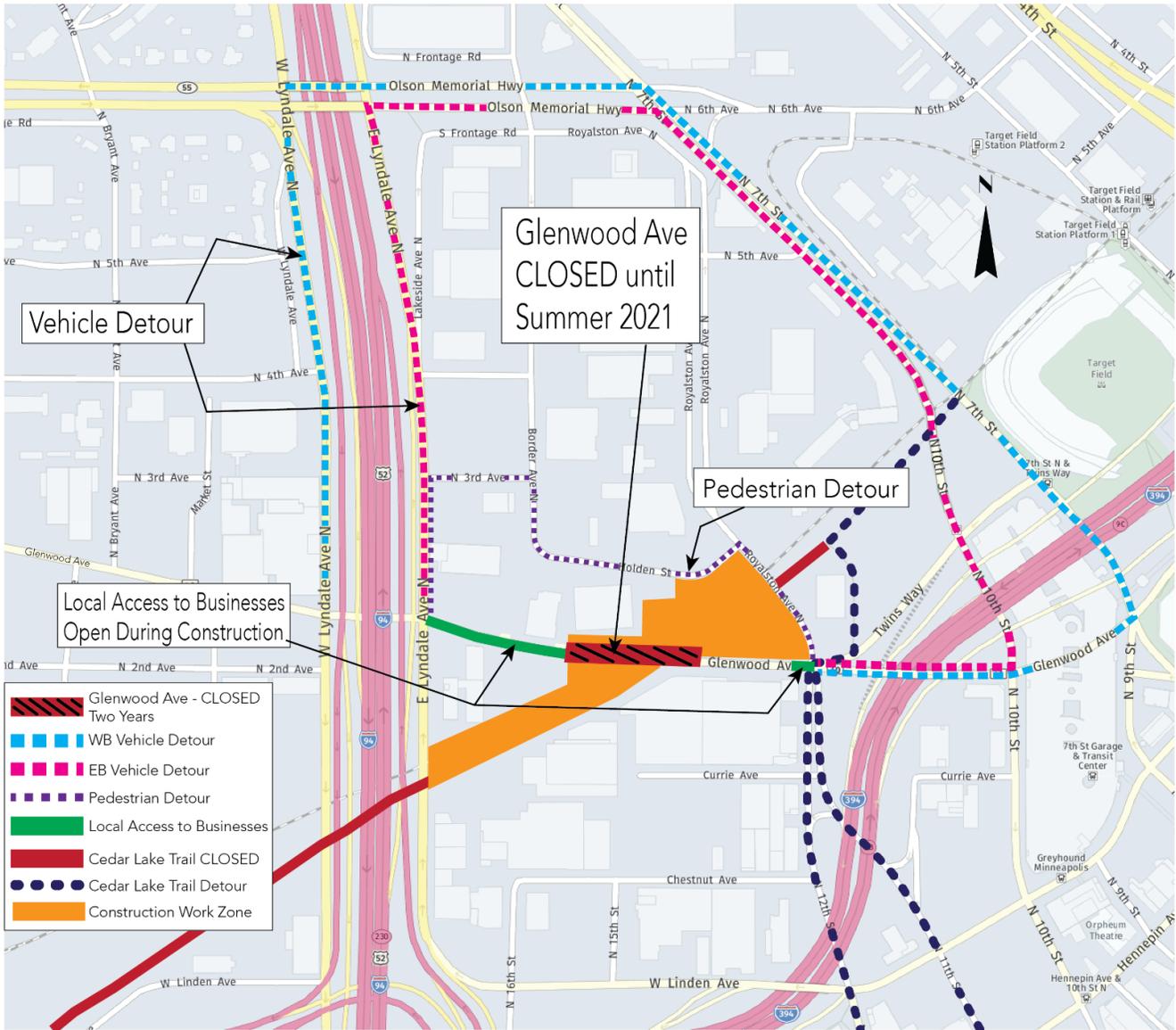
CEDAR LAKE REGIONAL TRAIL

TEMPORARY ALIGNMENT

MORE DETAILS: SWLRT.ORG



Glenwood Avenue Detour in Minneapolis



Royalston Avenue Detour in Minneapolis

