



**Construction Update: November 15, 2019**

**Web: [swlrt.org](http://swlrt.org)**

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

**Construction Hotline: 612-373-3933**

### **TH 62 Tunnel Work Beginning**

At 10:00 p.m., Friday, November 15, the westbound lanes will close until 5:00 a.m. on Monday, November 18 (**see detour map below**) to allow the contractor to shift westbound traffic to the south to accommodate the tunnel construction on the north side of the highway. Monday morning, westbound traffic will reopen with one lane in each direction. This traffic configuration will be in place through 2020.

### **Highlights**

- Excelsior Boulevard in Hopkins to reopen next week.
- Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive in Hopkins/Minnetonka to close for up to a year, starting next week.
- Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis, westbound closure for three days for utility work, starting Monday.
- WPA wall video highlighting preservation efforts available at [swlrt.org](http://swlrt.org).

### **Weekly Construction Photo: Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park**



Crews work on abutments for the Minnehaha Creek Bridge. Demolition is completed and sheet wall placement is also in process.

## **On-going Activities Update**

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

The temporary passenger drop-off lanes at SouthWest Transit Station have been moved to the west end of the parking structure; bus service continues to operate as usual. Pile driving will continue into 2020 as crews focus on different elements of the station site and the LRT bridge. Retaining wall work for the LRT guideway is also continuing in the area. Crews are constructing a temporary passenger waiting area for bus riders that will be completed early December. Then crews will demolish the current SouthWest Transit Station passenger waiting area and former office building through January. The west entrance to the shopping area and parking ramp is temporarily closed and will continue to be closed through late November. Crews are currently working on grading and paving the bus loop.

The right turn lane on the eastbound Hwy 212 ramp to Prairie Center Drive remains closed until Summer 2020.

Crews are working near the intersection of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive to build bridge piers. The sidewalk is closed on the northwest corner of Technology Drive and Prairie Center Drive; please follow detour signage to the southwest sidewalk next to Purgatory Park. Private utilities are also working in the area.

### **Eden Road Area in Eden Prairie**

Crews continue to perform grading and retaining wall work. A few of the retaining walls have been completed and crews are beginning to backfill around the wall, which will then allow other construction activities to begin. Utility companies are also working in the area and near Flying Cloud Drive towards the east.

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

Crews will resume work on the north abutment in the coming weeks; traffic control barriers continue to be in place. The I-494 eastbound ramp to TH 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 TH 212 remains. Traffic is being diverted onto the HOV lane. Crews are constructing multiple piers for the new LRT bridge. The various piers are at different stages

of completion, with crews working on pile supports and formwork. Earthwork in the area will continue for as long as weather allows.

### **Nine Mile Creek**

Piling driving for the bridge structure and abutments through Nine Mile Creek will began this week and continue through the winter.

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

Crews continue working on the Golden Triangle Station; concrete and erosion control work is also ongoing in the area. Crews are working to install retaining walls that include drilled foundations. Piling activities will continue in the Golden Triangle Station area during the daytime. Night piling is expected to resume Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> for roughly a week to install sheet pile. Night work could continue intermittently as the segment between the Golden Triangle Station north of West 70th Street to a bridge over Shady Oak Road and Hwy 212 is completed. As work progresses, the Southwest Project Office will continue to look for opportunities to shift activities to the daytime.

### **Red Circle Drive and Yellow Circle Drive in Minnetonka**

Construction starts next week to change the road configuration on Yellow and Red Circle Drives. Yellow Circle Drive will be temporarily dead ended where it connects to Red Circle Drive, and Yellow Circle will become a two-way roadway in the area south of Blue Circle Drive. A temporary by-pass road will also be built on Red Circle Drive. This roadway configuration will allow for ongoing tunnel construction on TH 62. **See a map of the roadway changes below.**

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

Smetana Road from Feltl Court to Feltl Road reopened this week. Starting the week of November 18, Smetana Road from Feltl Road to Nolan Drive will close for up to a year (**see upcoming detour map below**). A temporary bypass will be in place west of the intersection of Smetana and Feltl roads to accommodate traffic in this area.

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

The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail in Hopkins is 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 is closed until summer 2020.

- The section between 8th Avenue South and 5th Avenue South is closed until Fall 2021.

### **Downtown Hopkins Station**

Foundation work for the station is complete. Work on the structure of the station will start later this winter.

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

Excelsior Boulevard at the freight railroad crossing re-opens to vehicle traffic late next week. Crews are working on underground utilities, freight rail tracks and the LRT bridge structure. Expect traffic delays in this area. **See detour map below.**

### **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 (**see detour maps below**). 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 closure of roadways upcoming at various dates.

### **Blake Road in Hopkins**

Crews are constructing a cut and cover tunnel under Blake Road for the regional trail. Southbound traffic will continue to be diverted to the east side of the road, with one lane in each direction, through the winter. Once tunnel work is complete on the west side of the road, the work will shift to the east side of the road and traffic will be diverted to the west side of the road.

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

Sheet piling and excavation for the new freight and trail bridge abutments continues in the area. Flaggers are monitoring recreational water use during times that construction activities make it unsafe to travel through the creek. Individuals using the waterway may 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 work on new freight and pedestrian bridge abutments; expect piling activity in the area. Another full closure of Louisiana Avenue is anticipated this winter to set bridge beams. It is anticipated that duration of this closure will be 3 days. Signs will be posted seven days prior to the closure.

### **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. Work on bridge abutments will begin in the coming weeks.

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

Work on the new South Cedar Lake Trail Bridge continues. Crews are working on bridge abutments, performing pier work. Crews are also working on retaining walls in the area, which includes pile driving.

### **Kenilworth Trail Closure**

The Kenilworth Trail is closed in Minneapolis at the intersection with the Midtown Greenway to just south of West 21<sup>st</sup> Street until Summer 2022. Access for automobiles, bikes and pedestrians remains open at Cedar Lake Parkway and at W 21<sup>st</sup> Street. **See detour map below.**

### **Chowen Avenue to Lake Street in Minneapolis**

Storm sewer and watermain work is anticipated to continue during the winter months. Work is anticipated at the end of November and should not impact the trail.

### **Kenilworth Area Construction in Minneapolis**

Crews began installing the sheet piles for the Kenilworth tunnel near Park Siding Park and will continue work moving north. Sheet piling will stop short of Cedar Lake Parkway and the press-in-piler will return south, working towards Lake Street. Sheet piling installation is expected to last until summer 2020 with two press-in-pilers. Tunnel excavation is currently anticipated to begin Spring 2020, however if weather allows, some excavation could start later this Fall. For more information about tunnel construction, see the [tunnel FAQ](#) information under the construction tab of our webpage: [swlrt.org](http://swlrt.org). A short [video](#) of the press-in-piler construction technique is also available.

Concrete work for the retaining walls south and north of the channel continues.

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

Centerpoint Energy crews are doing utility work along Cedar Lake Parkway between Burnham Road and Benton Blvd. Weather permitting, on Monday the westbound traffic lane of Cedar Lake Parkway will be detoured for three days. **See detour map below.** This activity will also impact the sidewalk on the northside. Bike and

pedestrian traffic will be able to travel through this area on the south side of the roadway. Overall, utility work in this area will last through November.

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

Pier construction and piling for the new freight bridge is ongoing, crews are currently working on the north abutment. Some piling work will occur south of channel for retaining walls. 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 or Winter; a 14-day advanced notification will be provided prior to a full closure. A short [video](#) highlighting preservation efforts can be found on the project website: [swlrt.org](http://swlrt.org).

### **21<sup>st</sup> Street in Minneapolis**

Retaining wall activities are being completed in the area.

### **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 for approximately two years until mid-2021 (**see detour maps below**).

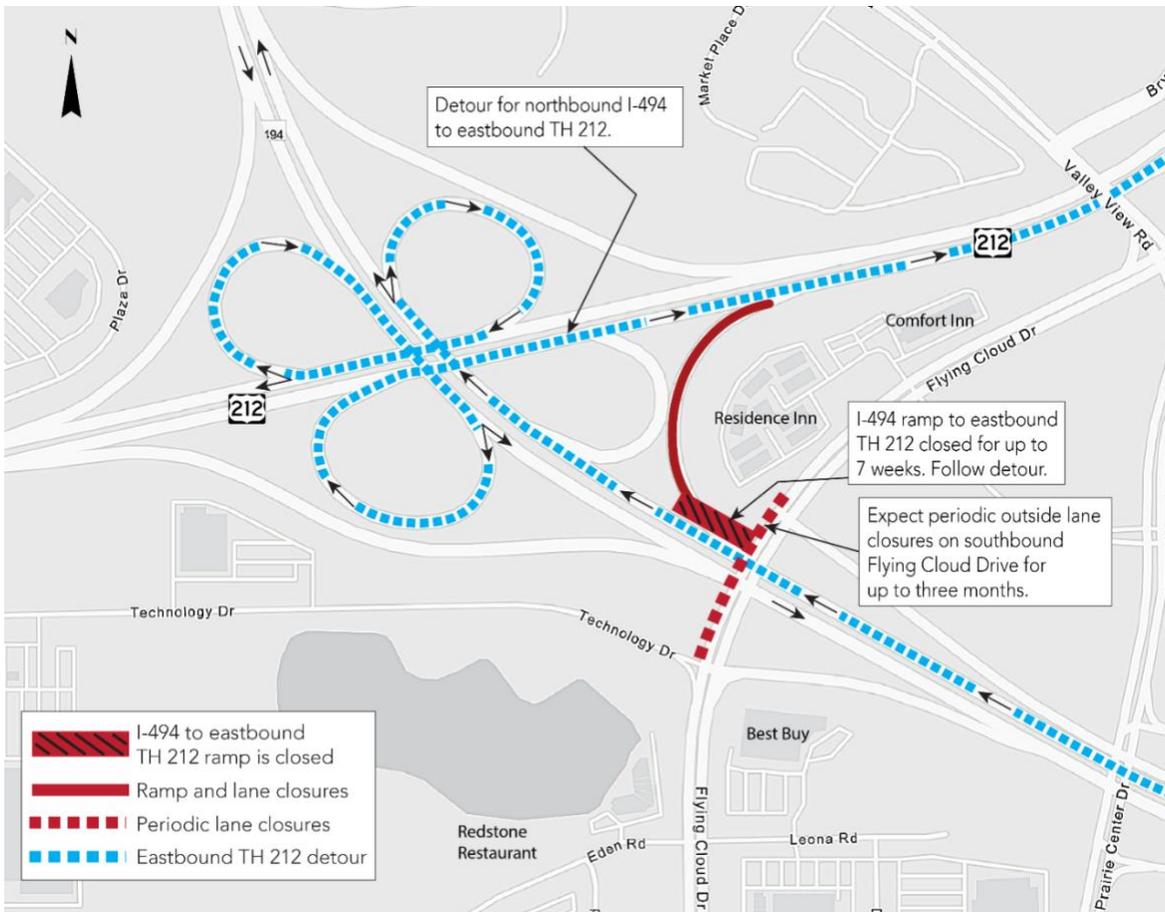
### **Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis**

The closure of Glenwood Avenue between Lyndale Avenue North and 11th Street North began on July 15, 2019 and is anticipated to 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 continues to utilize Border Avenue, Holden Street and Royalston Avenue sidewalks. **See detour map below.** Utility work, retaining wall installation and freight track preparation continues.

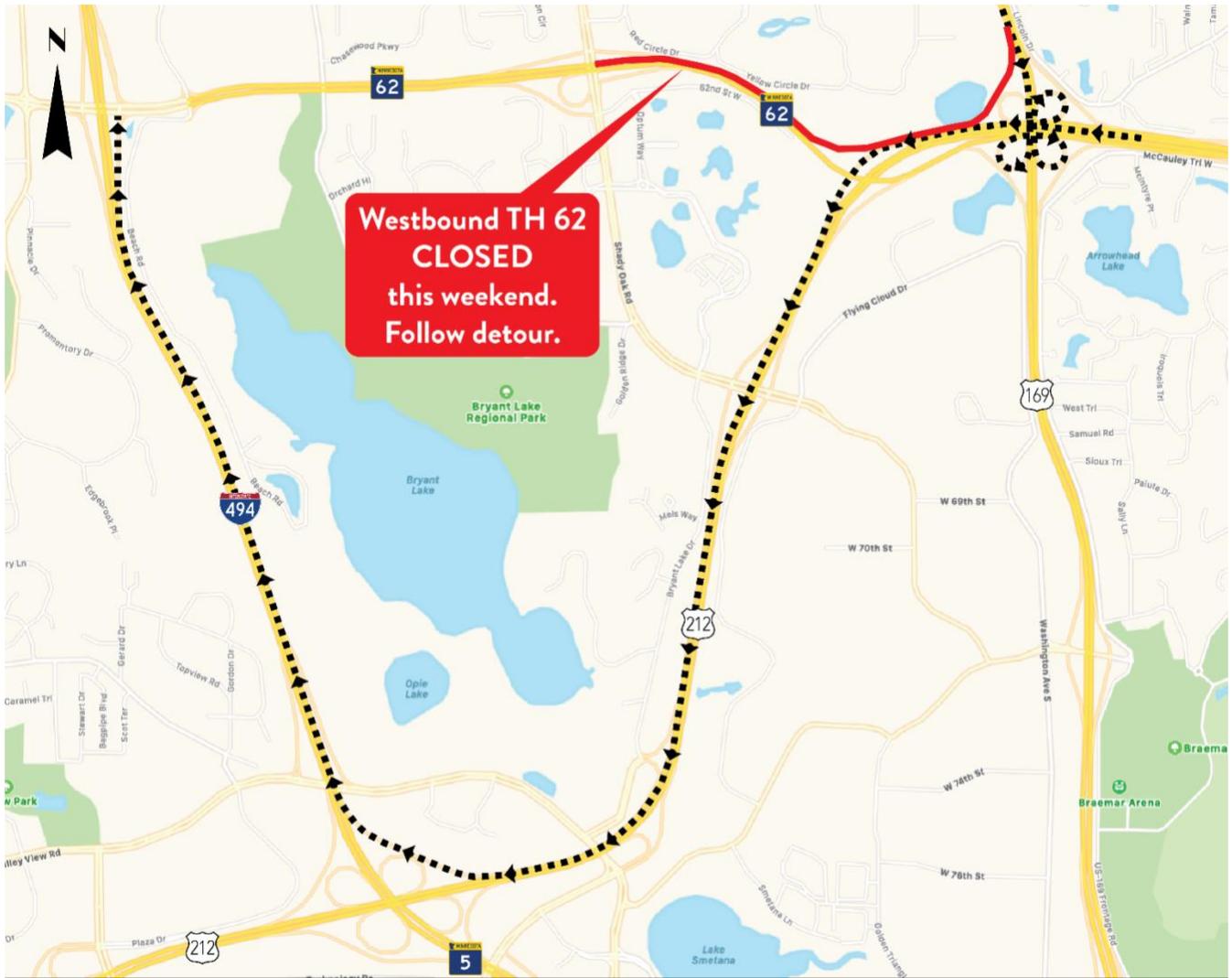
### **Royalston Avenue in Minneapolis**

Utility work on Royalston Avenue is wrapping-up. Crews are working on the west side of the road and traffic is reduced to one sound bound lane. After the utility work is complete, work on the LRT bridge piers will begin on the east side of the road, beginning early December.

# Northbound I-494 to Eastbound TH 212 Detour



TH 62 in Minnetonka



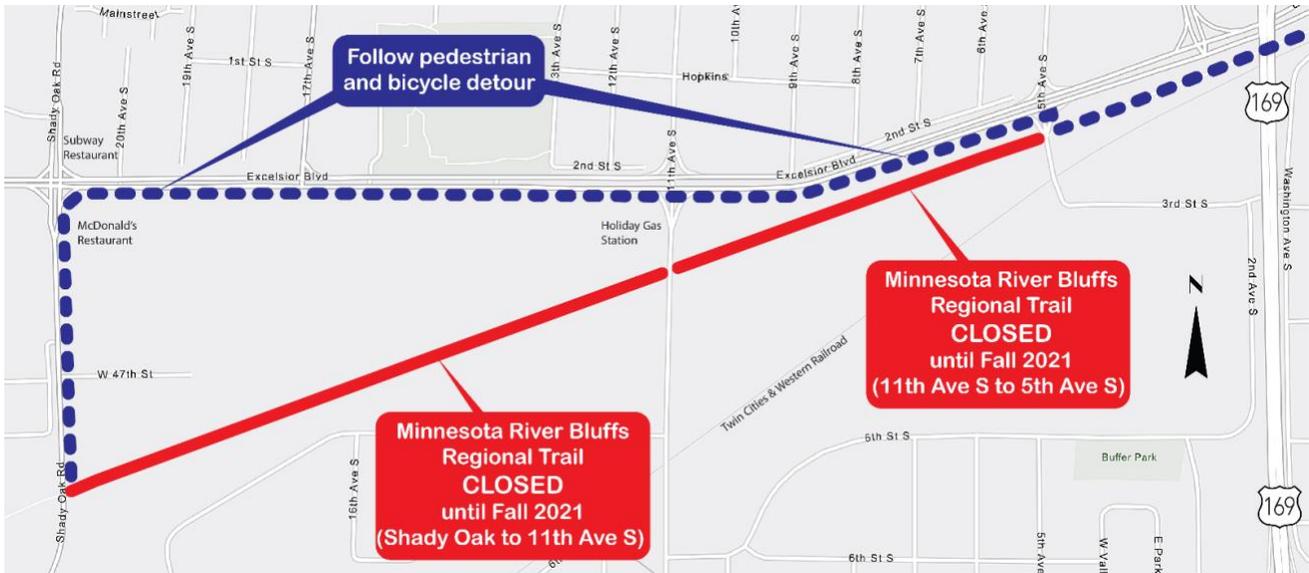
## Yellow Circle Roadway Changes in Minnetonka



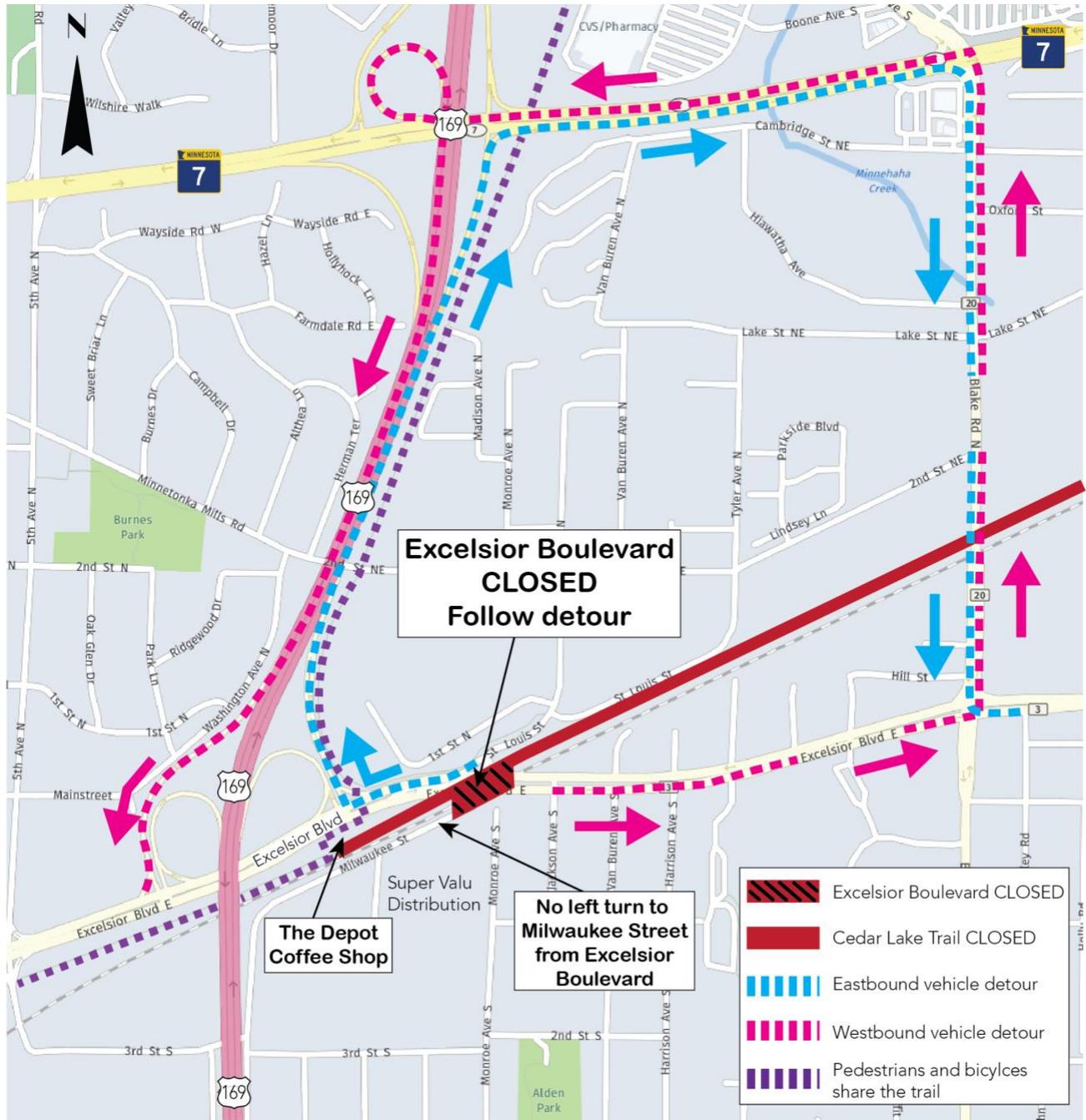
# Smetana Road in Minnetonka and Hopkins Detour



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

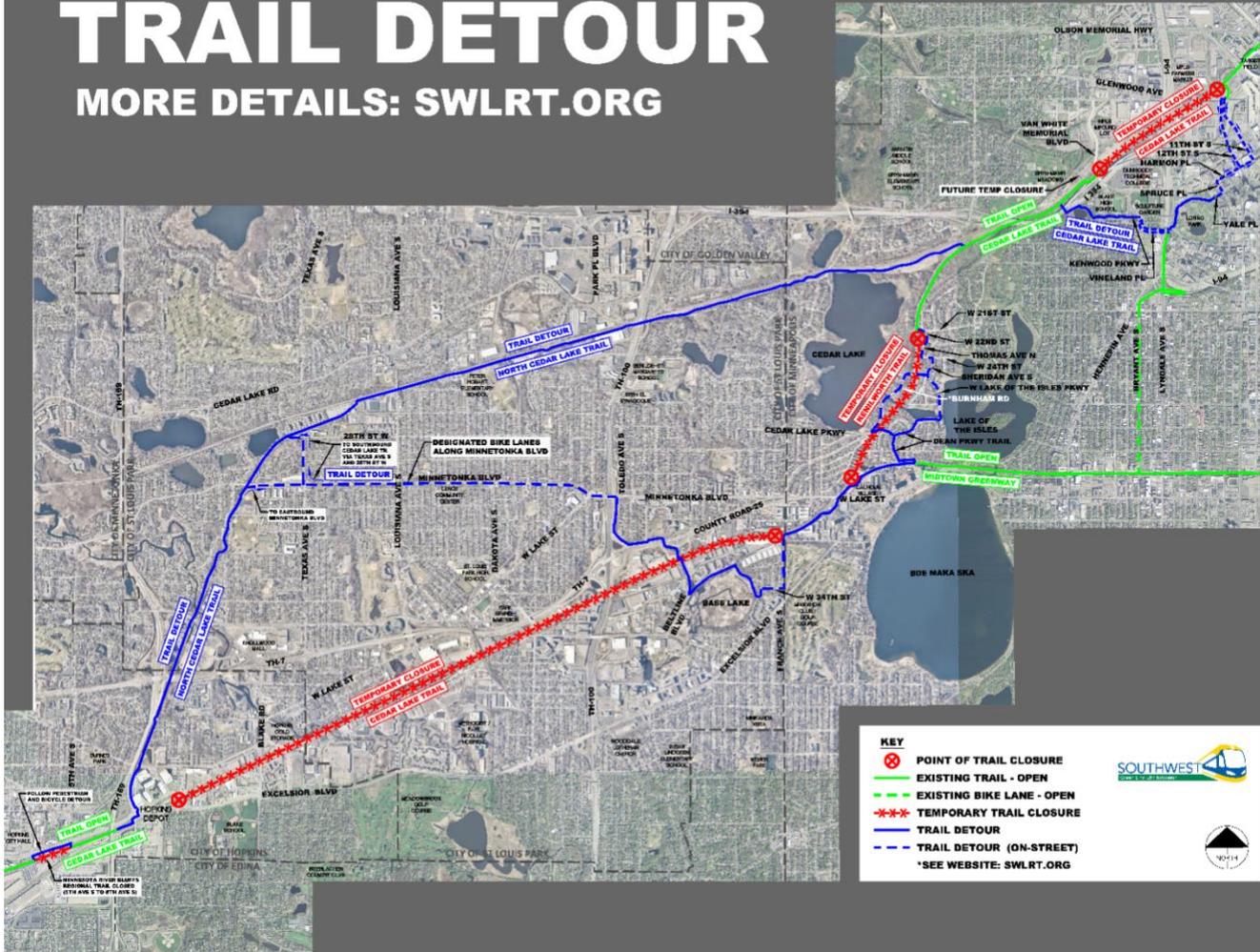


# Excelsior Boulevard Detour in Hopkins



# TRAIL DETOUR

MORE DETAILS: [SWLRT.ORG](http://SWLRT.ORG)



# Cedar Lake Parkway in Minneapolis Detour



# Glenwood Avenue in Minneapolis Detour

