



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction resumes on Haines Road, resulting in closure until fall

The next stage in the \$12 million rebuilding of Haines Road starts Tuesday as crews begin staging and other preparations for blasting rock to widen lanes for the new design. As a result, Haines (officially known as CSAH 91) will again close to traffic in West Duluth, and remain closed until the project's completion in November. This includes the intersection at Skyline Parkway.

Heavy rains and the resulting run-off from last June's storm caused significant damage and forced the closure of a 2.25 mile segment between 40th Avenue West and Morris Thomas Road. Following work done last fall, which included the installation of a 300-foot-long box culvert, the portion of Haines Road above Skyline Drive has been open since October, but will now close again as the rebuilding begins.

Actual blasting at the site is expected to happen in March. An estimated 42,000 cubic yards of rock will be removed. The rock will be crushed and re-used onsite as roadway material and to line slopes.

"A lot of careful thought has gone into planning and redesigning the road," said St. Louis County Board Chair Chris Dahlberg "When this is done, Haines Road will be wider and safer for everyone who uses it – motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and even those who cross Haines while using the Superior Hiking Trail and snowmobile trail."

As part of the new design, Haines Road, which typically was traveled by 7,000 vehicles each day, will be widened to three lanes (two lanes for traffic going uphill, one lane coming down) and include a sidewalk. A right turn lane will be added at Morris Thomas Road. The curve at "horseshoe

bend” will be designed for 25 mile-per-hour speeds (previously was for 20 mph) and will feature Dynamic Chevron signs that will flash in sequence as a warning if oncoming motorists are approaching too quickly. A large underpass will be added where the Superior Hiking Trail crosses Haines Road, plus there will be a parking area with space for five vehicles.

Other new features include curb and gutter, plus infiltration basins on both sides of the road to control storm water drainage for future flood mitigation. Also, 2,400 feet of retaining walls will be added to reduce impacts in sensitive areas.

Hammerlund Construction of Grand Rapids is the contractor on the project. The rebuilding of Haines Road is the largest individual project ever done by St. Louis County Public Works. The road had already been slated for reconstruction this year, so when the washout occurred, engineers shifted focus to speed up the project and make the best use of road repair dollars. Prior to the June flood, an average of 7,000 vehicles traveled Haines Road each day.

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