



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2014

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Construction to begin on Highland Street and 57th Ave West

Construction starts later this month to rebuild the last major county road still damaged from the June 2012 flood. Work begins Wednesday, April 23, on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 89, better known as 57th Avenue West and Highland Street, connecting West Duluth and Hermantown, resulting in various road closures and restrictions from Cody Street north to Morris Thomas Road. The 1.5 mile, L-shaped stretch of road typically is traveled by 5,200 motorists each day.

County engineers will meet with neighbors for a briefing on final project details and to answer any questions on April 22 at 6 p.m. at City Center West, 5830 Grand Avenue.

At an estimated cost of \$10.7 million, the reconstruction of 57th Avenue West and Highland Street will be the second largest road construction project ever for the St. Louis County Public Works Department. Much of the cost is covered by flood bonding, and residents will not be assessed for the work. The project is expected to be complete by the end of October.

As part of the project, 57th Avenue West will be reconstructed between Cody and Highland Streets. Sanitary sewer and water lines will be replaced, and a new sidewalk will be added. The road will be closed to all traffic for the duration of the project.

Meanwhile, Highland Street will be reconstructed between 57th Avenue West and Skyline Parkway. Highland will be widened in places to allow for safer parking, and a sidewalk will be added. A 183-foot bridge over Keene Creek will replace a culvert damaged by the flood, and accommodations will be added beneath the bridge for the Superior Hiking Trail. No through traffic

will be allowed, however Highland Street will be open from the east to local traffic accessing the Oneota Cemetery.

The five-leg intersection where Highland, Vinland Street, Getchell Road and Skyline Parkway meet will be reconfigured into a standard four-leg intersection, and improved lighting will be installed. This intersection will remain open with the exception of an approximately three-week period during the summer.

Lastly, pavement improvement work will be done on Getchell Road between Skyline and Morris Thomas Road. Temporary lane closures will occur, but the road will remain open.

St. Louis County engineers have been meeting with residents for more than a year as plans have been finalized, gathering input, answering questions and providing information about the project. To sign up for e-mail alerts on this or any St. Louis County Public Works project, visit stlouiscountymn.gov/construction.

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