



# Saint Louis County

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Jean Duluth Road re-opens for first time since June flood**

The bridge that spans the Lester River on Jean Duluth Road – washed out by last June’s flood – is rebuilt and Jean Duluth Road re-opened today to traffic for the first time in more than six months.

Located approximately one mile south of Zimmerman Road, the bridge had been traveled by an average of 4,100 motorists each day prior to the storm. The St. Louis County Public Works Department significantly accelerated the bridge’s rebuilding to get Jean Duluth Road reopened.

“To see this bridge completed in less than seven months is simply unheard of, and is a true testament to the dedication of the Public Works Department and the contractors who worked with us,” said Jim Foldesi, director of Public Works. “From conception to completion, a project of this magnitude typically takes three to four years.”

The new bridge was designed by LHB Engineers & Architects. The prime contractor was Redstone Construction Co., Inc. of Mora, Minn.

The project includes 12-foot wide lanes, plus eight-foot shoulders. The design of the structure includes concrete beams, a concrete deck and metal railings. Additional finishing details will be completed later this spring, however the road will remain open during that portion of the project.

Total cost was approximately \$1 million, 80 percent of which was covered by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief funds. State flood bonding paid for the remaining 20 percent.

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