



# Saint Louis County

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**James T. Foldesi, P.E.**  
Public Works Director/  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Ives Road re-opens, cause of hole believed to be flood-related**

St. Louis County Road 253 (Ives Road), the road north of Duluth that had to be closed last week after a hole formed near the abutment to a bridge, is now re-opened. St. Louis County Public Works employees have repaired the hole, which measured approximately two feet in diameter and five feet deep. County engineers believe a residual effect from last summer's flood is the likely cause, specifically, that flood waters undermined the abutment. The road's surface material had bridged the void to date, but with the spring thaw, the hole appeared.

“This is obviously a concern for us, and is something our road crews are on the alert for,” said Jim Foldesi, St. Louis County Public Works Director. “Last summer, we were able to quickly identify and begin repairs on roads and bridges with surface damage, but we also suspected there would also be sub-surface impacts that would take some time to appear. It's one of the reasons we've asked lawmakers for flexibility in how flood recovery funds are allocated.”

St. Louis County sustained more than \$35 million in damage to its infrastructure in last summer's storm. The Public Works Department is responsible for 3,000 miles of roads and nearly 600 bridges across the county's more than 7,000 square miles.

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