



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Louis County reports major progress in year following flood

It's been a year of rebuilding and overcoming what previously was unimaginable. One year after devastating rains pounded our region, causing \$38.9 million damage to St. Louis County's infrastructure, the outlook is positive and significant progress can be reported.

In the days and weeks following the storm, the damage tally included:

- 670 miles of paved highways affected
- 760 miles of gravel roads affected
- 4 bridges destroyed
- 70 bridges damaged
- 312 bridges required inspection

All together, there were 843 documented damage sites, spanning the lower half of the County from Floodwood and Brookston, to Duluth and up the North Shore.

Today, 780 of those 843 sites have been repaired. Only three affected roads or bridges are closed. This includes Jean Duluth Road, which opened temporarily over the winter before re-closing three weeks ago while finishing work is completed on the bridge over the Lester River. This project is expected to be complete by the end of the month.

Haines Road, which had been scheduled for repairs this year, is in the process of being completely rebuilt. Plans were modified and sped up following the flood, making it possible to complete the project by late this fall. Once complete, the \$11 million project – the largest individual construction project ever in St. Louis County – will feature three lanes, a sidewalk, a less sharp curve

at “Horseshoe Bend”, a multi-use underpass for the Superior Hiking Trail, curbs and gutters, and 2,400 feet of retaining wall.

The third road, Old North Shore Road where it crosses the Sucker River, may not be replaced because it was only very lightly traveled.

County Commissioners, along with the Public Works Director and others gathered on Haines Road on Wednesday, the anniversary of the flood to talk about the progress made in the last year and to thank partners at the state and federal levels for their assistance in recovery efforts.

St. Louis County’s 2013 road construction program totals \$56.5 million and is the largest program ever for the County. In addition to the Haines Road project, the County is investing \$19 million in various road preservation projects, \$9.7 million in bridges and \$4 million in culvert replacements. The public can sign up for e-mail alerts on any St. Louis County Public Works project by visiting stlouiscountymn.gov/construction.

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