



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Haines Road to re-open Tuesday, October 29, at noon News conference and ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m.

The largest individual road construction project ever for St. Louis County Public Works is just about complete. Haines Road, connecting West Duluth and Hermantown, will re-open to the public next Tuesday, October 29. St. Louis County leaders and project partners will hold a news conference and ribbon cutting at the intersection of Haines Road and Skyline Parkway at 10:30 a.m. Road crews will begin removing barricades at 11:30 a.m.

Haines Road, also known as County State Aid Highway 91, has been closed for 16 months, after sustaining heavy damage in the June 2012 flood. It is the last county road to reopen following the flood. Key numbers associated with the project include:

- \$12 million – total investment to reconstruct the road
- 2.25 miles – length of roadway
- 48,000 tons – amount of rock blasted to widen and improve the road
- 44,000 pounds – explosives used during 160 blasts between March and August
- 125,000 cubic yards – amount of material excavated
- 20,000 tons – amount of pavement applied
- 11,000 feet – length of sewer pipe installed
- 2,400 feet – length of retaining walls added

“Haines Road serves as a remarkable example of the hard work, creative thinking and smart use of resources by our Public Works Department and everyone who contributed to this project,” said

County Board Chair Chris Dahlberg. “To adjust plans as quickly as was done, and to complete a project of this magnitude on time and on budget is exactly the kind of work we strive to deliver to the people of St. Louis County.”

Haines Road had already been slated to close this year for a two-year reconstruction project. When the flood occurred, those plans were modified to speed up the project and make the best use of road repair dollars. Among the improvements made:

- Haines is widened to three lanes (two lanes for traffic going uphill, one lane coming down.)
- A sidewalk has been added.
- The curve at “horseshoe bend” is now designed for 25 mph speeds (previously was for 20 mph). Dynamic Chevron signs flash in sequence if oncoming motorists are approaching too quickly.
- A 12’ x 11’ underpass has been added where the Superior Hiking Trail crosses Haines Road (just north of the power lines.) This multi-use crossing has already become popular with pedestrians, and will be open for snowmobile riders this winter. A parking area with space for ten vehicles has been added.
- Curb and gutter, along with filtration basins, have been added on both sides to control storm water drainage for future flood mitigation.
- A right turn lane has been added at Morris Thomas Road.
- Retaining walls have been added to reduce impacts in sensitive areas.

Hammerlund Construction, Inc. was the primary contractor on the project. Other key partners include LHB Corporation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Mn/DOT, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Duluth, City of Hermantown, Skyline Planning and Preservation Alliance, Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores (COGGS), Superior Hiking Trail and Over the Hill Night Riders.

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