



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jean Duluth Road, Highway 7 re-open following bridge repairs

Two St. Louis County roads are re-opening following bridge repairs. Jean Duluth Road opened to traffic this morning. Meanwhile, Highway 7 in Industrial Township re-opened late yesterday. Both roads have been closed for the last month while finishing details were done to the bridges.

On Jean Duluth Road, the bridge that spans the Lester River was washed out in last June's flood. Its re-opening means that only one major road in St. Louis County, Haines Road, remains closed due to flood damage. Jean Duluth Road is traveled by an average of 4,100 motorists each day. The new bridge includes 12-foot wide lanes, eight-foot shoulders, concrete beams, a concrete deck and metal railings. Total cost was approximately \$1 million, 80 percent of which was covered by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief funds. State flood bonding paid the remaining 20 percent.

Meanwhile, the Highway 7 bridge over the Cloquet River was rebuilt last year after being deemed structurally deficient. It re-opened last November, but for the last month has been closed during the day while finishing work was completed.

"These two bridge projects are great examples of the hard work of our public works employees," said Jim Foldesi, Public Works Director. "Flood recovery projects such as on Jean Duluth Road, obviously have been a key focus, but we're also completing the regularly scheduled projects throughout the county such as the Highway 7 bridge."

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