



# Saint Louis County

**Public Works Department** • Richard H. Hansen Transportation & Public Works Complex  
4787 Midway Road, Duluth, MN 55811 • Phone: (218) 625-3830

**James T. Foldesi, P.E.**  
Public Works Director/  
Highway Engineer

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Steve Krasaway, P.E., Resident Engineer  
Public Works Department  
(218) 625-3841

### **Highland Street and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to reopen Friday**

Highland Street and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue West in Duluth is expected to re-open to traffic this Friday, November 7. The 1.5 mile stretch, officially known as County State Aid Highway 89, has been closed for reconstruction since April. Once the road re-opens, motorists should continue to use caution as work will continue this fall in areas outside of the driving lanes. Shoulder closures, sidewalk closures and short term delays should be expected. Additional finishing work will be completed next spring and early summer, including sidewalks, painting and staining of retaining walls, and some landscaping. This is the last major St. Louis County road construction project linked to the June 2012 flood.

The \$10.7 million project included the complete reconstruction of 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue West between Cody and Highland Streets, and of Highland Street between 57<sup>th</sup> and Skyline Parkway. A new 183-foot bridge now spans Keene Creek, replacing the previous culvert that was damaged by the flood. Accommodations have been added beneath the bridge for the Superior Hiking Trail, and a new parking lot added at the Skyline Parkway intersection. Meanwhile, sanitary sewer and water lines have been replaced, and Highland has widened shoulders to accommodate biking, parking and added driver safety. The five-leg intersection where Highland Street, Getchell Road, Vinland Street and Skyline Parkway once met has been reconfigured into a standard, four-legged intersection with turn lanes, and improved lighting has been installed. Motorists should note that this is a two-way stop for Vinland Street and Skyline Parkway, with Highland Street and Getchell Road not being required to stop. Also of special note, the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue West is now a four-way stop.

Lastly, pavement improvement work was done on Getchell Road between Skyline and Morris Thomas Road.

The reconstruction project is the second largest ever for the St. Louis County Public Works Department. Much of the cost is covered by flood bonding.

“I could not be prouder of the hard work, creative thinking and problem solving of our employees and contractors who have put in so many hours in the weeks, months and years since the flood,” said Commissioner Steve Raukar, who chairs the board’s transportation committee.

Added Commissioner Chris Dahlberg, whose district includes this area, “I also want to express my appreciation for the residents and commuters for their patience as they’ve detoured around this project. We trust you will find the wait was worth it. The improved intersection, improved roadway and access to trails are a real plus for the community.”

To sign up for email updates on this or any other St. Louis County Public Works project, visit [stlouiscountymn.gov/construction](http://stlouiscountymn.gov/construction).

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