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City of Duluth Communications Office

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DATE: 05/13/2010
SUBJECT: New Aerial Lift Bridge schedule to start May 15
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New Aerial Lift Bridge schedule to start May 15

The City of Duluth has received approval from the Ninth Coast Guard District and the Duluth City Council to test a new schedule for the Aerial Lift Bridge. The new schedule will apply for the period of May 15 to October 31, 2010. The bridge will open on the hour and the half hour between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., seven days per week. The bridge will open on signal for all vessels between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., and at all times for Federal, state, and local government vessels used for public safety, vessels in distress, commercial vessels engaged in rescue or emergency salvage operations, vessels engaged in pilot duties, vessels seeking shelter from severe weather, and all commercial vessels 300 gross tons or greater.

This new schedule will help improve vehicular traffic flow, relieve traffic congestion, and improve access and response times for emergency responders to Minnesota Point while still providing access for water vessels. The City and Coast Guard will be compiling comments during the test period. In addition, City Administration will meet with the Coast Guard and community stakeholders, 30 days following the end of the test period, to evaluate data and assess the effectiveness of the schedule.

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