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City of Duluth - Communications Office

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SUBJECT: Phase II of Superior Street Completion Date Announced

BY: Kate Van Daele, Public Information Officer

Phase II of Superior Street Completion Date Announced

[Duluth, MN] Phase II of the Superior Street Reconstruction Project will be completed on November 15, 2019. The roadway will reopen on November 15th, following a celebration that will be held at 10:00 a.m. in front of Pizza Luce.

The project, which started in April of this year, overcame many hurdles including a record-breaking amount of rain that fell throughout the project, the discovery of a 20' x 20' foot crane pad that had to be removed, and a water main reconstruction between 3rd Avenue East that took longer than expected due to shallow bedrock.

"Delays happen for a variety of reasons, and with this project the record amount of rain, cold temperatures, and unexpected findings below the surface was challenging," said project manager Duncan Schwensohn. "The contractor had crews working six days a week throughout the entire project to ensure as much work as possible could be done. We continue to learn a lot from each phase of this project, and are looking forward to our last phase next year."

Delays were expected for a portion of the easternmost end of Phase II due to Essentia Health's medical district renovation project and in preparation of the housing development at 333 East Superior Street. Work between Third and Fourth Avenues East was purposely slated to include temporary surfacing to work in partnership with those businesses to accommodate their projects.

The block of Superior Street between 3rd and 4th Avenue East will have temporary asphalt surfacing to allow the road to be open for the winter. Asphalt will be removed next spring to allow for the placement of the permanent concrete. In addition to this, sidewalks along that same stretch will also have temporary asphalt until next year and then removed so that concrete can be poured. This work is expected to take approximately six weeks to complete and will be done simultaneously with Phase III.

"It has been gratifying to see how closely our businesses worked together and united during this time of reconstruction," said Kristi Stokes, president of the Greater Downtown Council. "We are very excited to be wrapping it up and look forward to showcasing a transformed street as we celebrate the holiday season in downtown Duluth."

A public meeting for Phase III will be held on November 19, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in the Lake Erie/Ontario room. City staff and Northland Constructors, in addition to MnDOT, will provide an overview of the Phase III area and the Lake Avenue Bridge projects. All are welcome to attend. Work for Phase III and the Lake Avenue Bridge Projects are expected to begin in the spring of 2020.

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