



# Saint Louis County

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Rice Lake Road Innovative Pavement Rehabilitation Project Begins on August 12<sup>th</sup>**

Starting Friday August 12th, St. Louis County will begin rehabilitating 13 miles of Rice Lake Road (CSAH 4) from Martin Road to Thompson Lake Road, near Island Lake, using an innovative method of pavement rehabilitation known as “Hot in Place Recycling.” (HIR). This will be the first time this method of road rehabilitation is used in Northern Minnesota.

The HIR method works by heating the top two inches of the existing pavement to approximately 300 degrees Fahrenheit, turning the pavement surface into a loose mixture. Then, a series of machines pick up and combine this mixture with a liquid rejuvenator and place the mixture back onto the roadway providing a flat smooth surface for driving. The roadway will then be capped with two inches of new hot mix asphalt.

HIR provides both economic and environmental benefits. The amount of new asphalt and aggregate material is substantially reduced by reusing 100 percent of the existing pavement. HIR also eliminates the trucking associated with removing old pavement from the site. It is estimated that 2,300 truck trips will be saved by not hauling away the old pavement on the project, which equates to savings of approximately 7,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

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Work is expected to be completed by October 31, 2011. Traffic will be allowed through the work zone during construction with daily lane closures. Traffic will be reduced to one lane near the construction operation with traffic alternating use of the one lane with a flagging operation. Therefore, the public should expect delays in travel time. Work will occur six days per week, Monday through Saturday. We regret any inconvenience, and ask for your continued patience as we improve the county's transportation infrastructure for the traveling public. Further updates will be provided as soon as additional information is known.

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