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City of Duluth Communications Office

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DATE: 08/12/2013

SUBJECT: Minnesota Slip Bridge To Be Temporarily Out of Service

BY: Daniel Fanning, Community Relations Officer

Minnesota Slip Bridge To Be Temporarily Out of Service
Crews will replace cables and install a locking device to ensure public safety

[Duluth, MN] –Starting this evening, the Minnesota Slip Bridge (also known as the Pedestrian Blue Bridge) in Canal Park will be out of service and pinned in the upright position at least until Friday morning to allow crews to do maintenance repairs and inspect overall bridge operations. Crews will install new cables as well as a new locking mechanism to prevent the bridge deck from oscillating. This is being done to ensure public safety after the City received recent correspondence from one of the original designers of the bridge stating it is no longer operating as originally designed and could potentially pose a threat to public safety. Since being built in 1991, the Minnesota Slip Bridge has experienced numerous problems and breakages. The City recognizes the inconvenience these breaks and short-term fixes cause pedestrians and businesses in Canal Park and will work to complete the repairs as quickly as possible. However, public safety will be the highest priority and the bridge will be out of operation until crews are confident it is safe to use. In the long-term, the City will continue to seek ways to permanently solve this ongoing problem.

The bridge should be back in operation by the end of the week. For more information please contact Dave Campbell, Bridge Supervisor, at 723-3387 or Daniel Fanning, Community Relations Officer, at 730-5307.