

Sault Ste. Marie **Evening News**

More culverts on I-75 to be replaced



Courtesy of MDOT This 2008 file photo shows a view of one of the culverts to be replaced in this summer's project.

Posted Apr. 19, 2015 at 10:30 AM

Sault Ste. Marie

Another set of culverts on I-75 will be replaced in the Eastern Upper Peninsula this summer.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be replacing two large culverts on I-75 approximately 2.5 miles south of the M-28/I-75 intersection with an estimated project cost of \$1.2 million.

“We don’t have a solid starting date yet,” said Dan Weingarten of the MDOT Office of Communications. “It really depends on how quickly the spring thaw proceeds and spring weight restrictions can be lifted from state highways.”

“The culverts are being replaced because, like the culvert replaced in last year’s Rudyard project, these two have reached the end of their useful service lives and are having maintenance problems,” said Weingarten.

Originally installed in the early 1960s when this particular segment of I-75 was constructed, the culverts are showing signs of corrosion and leaking.

“This allows voids to form in the soil under the pavement above the culvert,” explained Weingarten, “and that creates pavement problems.”

Both northbound and southbound I-75 will be detoured at the same time for the duration of the project.

“This segment of I-75 has a soft clay underlying the roadbed that makes it very difficult to maintain traffic for a part-width construction — due to the potential for trench collapse,” said Weingarten. “That’s why we have to use a full closure of I-75 with a detour this summer.”

From Sault Ste. Marie, motorists heading south will detour east on M-28, south on M-129, west on M-80, and again west on South Gaines Highway back to I-75. Northbound vehicles will follow the detour route in reverse.

“The contractor, Team Elmer’s of Traverse City, anticipates starting work in May — just as soon as the frost laws are lifted,” said Weingarten, “and completing work by the July 4th weekend.”

Original article: <http://www.sooeveningnews.com/article/20150418/NEWS/150419061>