MnDOT workers discovered deteriorated pilings on Interstate 35 Bridge #69887 in Duluth. The deterioration was found on the Pier 32 pilings beneath the southbound lanes. Plans are being developed to repair the pilings using a concrete cap extension. The cap extension seen in the diagram below is designed to transfer the bridge load through the cap extension to the steel piling below it. The proposed plans are expected to be finalized next week.

### I-35 Bridge #69887 Piling Repair Plan

- Pilings are spaced along the length of each pier cap. During scheduled, routine bridge inspections, all visible elements of the bridge are inspected, including exposed pilings. Depending on the observations noted, additional in-depth inspection may be performed. Deterioration on the Pier 32 pilings was discovered at the bottom of the pier cap where the piling and the pier cap join. Sound steel begins about one-foot below the deteriorated area. The deteriorated steel will be encapsulated inside the new concrete cap extension.

### The Damage

- Soil level at Pier Cap 32 before excavation.

Graphic: Minnesota Department of Transportation District 1 Duluth