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**City of Duluth Communications Office**

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**DATE: 05/09/2011**

**SUBJECT: New Skywalk connecting Greysolon Plaza and Medical District Parking Ramp now open**

**BY: Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator**

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## **New Skywalk connecting Greysolon Plaza and Medical District Parking Ramp now open**

[Duluth, MN] – City officials and representatives from Sherman Properties officially opened a new skywalk extension today that connects key businesses in downtown Duluth. The new segment connects the Greysolon Plaza to the Medical District Parking Ramp which is located directly behind the Sheraton Hotel. The skywalk connection was incorporated as part of an agreement between the Duluth Economic Development Authority (DEDA) and George Sherman Properties when the Sheraton Hotel was under consideration.

Crews started site preparation last summer. The initial phases of the project included constructing steel and concrete supports for the skywalk and preparing the Greysolon connection. Crews constructed pieces of the skywalk and hoisted them in place piece by piece over 3rd Ave East.

“This is a great example of public-private partnerships coming together to make investments that benefit the community. DEDA is committed to strengthening and building upon our community partnerships,” said Brian Hanson, Executive Director of DEDA. “We thank Sherman Properties for their commitment to this project.”

The skywalk has a gradual incline connecting the mezzanine level of the Greysolon Plaza to the skywalk level of the Medical District Parking Ramp. The cost of the 250 foot skywalk is \$1.6 million.

"Sherman Properties is appreciative of the partnership with the City of Duluth on this next critical phase of the downtown skywalk system. The skywalk is a public asset that contributes to the continued development and revitalization of downtown Duluth," said Richard Hicks, Vice President of Construction with Sherman Properties of downtown Duluth.

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