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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Portion of East Liberty Street remains closed due to cave-in — Street opening now projected for Saturday, June 9 —

LOUISVILLE, KY – Work continues 24/7 at the East Liberty Street cave-in site since early Saturday morning, June 2. Initially, inspectors thought there was one large void — empty space — under the pavement. However, there are three large voids and a manhole in need of repair. The entire 185-feet of sewer line — between Baxter Avenue and East Chestnut Street — and the manhole will be repaired. The completion date has been revised to Saturday, June 9, due to the additional voids found and the condition of the manhole. Sidewalks in the area are closed due to the scope of the repair and concern for safety.

Background

MSD received a call from Metrosafe concerning a hole in the center lane of East Liberty Street in the early hours of Saturday, June 2. Inspectors were immediately dispatched. The MSD inspectors discovered a void that is approximately 10-feet deep, 15-feet long and 10-feet wide. Crews closed East Liberty Street between East Chestnut and Baxter Avenue to allow for the repair work.

The East Liberty Street sewer is a 30-inch brick sewer line that was installed in 1871. After 147 years of service, the bricks began to unravel in a few places. The small cracks in the pipe, together with heavy rain, caused voids under the pavement. Crews are working to slip-line the pipe, that process is sliding a new PVC pipe into the existing brick pipe, then reconnecting service lines. A pump-around has been installed so there is no disruption of sewer service during the repair.

MSD will delay the planned closure of the intersection at Lexington Road and Baxter Avenue to avoid undue traffic snarls in the area. This intersection is only one block away from the emergency work on East Liberty Street. The new date for the closure of the intersection at Lexington Road and Baxter Avenue is yet to be determined. Work at Lexington Road and Baxter Avenue is part of the Waterway Protection Tunnel, which will capture nine sewer overflow sites.



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About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 630 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.