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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Aging Infrastructure and Heavy Rains Contribute to Downtown Street Cave-In

Broadway, between First and Second streets

LOUISVILLE –On Monday, August 1, a section of Broadway between First and Second streets caved-in due to a collapsed sewer pipe. MSD crews are on the site and working to repair the pipe and restore the area. This collapse is due to a failure of a smaller pipe that feeds into the 84-inch brick sewer line. Tuesday night at 10 PM, MSD crews completed repair to the pipes. Today, they are back-filling and preparing the area for paving. Broadway will be plated and open to traffic by rush hour today, Wednesday, August 3.

A paving contractor will put down new blacktop at a time to be determined.

Portions of this 90-inch, brick sewer that was built in 1867—two years after the end of the Civil War—have collapsed in the past two years. In July 2015, a section at Floyd Street experienced a failure of the main Broadway Trunk Sewer, and in June 2014 a portion at Hancock Street collapsed. Each of these repairs took three weeks to repair. Fortunately, this most recent cave-in did not directly involve the 90-inch, brick sewer.

[Attachments]

Photos of Broadway sewer collapse site

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 600 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.