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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **Downtown Street Cave-In Repairs Enter Next Phase**

### *East Main and Hancock streets*

LOUISVILLE, KY—On Wednesday, August 30, a section of roadway at the intersection of Main and Hancock streets caved-in due to a collapsed sewer pipe. MSD crews secured the area and closed it to traffic.

#### **Street closures:**

- Main Street is closed between Clay and Jackson streets.
- Hancock Street is closed from Billy Goat Strut Alley to East Washington Street.

These streets will remain closed for the duration of the repairs. The entrance to Louisville Slugger Field parking at Main and South Jackson streets remains open.

The collapse is due to a failure in a 102-inch concrete sewer pipe that was installed in 1948. This section of pipe carries approximately one-third of the wastewater flow generated in Louisville Metro. As such, this piece of infrastructure is vital to the health and environmental safety of the community.

The first step in the repair process is to establish a "pump around" to handle the flow. Essentially, this is building a temporary sewer system to divert the existing flow around the collapsed section, allowing the repair work to take place. Work on the "pump around" is underway.

The manhole at Main and Clay streets is being modified to accommodate two 12-inch pumps, which will be part of the "pump around." Additionally, a new manhole is under construction on Main Street near Hancock Street, which will have three 12-inch pumps installed. A total of three 18-inch lines will carry the flow from these two locations to the junction structure at Main and Jackson streets. These three lines will run on the surface of the roadway. They are temporary and will be removed once the repairs are complete.

Additionally, flow from the sewer line under Hancock Street must be captured with a temporary line to run on the surface to the Main and Jackson streets junction structure. That capture site is at Hancock and East Washington streets. A 24-inch temporary surface line will be installed for this "pump around."

In total, approximately 3,500-feet of temporary sewer lines must be installed to allow reconstruction work to begin.

The "pump around" is expected to be complete by Friday, September 15. This allows the flow to transfer to the temporary lines and the damaged line emptied. Inspections are ongoing to determine the full damage to the site.

"This is a significant failure of vital wastewater system infrastructure. There is no quick or easy fix," states MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott. "We realize the repairs are disrupting a major transportation corridor and there are noise implications for residents in the neighborhood. We will make every effort to complete repairs as efficiently as possible."

The repairs could take several weeks. MSD experiences an average of nine cave-ins per month, but this one is exceptional in size and scope.

#### **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.