



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911
Phone: 502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

May 13, 2018

CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder
Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org
502.540.6552
502.919.0325

TRAFFIC ALERT: MSD roadway closure on River Road at Seventh and West Washington streets delayed until further notice

LOUISVILLE, KY — The section of River Road at Seventh and West Washington streets that was scheduled to close beginning tomorrow, May 14, will remain open until further notice. In the last few days, MSD has determined potential alternatives that may minimize the length of the closure and/or mitigate the closure. MSD wants to thoroughly analyze these new alternatives before closing this vital roadway. More information will be provided as plans develop.

Background

MSD plans to build an underground connection point to the Waterway Protection Tunnel in the area of River Road, Seventh and West Washington streets. The connection is called a “drop shaft,” which is a vertical structure, similar to a manhole that will drop approximately 200 feet in the ground. When complete, the drop shaft will move wastewater and rainwater from the existing sewer system into the tunnel. This prevents the combined waters from overflowing into the Ohio River.

MSD had plans to build the shaft in the grassy median at 7th and Washington streets. This would have required a nearly two-year closure of the roadway in this area for the safety of the public and workers. We are now exploring options that could accomplish this same goal with much less disruption to the public, businesses and attractions in the area.

MSD's larger effort to reduce overflows

The Waterway Protection Tunnel is part of MSD's larger effort to prevent sewage from overflowing into Louisville's waterways. MSD's basins and the tunnel will capture rainwater and sewage during rain events. The underground storage areas keep the mixture of rainwater and sewage until the rain subsides. Then, the mixture is gradually released back into the sewer system for treatment.

The Waterway Protection Tunnel will eliminate 22 combined sewer overflow points that put 351 million gallons of sewage and rainfall in a typical year into the South Fork of Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River.

By 2020, MSD will capture and treat 98 percent of the combined sewer overflow volume in a typical year of rain. Combined sewer overflows will then total only 343 million gallons in a typical year. That is substantially less than the two- to nearly six-billion gallons of combined sewer overflows per year that MSD has reported in recent years.

Learn more about the Waterway Protection Tunnel

Visit LouisvilleMSD.org/tunnel.

Sign up to receive regular updates on the project at LouisvilleMSD.org/tunnel/newsletter

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.