



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

## MEDIA RELEASE

January 30, 2020

### CONTACT:

Sheryl Lauder  
[Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org](mailto:Sheryl.Lauder@LouisvilleMSD.org)  
502.540.6552  
502.919.0325

## **Bumblebee is halfway home** ***MSD's tunnel boring continues to move 200-feet below Louisville***

**LOUISVILLE, KY** - Bumblebee—MSD's Waterway Protection Tunnel boring machine—has reached the halfway mark in her quest to carve a 4-mile waterway protection tunnel through bedrock eighteen stories under Louisville. Nicknamed “Bumblebee” in honor of Muhammad Ali, the 412-foot long machine is currently under the area of North Wenzel and Geiger streets. Soon, she will turn southeast and head toward Lexington Road and Grinstead Drive, which is her final destination point.

### **How does Bumblebee work?**

As the boring machine excavates the tunnel route, crews install locomotive tracks behind the machine to transport workers and supplies. A conveyor system transports the excavated rock through the tunnel to the working shaft. There it rides a vertical conveyor to the surface. The rock is then loaded into dump trucks and transported to a local quarry.

After the excavation is complete, the entire length of the tunnel is lined in concrete, making it watertight. The Waterway Protection Tunnel will store up to 55 million gallons of combined wastewater and stormwater during periods of heavy rain until capacity is available in the MSD sewer system. The contents are then pumped back into the system, conveyed to MSD's Morris Forman Water Quality Treatment Center for proper treatment, and later released into the Ohio River.

“Tunnel boring projects are wonders of engineering and technology, and we are excited to bring this innovative solution to Louisville to help create safe and clean waterways,” said MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott.

**REMINDER:** Your organization may have b-roll from the December 5, 2019 media visit inside MSD's Waterway Protection Tunnel

### **Want to learn more?**

Keep track of Bumblebee and get more information at  
<https://louisvillemsd.org/tunnel>

For an animation of the tunnel, click here  
<https://youtu.be/u9CHHpB5xek>



### **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 650 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.