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MEDIA RELEASE

August 21, 2019

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Intersection of 15th Street and Wilson Avenue closes due to cave-in of 108-year-old sewer line

LOUISVILLE – Earlier today, MSD crews determined that a dip in the roadway on 15th Street at Wilson Avenue was caused by the collapse of a sewer pipe under the intersection. Work is still underway to complete the damage assessment.

After 108 years of service, the bricks that form the bottom of this 45-inch pipe unraveled at a point where it meets one of the largest pipes in MSD's sewer system—the 162-inch Southern Outfall. Bricks were pushed away by the force of the water flowing through the system, causing the dirt surrounding the pipe to wash away.

Customers will see no interruption of service. Crews are installing a temporary “pump-around,” which allows MSD to pump wastewater through a pipe along the surface of the roadway, then put the flow back into the sewer system at another manhole.

Traffic detours are in place. There is no estimate of a completion date at this time.

Background

MSD maintains more than 3,300 miles of sewer lines – enough to stretch from California to Maine, and many dating back 75 years or more.



LouisvilleMSD

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.