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.