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## **MEDIA UPDATE**

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## **Work continues on two sewer collapses in the downtown area** — E Broadway at S Preston Street and E Liberty at Baxter Avenue — — Lexington at Baxter to reopen —

### **BROADWAY AT PRESTON — traffic restrictions**

Work is ongoing to repair a broken sewer pipe that runs under the middle lanes of Broadway at South Preston Street. Currently, crews are constructing a junction or connection box to bring together several sewer lines in the area. Work at this site will continue for approximately two more weeks. There is no disruption of sewer service during the repair, and access to local businesses is maintained.

### **E LIBERTY AND BAXTER — traffic restrictions**

Crews continue to repair a sewer line cave-in at East Liberty Street and Baxter Avenue. About 100-feet of additional pipe remains for installation. There is no disruption of sewer service during the repair, and access to local businesses is maintained. The roadway should open no later than August 15.

### **LEXINGTON AND BAXTER —opening to traffic tomorrow**

Work is complete and the roadway will open to traffic on Lexington Road by rush hour Tuesday afternoon, August 7. Traffic on Baxter will be restricted due to the sewer repair work at East Liberty Street and Baxter Avenue. Sewer line work at Lexington and Baxter is part of MSD's Waterway Protection Tunnel and will allow capture of nine sewer overflow points that currently discharge to Beargrass Creek.

### **BACKGROUND**

**Broadway at Preston:** This three-layer brick sewer installed in 1866, has experienced similar failures in different locations as recently as 2015, 2014 and 2009. On July 22 — after 152 years of service — the bricks that form this pipe began to unravel at a joint where another repair was made in 1989. The small breaks in the joint, together with heavy rain, caused a 10- by 15-foot void, or open space, under the pavement that was 8-feet deep.

**E Liberty and Baxter:** On August 2, a section of a 30-inch brick sewer line — installed in 1871 — caved in revealing 15- by 30-feet and 12-feet deep void under the pavement. This site is very close to a cave-in that happened in June on a different section of this sewer line.

These brick sewers that run under our city are connections to a past, which continue to serve us every day. Both the sewer line on Broadway dating to 1866, and the sewer line on East Liberty dating to 1871, represent a time of tremendous growth and change for the city.

By 1860, Louisville's population had grown to more than 68,000, but the underground sewer system was less than two miles long, dwarfing the needs of residents. In comparison, Louisville MSD now maintains more than 3,300 miles of sewer lines – enough to stretch from California to Maine.

Additionally, the Louisville Water Company began operations, pumping water from the river to the downtown area. Soon there was more water available, and more water that needed to be disposed.

Following the end of the Civil War, the city returned to its pre-war prosperity, as manufacturing expanded, factories were built, and goods were shipped by train. And while the city continued to grow, its wastewater disposal needs also grew, necessitating the building of more sewer lines. The construction of brick sewer lines expanded to meet these needs, such as the three-layer 96-inch sewer pipe underneath Broadway at South Preston, and the 30-inch brick sewer underneath East Liberty Street.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In the past 12 months, MSD has responded to more than 1,100 cave-ins across the community. To view a map of cave-ins during the past year, visit: [LouisvilleMSD.org/prevent-collapsing-sewers](https://LouisvilleMSD.org/prevent-collapsing-sewers).



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### **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.