



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911  
Phone: 502.540.6000 | [LouisvilleMSD.org](http://LouisvilleMSD.org)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **CONTACT:**

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

## **Plans are underway to repair large sewer pipe under E Broadway** *Traffic changes coming beginning Monday morning*

LOUISVILLE, KY – Motorists should avoid E Broadway between S Floyd and S Jackson streets beginning Monday, October 12, due to additional lane reductions in the area as inspections continue of a large sewer pipe that runs under Broadway's middle lane.

**Beginning Monday morning, the intersections of Broadway and S Floyd, S Preston and S Jackson streets will have the following restrictions:**

- **Motorist on E Broadway can go straight or make a right turn onto Broadway**
- **Motorists on S Floyd, S Preston and S Jackson can make right turns only onto Broadway**
- **No traffic can cross the center part of the intersections at Broadway and S Floyd and S Preston streets**
- **The intersections are open for pedestrians, and traffic control officials will assist crossings**

MSD contractors inspecting the pipe as part of a comprehensive sewer line rehabilitation project discovered damage to the pipe in two places. Voids or empty spaces have developed under the pavement due to these breaks in the sewer pipe.

Small breaks in a brick sewer can lead to large holes. During heavy rains, if one or two bricks fall out of place, the pipe can unravel. As the gap becomes larger, more bricks cascade down, and soil surrounding the pipe flows into the line pulled by the rushing water leaving a void or space around the pipe and under the pavement.

This 96-inch diameter brick sewer—installed in 1866—has experienced failures in different locations as recently as 2018, 2015, 2014 and 2009. MSD will first repair this damaged area then proceed with the planned full rehabilitation of the 1-mile pipe under Broadway between S Second to the east of Campbell streets.

Layers of utilities, including a 30-inch water main, complicate the repair. Precautions are underway to reroute water service in the area. There will be no disruption of the sewer or other utility services.

There is no estimate on a repair 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. Annually, the agency inspects 450 to 525 miles of sewer pipe, as part of a 20-year inspection cycle.



#### **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 670 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.