



For more information:
Rick Jackson
Rick.Jackson@bwwb.org

**BIRMINGHAM WATER WORKS WILL UNDERTAKE MAJOR REPAIR PROJECT ON HIGHWAY 280
36-INCH MAIN INFRASTRUCTURE PIPE HAS A LEAK IN TWO SECTIONS NEAR ROADWAY**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (January 19, 2022) – Birmingham Water Works (BWW) has announced a major repair project on Highway 280, near the Shades Mountain Filtration Treatment Plant, tentatively starting February 1st. At issue is a 36-inch main infrastructure pipe that has leaks in two sections passing through the Highway 280 right of way. The pipe is suspected to have begun leaking between two to three weeks ago near the time of record low temperatures, however, there is no danger to the water pressure or water quality for customers in the service area.

BWW is working in close collaboration with Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) officials to carefully plan the operation. The repair project is expected to take up to 20 days and will require one to two lanes of commuter traffic to be closed on Highway 280 eastbound adjacent to Rocky Ridge Road between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. each day during the construction period.

During the construction project, water will be diverted back into the basin system to be used in the treatment process. “We know this will be an inconvenience to commuters during the February project,” says Birmingham Water Works Assistant General Manager Derrick Murphy. “We appreciate the close collaboration with ALDOT which is critical to minimizing the inconvenience and the expediting of this challenging project.”

Murphy said more information will be shared as the project planning develops, which includes traffic rerouting and logistical access to the affected water breaks.

ABOUT BIRMINGHAM WATER WORKS BOARD: Founded in 1951, the Birmingham Water Works Board serves 770,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair, and Walker counties. The BWWB operates four filtration plants, a certified testing laboratory, and has more than 4,000 miles of pipe in its distribution network. For more information about the Birmingham Water Works Board, media inquiries, or tours of our museum, please call 205-244-4225 or visit www.bwwb.org.

Media Contact: publicrelations@bwwb.org | 205-244-4225

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