



**The Eastern Bridge Will Significantly Harm our Community's  
Natural Environment and Historic Heritage Jan. 2008**

***Threatens Metro's Drinking Water.*** The six-lane interstate highway and bridge threatens major harm to the groundwater aquifer that will provide our regional drinking water. The six-lane interstate highway will puncture through the **groundwater aquifer** along the Ohio River at Transylvania Beach and threatens to pollute (gasoline, antifreeze, road salt) the water well system that our water company is building to provide us drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is "particularly concerned that an accidental spill could potentially contaminate the aquifers used by these wellfields." (USEPA letter to FHWA, 3/20/02, p. 28.)

***Harms 3,000 Acres of Historic Properties.*** The eastern bridge will harm almost **3,000 acres** of historic farms, lime kilns, a rural river village, river camp homes, an African-American home, and country estates through directly taking properties or causing noise and visual impacts. (Based on direct and indirect impacts of properties listed in the FHWA Record of Decision, 9/03.)

***Creates 284 Square Miles of Sprawl/Land Development.*** The vast area in southern Indiana where sprawl development is expected from the eastern bridge interstate highway and new interchanges covers about **284 square miles** and would threaten historic properties (particularly farms and archaeological sites) that could be demolished or lost through new development. (Community Transportation Solutions estimate, area of traffic influence, 12/18/02).

***Destroys 400 Acres of Wetlands, Forests, Floodplain.*** Almost **400 acres** of wetlands, streams, forests, and floodplain will be destroyed or harmed by the eastern bridge. (Final EIS, p. S-15).

***Blankets Harrods Creek With Concrete.*** Approx. **500 ft.** of the six-lane, 200'-wide highway for the eastern bridge is along Harrods Creek itself and in the Harrods Creek floodplain. **This is one full length of a football field, plus another 1/3 of a field.** Piers will be placed on both sides of Harrods Creek. (H.W. Lochner Consulting Engineers, 10/19/06 meeting of the Kentucky Historic Preservation Advisory Team.)

***Destroys Farms and Rural Landscape.*** Approx. **136 acres** of prime farmland and **18 farms** would be destroyed by the eastern bridge. (Final EIS, p. S-15.)

***Destroys the Habitat of Federally Endangered Species.*** The habitat for the federally endangered Indiana and Gray bats would be destroyed by the highway approaches for the eastern bridge and from associated sprawl development. (Final EIS, p. 5-305.)

These harmful impacts are why national organizations, like the Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense, label the eastern bridge "**one of the most environmentally destructive**" highway projects proposed in the U.S., and why the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the River Road Corridor/Country Estates of River Road on its 1999 national "**Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places**" list.