



## RIVER FIELDS

### Keep River Road Safe!

**Public Safety.** This historic and scenic seven-mile route **MUST** be preserved for the benefit of the public as a safe driving and cycling experience. Its present design has a speed-dampening effect on what is already a very curvy road from both approaches.

**Government's "Big Fix."** The bridge is in urgent need of repair. However, a more expensive plan is afoot to widen it to two lanes, which would likely lead to excessive speeds and consequent accidents.

**Safe Speeds and Accidents.** The present one-lane bridge compels drivers to maintain slower speeds. Widening would have the opposite effect. Traffic data from 2000-2004 show that the Harrods Creek Bridge is safer than comparable bridges in Kentucky.<sup>1</sup>

**Scenic Value.** River Road, from Zorn Ave. to U.S. 42, is Louisville Metro's only state-designated Scenic Byway. The picturesque one-lane Harrods Creek Bridge is an essential element of this special seven-mile drive. It helps to support a uniquely safe, calming and leisurely public driving experience.<sup>2</sup>

**Historic Character.** The more expensive widening proposal would destroy the historic significance of the structure and that portion of River Road.

**The Better Option.** The Harrods Creek Bridge needs repair but is a fundamentally sound structure. River Fields proposes a preservation option that is less expensive and safer and will require less time to complete. Resurfacing, fixing the guardrails and better signage will do wonders.<sup>3</sup>

**The Better Outcome.** The repair and preservation option will retain the safety feature of this graceful passage. The calming aspect of traveling the entire Scenic Byway will not be disturbed. Renovation will cost less and be accomplished faster, meaning far less inconvenience to drivers and Harrods Creek boaters.

**National Importance.** Historic River Road, including the one-lane Harrods Creek Bridge, is nationally significant. A \$350,000 National Scenic Byway Grant, co-authored by River Fields and Louisville Metro, was awarded in 2006 to protect and preserve this scenic and recreational road for future generations. In 1999 the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the Scenic Byway, including the bridge, as one of the eleven most endangered historic sites in the nation.

**Public Access and River Views.** This is what we want to keep: the Harrods Creek Bridge and Scenic Byway's incomparable views of the Ohio River, downtown Louisville and the Southern Indiana shoreline for the public and thousands of commuters, walkers and cyclists who travel it daily.

*To help preserve the Scenic Byway, we urge you to write to Mayor Jerry Abramson's office (527 W. Jefferson St., Louisville, KY 40202) and tell them to reconsider the widening proposal. We would appreciate a copy of your letter. Please send it to the address listed below.*

*For more information or other ways to help preserve the Scenic Byway, contact River Fields at [info@riverfields.org](mailto:info@riverfields.org) or 583-3060.*

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<sup>1</sup> During the four-year study, only 9 non-fatal accidents (90% of which involved vehicle damage only) happened on or at the bridge.

<sup>2</sup> Traffic data demonstrate that the safety problems and fatal accidents are caused by speeding around the curves of River Road leading to the one-lane bridge not on or at the bridge.

<sup>3</sup> This solution has worked successfully at the Cabin John Bridge on MacArthur Blvd. in Washington, D.C. which is a major commuter route into Capitol Hill carrying three times the traffic of River Road.