

February 28, 2015

Dear Members of the NW Versailles Mobility Corridor Citizen's Advisory Committee and representatives of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet,

The Corridor Study Group is an alliance of diverse Woodford County groups concerned about the proposed construction of the NW Versailles Mobility Corridor. We are writing to present our concerns as you continue consideration of this project.

The stated goal of the project is to improve the "safety, capacity and mobility of Falling Springs Blvd., US 60 and adjoining roads." In addition to answering whether the proposed bypass will accomplish this goal, it is hoped that you also will weigh the secondary issue of what harm might be caused.

Concerns:

1. There are no recent traffic studies to indicate more current or future capacity is needed.
2. There will be little significant impact on mobility through downtown Versailles according to traffic forecasts submitted by KY DOT.
3. There is no evidence that mobility through Versailles neighborhoods will be improved.
4. There is the probability of increased traffic and reduced safety on Midway Road, and in the town of Midway.
5. There is the potential for economic loss to downtown Versailles if economic growth is shifted to the periphery of the community.
6. There is possible negative environmental impact to county streams and watersheds.
7. There may be degradation to Falling Springs Park & Recreation Center.
8. There are questions about whether it is appropriate to use limited road funds for the construction of a new road when existing roads and bridges in Woodford County, and across Kentucky, need repair or improvement.
9. There is concern about the effect of new development along the corridor on undeveloped/abandoned areas currently within the urban service boundary.

Suggestions:

1. Improve safety and mobility of traffic in downtown Versailles by enforcing current ban on truck traffic.

2. Improve signage to better direct truck traffic away from downtown Versailles and off Midway Road, by adding signage at the 127 Bluegrass Parkway exit and at the US 60 Bluegrass Parkway on ramp.

3. Investigate ways to make pedestrian traffic safer and parking more accessible in downtown Versailles.

4. Improve safety of Midway Road by moving the “Federal AAA trucking highway” designation of the Midway Road portion of Highway 62 onto Highway 60.

5. Improve safety and mobility of traffic in Versailles neighborhoods by revisiting the solutions presented in the 2010 Entran study.

6. Improve safety and mobility in all of Woodford County by making needed repairs and improvements to existing roads.

We appreciate your efforts on behalf of the citizens of Woodford County. The decisions you make will have long term implications for downtown Versailles, for Midway and its uniqueness, and for Woodford County as a whole. There are real traffic issues in Versailles and Woodford County but the proposed bypass does not solve them. In the end, we believe that the very limited benefits are outweighed by the long-term problems that will be created. We hope this probability will lead you to choose the No Build option.

Respectfully yours,

Joyce Evans and Ron Wallace
Co-Chairs, Corridor Study Group

And the following groups, or representatives of groups, who participated in drafting this letter:

Midway City Council members: S. Hicks, D. Roller, L. Warfield, K. Gallagher
Woodford Coalition, Ron Wallace, Dan Rosenberg
Citizens for Sustainable Growth, Karen Isberg
*Individual Versailles Merchants, Donna Carroll
*Individual Midway Merchants, Kenny Smith
Midway Citizens Group, Herman Farrell III, Judy Offutt
Corridor Study Group, Joyce Evans, Ron Wallace
Woodford County Farmer, Hoppy Henton
Midway Renaissance, Sara Hicks
Pisgah Community Historic Association, Whitney Dunlap

*Approval pending next meeting of organization