

# Patrick J. Hagan

---

2125 Weisenberger Mill Road – Midway, Kentucky – 40347 – (859) 388-0207

December 10, 2014

Ananias Calvin III  
Transportation Manager  
Department of Highways District 7 Office  
P.O. Box 11127  
Lexington, KY 40512-1127

Dear Mr. Calvin,

After receiving your letter on December 5th, I would like to make a final request and reiterate our community's adamant response to your statement on replacing the Weisenberger Mill Bridge with a two lane bridge. I tried to give you my observations over the past 50 years concerning the Weisenberger Mill Bridge since I have lived by it all my life, but it obviously fell on deaf ears. I hope that if you don't understand just how steadfast this community is concerning the widening of the Mill Bridge, maybe one of your counterparts will.

After the second Public Hearing Meeting on October 21, 2014 it was apparent to everyone who attended that you were unwilling to listen to reason and already had the money earmarked for the transportation cabinet to replace the Weisenberger Mill Bridge instead of using it more wisely elsewhere in the State. By the way, I didn't see you at the first Public Hearing Meeting.

Below are some issues brought up to you by myself and others there during the hearing:

- 1.) I asked you "over the life of the Bridge, how many accidents have happened due to being one lane or from bridge failure". You said "maybe one". You didn't even know and couldn't give any details. You obviously have not done your homework at all because you also told me on the phone sometime after the first hearing that there were 55 MPH speed limits around the bridge. You even argued with me about it. THERE ARE NOT! You also couldn't even give me your superior's name or contact information. I am wondering just what kind of a circus you all are running over there. You are certainly not doing what is best for our other Kentucky communities if you aren't doing any more research on those other projects like you obviously have not done on the Weisenberger Mill Bridge project.
- 2.) During the first hearing Larry Craig handed out forms for the community to submit suggestions. From talking to several members of our community there were a wide range of submissions anywhere from fixing it back to its original state to replacing it with a covered bridge to keep the aesthetics of the local scenery. To my knowledge, there were no completed forms in favor of widening the bridge. Some of us prefer to keep things old and beautiful. And just for your knowledge, "new" does not always mean "better".
- 3.) The Weisenberger Mill Bridge, as it is, helps slow traffic down. There are 35 MPH & 25 MPH speed limits respectively on all three access roads that approach the Bridge. By widening the Bridge, all you are doing is increasing the number of vehicles through this area and inviting increased traffic speeds and accidents. Not to mention inviting tractor trailer trucks to come down the Weisenberger Mill Road from Midway increasing noise, traffic, speed and additional weight on the roadways that we DO NOT WANT. We moved to the Country to get away from all that hustle and bustle.

...ing is ruining our quiet, peaceful  
...y on Weisenberger Mill and Paynes Depot Roads.

... are doing nothing but destroying the peaceful area around the Mill Bridge that  
... and many other neighbors have enjoyed for the past 50+ years. You may also  
be effecting many wildlife nesting and breeding grounds. There are wildlife  
nesting grounds for several Blue Heron mates, Egrets, Hawks, Pileated  
Woodpeckers and many other Woodpecker breeds, several different Owl breeds, Many  
different duck breeds, as well as, other wildlife such as Otters, Beavers, Red Fox, Deer,  
Wild Turkeys and many other wildlife animals that you will be causing stress to in their  
natural habitat with no foreseen consequences to you for your actions.

5.) The Weisenberger Mill Bridge is a local historic site. You will be tearing down a part of  
our community's history.

Finally, I am begging you to reconsider and praying that you or someone with more  
compassion about our beautiful area will do the proper thing for this community and reverse  
your decision and put the money that you have set aside to replace the Weisenberger Mill  
Bridge and simply update it back to its original condition. Then use what is left over for other  
needed highway repairs in District 7. Please do not replace it with a two lane bridge and  
create more traffic, more hazardous driving conditions and wildlife habitat damage in this  
area. Then maybe in 50 more years, the Midway and Georgetown cities may have grown  
out to meet the bridge and justify the State to update it then.

If you go ahead with your plans...which no one to my knowledge has yet to see and you  
haven't even given us sketches, visual aids or any detailed ideas concerning your "big" plans  
during either of the Public Hearing Meetings...then please know that many of us will hold you  
and your department personally responsible for anyone hurt due to your lack of knowledge  
and unwillingness to listen to logic and reason during your Public Meetings regarding your  
erroneous Bridge expansion plans, as well as, any wildlife habitat changes that you may be  
blindly causing.

Of the people that grew up in this area and understand the ramifications of what you are  
suggesting seems to show that sometimes 50+ years of practical knowledge is much better  
than book knowledge. Especially when the book educated people do not do their due-  
diligence in researching their new creative ideas to make drastic changes and possibly  
irreversible damage.

**PLEASE DO NOT REPLACE THE WEISENBERGER MILL BRIDGE WITH A TWO LANE  
BRIDGE. JUST REPAIR THE EXISTING HISTORIC BRIDGE.**

Respectfully Requesting To Save The Weisenberger Mill Bridge,

*Patrick J. Hagan*

Patrick J. Hagan

CC: Joe Lacefield - Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department  
Mac Weisenberger - Weisenberger Mill  
Deborah & Giles Encave - Mill Creek Farm  
Larry Craig - Woodford County Magistrate  
Tom Bozarth - Kentucky League of Cities  
Libby Warfield - Libby Warfield Interiors  
Grayson Vandegrift - Midway City Hall  
Jackson Reams - University of Kentucky School of Journalism  
Citizens of Weisenberger Mill Road