

## Grass Roots Activism Grows at Kent

Kent's own Liz Dumbaugh Martin is spearheading a grassroots effort to draw improvement dollars for the Preston Highway Corridor, north of the Watterson Expressway.

As the Belmar Neighborhood Association President, Liz is part of the Coordinating Committee for the Preston Corridor Planning Group (formerly known as the Preston Corridor Task Force), formed in November 2002 with facilitation assistance from State Representative Jim Wayne. The plan-

ning group leadership is made up of volunteers from

small cities, neighborhoods and businesses along the Preston Corridor.

The Planning Group and the community met with Metro Development

Authority and the nonprofit Louisville Community Design Center in two sessions earlier this year to develop a community driven conceptual plan for the area. "Our hope is to improve the appeal of this 'front door' to Louisville from the airport and to make the corridor more of a destination with proper amenities for residents," says Martin. In addition to the conceptual effort, Liz's Advanced Macro Practice II class aided the effort by developing and conducting a survey of area residents. The resulting report of that assessment is the driving force behind the on-going planning effort.

In an effort to educate government leadership about the conceptual plan for the corridor, Liz and other representatives from the Planning Group presented their conceptual drawings and survey data to Mayor Jerry Abramson, Deputy Mayor Riehm, leadership of Metro's Cabinet for Community Development and Rep. Wayne on August 13, 2004. The meeting spawned great enthusiasm, support, partnerships and a solid commitment for improvement to the corridor from many levels of government.

J. Borders



Preston Highway - Looking Southbound at Railroad Overpass  
Conceptual Site Improvements Perspective

Read about this initiative in three *Louisville Courier Journal* articles available online:

Task force sets sights on Preston (March 24, 2004): <http://www.courier-journal.com/nabes/2004/03/24/E1-preston0324ct-5275.html>

Preston Highway wish list ready (June 02, 2004): <http://www.courier-journal.com/nabes/2004/06/02/C1-belmar0602mc-4861.html>

Volunteers sought for Preston Highway fix-up (August 18, 2004): <http://www.courier-journal.com/nabes/2004/08/18/E1-preston0818ct-4787.html>