

RECEIVED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
EL DORADO COUNTY  
12:19 pm, Jan 24, 2011

# 3

**LATE DISTRIBUTION**

Date 12:20 pm, Jan 24, 2011

49 Bridge retrofit  
Sarah Canfield  
to:  
bosfour  
01/19/2011 07:54 AM  
Show Details

As a 15 year resident and homeowner in Coloma, 5 day-a-week bike commuter (I work at the Coloma resort), recreational mountain biker, mother of 2 children in the gold trail school district, i highly recommend the bridge be modified to accomodate ped/bike traffic. I live near the state park, and have been teaching my children to ride their bikes solo to the Sierra Rizing bakery, and the most dangerous part of the ride is the bridge. I have taught them to park their bikes on the side of the road, and walk across the bridge. Even walking across the bridge is dangerous, as the rail is so low and the curb so narrow.

It would be very disappointing to have this once in a lifetime bridge retrofit completed, without considering the importance of tourist and resident ped/bike access to the business park of Coloma/Lotus. Please include pedestrian and bike access when retrofitting this bridge.

Sarah Canfield  
Teacher, active Voter, Resident, Cyclist



**Highway 49 work in Coloma**  
Kelly Ahola to: bosfour

01/18/2011 09:36 PM

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Hello Supervisor Briggs,

It has come to my attention that CalTrans plans to do some work on the Highway 49 bridge in Coloma.

Bicycle and pedestrian safety are very important here; it would make sense to accommodate both bicyclists and pedestrians in this new bridge work. Many people walk around town here; many people also use their bicycles. If any work is to be done to the bridge, it would make obvious sense to take into consideration making sure both pedestrians and bicyclists be provided with safe walking and riding spaces on this section of the Highway 49 bridge.

Thanks for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Kelly Ahola  
PO Box 932  
Lotus, CA 95651  
riverbox@cal.net

South Fork of the American River Bridge - Highway 49

Noel Robinson

to:

bosfour

01/18/2011 09:24 PM

Show Details

Hello, I am a Lotus resident. Please, please seriously consider widening the Highway 49 bridge. I have two little boys 6 & 8 who are terrified to cross that bridge on their bikes to go anywhere in this valley. When I walk it myself I am scared.

When you consider the amount of people (tourists/rafters) that cross that bridge in the warm months I am surprised there hasn't been a tragedy.

Again, please consider the safety of our county residents.

Noel Robinson

Lotus, CA

Hwy 49 Bridge retrofit  
Alice Butler  
to:  
bosfour  
01/18/2011 09:03 PM  
Show Details

Dear Supervisor Briggs,

I am a resident of Coloma and have an office in the Coloma Village Shopping Center. I drive across the Hwy 49 bridge near the intersection of Lotus Road frequently, often as many as 6 or 8 times a day. This is when I access Cronin Ranch in the morning, the office and home for lunch and in the evening going to yoga. I don't think this is uncommon for many residents here. I often ride my bike and even walk to work occasionally (I live one mile away) There is a campground just over the bridge from Lotus Road that specializes in large 5th wheels and pull out travel trailers not to mention diesel pushers and other large trucks. These are always taking more than their half of the road and crowd pedestrians to the limit on the bridge. Not safe! Please, please, please do what you can to present Caltrans with our need to have this bridge widened and made safe for pedestrain and bike use.

Thank you,  
Alice Butler  
385 Coloma Heights Road  
Coloma, CA 95613  
530-295-1688

Highway 49 upgrade  
Jonas Minton  
to:  
bosfour  
01/18/2011 08:55 PM  
Show Details

**Supervisor Briggs. I strongly urge you to press CALTRANS to include safe pedestrian and bicycle passage as part of the Highway 49 upgrade in Coloma.**

**The existing narrow sidewalk is unsafe. Bicycles have no room and are forced onto the too narrow lanes. It makes Coloma less accessible and desirable for the tourist industry as well as us residents.**

**Thank you**

**Jonas Minton  
570 River Road, Coloma 95613  
(530) 626-9148**

Proposed SR 49 bridge retrofit in Coloma

Jane Phillips Widroe

to:

bosfour

01/18/2011 07:10 PM

Show Details

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Jane Phillips Widroe

**To:** bosfour@edcgov.us (Supervisor Ron Briggs)

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2011 3:19 PM

**Subject:** Proposed SR 49 bridge retrofit in Coloma

Dear Supervisor Briggs,

I am a Coloma resident of over 20 years and parent of three daughters. I cross the SR 49 bridge on a daily basis by car.

I am urging you to work to include pedestrian and bicycle accomodation in the SR 49 bridge retrofit project. Numerous pedestrians and cyclists use the bridge, and it is difficult and often dangerous to pass these users while crossing in a vehicle. It is equally hazardous for vehicles to slow or stop for pedestrians and cyclists. Given the extensive tourist, rafting, commercial trucking, and resident vehicle, foot and cycle traffic it seems shortsighted to not include accomodation for all users.

Please keep me up to date on the progress of this project.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Phillips Widroe  
Coloma/Lotus resident



**Highway 49 Bridge Project**  
**Mike Bean to: bosfour**

01/18/2011 04:25 PM

**From:** Mike Bean <mike@rivervilla.com>  
**To:** bosfour@edcgov.us

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Dear Supervisor Briggs,

I am writing you to request that you do all that you can do to have the CalTrans seismic retrofit project scheduled for the Highway 49 bridge in Coloma include modifications to improve both pedestrian and bicycle safety. I understand money is tight but this is an opportunity that should not be lost. This is not a request for aesthetics but for safety not based on projected future use but based on current use.

The nature of our community is one of summer recreation. Often has visitors staying at campgrounds or lodging on both sides of the bridge. These visitors often to walk to restaurants and bars during the day but especially at night. I'm not sure are trying to avoid drinking and driving or just want some exercise with their night out. The other big pedestrian and bicycle users of the bridge are the seasonal raft guides that make Coloma and Lotus there summer home. The current bridge configuration provides less than half of a sidewalk on each side.

As for bikes our community sees both recreational as well as short and long distance commuters. Although the distance is short and bikes can ride in traffic it would be nice for those less experienced or young riders to have some lane in order to avoid being in traffic.

In addition to bicycle and pedestrian traffic along Highway 49 between business district north of bridge and Marshall Gold Discovery Park south of bridge there is both pedestrian and bicycle traffic from business district and Henningsen-Lotus Park.

I know you need to pick your priorities when working with CalTrans. I just want to state that I think this is a critical safety issues for our community that is both good for residents as well as visitors. Please fight for pedestrian and bicycle safety to be included with this project.

Best regards,

Mike Bean  
1310 Scott Rd  
Coloma, CA

11-0072.C.7

pedestrians and bicycles on Hwy 49 bridget

Traci Van Thull

to:

bosfour

01/18/2011 04:03 PM

Show Details

Supervisor Briggs:

I recently learned that there will be a presentation by CalTrans on their plan to retrofit the highway 49 bridge in Coloma/Lotus.

I hope that any plan will prioritize both bicycle and pedestrian crossings on the bridge. I used to walk, run, and bike across the bridge frequently and I can tell you that the current situation is inadequate -- we need to make some very specific upgrades to make bridge crossing safe for the community and visitors to the area.

I know that bike and pedestrian paths and safety are a priority for many of my friends living in the area. We are working to develop accessible and safe routes for visitors and community members. I hope that we will be able to hear more about the project and involve the community.

Thank you for all of your work for the Coloma area and our county.

Sincerely,

Traci Sheehan Van Thull

P.O. Box 573

Coloma, CA 95613

-- Traci Sheehan

We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men; and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects.

--Herman Melville



State Route 49 project  
Adrienne  
to:  
bosfour  
01/18/2011 03:44 PM  
Show Details

Greetings Supervisor Briggs,

Thank you for your interest and attention to the State Route 49 project. As a resident of the Lotus/Coloma area and a cyclist, I would like to encourage you to speak with Caltrans about incorporating a bicycle/pedestrian route on the bridge that crosses Highway 49 above the South Fork American River. This is a busy stretch- especially in the summertime with locals and tourists congregating in the area. With the wonderful addition of Cronin and Magnolia just north of Lotus, we are seeing a larger number of horse trailers on the road – and as a cyclist, the meeting of the trailers and the trucks that pull them across the narrow 49 bridge is a dangerous and scary proposition. I usually sprint across the bridge because it is such a sketchy stretch of road.

I have often experienced dangerous and aggressive maneuvers and language by my fellow County residents who do not feel that cyclists are as entitled to the roads as their motor vehicles are. Their mirrors have literally come within inches of me as they travel down the road at 30 to 40 miles (plus!) per hour. I assure you, I move over as far to the right as possible when I hear a vehicle approaching. In fact, one such encounter was with a Caltrans utility truck while heading south on highway 49 from Coloma toward Placerville! I can understand motorists frustrations upon encountering a human powered transportation mechanism on our windy roads, but it does not warrant their ensuing aggressive and dangerous behavior.

I think the best solution would be to create enough space for both modes to travel safely at their requisite speed. A ped/cyclist exclusive lane will help mitigate road rage and ensure a safer, more enjoyable experience for everyone who uses our public roads.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Graf (& Adam Forest)  
6181 Clark Mountain Road  
Lotus, CA 95651  
[Adrienne@theforestgroup.com](mailto:Adrienne@theforestgroup.com)



**bicycle and pedestrian crossing**  
**Michelle Kite** to: bosfour

01/18/2011 02:58 PM

From: Michelle Kite <michelle@cal.net>  
To: bosfour@edcgov.us

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Dear Supervisor Briggs,

Thank you for your support of our district. I appreciate that you will be making it a priority to add pedestrian and bicycle lanes on the 49 bridge across the South Fork of the American River. Currently, it is difficult and dangerous to walk on this bridge. This community is brought together by the residents and tourists that come here. This will make a safe and important improvement.

Thank you again for your Support,

Michelle Sage Kite

FW: CLNews: State Route 49 retrofit project

Michael Snead

to:

bosfour

01/18/2011 05:00 PM

Show Details

Hello Mr. Briggs,

I'd appreciate it if you'd make the addition of a bicycle and pedestrian crossing to the retro-fit of the American River Bridge in Coloma near the intersection of State Route 49 and Lotus Road a priority.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request!

*Michael*

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Michael Snead

PO Box 675

Lotus, CA 95651

[michaelsnead@directcon.net](mailto:michaelsnead@directcon.net)

Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so. - Douglas Adams (1952-2001)

**We do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing. Growing older is mandatory – growing up is optional.**

On 1/18/2011 12:54 PM, Elena DeLacy wrote:

Hello Coloma - Lotus Community Members:

I thought many of you may be interested in this presentation:

Supervisor Briggs recently asked Caltrans to make a presentation to the Board of Supervisors concerning their proposed retrofit of the State Route 49 South Fork of the American River Bridge in Coloma near the intersection of State Route 49 and Lotus Road. Caltrans' presentation to the Board of Supervisors will be at 11:00 am (time certain), on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. The project proposes to perform a seismic retrofit, upgrade the bridge rail, and replace the bridge deck without widening the existing structure to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian use. EDCTC is working with Supervisor Briggs, El Dorado County, and Caltrans to get bicycle and pedestrian facilities included in the project. Please feel free to forward this message to anyone in the Coloma community who would be interested in attending the meeting.

Sincerely,

Elena

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Elena DeLacy

Conservation Project Coordinator

American River Conservancy

Hwy 49 bridge retrofit  
Judy Huestis  
to:  
bosfour  
01/19/2011 07:42 PM  
Show Details

Supervisor Briggs,

Please be aware that any retrofit of the Hwy 49 Bridge through Coloma should consider the need for a bike/pedestrian friendly crossing. As you know, our community is a summer tourist destination and visitors often walk from nearby campgrounds into town. What you may not know is we have an active community of bikers, runners and walkers year round and the bridge is always a safety concern.

Thank you for considering other needs when retrofitting the bridge.

Sincerely,  
Judy Huestis

Re: Highway 49 upgrade  
Heather Shakespeare  
to:  
bosfour  
01/20/2011 11:25 AM  
Show Details

**Supervisor Briggs,**

**I strongly urge you to press CALTRANS to include safe pedestrian and bicycle passage as part of the Highway 49 upgrade in Coloma. Walking across the bridge with my dogs is scary because the existing narrow sidewalk is unsafe. Riding my bicycle across is too. Bicycles are forced into the too narrow lanes since there's no verge. It makes Coloma less accessible and desirable for residents as well as the tourist industry. Thanks for your consideration.**

**Sincerely,  
Heather**

---

Heather Shakespeare  
POB 675  
Lotus, CA 95651  
530.295.1860



To:  
 Cc:  
 Bcc:  
 Subject: Fw: Re (comments): Presentation to Board of Supervisors - South Fork American River  
 Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project

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Supervisor Briggs,

Thank you for sending this information to members of the RMAC. Unfortunately, I am in back-to-back meetings on Tuesday, and unable to be present.

If the plan is still open for comments, please note that on p.51, Section 1.1:

Brochures and mailers seem to be designated for adjacent property owners only. If this work is to be done between March and the end of October, these materials should also be sent to all commercial outfitters, institutional permit holders and Coloma-Lotus Valley businesses: All will be impacted.

Also, given that the result will include a pedestrian/bicycle way on one side of the bridge, it seems there will need to be an additional crosswalk(s) to allow peds. and cyclists to cross from/to the correct side. Unless i missed something, I do not see these included in the plan.

I make the above comments as a private individual and not as a representative of the RMAC. Nonetheless, I hope they are helpful.

Regards,  
 Marilyn Tahl

+++++

Marilyn Tahl  
 m 650.868.6601 | [mtahl@lookative.com](mailto:mtahl@lookative.com)

"If you can't be a good example, you'll just have to be a horrible warning" - C. Aird

Additional comment on 49 bridge retrofit

Marilyn Tahl

to:

Bosfour Briggs

01/24/2011 10:55 AM

Show Details

Supervisor Briggs,

In a closer reading of the proposed plan for the Highway 49 retrofit,, I noticed that the proposed narrow lanes and 2.5' wide shoulder do not provide much safety for pedestrians or cyclists. There is no separation railing or a raised ped/bicycle walkway. Considering the congestion at the bridge on summer afternoons, this is a recipe for keeping pedestrians and/or cyclists in harms way of motorists who slow to look at the river, taking their attention away from what is directly in front of them.

Given fiscal constraints, it seems questionable to spend money now on something substandard, only to have to do it all over again later. I would like to see this retrofit address safety as well as seismic concerns.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Marilyn Tahl

5301 Porter Ranch Road  
Garden Valley, CA 95633

++++++  
Marilyn Tahl

530.333.2968 | [mtahl@lookative.com](mailto:mtahl@lookative.com)

"Empathy is not just about stepping into another's shoes. First you must remove your own shoes." - Indian proverb



To:

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Fw: Presentation to Board of Supervisors - South Fork American River Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project

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Thanks for sending the information. I am concerned that the bridge plan does not allow for any bicycle or pedestrian lanes. The recent upgrade to the road passing through Lotus leading up to the bridge has both pedestrian and bike lanes as part of the improvement. I am also concerned about the funds for the oak mitigation. There were a significant number of oaks removed when the highway was improved and to date those funds have not been used to my knowledge. What happened to those funds and what will happen to the proposed mitigation funds for this bridge? Thank you for the opportunity to review the project  
Hilde Schweitzer



Caltrans bridge seismic project Coloma/Lotus

hilde schweitzer

to:

Ron Briggs

01/24/2011 11:13 AM

Show Details

I will not be able to attend the Caltrans presentation tomorrow but am writing to ask the County and Caltrans to consider the community context for the project. Coloma/Lotus sees hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and many of them at some point in their visit walk across this bridge. Many are young children and teens. To not consider pedestrians and bikes in the equation when retro-fitting this bridge is inappropriate given the pedestrian use this bridge gets in the summer months.

I am also concerned about the Oak Mitigation Fund for the HW 49 road widening project completed several years ago. To my knowledge these funds have not been used. Is it possible to use these funds for some mitigation for pedestrians and bikes on this bridge?

Thank you for your time,

hilde schweitzer

[hilde@amriver.us](mailto:hilde@amriver.us)



**SR49 Bridge in Lotus**  
Joe Petrofsky to: bosfour

01/24/2011 10:34 AM

**From:** Joe Petrofsky <joerafter@earthlink.net>  
**To:** bosfour@edcgov.us

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Supervisor Briggs,

I am a resident of Lotus; we met at the CLCVA candidates forum in the fall of 2006. Congratulations on your June re-election.

I am writing today because I am concerned about the upcoming state route 49 project. The re-routing itself has a whole host of trade-offs for our community, and I hope the process underway will balance the various needs of safety in the state park vs. impacts of the new route.

However, from what I've heard so far, the bridge over the South Fork American River stands out as a problem. As you probably know, we (the Coloma-Lotus community) had a tussle with Cal-Trans five years ago about the SR49 widening through the commercial district north of the bridge five(?) years ago in which they poo-hoo'd any need for consideration of pedestrian safety because they couldn't find any pedestrians at high noon in the summer high season. Fortunately, we were able to bring them around to see that our tourists (and many residents) were on the river during the day, and the busy time is the late afternoon and evening, with the upshot that the project included pedestrian walkways set back from the roadway.

Which brings us to the bridge today.

As I understand it, the proposed project will perform a seismic retrofit, upgrade the bridge rail, and replace the bridge deck without widening the existing structure to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian use. One of my neighbors calculated that the new rails are closer to the center of the bridge with reduced vehicular lane widths and the 30" wide corridor for shared bike and pedestrian use at the same level of the roadway, rather than having the protection of a raised curb, as pedestrians do with the half sidewalk today.

This is insane. There are only two ways across the river in our entire valley, and there are no roads connecting the two on the north side short of going up to Garden Valley, so the SR49 bridge will still be crossed by pedestrians and cyclists.

In the summer, lots of them cross every evening, often stopping mid-way to look at and take in the river. Cal-Trans has every reason to make it less attractive to those who would jump into the river from the bridge, but this project should still allow people to walk and bike safely across this 500' span that is such an important connection between the two halves of our community.

Thank you for working to address these concerns.

11-0072.C.18

jgp

Joe Petrofsky  
P.O. Box 883  
Lotus, CA 95651



**49 Bridge Project**  
Margrit Petrofsky to: bosfour

01/24/2011 11:19 AM

From: Margrit Petrofsky <raftgrrl@earthlink.net>  
To: bosfour@edcgov.us

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Supervisor Briggs,

I am a resident of the Coloma Lotus Valley. I share my husband's (and many other residents) views about taking into consideration the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians into the upcoming 49 bridge retrofit project. If you are out here any time in the late afternoon/evening during rafting season you will see people walking to eateries, to see photos of their day on the river, or to hear music. And, I imagine, they are enjoying the beauty of the Coloma-Lotus Valley.

The Cal-trans project 5 years ago made our community safer for bicyclists and pedestrians; the glaring exception is the bridge. There is barely enough room for an able-bodied pedestrian; forget it if you are in a wheelchair, or otherwise physically challenged. Bicyclists take their lives in their hands, and hope that the automobile drivers are paying attention.

With this project, there is an opportunity to make the crossing of this bridge safer and accessible to those with physical challenges as well as encouraging health in our community by making it possible to walk safely in it.

Very sincerely yours,

Margrit Petrofsky RN, BSN, PHN

Supervisor Briggs,

I am a resident of Lotus; we met at the CLCVA candidates forum in the fall of 2006. Congratulations on your June re-election.

I am writing today because I am concerned about the upcoming state route 49 project. The re-routing itself has a whole host of trade-offs for our community, and I hope the process underway will balance the various needs of safety in the state park vs. impacts of the new route.

However, from what I've heard so far, the bridge over the South Fork American River stands out as a problem. As you probably know, we (the Coloma-Lotus community) had a tussle with Cal-Trans five years ago about the SR49 widening through the commercial district north of the bridge five(?) years ago in which they poo-hoo'd any need for consideration of pedestrian safety because they couldn't find any pedestrians at high noon in the summer high season. Fortunately, we were able to bring them around to see that our tourists (and many residents) were on the river during the day, and the busy time is the late afternoon and evening, with the upshot that the project included pedestrian walkways set back from the roadway.

11-0072.C.20

Which brings us to the bridge today.

As I understand it, the proposed project will perform a seismic retrofit, upgrade the bridge rail, and replace the bridge deck without widening the existing structure to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian use. One of my neighbors calculated that the new rails are closer to the center of the bridge with reduced vehicular lane widths and the 30" wide corridor for shared bike and pedestrian use at the same level of the roadway, rather than having the protection of a raised curb, as pedestrians do with the half sidewalk today.

This is insane. There are only two ways across the river in our entire valley, and there are no roads connecting the two on the north side short of going up to Garden Valley, so the SR49 bridge will still be crossed by pedestrians and cyclists.

In the summer, lots of them cross every evening, often stopping mid-way to look at and take in the river. Cal-Trans has every reason to make it less attractive to those who would jump into the river from the bridge, but this project should still allow people to walk and bike safely across this 500' span that is such an important connection between the two halves of our community.

Thank you for working to address these concerns.

jgp

Joe Petrofsky  
P.O. Box 883  
Lotus, CA 95651

49 bridge retrofit  
ROBERT CUSHMAN  
to:  
bosfour  
01/24/2011 10:33 AM  
Show Details

Supervisor Briggs:

I am very concerned with the idea that Caltrans may be proposing a retrofit of the 49 bridge over the South Fork that does not include a new raised pedestrian walkway. This would be extremely dangerous and foolish. After spending considerable funds in recent years to enhance the stretch of 49 from the intersection of Lotus Road and Marshall Road, including a pedestrian walkway to make it easier to walk or bike from the services in Lotus to the State Park, it would seem crazy to not create a way for people to get safely across the bridge. The bridge is not just used as a way to get across the river but as a means for tourists to stop and view the river view.

Please make sure that this bridge is rebuilt properly to address this important safety issue.

Bob Cushman  
Member, Board of Directors  
Friends of the River  
[www.friendsoftheriver.org](http://www.friendsoftheriver.org)  
Please help us protect California's rivers and join today.  
5625 Petersen Lane  
Lotus, CA 95651  
530-621-3156 home  
925-785-8151 cell

Hiway 49 Bridge Pathway  
Harry Mercado  
to:  
Ron Briggs  
01/24/2011 11:06 AM  
Show Details

**COLOMA LOTUS VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Supervisor Ron Briggs:

CLVCA is currently polling 821 valley postal addresses on the desirability of getting pedestrian/bike lanes on our bridge(s). Interim results show that about 25% of residents rank this as one of **the most important** civic improvements of the 38 issues raised in the survey. Other high scoring issues include "Build bike/pedestrian lanes and paths" and "Complete a trail from Greenwood Creek to Coloma".

I am sure that if the question was asked as a stand alone issue, the vast majority of residents would want Caltrans to incorporate pedestrian/bike lanes into the bridge upgrade project.

I also note that the accident reports cited in the Caltrans project proposal seem to have been carefully selected both as to period and distance as to omit car-on-pedestrian accident(s) that have occurred in Lotus. And I think it ironic that during construction the contractor must provide a four foot pathway that will not exist when the job is completed.

Caltrans displayed a community-sensitive quality when it put in a safer Hiway 49 segment in Lotus, adding walkways and crosswalks and the blinker at Marshall Road. The Hiway 49 bridge remains as the safety barrier to non-motorized travel in the heart of our community.

Your leadership in working with that agency is greatly appreciated.

Cordially,

Harry Mercado  
Chairperson Pro Tem

(530) 621-3443