

## **Alternate Routes to Using Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive in West Fairmount Park**

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive is closed to vehicular traffic every Saturday and Sunday from April through October, 6am to 5pm, to facilitate recreational use of this four-mile stretch of roadway in West Fairmount Park. When this closure is in place, motorists may use the following alternate routes:

**Kelly Drive.** Kelly Drive in East Fairmount Park provides a scenic alternative to MLK Drive. Using the Drive is an excellent way to get into and out of Center City via the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. During regattas or other special events, it is often reported in the news that Kelly Drive is “closed” or “shut down”. In actuality, the Drive is only completely closed to vehicular traffic on a few occasions for several hours during events like the Philadelphia Marathon and the US Pro Cycling Championships. In all other cases, Kelly Drive is merely detoured to allow the safe use of the park area along the river. The detour is a continuous, well marked route through East Fairmount Park and is only two minutes longer than the average trip on Kelly Drive.

**Schuylkill Expressway (I-76).** The Expressway can be accessed from a variety of routes that would normally lead to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. From the north and west, take I-76 east from City Avenue, Ridge Avenue, Lincoln Drive, Kelly Drive, or Montgomery Drive. From the south and east, take I-76 west from the Vine Street Expressway (I-676), Spring Garden Street, Girard Avenue, or Montgomery Drive. Use of this highway should allow for a comfortable bypass of MLK Drive in either direction, especially on the weekends when traffic is lighter.

**West Fairmount Park.** West Fairmount Park may be accessed from MLK Drive on weekend days after 12 noon. The Drive re-opens to vehicular traffic from Eakins Oval (at the Art Museum) to Sweetbriar Cut-Off to allow access to West Fairmount Park attractions like the Philadelphia Zoo, the Horticulture Center, and the Mann Center for Performing Arts as well as major arterial routes of Belmont Avenue and Parkside Avenue. Automobile access to the picnic areas and parking lots along the King Drive is also available after 12 noon via Montgomery Drive, however, **no through traffic is permitted on MLK Drive in either direction.**