



December 14, 2016

Mr. Jeffrey Keirn, District Engineer  
IDOT District 8  
1102 Eastport Plaza Dr  
Collinsville, IL 62234

**IL161 resurfacing project from IL158 to 0.2mi E of IL4**

Dear Mr. Keirn,

Please consider the following input for your 2017-2022 MYP Resurfacing (3P) project for Illinois Route 161 from Illinois 158's east junction to 0.2 mile east of Illinois 4.

At present, east-west bicycle travel is very difficult in the Silver Creek area, as there are no comfortable routes for over ten miles from north of Lebanon (Old Lebanon-Troy Road) south to Jefferson Road. Strava's heat map ([labs.strava.com/heatmap](https://labs.strava.com/heatmap)) shows that some bicyclists use IL177 and IL161 anyway, the latter road having 5850-8150 ADT, 55mph speed limit, and 3' or less paved shoulders.

We request widening IL161's paved shoulders to at least 4', preferably 6' to match IDOT's pre-2010 BDE policy on paved shoulder width for this speed and ADT. Scott Drive to County Road is the most important segment. From County Road, bicyclists would be able to access Mascoutah, or points east via Fuesser Road. If a good connection cannot be made between the north Scott Drive junction and the expanded Metro Bike Link Trail to the Scott AFB Metrolink station, then widening the paved shoulders of the Scott Drive section of IL161 would be equally as important.

We would be glad to discuss these and other project design issues. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Barsotti".

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Fero".

George Fero, Board Member, District 8

Cc: Jon McCormick and Kevin Jemison, IDOT

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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