



February 5, 2017

Mr. Jeff South, District Engineer
IDOT District 6
126 E. Ash Street
Springfield, IL 62704

Busn 72/IL104 bridge replacement in Jacksonville

Dear Mr. South,

Please consider the following input for your 2017-2022 MYP bridge replacement project for Business Route 72/IL Route 104 Morton Avenue over Mauvaise Terre Creek in Jacksonville.

At present, the road has 12400 ADT traffic count, a 45mph speed limit, no off-road non-motorized accommodations, and narrow (3' or less) paved shoulders in poor condition. Both the current bridge and the railroad underpass between the creek and Hardin Ave are pinch points on a road already uncomfortable for bicycling.

Strava's heat map (labs.strava.com/heatmap), showing bicycle travel by users of that app, helps estimate the relative importance of roads for bicycling. Despite Morton Ave's conditions, Strava shows appreciable bike use between Hardin Ave and Country Club Rd, particularly with the closure of Brooklyn Ave's bridge. In addition, many people who bike for necessity – usually not showing up in Strava data – bike or walk for transportation to low-income housing to the east and to Morton's commercial strip, for both shopping and work.

We request that the new bridge add bike and pedestrian accommodations, whether sidepaths or a combination of paved shoulders and sidewalks. Accommodation is needed on both sides, to encourage biking on the right side and since there is no off-road facility on one side only.

We are glad to discuss these and other project design issues. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

Cc: Jon McCormick and Andrew Werner, IDOT
Mayor Andy Ezard, City of Jacksonville

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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