



February 5, 2017

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

IL29 repaving in Pana

Dear Mr. South,

Please consider the following input for your 2017-2022 MYP resurfacing project for IL Route 29 from north of Magnolia St to US51 Jackson St in Pana.

The 14-mile Lincoln Prairie Trail ends at E 350N Rd, perhaps a 100' jog on IL29 from Magnolia St – a quiet residential street accessing the northwest part of town. There, IL29 has 4850 ADT traffic count, 55mph speed limit, and narrow paved shoulders with no off-road accommodation. Further southeast, IL29 Washington St has a 35mph speed limit and wider (14'?) lane widths.

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. It shows trail access using Magnolia, as well as appreciable bike travel on IL29 through town.

We request that short segments of 6-8' paved shoulder be added to IL29 for the very short distance between Magnolia St and E 350N Rd, to improve safety for those accessing the trail from the northwest part of town. It is understood that the Zegeer study of unsignalized, high-speed crossings has led IDOT and other agencies not to encourage such crossings in places like this. However, it seems clear that it is already occurring, and the paved shoulders and warning signs (W11-15?) would help address this.

In addition, for passive traffic calming (if speeding is an issue) and bicycle comfort, IDOT and Pana might consider striping 3' buffers or "shoulders" on the Washington St portion of IL29.

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

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

2550 Cheshire Dr., Aurora, IL 60504
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Sincerely,

Ed Barsotti

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

Cc: Jon McCormick and Andrew Werner, IDOT
Mayor Steven Sipes, City of Pana