



February 5, 2017

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

IL57 repaving, Quincy to Marblehead

Dear Mr. South,

Please consider the following input for your 2017-2022 MYP resurfacing project for IL Route 57 from south of York St in Quincy to south of Marblehead.

At present, this stretch of IL57 ranges from a maximum of 8250 (in Quincy) to 4400 (in Marblehead) ADT traffic count, with varying speed limits and a high percentage of truck traffic. North of Lock and Dam Rd, IL96 has four lanes, occasionally with a narrow raised median. South of there to Marblehead, there are short sections with wide paved shoulders on both sides, longer sections with wide shoulders on one side and (too) narrow on the other, and long sections – especially further south – with only narrow paved shoulders.

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 its inconsistent and, often, uncomfortable conditions, Strava shows a fair amount of bike usage on IL57. Other alternate routes such as 8th, 12th, and 24th all can reduce distance on IL57, but each has its own somewhat busy segments. South of Marblehead toward Fall Creek and eventually Hannibal, only the almost-as-uncomfortable IL96 provides a paved alternative to IL57. Somewhat out of necessity, IL57 was chosen for the IDNR-led "Mississippi River Trail" route – although it is one of the most uncomfortable long stretches of the state MRT's 535 miles.

We recommend consistent paved shoulders of 6' on both sides of IL57 – a width consistent with the appropriate pre-2010 BDE Chapter 17 policy on shoulders. CR 675N/24th St to Marblehead is a somewhat higher priority than the sections north of there to Lock and Dam Rd, due to lack of alternatives. North of Lock and Dam Rd, a 4-to-3 lane road diet seems technically feasible as a lower priority, if the center medians were gone. Remaining space could be used for bike lanes or simply left as paved shoulders.

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

2550 Cheshire Dr., Aurora, IL 60504
info@rideillinois.org
www.rideillinois.org

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". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

Cc: Jon McCormick and Andrew Werner, IDOT