



February 5, 2017

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

US136 bridge over Mississippi River in Hamilton

Dear Mr. South,

Please consider the following input for your 2017-2022 MYP bridge deck overlay project for the US Route 136 bridge over the Mississippi River, between Hamilton and Keokuk, Iowa.

We believe that the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers are the most significant natural barriers to bicycling in Illinois. Many older bridges are very or extremely hazardous for bikes, without safe alternatives for tens of miles. Even where surrounding areas have relatively low bike usage, these rivers' bridge projects' potential to improve non-motorized safety should be maximized.

At present, US136's bridge accommodates both pedestrians and bicyclists. There is significant bicycle use, as seen at labs.strava.com/heatmap, an estimating tool showing biking routes by users of the Strava app.

Our request is merely to maintain the accommodations in the upcoming project.

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

Cc: Jon McCormick and Andrew Werner, IDOT

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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