



February 5, 2017

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

US67-IL100 bridge over Illinois River in Beardstown

Dear Mr. South,

Please consider the following input for your 2017-2022 MYP bridge rehabilitation project for the US Route 67/Illinois Route 100 bridge over the Illinois River in Beardstown.

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, US67/IL100's bridge is hazardous and uncomfortable for even experienced cyclists. It has only very narrow (2-3') shoulders, estimated 11' wide travel lanes, 55mph speed limit, and 6050 ADT traffic count. While it seems unlikely from the current bridge design and the project scope, any widening to allow for wider shoulders – or a separated ped/bike way – would improve safety. At the minimum, please check whether the longitudinally-oriented drain grate slots present a hazard to narrow-tired bicycles, replacing the grates if so.

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

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