



February 27, 2017

John Yonan, P.E., Superintendent
Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
69 W. Washington St.
24th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Yonan,

Please consider the following input for your 2016-2020 Transportation Program preservation project of the Central Avenue bridge from north of I-55 to Pershing, slated for phase I engineering in 2018.

At present, Central Avenue has four lanes, a 45 MPH speed limit, and insufficient shoulder width, resulting in a [Bicycle Level of Service](#) (BLOS) of low-D - a very uncomfortable level even for bicyclists who are more traffic tolerant. However, because of its placement in the street network (as one of the few streets to cross I-55, the various railroads, and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal), it is the only suitable option for many people getting around on bicycles. As seen on labs.strava.com/heatmap, this stretch of Central already has appreciable bike traffic despite its poor conditions. The 2016 Active Transportation Alliance Chicagoland Bike Map rates it as "fair" - with the nearest-east option, Cicero, too poor to even deserve a rating.

From the documentation posted on the Cook County website, we understand this project is scoped to consist of a bridge deck replacement. We request that, if the structure can support it, *the bridge deck be widened to include buffered bike lanes in each direction*. If that is infeasible, we would also support widening one of the sidewalks to sidepath width, perhaps by some modest trimming of widths elsewhere.

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 "Michael C. Gorman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Michael Gorman
Ride Illinois

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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