



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 modernization project of Old Orchard Road from Woods to Skokie, slated for construction in 2019.

At present, Old Orchard Road has five to seven lanes, a 35 MPH speed limit, and 10,900 vehicles per day, resulting in a [Bicycle Level of Service](#) (BLOS) of high-D - a somewhat 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-94), it is the only suitable option for many people getting around on bicycles. As seen on labs.strava.com/heatmap, this stretch of Old Orchard already has appreciable bike traffic, and that is likely to increase significantly as the Skokie Valley Trail develops through this corridor.

From the documentation posted on the Cook County website, we understand this project is scoped to consist of pavement reconstruction and bridge rehabilitation. We request that *the sidewalk along the south side also be expanded to sidepath width*, which will serve a broad array of nonmotorized traffic and connect the many destinations east of I-94 with the Skokie Valley Trail and other endpoints to the west. If that is infeasible, we would recommend serious consideration of on-street bike lanes - though we recognize that would likely require a full reconstruction and widening. Shared-lane markings and signage, which would not require widening, would not provide adequate comfort to cyclists of widely ranging skill, age, and comfort levels.

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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