



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 expansion project of Touhy Avenue from Elmhurst to Mount Prospect, slated for construction in 2018.

At present, Touhy Avenue has six lanes, a 45 MPH speed limit, and 14% of vehicles are trucks, resulting in a [Bicycle Level of Service](#) (BLOS) of E - an extremely uncomfortable level for all bicyclists. However, because of its placement in the street network (including its proximity to O'Hare Airport), it is the only suitable option for many people getting around on bicycles. As seen on labs.strava.com/heatmap, this stretch of Touhy already has appreciable bike traffic despite its poor conditions. There is also a large amount of pedestrian traffic as evidenced by the "goat paths" visible on both sides of the street where sidewalks don't currently exist.

From the documentation posted on the Cook County website, we understand this project is scoped to include pavement reconstruction, new grade separations, and intersection improvements. We strongly recommend inclusion of *a sidepath on one side and a sidewalk on the other*. Such accommodations will serve a broad spectrum of non-motorized users. A sidepath alone would also suffice if a second pedestrian accommodation is infeasible, though we would point out that there are goat paths on both sides of the existing roadway, strongly suggesting that accommodations are warranted on both sides.

We would be glad to discuss these and other project design issues. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Gorman
Ride Illinois

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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