



September 5, 2017

Mr. Kensil Garnett
IDOT District 4
401 Main St.
Peoria, IL 61602-1111

RE: US34 bridge over Mississippi River in Gulfport

Dear Mr. Garnett,

Please consider the following input for your 2018-2023 MYP bridge deck overlay project for the US Route 34 bridge over the Mississippi River in Gulfport.

At present, US34 has limited access control with on- and off-ramps locally in Burlington and over the river. Despite this, Strava's heat map (labs.strava.com/heatmap) shows that it gets a moderate level of bicycle traffic, due to the proximity of Burlington IA and the infrequency of Mississippi River bridge crossings. Away from the ramps on each side, westbound has two lanes and fairly wide (7'?) shoulders, while eastbound seems to have three lanes and narrow (2-3') shoulders. Traffic count is 11000 ADT and speed limit 45mph.

More significant bridge construction might warrant a barrier-separated sidepath and ramp crossing treatments. However, a deck overlay could still improve safety for those cyclists who are comfortable biking on shoulders on a bridge like this. We request that you implement one of the options to reallocate eastbound lane space for a wider shoulder. One is narrowing at least the inside (leftmost) eastbound lane to 11', with trucks using the other lane(s). Another is to reduce to two lanes eastbound for as much of the distance as possible between the on- and off-ramps. Considering only traffic volume (but not other factors), two lanes seem very adequate.

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 Chris Maushard, IDOT

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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