



November 7, 2017

Mr. Jeffrey Keirn  
IDOT District 9  
State Transportation Building, P.O. Box 100  
Carbondale, IL 62903-0100

**RE: US51-60-62 bridge over Ohio River in Cairo**

Dear Mr. Keirn,

Please consider the following input for your 2018-2023 MYP bridge replacement project for the US Routes 51-60-62 bridge over the Ohio River in Cairo.

The current bridge is very narrow and dangerous, with no bicycle or pedestrian accommodations. It has a 4750 ADT and an "E" Bicycle Level of Service rating that is extremely uncomfortable for even experienced, traffic-tolerant bicyclists. Despite this, Strava's heat map ([labs.strava.com/heatmap](https://labs.strava.com/heatmap)) shows some level of bike traffic, due to the lack of options to cross the barrier of the Ohio River. The bridge is part of the national "Mississippi River Trail".

We request that the new bridge accommodate non-motorized users. Our primary recommendation is a barrier-separated sidepath of 8 or 10-foot width. If that is not possible, then paved shoulders would be the next highest and best accommodation. Assuming the speed limit will be higher on a new bridge, we recommend paved shoulders of 6-foot width or more.

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

Sincerely,

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

Cc: Julie Klamm, IDOT District 9 Bicycle Coordinator

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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