



January 6, 2017

Mr. Kevin Marchek, Region Two Engineer
IDOT District 3
700 E. Norris Dr
Ottawa, IL 61350

Armour Road bridge over IC RR, Bourbonnais

Dear Mr. Marchek,

Please consider the following input for your 2017-2022 MYP bridge replacement project for the Armour Road bridge over the Illinois Central Railroad, in Bourbonnais.

At present, Armour Road (18600 ADT, 40 mph) has no bicycle/pedestrian accommodation on the bridge or its approaches. West of the bridge, there is a sidewalk on the south side headed west from Mooney Drive. East of the bridge, sidewalks do not start until east from Locke Drive.

With a lack of good nearby crossings of the railroad, a heavily commercial area to the east, and much residential and other development to the west, the Armour Road bridge is critical to bike and pedestrian travel in that area. Despite very hazardous conditions, the bridge still sees appreciable bike traffic – as seen in labs.strava.com/heatmap, which captures cycling travel by Strava app users. Deborah Renville, our local board member, reports often seeing people walking in the road on the bridge (this is even seen on Google StreetView's Sept. 2015 image of the west approach), and wearing off-road "goat paths" just east of it where no sidewalks exist.

We strongly recommend that the replacement bridge – and its approaches – add a sidepath, or at least a sidewalk, on at least the south side of the road. Further, we recommend that the project termini be extended west to Mooney Dr and east to Locke Drive for the purpose of completely filling the sidewalk gap in this area where off-road accommodation is greatly needed.

We would be glad to discuss these recommendations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

Cc: Mayor Paul Schore, Village of Bourbonnais
Mayor Bruce Adams, Village of Bradley
Deborah Renville, District 3 Board Member, Ride Illinois

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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