



January 24, 2019

Mr. Jeff South, Region Engineer  
IDOT District 7  
400 W. Wabash  
Effingham, IL 62401-2699

**RE: IL1 bridge replacement over CSX RR 0.5 mile north of US40 in Marshall**

Dear Mr. South,

Please consider the following input for your 2019-2024 MYP bridge project cited above.

At present, this section of IL Route 1 has a high traffic count (8600 ADT) and speed limit (45 mph), with pedestrian warning signs. While there are wide (7-10') paved shoulders away from the bridge, the shoulders narrow to an estimated 5' on the approaches and on the bridge itself – which has low railings. The signs indicate non-motorized use between the main part of town to the south, and destinations including the Wal-Mart and others near the interstate.

Both for the bridge and its approaches, it is recommended to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicycle riders by widening the paved shoulders to 8-10' and installing higher railings.

However, per IDOT BDE's Chapter 17 bikeway selection table, it is likely that an off-road sidepath would be warranted here – with no local match required since it is a bridge project. If a sidepath is constructed, we recommend:

- Good connections between the sidepath's ends and IL1's shoulders north and south of it
- Retaining at least 4' paved shoulders in addition to the sidepath, in case snow, glass, or other maintenance issues makes the bridge sidepath hard to use

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: Mr. Matt Hirtzel, IDOT District 7 Bicycle Coordinator  
Mayor John Trefz, City of Marshall

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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