



February 15, 2019

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

IL126 resurfacing project, from IL71 to Will Co Line

Dear Mr. Marchek,

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

At present, IL126 has 7500 ADT, mostly with a 55mph speed limit. The vast majority of the project length consists of paved shoulders of ~4' width, the apparent result of an HSIP safety retrofit project that also installed rumble strips. On most of the project length, particularly westbound, the rumbles were placed to avoid the seam between old and HSIP-retrofit shoulder asphalt. This results in less than 3' of rumble-free clear zone to the right of the rumbles, where bicyclists may operate.

We consider 3' as the minimum clear zone when rumble strips (or fogline rumble *stripes*) are installed. Otherwise, the clear zone is too narrow to be safe, or the shoulder will not be usable at all. We contend that a road with an unusable paved shoulder is less safe for bicyclists than a road with no paved shoulder at all, due to some motorists' incorrect expectations that a cyclist can move to the shoulder when being passed. Besides the safety concern, this also adds to motorist resentment of people riding bikes.

Assuming the shoulders are included in the resurfacing work, our recommendation is to shift the reconstructed rumble strips closer to the foglines, following IDOT's design detail of 4" offset, 8" width, with longitudinal breaks. Doing so will result in 3' of clear zone.

[Strava's bicycle heat map](#) gives an indication of which parts of IL126 are most used by those biking and using that smart phone app. The jog from Ashley to Minkler definitely has the most, with lower but still appreciable use from Prairie Crossing to Ashley. However, our recommendation is the same throughout the project.

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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

We are glad to discuss these and other project design issues. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Barsotti". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

Cc: Mayor Gary Golinski, City of Yorkville