



January 24, 2019

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

RE: IL16 resurfacing project from US45 (S) to W of Lerna Rd in Mattoon, and I-57/IL16 bridge and interchange reconstruction project in Mattoon

Dear Mr. South,

Please consider the following input for your two MYP projects cited above.

At present, IL16 east of 6th Street has no sidewalks or off-road sidepaths, with paved shoulders of width <4' from Crestview to Swords and 10' east of Swords. IL16 serves a major commercial area just west of I-57 and other commercial destinations east of the interstate.

The draft [City of Mattoon Bicycle Plan](#), slated for February city council approval and developed by Ride Illinois, provides recommendations relevant to these road projects to improve bicycle (and pedestrian) access and safety to these commercial areas:

- *“Between 6th and Swords, add a sidewalk, or 10-ft off-road sidepath, on at least one side of the road. The south side would be better, since Broadway on the north already has a sidewalk and more commercial development is on the south.”*
- *“Between Swords and Loxa, the wide paved shoulders serve cyclists who are more traffic-tolerant. Regular sweeping of shoulder debris is needed. Also, an off-road sidepath (or sidewalk) is the longer-term ideal. The priority of adding an off-road facility rises if bikeway network connections are not added from the Lincoln-Prairie Trail to the hospital and the destinations near Lerna and IL16.”*

Adding a sidepath throughout the interchange reconstruction project area would fall under IDOT's Complete Streets policy. Adding a sidepath or sidewalk to the west of the interchange project limit and 6th Street would require the City to take the lead in expanding the scope. A sidewalk project is already in the works for part of this segment.

We request that IDOT and the City of Mattoon work together to implement these plan recommendations, for IL16 from 6th Street to the east project limit, preferably extending the project limit to Lerna for the sidepath. Also, even if a sidepath is built – but especially if not – we

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request that at least 4' of paved shoulder width be retained where 10' shoulders now exist, in case snow, glass, or other maintenance issues makes the 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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

Cc: Mr. Matt Hirtzel, IDOT District 7 Bicycle Coordinator
Mayor Tim Gover, City of Mattoon