



February 14, 2019

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

IL64 resurfacing project, from IL23 (N) in Sycamore to Kane Co Line

Dear Mr. Marchek,

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

At present, IL64 ranges from 8950-5750 ADT. Its conditions within Sycamore include:

- East of IL23, some parts with turn lanes, but most of the segment has wide (~18') travel lanes with no parking allowed; sidewalks on both sides on the entire segment
- East of Kingsway, ~1' paved shoulders plus gravel shoulders, except for wide paved shoulders near a creek and westbound near Kingsway; north-side sidewalk
- For 2200' east of the creek, briefly ~1' paved shoulders plus gravel shoulders, but mostly curbed with no extra space; no off-road accommodations
- East of Airport/Old State, the Great Western Trail parallels IL64, to the east project limit

A [bicycle heat map](#) of Strava users shows relative use in the project area by cyclists using that smart phone app. From the Great Western Trail towards town, most use a designated trail around the community park, south of IL64. Others go north of IL64, likely on an unpaved trail. A significant number still uses IL64, even though road conditions are unfavorable and there is 2200' without sidewalk. Closer to downtown, IL64 – and its sidewalks – are fairly popular.

Based on this, two low priority recommendations are:

- 1) Striping bike lanes – or even buffered bike lanes – from IL23 to Kingsway, as bike lanes are more appropriate than sidewalk riding within grid-pattern development. Striping has the extra benefit of providing passive traffic calming on a road likely to have speeding problems.
- 2) The City could consider filling in the 2200' sidewalk gap, expanding the project scope.

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".

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

Cc: Mayor Curt Lang, City of Sycamore

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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