



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,

Ed Barsotti, Chief Programs Officer, Ride Illinois

Cc: Mayor Curt Lang, City of Sycamore

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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