



February 15, 2019

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

**US6 resurfacing project, 0.8 Mi W of Boyce Memorial Dr to Champlain St in Ottawa**

Dear Mr. Marchek,

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

At present, US6 has four lanes for all but the westernmost part of the project, with sidewalk on at least one side east of Poplar. West of Poplar, there are usually narrow (1.5-2') paved shoulders plus several feet of gravel shoulders. [Strava's bicycle heat map](#) shows that the short (630') segment from Boyce Memorial to Terra Cotta is on a relatively popular bicycle route, despite an uncomfortable Bicycle Level of Service rating of a high-D.

Our recommendation is to follow the [Ottawa Bicycle Plan](#) call for paved shoulders of 4' or more, plus sidewalk on at least one side, between Boyce Memorial and Poplar. We further recommend paved shoulders of that width for the short segment between Terra Cotta and Boyce Memorial. The addition of a sidewalk to the scope would require the City of Ottawa's initiation and participation. However, paving additional width of the existing stone shoulders should be able to fit within the 3P resurfacing scope.

Attached are further review comments from Donald Dirks Jr. and Dixie DeVry, leaders of Ottawa's Starved Rock Cycling Association bicycle club.

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: Mayor Robert M. Eschbach, City of Ottawa  
Starved Rock Cycling Association

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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