



February 5, 2017

Mr. Jeff South, District Engineer  
IDOT District 6  
126 E. Ash Street  
Springfield, IL 62704

**IL106-IL100 bridge over Illinois River in Florence**

Dear Mr. South,

Please consider the following input for your 2017-2022 MYP bridge rehabilitation project for the Illinois Routes 106 and 100 bridge over the Illinois River in Florence.

We believe that the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers are the most significant natural barriers to bicycling in Illinois. Many older bridges are very or extremely hazardous for bikes, without safe alternatives for tens of miles. Even where surrounding areas have relatively low bike usage, these rivers' bridge projects' potential to improve non-motorized safety should be maximized.

At present, IL106/100's bridge is fairly uncomfortable for biking. It has no shoulders, estimated 11' wide travel lanes, 45mph speed limit, and 1400 ADT traffic count. As seen in Strava's heat map ([labs.strava.com/heatmap](https://labs.strava.com/heatmap)), which shows bicycle travel by users of that app, an appreciable number of bicyclists use this bridge.

While it seems unlikely from the current bridge design and the project scope, any widening to allow for wider shoulders – or a separated ped/bike way – would improve safety.

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: Jon McCormick and Andrew Werner, IDOT

Working Statewide for Better Bicycling

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