

# Transportation Newsletter

April 2022  
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Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: Village of Grayslake



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. — *NWMC  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee*

Thursday, April 21, 8:30 a.m.. — *North  
Shore Council of Mayors Technical  
Committee*

Friday, April 22, 8:30 a.m.. — *Northwest  
Council of Mayors Technical Committee*

Thursday, April 28, 8:30 a.m.. — *NWMC  
Transportation Committee*

## Transportation Committee Talks Bike/Ped Barriers, Reviews Letter to IDOT

At the March 24 NWMC Transportation Committee meeting, representatives from the Metropolitan Planning Council, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and Active Transportation Alliance discussed their joint effort to gather feedback from communities on barriers to the development of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and planning work. Committee members emphasized the need for regional collaboration and communication in order to take advantage of new funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects amidst strained resources due to the pandemic.

Staff also presented a draft letter to IDOT regarding concerns with current agreement processing time and other administrative hurdles. Additional feedback from the committee will be incorporated into the letter before final approval.

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Reviews Multimodal Plan Progress

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on March 15 to review a staff presentation on the results of the first annual NWMC Multimodal Transportation Plan survey. The survey allows members to keep up with progress on projects included in the Plan and those that contribute to its general goals. This past year, over 15 miles of new bicycle facilities and over 17 miles of sidewalks were constructed, with significant progress made in completing the Priority Bicycle Corridors and Sidewalk Gaps identified in the Plan. Staff's summary of the results are available online. Finally, members shared updates on local projects, including plans for Invest in Cook applications and progress on their bike and active transportation plans.

## Federal Grant System Migrating from DUNS to UEI

IDOT recently notified entities that do business with the federal and state government of the in-progress migration from the currently used identifier known as a DUNS number to a new UEI number. Beginning on April 4, the DUNS numbers will be removed and replaced with UEI as the authoritative identifiers. The UEI will be used on the SAM.gov website, Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) portal, and other governmental award and financial systems.

Grantees with an existing SAM.gov account with a "public" setting have been assigned a UEI automatically and no action is required. For historical purposes, the existing DUNS numbers will remain in the GATA systems until it is determined that DUNS numbers can be removed without issue. For more information, please see IDOT Circular Letter 2022-10 or contact [DOT.GATA@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.GATA@illinois.gov).

## Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for their Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program. There are three funding opportunities available within the MPDG: the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program (Mega); the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program (INFRA); and, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program (Rural).

Applicants can apply for one, two, or all three of these funding opportunities with just one application. Funds for the INFRA, Mega, and Rural funding applications will be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects. Applications must be submitted through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) by Monday, May 23. The NOFO can be viewed online and for further information, please contact the Office of the Secretary via email, [MPDGrants@dot.gov](mailto:MPDGrants@dot.gov) or contact Paul Baumer, 202-366-1092.

### Village of Barrington



## RTA Access to Transit Program Call for Projects Now Open

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has opened a Call for Projects for the Access to Transit program. This program supports small-scale capital projects that improve pedestrians' and bicyclists' access to public transportation. The RTA selects projects through a competitive process according to the criteria that are consistent with [CMAQ program requirements](#). There are two types of eligible projects in this program: Category A, which includes Phase II engineering and construction; and, Category B, which includes only Phase I engineering. The Access to Transit Program is open to all municipalities and counties that have completed, or are in the process of completing, a planning or implementation project that specifically recommends bicycle and/or pedestrian access improvements to transit. The deadline to apply is May 20. For more information about this program, project examples and to apply, please visit the [RTA website](#).

## IDOT Issues New Federal Funding Agreement Forms

In an effort to make the federal agreement review process more efficient, IDOT has revised their Joint Funding Agreement forms (which include BLR 05310 and BLR 05311). The BLR 05310 form has been split into two forms that are aligned better with standard phases of work. One form ([BLR 05310C](#)) will be dedicated to state-let construction projects, including construction engineering, utility work, and rail force account work. The second form ([BLR 05310PE](#)) is dedicated to pre-construction activities including preliminary engineering, design engineering, and land acquisition. The [BLR 05311](#) Local Public Agency Amendment form has been revised to include several new fields and tables to include new criteria.

To allow Local Public Agencies a transition period to use the new forms and make adjustments to their local board/council meeting agendas, IDOT has delineated several key dates for implementing their use, detailed in [Circular Letter 2022-09](#). For more information, please contact Greg Lupton, [greg.lupton@illinois.gov](mailto:greg.lupton@illinois.gov).

Village of Buffalo Grove



## Project for Public Spaces Offers Community Placemaking Grants

In partnership with Niantic, the Project for Public Spaces is now accepting applications for their [Community Placemaking Grant program](#). The program will support funding for one project in an American city or town to engage and improve the visitor experience for underserved members of the community. The selected recipient will receive \$40,000 in funding, technical support from Project for Public Spaces staff as well as other support from fellow grantees and Niantic. Project sites must be outdoor spaces free and open to the public and they must be a destination for people from across the city, town or region. Eligible recipients must be a non-profit or local government agency with the authority to make physical improvements to their project site. [Applications](#) are due by April 15, and the grant recipient will be announced in June.

## Apply Today for RISE Planning Grants

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is awarding funds under the Research in Illinois to Spur Economic Recovery (RISE) program to create or update local and regional plans to accelerate economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible entities include counties, municipalities, other local units of government and economic development organizations.

Award amounts range from \$10,000 to \$75,000 for coverage areas with populations of up to 75,000 residents, and from \$10,000 to \$150,000 for coverage areas with populations of more than 75,000 residents. Applications are due by Monday, May 9 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please see the grant's [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) or contact John O'Conner, [john.oconner@illinois.gov](mailto:john.oconner@illinois.gov).



Village of Bannockburn

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