



Transportation Newsletter

April 2024
Volume 16 Issue 4

Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Mount Prospect



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee:
Tuesday, April 9, 10:30 a.m. — *NWMC
Offices and Virtually*

**North Shore Council of Mayors Technical
Committee:**

Thursday, April 18, 8:30 a.m. — *Glenview
Village Hall and Virtually*

NWMC Transportation Committee:
Thursday, April 25, 8:30 a.m. — *NWMC
Offices and Virtually*

**Northwest Council of Mayors Technical
Committee:**

Friday, April 26, 8:30 a.m. — *Barrington
Village Hall*

NWMC Remembers Passionate Transportation Advocate and Former Schaumburg Mayor Al Larson

The Northwest Municipal Conference extends its sincere condolences for the recent passing of former *Schaumburg Mayor Al Larson*.

Mayor Larson served the Northwest Municipal Conference membership and the Village of Schaumburg with integrity, dedication and commitment to local government and regional issues, especially transportation. One such highlight included his Ride With the Mayor on Bike to Work Day 2010, pictured above.

Mayor Larson's distinctive service on NWMC transportation matters included, but was not limited to, Vice-Chair of the Northwest Council of Mayors, Co-chair of the STAR Line Municipal Task Force, Northwest Cook County Representative to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and Chair

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Larson

(Continued from page 1)

of the Transportation Committee. He also served as a member of the Executive Board from 1991-2019, Vice-President for FY1992-1993 and Northwest Municipal Conference President for FY1993-1994.

Mayor Larson will be greatly missed and we deeply appreciate his legacy of commitment and service to the region.



Village of Schaumburg

NWMC Hosts Surface Transportation Program Workshop

On April 4, NWMC staff hosted a workshop on the Surface Transportation Program (STP). Staff shared the STP timeline, as well as the current landscape of the Illinois Department of Transportation agreement process. IDOT forms that affect STP projects were discussed, including recent updates and important steps and timelines when submitting documents to IDOT to obtain FHWA authorization.

Staff also presented on the letting process timeline for each phase, and how long processing takes. The STP Redistributive fund was also discussed to outline how STP projects, by ensuring that projects obligated their funding as soon as possible, can tap this regional fund to get additional projects to the finish line. Finally, staff addressed Active Program Management and how timely communication between local planning agencies and NWMC staff can ensure that projects obligate on time and address changes and cost increases.

A recording of the presentation is available [online](#). Please contact Eric Czarnota, eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org or Brian Larson, blarson@nwmc-cog.org with any questions about the event or presentation materials.

Register for the MUTCD Vulnerable Road Users Webinar

Recent updates to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) have created new standards for traffic control devices on all streets, highways, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and site roadways open to public travel. On Thursday, April 11 at 1:00 p.m. the Federal Highway Administration will host a webinar to discuss these changes and how they specifically affect Vulnerable Road Users. [Register here](#) to attend.

IDOT Updates Joint Funding Agreements

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently updated its joint funding agreements, also known as the BLR 05310 Suite. The updates are designed to ensure compliance with the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act. Updates include comprising the 05310 Suite into three types, dependent on the phase of the project or the funding source, risk assessment and audit compliance for federal fund usage, and the ability to utilize electronic signatures. Read more about the changes and access the new BLR 05310 Suite of Agreements in [IDOT Circular Letter 2024-08](#).

Launch of MY Commute Lake County Study

To address increasing congestion and improve quality of life and economic growth, Lake County has launched the [MY Commute Lake County Study](#). The goal of the study is to identify strategies to shift individuals from driving alone to other modes of transportation as well as work with key stakeholders, residents, businesses and employees to develop practical and implementable strategies. For more information about the study, please contact Lake County Manager of Transportation Planning Mike Klemens, mklemens@lakecountyil.gov.

FHWA Opens ATIIP Grant Applications – Webinar Scheduled for April 9

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has opened applications for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP). ATIIP grants will allow communities to identify, prioritize and implement improvements to the largest barriers to safe, accessible, and equitable pedestrian and bicycle network connectivity through the development of infrastructure that will provide substantial additional opportunities for walking and bicycling.

Communities can use ATIIP grants to create plans, implement an active transportation connection between communities, or connect active transportation facilities with transit services. Awards start at \$100,000 and go up to \$15,000,000, with applications due Monday, June 17. On Tuesday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m., FHWA will host an informational [webinar](#) about the program. For more information about ATIIP grants, please see the [NOFO](#) and the [FHWA ATIIP information page](#).

USDOT Guide Helps Leverage Transportation Investment for Jobs and Economic Opportunity

United States Department of Transportation released a new report on [Best Practices to Expand Access to Jobs and Economic Opportunity Through Transportation Infrastructure Investments](#). The report includes detailed recommendations on how state and local transportation agencies can expand access to jobs and opportunity for several underrepresented groups including women, young people, justice-involved, and people of color. It also explains how USDOT has been successful in getting more transportation agencies to include workforce plans for their projects and to make use of tools such as local and economic hiring preferences. Visit USDOT's [Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization \(OSDBU\)](#) and the [Federal Transit Administration \(FTA\)'s Workforce Development Initiative](#) to find additional workforce development technical assistance resources.

RTA Reflects on First Anniversary of Transit is the Answer Campaign

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) recently marked the one-year anniversary of its [Transit is the Answer campaign](#), the regional transit system strategic plan. To further the plan's agenda of advocacy and action, RTA formed the Transit is the Answer Coalition, bringing together groups that recognize the value transit brings to the Chicago region. Coalition initiatives to date include the [Access Pilot Program](#), developed with Metra and Cook County and a Regional Transit Economic Impact Analysis that will quantify the economic and climate impacts of two scenarios: a significantly reduced regional system that remains absent a sustainable funding solution; and, a transformed system with investment beyond the projected shortfall. In addition, the RTA continues to [invest in and support communities' efforts around transit stations and stops](#). Please visit the [RTA's website](#) to learn more about the campaign's accomplishments.

Learn How to Improve Accessibility in the Region – Register Today for Upcoming Webinars

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has released the schedule of free Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) training sessions, which cover ADA and Title II requirements, completing a self-evaluation, the role of an ADA coordinator and developing a transition plan. Registration is now open for the [spring 2024 ADA training sessions](#), which will cover the following topics:

ADA self-evaluation and design standards

Monday, April 15, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADA transition plans

Tuesday April 16, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)

Wednesday, May 1, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (PROWAG I), 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (PROGWAG II)

Illinois Accessibility Code

Thursday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Recordings and training slides from [previous sessions](#) (including ADA and Title II of the ADA), along with additional information, is available by visiting CMAP's [accessibility website](#).



Village of Glenview

RTA Shares Results of Public Transit Safety and Security Summit With NWMC Transportation Committee

On February 27, the [RTA hosted a Public Transit Safety and Security Summit](#) with CTA, Metra, Pace, the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and other municipal and social service partners, including the *City of Evanston* Police Department. At the March meeting of the NWMC Transportation Committee, RTA Associate for Government Affairs Kendra Johnson shared how Summit participants focused in on personal security, incorporation of transit-specific strategies into social services, and creating a more welcoming, safer environment in transit stations and stops.

Ms. Johnson highlighted contributions from transit leadership at LA Metro and Minneapolis-Saint Paul Metro Transit, such as physical/design interventions, personnel-centered approaches, and additional non-police presence on transit. Ms. Johnson added that small group breakout discussions identified service-oriented approaches to addressing crime, increased communication from transit agencies to riders, and stronger partnerships between transit agencies and social service agencies would be key to addressing transit safety concerns. [A recording of the summit is available on YouTube.](#)

Village of Niles

Time Running Out to Apply for IDOT Statewide Planning and Research Funds

Local community projects are now eligible for IDOT's Planning and Research Funds to study or implement a goal, strategy or objective of [IDOT's Long-Range Transportation Plan](#) or one of the agency's multimodal plans, such as the transit, rail, bike, freight and highway safety plans. Eligible activities include planning studies, data collection and analysis, research and program development, performance management and outreach efforts. Applications are due on Sunday, April 14, with awards announced this summer. For more information and how to apply, please visit the [IDOT planning website](#).

FHWA Opens Congestion Relief Program Applications

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is now accepting applications for its \$250 million [Congestion Relief Program](#), which offers competitive grants to advance innovative, multimodal solutions to reduce vehicular traffic in the most congested metropolitan areas of the United States. The Congestion Relief Program is accepting applications for the first round through a [NOFO](#), which provides \$150 million in grants made available from fiscal years 2022, 2023 and 2024. The grants are available to states, metropolitan planning organizations, cities, and municipalities for projects in urban areas with a population of at least one million. Applications are due by Monday, April 22.





Village of
Barrington

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants Open for Applications

If your community is interested in testing new street design changes with quick-build demonstration projects, the [USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Program](#) can help you implement these efforts. \$1.256 billion will be available this fiscal year for planning activities and demonstration projects with direct awards to the local jurisdiction. Application deadlines vary from April 4 to August 29, depending on the grant type being pursued. To learn what kinds of projects are eligible, please visit the [USDOT SS4A website](#), or read more from [Transportation for America](#). NWMC Program Associate for Transportation Brian Larson has previously served as a volunteer for one of these demonstration projects, so please contact him with questions.

Planning and Demonstration Grant applicants have three deadlines:

- Thursday, April 4, 2024, 4:00 P.M.
- Thursday, May 16, 2024, 4:00 P.M.
- Thursday, August 29, 2024, 4:00 P.M.

Implementation Grant applications must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. (EDT) on Thursday, May 16, 2024.

Bike & Roll to School Day is Rolling Into Town!

Is your community interested in hosting Bike & Roll to School Day? The program returns on May 8 to teach traffic, bicycling, and pedestrian safety skills, promote safer streets by decreasing traffic congestion, highlight the importance of accessibility, and promote maintained pedestrian infrastructure. [Registration is now open](#), with [planning assistance](#), [promotional materials](#), and more available on the website.

Register Today for FHWA's Equity in Roadway Safety Webinars

This spring and summer, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is hosting [roadway safety webinars](#). Registration is now open for the webinars, which will feature noteworthy tools and strategies that can support progress toward closing disparities in traffic fatalities and serious injuries in order to reach zero deaths. FHWA will also support opportunities for American Planning Association and other professional development certifications. The 2024 series includes the following events (all sessions are scheduled for 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.):

- May 22 – Equitable Data Analysis
- July 24 – Roadway Safety for People Experiencing Homelessness

FHWA has also made available recordings from the [2023 Equity in Roadway Safety webinar series](#). These webinars focused on elevating equity and safety in project prioritization and equitable safety data analysis.

Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Daily Herald: ['We regret it deeply': Ventra app's creators accept blame as Metra questions fare collection meltdown](#)

Route 50: [New toll transponders cut costs for agencies and drivers](#)

Streetsblog Chicago: [Metra orders battery-powered trains, gets funding for new bilevel passenger cars](#)

Chicago Tribune: [The Central Tri-State Tollway is getting smarter with addition of digital messaging](#)

Smart Growth America: [How strong is your Complete Streets policy? Use our Policy Evaluation tool to find out](#)

Daily Herald: [Suburbs lead in fatal bike, pedestrian collisions](#)

Momentum Mag: [Bicycle use soars following installation of separated bike lanes, according to Cambridge study](#)

Transportation Radio: [The Power of Community Engagement in Transportation](#)

American Planning Association: [The Path to Safety: How Road Diets Can Save Lives](#)

Daily Herald: [Along for the ride: Metra listens and adopts new bike policy](#)

Daily Herald: [A year after CP/KC merger approved, mayors see train uptick and brace for more](#)

University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies: [Lower speed limits may not slow drivers, a before-and-after study shows](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Lake County aims to reduce trips by lone drivers](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Kennedy construction nightmare returns Tuesday — 'It will be very similar to last year,' transit official says](#)

Business Insider: [Bike lanes are good for business](#)

Daily Herald: [How much of state's capital improvement dollars are targeted for suburbs?](#)

Crain's Chicago Business: [It's getting harder for towns to ignore their lack of affordable housing](#)

Daily Herald: [Bike path work to resume near Lake County government campus in Libertyville](#)

Journal & Topics: ['Bike & Walk' Des Plaines Opens Bicycle Repair Stand At Train Station](#)

Government Technology: Federal Official: [EVs a Charged Topic With High-Level Support](#)

New US DOT Data Hub Seeks to Ease Transportation Equity Analyses

The US Department of Transportation (DOT)'s new [Transportation Data and Equity Hub](#) provides tools, metrics, and data to analyze communities' access to transportation needs and challenges. Users can [explore the data](#) as well as [maps and other visualizations of the data](#) on a range of equity-related topics. For help accessing other federal data and mapping tools to help develop transformative transportation projects and write compelling grant applications, please visit the [DOT Navigator Data and Mapping tools](#).

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Free Rides on Pace Fixed Routes for ADA Certified Riders

Starting February 19, 2024

Beginning February 19, riders with disabilities who are certified for ADA Paratransit by the RTA can ride for free on Pace fixed route buses.

Did you know that all of Pace's fixed route buses are fully accessible for seniors and riders with disabilities? These routes can connect you to train stations, schools, hospitals, jobs, and other important destinations throughout the suburbs, and don't require a reservation to ride.

Pace's fixed route buses feature ramps, dedicated seating areas, audio and visual stop announcements, and other accessibility features. Certified ADA Paratransit customers can now ride these fixed route buses for free!



To ensure your ride is free, **DON'T TAP** your ADA Paratransit card on the Ventra reader. Simply show your card to the driver when you board.

On Demand and Pace Connect rides are not included in the free fare program. This program does not cover Metra, CTA, or ADA Paratransit rides.



For more information on Pace's accessible fixed route service, visit PaceBus.com/Accessible-Fixed-Routes



Ride Pace fixed route buses for free

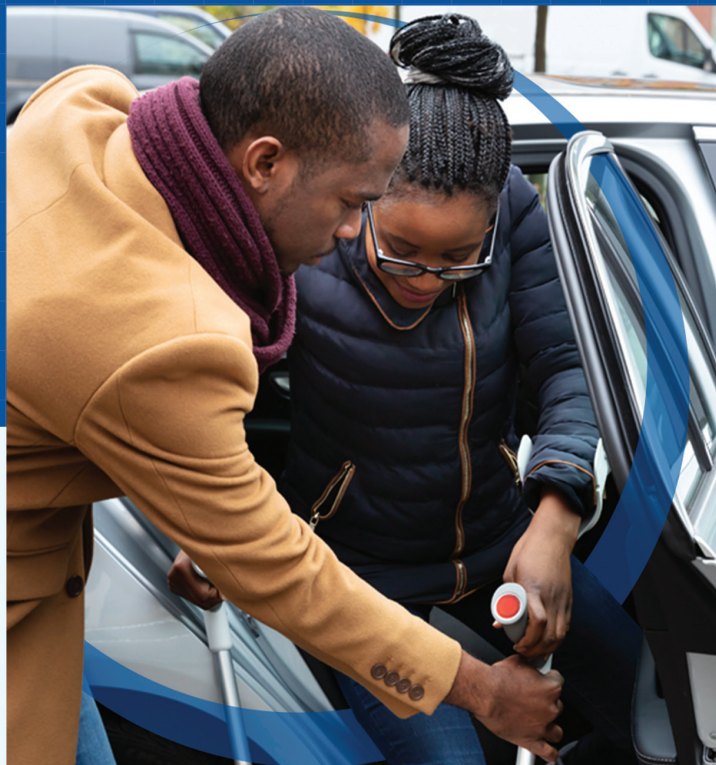
New affordable transit option for ADA Riders

Starts March 11!

Pace's new Rideshare Access Program (RAP) connects eligible riders with Uber or UZURV rides for only \$2.

Pace ADA-eligible riders now have access to subsidized Rideshare services within the ADA service area. You can now choose this more convenient and less expensive option to get around your community.

- RAP is a great option for last-minute trips because you can schedule a ride at a moment's notice, instead of booking rides a day in advance.
- RAP is less expensive than a Paratransit ride. Pace will subsidize ADA-eligible rider's Rideshare trip cost up to \$30 at a maximum 8 trips per day.
- Booking can be done on your smartphone, just like a traditional Uber or UZURV ride scheduled within the company's app.



How to use RAP, Pace's new rideshare subsidy

- ✓ Make sure you have an active Uber or UZURV account. You will then enroll in RAP by completing the required form available on the Pace website at **PaceBus.com/RAP**. If you have questions on how to enroll, please contact us at **RAP@PaceBus.com**. Uber and UZURV will not be able to help you enroll in RAP.
- ✓ You can only get the Pace RAP subsidy for trips on a single service, either Uber or UZURV.
- ✓ Schedule trips directly with your chosen ride provider by using that company's mobile app.
- ✓ Once you are enrolled, you'll see RAP as an option within your app to take advantage of the Pace subsidy for eligible trips. Only trips within Pace's designated ADA Paratransit service area are eligible for the \$2 fare.

Visit **PaceBus.com/RAP** to get started and book your next \$2 ride!

