

# Transportation Newsletter

April 2025  
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Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: NWMC Staff



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

**NWMC Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee:**  
Tuesday, April 8, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC offices and virtually

**North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee:** Thursday, April 17, 8:30 a.m. — Village of *Skokie*

**NWMC Transportation Committee:**  
Thursday, April 24, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC offices and virtually

**Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee:** Friday, April 25, 8:30 a.m. — Village of *Barrington*

## Transit Agencies Share Impacts of Fiscal Cliff with RTA Board

On March 27, CTA, Metra, and Pace leadership outlined [service cut scenarios](#) with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board if the transit fiscal cliff is not addressed. Significant impacts could be felt throughout NWMC member communities, with CTA bus service in northern Cook County and Pace weekend service throughout the NWMC region facing elimination, and Metra cutting train service in half for both weekday and weekend service. To view the service board's presentations, including potential service opportunities and improvements with increased funding, please [watch the RTA Board recording on YouTube](#).

## Implement Your Traffic Safety Interventions with a SS4A Demonstration Grant! Find Ideas and Solutions with NWMC Street Design Tools and Vision Zero Webinar

As the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) wraps up its Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR) process with county-level Safety Action Plans, municipalities are now eligible to apply for nearly \$1 billion in [Safe Streets for All \(SS4A\) Planning and Implementation Grants and Demonstration Grants](#) under the [SS4A Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\) NOFO](#). SS4A grant awards start at \$100,000, up to \$25,000,000, and applications are due by Thursday, June 26 at 4:00 p.m. Read more, including how to apply, at [the SS4A grants webpage](#).

Unsure where to start? Use the NWMC's [NWMC Multimodal Plan Street Design Tools \(pages 35-73\)](#) to choose the improvements you'd like to implement on your streets to make things safer for people walking, biking, and driving.

Additionally, the Vision Zero Network will host a webinar on April 29 at 12:00 p.m. on how to make the most of this funding opportunity, including what best opportunities and community-focused safety mesh best. Register for the webinar at the [Vision Zero Network website](#).

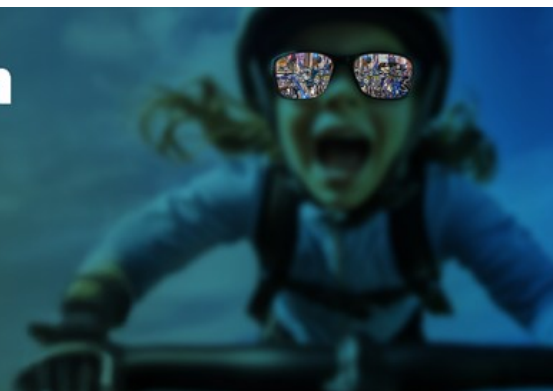
## Pace Launches I-290/I-88 Express Bus Study, Seeks Community Feedback

Pace Suburban Bus has launched a [feasibility study](#) to determine transit opportunities for an express bus service along the I-290 and I-88 corridors. Last Friday, a steering committee, including NWMC staff and member communities, met to discuss the concept and provide initial feedback and guidance to Pace and its consultants. As part of Pace's efforts to gauge the corridor's potential success, Pace is soliciting feedback from residents, workers and stakeholders via this [survey](#). Members are requested to promote survey participation to residents and businesses.

## Become a Bicycle-Friendly Community

The League of American Bicyclists is currently accepting applications to become recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC). The League provides a roadmap, hands-on assistance and recognition for communities seeking to build places more welcoming to people who bike. NWMC member communities with BFC status include Silver-ranked *Evanston* and Bronze-ranked *Glenview*, *Highland Park*, *Schaumburg*, and *Wilmette*. Applications are due by June 25. To learn more about the BFC program, please visit the [League of American Bicyclists website](#).

# The future of transportation includes you!





## **Complete the Active Transportation Design Guidance Survey!**

How does active transportation design guidance affect the safety, comfort, and accessibility of active transportation users (e.g., people walking, biking, rolling, and using micromobility devices)? The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) is funding Toole Design and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) to survey transportation practitioners to better understand the scope of this influence and any barriers to active transportation project implementation. [Complete the 10-minute survey here.](#)

## **IDOT Hosting Conference on Special Programs**

Is your community interested in accessing the Economic Development Program (EDP), Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), or Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)? The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Special Programs Unit is ready to help. IDOT staff will be available during a rotating two day informational conference to offer general information on the programs as well as answer specific questions, with a morning informational session on Day 1 and afternoon 30-minute one-on-one appointments to discuss specific projects and applications on Day 1 and Day 2. The conference will be held on June 5 and 6 at the IDOT District 1 Office in Schaumburg, on June 10 and 11 at Hillside Village Hall, and on June 12 and 13 at the McHenry County Administration Building. Learn more about the programs and register for the morning session and/or individual appointments at the [ITEP](#) or [SRTS](#) websites.

## **Learn How AASHTO's Updated Guide for the Development of Bicycles Facilities Can Support Your Bikeway Projects!**

With new guidance from AASHTO's fifth edition guide on bikeway design, the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) and Toole Design will get you up to speed with a webinar on Wednesday, May 14 at 2:00 p.m. Learn how engineering design guidance can influence your physical infrastructure to address bicycling as both a transportation and recreational opportunity in your community. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

## **Section 5310 Program Call for Projects Now Open**

*From our partners at RTA:*

The [Section 5310 Program](#) is a federal formula grant program that provides funding assistance to public transportation projects that focus on enhancing mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. As a co-designated recipient of the Section 5310 Program, the RTA awards and administers funding to operating, mobility management, capital improvement projects, and associated administrative expenses to non-profit and local government providers of eligible transportation programs. The 2025 Call for Projects opens on March 20 and applications are due by April 24.

## CMAP Regional Transportation Plan Survey Needs Your Support!

*From our partners at CMAP:*

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) wants to hear from you! Take their [new questionnaire](#) and tell us how you get from point A to point B, and how our transportation system can be improved. As CMAP leads development of the [Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#) -- northeastern Illinois' blueprint for future roads, rails, and trails over the next 30 years -- your feedback will shape how we improve transportation, reduce congestion, and build a more sustainable future for our region.

Responses are being accepted throughout 2025, giving everyone plenty of time to weigh in. Whether you're a daily commuter, a cyclist, or simply passionate about the future of our community, your voice matters. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference!

If you have any questions about the RTP or questionnaire – or would like CMAP to present or attend a local event – please reach out to [rtp@cmaphillinois.gov](mailto:rtp@cmaphillinois.gov). Together, we can create a transportation system that works for everyone. And please help spread the word! CMAP has developed a [promotional toolkit for your social media and newsletters, including images, sample text, and more](#).



NMWC Staff  
Village of Hoffman Estates

## Tap Into Those Unused Rebuild Illinois Funds!

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has notified communities which still have Rebuild Illinois (RBI) funds can retroactively apply them to projects and substitute out utilized motor fuel taxes (MFT) as far back as 2019. IDOT only requires a community wanting to utilize RBI funds for a project to adopt a resolution by Tuesday, July 1. For guidance on how to implement these funds, see [IDOT Circular Letter 2020-16](#).

## CTA Developing Long-Term Strategic Plan

*From our partners at the CTA:*

CTA recently launched its first-ever comprehensive, long-term strategic planning effort. The [Powering Our Transit Future](#) plan will set the agency's strategic direction over the next several years. Take a brief [survey](#) about your CTA experiences and what types of transit service(s) you want to see in the future.

## Last Call to Apply for Disaster Resilience BRIC Grants!

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) grant program](#) will be closing soon. BRIC grants are designed to assist communities to develop disaster risk planning, analyze hazards, and implement projects to increase resiliency and safety. Funding of up to \$150,000,000 is available per applicant. To learn more, including a list of prior applicants and the application process, visit [FEMA's announcement page](#). Applications must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18.

## Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

Vision Zero Network: [Leveraging SS4A Funding for Safe Streets](#)—Tuesday, April 29, 12:00 p.m.

Vision Zero Network: [Prioritizing Vision Zero Efforts for Greatest Impact](#)—Wednesday, April 30, 12:00 p.m.

## Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

*Daily Herald:* [Where's my Metra train? Railroad updates progress of installing digital signs, ticket machines](#)

*Block Club Chicago:* [1 In 5 Chicagoans Will Lose Access To CTA, Pace, Metra If State Doesn't Fund Public Transit, RTA Says](#)

*Governing:* [What Fire Trucks Tell Us About Purchasing Problems in General](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Taxes on haircuts and miles instead of gas? Amid transit crisis, new funding ideas spring up](#)

*Crain's Chicago Business:* [Illinois EV sales surged, fueled by incentives](#)

*Chicago Tribune:* [CTA slow zones are growing, and that means longer commutes for 'L' riders](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Alfresco dining: A onetime lifeline turned summer mainstay for suburban eateries](#)

*Smart Cities Dive:* [ComEd offering \\$100M in rebates to drive EV growth in Illinois](#)

## Briefs, Continued

*Streetsblog Chicago:* [Lots of pro-walk/bike/transit legislation may be up for a vote this spring in Springfield. Lawmakers discuss why they're backing it](#)

*WTTW:* [Don't Click on Those Road Toll Texts. Officials Issue Warnings About the Smishing Scam](#)

*Tax Policy Center:* [If Congress Makes Muni Bonds Taxable, What Could Happen To States And Cities?](#)

*Chicago Tribune:* [RTA outlines 'doomsday' transit cuts if budget gap isn't filled, including slashing bus and train lines](#)

*Streetsblog Chicago:* [A better way to run a railroad: The transit reform opportunity](#)

*Daily Herald:* ['Silos' and 'steamrollers': Rival plans to save Metra, Pace and the CTA go under the microscope](#)

*Chicago Sun-Times:* [Labor pushes transit bill to empower RTA over CTA, Metra, Pace](#)

*Daily Herald:* [All aboard the M1? Metra considers renaming train lines](#)

*Chicago Sun-Times:* [Illinois eyes taxing drivers by the mile — rather than by the gallon of gas](#)

*Streetsblog USA:* [U.S. DOT Orders Review of All Grants Related to Green Infrastructure, Bikes](#)

*Capitol Fax:* [Tax-free municipal bonds could be on the chopping block, and that would hurt Illinois](#)

*Evanston Now:* [Evanston route sets the pace for PACE](#)

*Capitol News Illinois:* [Lawmakers grill mass transit leaders as clock ticks toward funding 'cliff'](#)

*Chicago Sun-Times:* [Pace considers express buses on I-290, I-88](#)

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