

Transportation Newsletter

August 2021
Volume 13 Issue 8

Northwest Municipal Conference
1600 E. Golf Rd. Suite 0700 Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 847-296-9200 www.nwmc-cog.org
Cover Photo: Village of Fox Lake



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

No upcoming meetings

NWMC Members Headline Commissioner Morrison's Transportation Town Hall

On July 22, Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison held a town hall to discuss regional transportation and infrastructure issues. Panelists included *Hanover Park Mayor and Metra Board Member Rod Craig*, *Hoffman Estates Mayor and Pace Board Member Bill McLeod*, and *Arlington Heights Trustee and Regional Transportation Authority Board Member Mary Beth Canty*. The panel led a lively discussion on how the region's transportation agencies can help with COVID-19 recovery, efforts to electrify fleets and the changing needs of transit users.

NWMC staff was also on hand to provide resources for the Multimodal Transportation Plan. If interested in having staff attend an event in your community, please contact Kendra Johnson, kjohnson@nwmc-cog.org.



From left: Trustee Mary Beth Canty, Mayor Rod Craig, Commissioner Kevin Morrison, Mayor Bill McLeod at the Transportation Town Hall

North Shore Technical Committee Appoints New Council of Mayors Representative

On July 15, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee unanimously approved the appointment of *Northfield Village President Greg Lungmus* to serve as the North Shore's representative on the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Council of Mayors Executive Committee. The Technical Committee also reviewed the current local Surface Transportation Program, discussed draft procedural guidance for the North Shore Council and voted to recommend approval of a cost increase for the Austin/Oakton Intersection project in the *Village of Morton Grove*. The cost increase has since been approved by the full North Shore Council of Mayors.

Northwest Council of Mayors Approves Funding Requests

On July 23, the Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met to consider important updates to the region's transportation projects. The committee unanimously recommended approval of Surface Transportation Program cost increase requests for projects in *Streamwood*, *Hoffman Estates* and *Schaumburg*. The committee also recommended approval of the *Village of Wheeling's* functional classification change request for Northgate Parkway to be submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration for consideration. The cost increase requests have since been approved by the full Northwest Council of Mayors while the functional classification request will be considered by the Council at the September 8 NWMC Board meeting.



Village of Schaumburg

Updated Community Data Available from CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) recently released updated Community Data Snapshots for each of the region's 284 municipalities. The data is meant to help local leaders and the public track progress and make informed decisions in their communities, and includes summarized demographics, housing, employment, transportation habits and other statistics. This year's update includes new data on household computer and internet access, walkability and transit availability. For more information and to access your community's data snapshot, please visit [CMAP's website](#).

Metra Expands Rush Hour Service

In order to meet growing ridership, Metra last month increased rush hour service on seven of their lines. In the NWMC region, the new schedules will affect four lines, including the Milwaukee District North, Milwaukee District West, North Central Service and Union Pacific Northwest lines. Metra has also launched new pilot schedules that provide more off-peak options for three lines, including the Union Pacific North line. In addition to new trains, the schedules reflect a number of minor adjustments to existing timetables. Riders are encouraged to review the new schedules on [Metra's website](#). For more information, please see Metra's [press release](#).

Metra Announces Free UP North Rides for Ravinia Concertgoers

On June 29, Metra announced that patrons of Ravinia Festival in *Highland Park* will be able to ride for free on the Union Pacific North Line. From Metra's [press release](#): "Thanks to a new partnership between Metra and the Ravinia Festival, it was announced—for the first time ever—a ticket for a concert at the world-famous venue will also allow you to get there for free on a fast and convenient Metra Union Pacific North train. For the 2021 concert season, which started July 1, concertgoers can ride the UP North Line from any of its stops. All concertgoers need to do is show the Metra conductor their concert ticket or e-ticket and their rides to and from Ravinia Park on the UP North Line are free."



Village of Skokie

Northwest Municipal Conference
1600 E. Golf Rd Suite 0700 Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 847-296-9200 | www.nwmc-cog.org

Kendra Johnson: 847-296-9200 ext. 131
KJohnson@nwmc-cog.org