

# Transportation Newsletter

August 2024  
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Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: Village of Mount Prospect



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

**Senate Transportation Committee Hearing:**  
Friday, August 9, 10:00 a.m. — DuPage County, Location TBD

**Senate Transportation Committee Hearing:**  
Wednesday, August 28, 10:00 a.m. — Kane County and McHenry County, Location TBD

## North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors Approve Latest STP Programs

Both the North Shore and Northwest Council of Mayors had their quarterly meetings on July 18 and 19, respectively. The North Shore Council approved a cost increase for the Village of Morton Grove. Additionally, some projects in the program were actively reprogrammed to accommodate changes in project completion status, cost estimates, and other issues as needed. The Northwest Council approved a cost increase for the Village of Buffalo Grove.

The next meeting for the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will be on October 17 at the Glenview Village Hall, and the next Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting will be on October 25 at the Barrington Village Hall.



## NWMC Bike-Ped Committee Pedals Around Glenview

On July 9, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee's annual field trip visited *Glenview* to check out active transportation improvements completed by the village in and around The Glen. The group toured Shermer Road and Chestnut Avenue, both of which had multi-use paths constructed using Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding.

After the ride, the group had lunch, received some background on the improvements from the *Village of Glenview*, and discussed bicycle and pedestrian matters in member communities. We want to thank everyone who attended for another successful field trip!

## Pace Seeking Feedback on ReVision Network Restructuring Project

Pace Suburban Bus continues to progress on ReVision, its Network Restructuring Project to address the Driving Innovation Strategic Plan. ReVision offers the possibility of reimagining Pace's entire route system and types of service throughout the region to reflect the evolving priorities and values of riders, the general public, and stakeholders.

As part of ReVision, Pace wants to hear from you! Pace wants to know what should be prioritized for public transit and what would make transit more useful for you and your community. You can provide your input at [revision@pacebus.com](mailto:revision@pacebus.com).

Finally, you can stay up to date on project developments by signing up for email or text alerts at [PaceBus.com/ReVision](https://PaceBus.com/ReVision).



NWMC Staff

## Juice Up Your EV Stations With the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program!

If you're seeking grant funding to deploy public electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure, you're in luck. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has just opened \$1.3 billion in funding through Round 2 of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant program. Community grants, focused on eliminating gaps in public EV charging infrastructure, will range from \$500,000 to \$15 million, with projects serving low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, communities with low ratio of private parking spaces to households, or high ratio of multiunit dwellings to single family homes will receive prioritization. Corridor grants, with a focus on EV and alternative fueling infrastructure along designated corridors, will range from \$1 million with no maximum limit.

Projects must demonstrate benefits to Justice40 communities and accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities. To learn more, visit the [Grants.gov grant page](#) or read the [NOFO](#). Applications are due August 28.

## Make Train Delays a Thing of the Past with a Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has announced over \$1.1 billion in funding to address railroad crossing safety and efficiency through its Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program. These funds can be used to build grade separations, to close off at-grade crossings or other safety enhancements. Applications are due September 30. To learn more about the RCE Program, [visit the NOFO](#).

## Senate Committee Holds Second Hearing on the State of Public Transit

The Senate Transportation Committee held the second of a series of subject matter hearings on Wednesday, July 24 to discuss the state of public transit. The hearing focused on how transit must be accessible and equitable and featured testimony by representatives of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. The hearings will continue through the summer and fall, with the remaining schedule and topics as follows:

**Subject: Transit support community quality of life**

*Friday, Aug. 9 at 10 a.m.* – Counties of DuPage, Will, and Kendall

**Subject: Transit is crucial for public health**

*Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 10 a.m.* — Kane County and McHenry County

**Subject: Transit mitigates climate impact**

*Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m.*— Northwest Suburbs of Cook County and Lake County

**Subject: Funding transit is a statewide priority**

*Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 10 a.m.* — Springfield

Exact locations for most of the hearings are to be determined and additional hearings or adjustments to the schedule may arise.

## ITEP Applications Are Open and Webinars Underway

If your community has its eye set on new pedestrian/bicycle facilities, sidewalk connections, or the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to trails, the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) is your go-to for funding. ITEP is now open for applications through September 30. ITEP awards a maximum of \$3 million, with awards announced in Spring 2025. To learn more, check the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) NOFO.

Last month, the Active Transportation Alliance and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) kicked off a webinar series to help prepare potential applicants for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), which opens in August. These grants will provide \$140 million in state and federal funding for walking, biking and trail projects throughout the state. Webinars include:

### **Webinar 1: *ITEP basics, eligibility criteria, what's new, and best practices***

Held on Wednesday, July 10

[Recording](#) : [Slides](#)

### **Webinar 2: *Scoring, application walk through, Q&A with IDOT staff***

Wednesday, August 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

[Registration Link](#)

### **Webinar 3: *Q&A with IDOT staff***

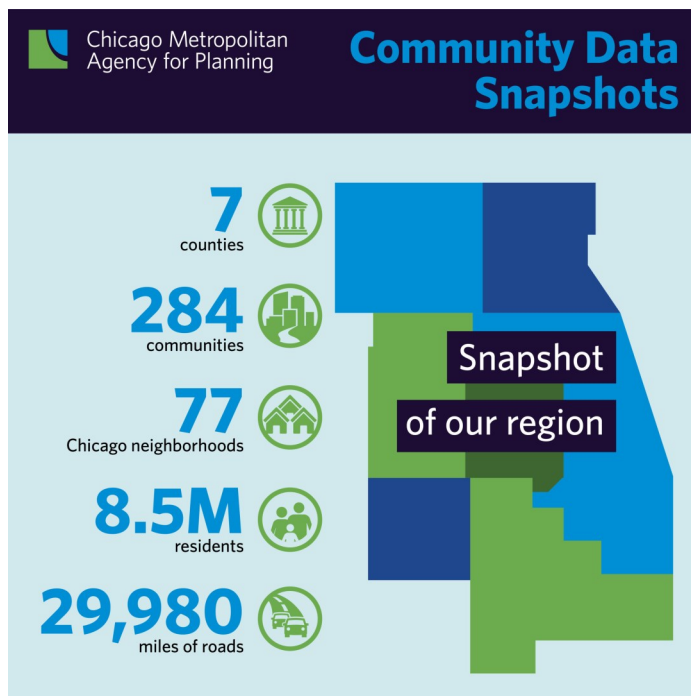
Wednesday, September 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

[Registration Link](#)

Additional information and all materials can be accessed by visiting the Active [Transportation Alliance website](#) or the [IDOT NOFO](#).

## New Community Data Snapshots Offer Rich Resource for Northeastern Illinois

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) released a new set of Community Data Snapshots to help local leaders and the public track progress and make informed decisions in their communities. These data-rich snapshots — one for each of the region's 284 municipalities, 77 Chicago neighborhoods, and 7 counties — summarize demographics, housing, employment, transportation habits, and other key details. Learn more and find your [Community Data Snapshot](#).



CMAP



## Updated IDOT Crash Data Now Available

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has made its 2023 crash data available via the [IDOT Safety Portal](#). Access requires a registered account, approved by the County Engineer. Data in the portal includes individual crash reports, crash locations, crash report images, 10 years of historic and trend analyses, and summary reports. IDOT is still finalizing its 2023 Crash Facts publication, which will be made available on the same site as the [2022 Crash Facts publication](#). If you have any questions regarding this information, future updates, and/or access to the system, please contact Mark Blankenship at (217) 785-3056, [Mark.Blankenship@illinois.gov](mailto:Mark.Blankenship@illinois.gov), or Aaron Rath at (217) 557-6080, [Aaron.Rath@illinois.gov](mailto:Aaron.Rath@illinois.gov).

## USDOT Opens Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Applications

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued a NOFO for the [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) grant funding. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries, including CMAP's [Safe Travel for All Roadmap](#). Applications for Planning and Demonstration Grants are due at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 29.



## RTA Transit is the Answer Coalition Discusses Reforms

On July 31, the RTA Transit is the Answer Coalition met to discuss possible reforms that could improve service and accountability for riders. In the face of a looming \$730 million annual transit operating fiscal cliff, introduction of the Metropolitan Mobility Authority (MMA) Act, and ongoing Senate Transportation Committee hearings, the RTA has released its own potential reform ideas to build consensus. Reform suggestions include regional service standards, a regional fare policy, and capital project prioritization. Read more about these proposals at the [RTA Connections Blog](#).

## Regional Day Pass to Launch Later this Year

The Boards of Directors of the RTA, CTA, Metra, and Pace approved an agreement to launch a [Regional Day Pass pilot program](#) later this year. The Regional Day Pass will offer unlimited rides on CTA, Metra, and Pace. Weekday pricing will vary by Metra zone, between \$10 and \$16, and weekend pricing will be \$10 systemwide. Riders will be able to purchase this pass using the Ventra app once the vendor completes development and testing. The pilot will launch for six months and has the potential to become a permanent fare option if additional funding is secured.

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## **Add Your Organization's Remote Work Experience to an IDOT-UIC Study**

The Urban Transportation Center (UTC) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is conducting research on work from home impacts as part of a study requested by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The UTC is seeking "qualitative findings related to employee performance, work quality, company culture, financial considerations, transportation, and more" from human resource directors and corporate managers in the public and private sectors. Participants can be part of either an online survey or a semi-structured interview with the UTC, and all information shared will remain confidential. To learn more, visit the [UTC research page](#), or contact [Dr. Cemal Ayvalik](#), Senior Research Engineer, at [cayvalik@uic.edu](mailto:cayvalik@uic.edu).

## **Weigh In on IDOT's New Statewide Public Transportation Plan**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has launched Next Move Illinois, the newest update to its statewide public transportation plan. Next Move Illinois will "create a strategic vision, recommend policy, make performance updates and identify specific initiatives." As part of the planning process, IDOT is requesting feedback from the public about their public transportation experience, what is needed, concerns and priorities for the state's public transportation system. To learn more, stay up to date, and access the public survey, please visit the [Next Move Illinois website](#).

## **FHWA Applications Open for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program**

As a reminder, FHWA opened \$1.3 billion in funding through Round 2 of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant program. Community grants, focused on eliminating gaps in public EV charging infrastructure, will range from \$500,000 to \$15 million, with projects serving low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, communities with low ratio of private parking spaces to households, or high ratio of multiunit dwellings to single family homes will receive prioritization. Corridor grants, with a focus on EV and alternative fueling infrastructure along designated corridors, will range from \$1 million with no maximum limit. Projects must demonstrate benefits to Justice40 communities and accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities. To learn more, visit the [Grants.gov grant page](#) or read the [NOFO](#). Applications are due Wednesday, August 28.

## **Learn Innovative Transportation Solutions That Can Save Your Community Time and Money**

The United States Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Local Aid Support is hosting its next Innovation Exchange, where speakers from across the country will discuss capital improvement project data gathering, work zone safety, and community engagement for historically underserved communities. The Exchange will be hosted on Thursday, August 15, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. [Registration is required](#). For more information, see the [FHWA event flyer](#). If you have any questions about this upcoming webinar, please contact Trinette Ballard at [trinette.ballard@dot.gov](mailto:trinette.ballard@dot.gov) or [CLAS@dot.gov](mailto:CLAS@dot.gov).

## USDOT is Ready To Help You Transform Our Legacy Highways!

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) is ready to help you move forward on transformational modernization of our legacy highway system. From state-owned arterials to commercial corridors to city streets, federal policies and funding opportunities can turn these routes into Complete Streets to improve safety for all road users, including people walking or biking, and spur new development and investment.

To assist communities in this endeavor, USDOT has created a [resource memo tailored towards these legacy highways](#). From answering eligibility questions, to identifying funding sources through the [DOT Navigator](#), to technical assistance resources, this guide will help your community bring modern practices to our legacy system.

## Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

*USDOT: [Using Data to Effectively Tell Your Community's Story](#)*—August 15, 2:00 p.m.

*Vision Zero Network: [Progress & Pitfalls: A Real Talk on Equity in Roadway Safety](#)*—August 20, 12:00 p.m.

*USDOT: [Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\) Program Capital Construction](#)*—August 20, 2:00 p.m.

## Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

*WGN: [Chicagoland transit heads push back on proposal to combine agencies](#)*

*Route Fifty: [Pedestrian deaths finally dipped in 2023](#)*

*Route Fifty: [Gas taxes can't pay for roads much longer, but Amazon deliveries might](#)*

*Daily Herald: [Along for the Ride: How adaptive biking enriches the lives of people with disabilities](#)*

*Route Fifty: [Rough ride? Data bikes chart the condition of bike paths in more cities](#)*

*PBS News: [How extreme heat is damaging American transportation infrastructure](#)*

*Sun-Times: [Bike ride from Skokie to Logan Square shows people of all abilities can ride](#)*

*Daily Herald: [Longmeadow Parkway nearing completion in Kane County, with no tolls attached](#)*

*IIHS-HLDI: [Lighted crosswalks make drivers more apt to yield to pedestrians](#)*

*Route Fifty: [The key to safer roads? Narrow the lanes.](#)*

*CNN: [Justice Department sues Norfolk Southern, accusing rail company of creating delays for Amtrak passengers](#)*

*Bloomberg CityLab: [Bikeshare Is More Popular Than Ever. But It'll Cost You](#)*

*Streetsblog USA: [USDOT Warns Congress That Americans Need to Drive Less to Survive Climate Change](#)*

*Wall Street Journal: [Train Travel in America Is Making a Comeback](#)*

*Thinking Transportation: [The Never Ending Story? Why road projects take so long to complete.](#)*

*NPR: [Federal dollars speed up work on safe streets, but money isn't the only roadblock](#)*

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