

# Transportation Newsletter

August 2025  
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Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: Village of Skokie, NWMC Staff Photo



**Northwest Municipal Conference**

## NWMC To Host Discussion on E-Bike and E-Scooter Regulations

This summer, multiple municipalities have adopted ordinances regulating e-bike and e-scooter usage, with many more considering developing their own. The NWMC is working with these communities to better understand the factors leading to the development of these ordinances.

In the interest of ensuring a more cohesive regulatory environment across the suburbs, the NWMC will host a panel discussion on this topic in September, with final date to be determined. The panel will bring together local decision-makers and industry experts to share insights and ideas to help guide communities.

If your community is interested in participating as a panelist, please contact Brian Larson, [Blarson@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:Blarson@nwmc-cog.org) or Eric Czarnota, [Ecarnota@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:Ecarnota@nwmc-cog.org).

## **North Shore and Northwest Council of Mayors STP Methodology Updates**

The July meetings of the North Shore and Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committees saw significant discussion on revisions to the Councils' Surface Transportation Program (STP) project selection methodologies. North Shore adopted a new methodology, while Northwest discussed further revisions. These changes are the result of several months of discussion and development among the Councils, addressing the unique needs of their membership.

The new [North Shore methodology](#) changes include a new Safety Improvement evaluation process, consideration of regional benefits and community STP funding history, and integration of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Public Right of Way Access Guidelines (PROWAG) transition plan efforts, among other changes.

Possible Northwest methodology changes discussed include regional significance, consideration of prior funding levels, Complete Streets policies, Crash Reduction Factor revisions and pavement conditions.

In preparation for the 2025 STP Call for Projects, the NWMC will host a joint training session on the STP application process for North Shore and Northwest. Additionally, the North Shore Council of Mayors will host a separate joint training session with McHenry County on the new Safety Improvement criteria, to cover the Safe Systems Approach evaluation framework both organizations have adopted.

## **RTA Develops Transit Fiscal Cliff Hub, Ad Hoc Committee on Transit Funding**

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has developed a [Fiscal Cliff Hub](#) to provide a one-stop information resource on the fiscal cliff, the process involved, and analyses. This includes the impact of any cuts, a review of current legislation that would address the transit fiscal cliff, how tax and expense trends affect the previously reported \$771 million shortfall, and a timeline of the steps between now and the looming shortfall in 2026. In addition, the RTA has organized an Ad Hoc Committee on Transit Funding (link to first meeting: [July 2025 RTA Ad Hoc Committee on Transit Funding - YouTube](#)), including representatives from suburban Cook and the collar counties, which will guide policy discussions on funding and reform.

## **USDOT Seeking Local Government Input on Next Federal Transportation Bill**

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) is soliciting public input for the next surface transportation bill as current federal transportation authorization will expire on September 30, 2026. USDOT is specifically requesting comments from local governments, small businesses, consumers, transportation system operators, and more. To learn more, including how to submit comments to USDOT, please visit the [Federal Register](#).



## Safe Routes to School Grant Applications Now Open

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) opens the application period for the [2025 Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) Program](#) on August 1. The SRTS program supports projects that improve safety and encourage walking, bicycling, and rolling to and from schools serving grades K-12.

SRTS projects must be located within a 2-mile radius of a school and may include both infrastructure (sidewalks, crossings, bike facilities, traffic calming) and non-infrastructure (safety education events, training programs, school route evaluations) projects. The program is fully funded at 100% with no local match required. Infrastructure awards are capped at \$250,000 and non-infrastructure awards at \$100,000.

Eligible applicants include schools, school districts, municipalities, counties, townships, planning organizations, and other public agencies. Only municipalities and other roadway jurisdictions may sponsor infrastructure projects, though they may partner with other eligible entities.

To assist applicants, IDOT and the Active Transportation Alliance are hosting a series of informational webinars. A session on [August 20](#) will include an application walkthrough and Q&A with IDOT staff, and a session on [September 17](#) will feature a live Q&A with IDOT staff. Each webinar will run from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. An additional webinar, hosted in June, provided an overview of the SRTS grant. A recording of that session can be found [here](#). Final applications will be due by 5:00 PM on Friday, October 13.

For additional information, contact IDOT Safe Routes to School staff at [DOT.SafeRoutes@Illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.SafeRoutes@Illinois.gov).

## IDOT Seeks Municipal Feedback on Active Transportation Strategies, Implementation Guide

The Illinois Department of Transportation is developing Walk Roll Illinois, the 2025 Illinois Active Transportation Plan and requests municipal feedback [via this survey](#). Additionally, IDOT has created a draft [Local Implementation Guide](#) to assist “local agency partners who are working to enhance active transportation within their jurisdictions.” IDOT [also requests feedback on the guide](#) to identify what will be most useful for Illinois communities. Assistance in sharing this survey with local transportation staff is appreciated.

## Cook County Seeks Feedback on O'Hare Area Bike Network Study

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH) is conducting a [public survey](#) on its [O'Hare Area Bike Network Study](#). Results from the survey will guide development of the network and identify areas and types of improvements to implement in communities surrounding the airport. In addition, DoTH has developed a [flyer](#), [social media graphics](#) and suggested language which can be shared via local government communications channels.



Village of Niles  
NMWC Staff Photo

## 2025 Invest in Cook Awards Announced

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH) has announced its 2025 Invest in Cook project list. Nearly \$1 million in transportation funding will support transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and road projects within NWMC member communities. Congratulations to *Buffalo Grove, Niles, Palatine, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Streamwood, and Wheeling*. Pace Suburban Bus also received an award to expand bus service in *Arlington Heights, Palatine, and Rolling Meadows*. Please visit [Invest in Cook](#) for a full list of the awardees and projects.

## Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Greater Chicago Survey

*From our partners at CMAP:*

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), in partnership with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, is creating a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Greater Chicago by 2050. [The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan](#) for Greater Chicago will identify key actions needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all major sources. It will build on previous plans from across the region, creating a coordinated strategy to reduce emissions and address climate impacts in low-income and disadvantaged communities and across the region.

Community input is important and will help inform the final plan's recommendations. Please fill out the [brief questionnaire](#) to share your experience on how climate change has impacted you and your community.



Village of Glenview  
NMWC Staff Photo

## Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR) Resources Available

*From our partners at CMAP:*

CMAP's [STAR program](#) continues to work to improve regional travel safety with assistance, resources and policy development. Information on the [Countywide Safety Action Plans](#) adopted by the MPO Policy Committee on May 30, 2025, and more, can be found on the STAR webpage. For more information, please contact [Lindsay Bayley](#), (312-386-8826).



## CMAP Regional Transportation Plan Survey Needs Your Support!

*From our partners at CMAP:*

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@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:rtp@cmap.illinois.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](#).



*Village of Grayslake*

## Communities Encouraged to Contribute to the Northeastern Illinois Development Database

*From our partners at CMAP:*

Our region is constantly changing, with some communities experiencing rapid growth, while others experience significant changes to land uses. Since 1987, the [Northeastern Illinois Development Database \(NDD\)](#) has tracked significant developments and redevelopments in the seven-county northeastern Illinois region.

Municipalities are encouraged to submit proposed, in-progress, or completed developments, as all phases contribute valuable data for the model. The NDD web map is an opportunity to ensure your community's growth is accurately represented in regional forecasts. The NDD web map is tailored for local government staff to actively participate in the forecasting process by submitting and editing developments. This data informs CMAP's local forecast model, which predicts household and job placements in developments across the region.

## 2023 IDOT National Highway System (NHS) Pavement and Bridge Data

*From our partners at IDOT:*

IDOT collects condition data on Interstate pavements annually and on non-Interstate pavements on a two-year cycle. Bridges receive a routine visual inspection at least every 2-4 years, depending on the condition. The results of the most recent NHS pavement condition assessments and bridge inspections, along with performance measures and targets, may be accessed on [IDOT's "Performance" webpage](#).

## Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

**RTA:** [Travel Information Action Plan](#)—Tuesday, August 5 at 1:00 p.m.

**Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations:** [Active Transportation Coordination with State DOTs](#)—Wednesday August 6 at 2:00 p.m.

**Impact:** [More Housing Near Transit: How Washington State Set a New Standard for Transit-Oriented Development](#)—Tuesday, August 19 at 2:00 p.m.

**IDOT:** [Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) 2025 Application Walkthrough and Q&A](#)—Wednesday, August 20 at 11:00 a.m.

**Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety (CPBS):** [Safety vs. Safety: Understanding and Overcoming Conflicts between Street Safety and Fire and Emergency Response](#)—Wednesday, August 20 at 1:00 p.m.

**CPBS:** [What Can Police Stop Data Tell Us About Traffic Safety?](#)—Tuesday, August 26 at 1:00 p.m.

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center AASHTO Bike Guide Series:** [Part 3: Additional Advances in Bicycling Design](#)—Thursday,

## Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

*Daily Herald:* [‘Stand up for our hometowns’: Suburban mayors slam transit proposal](#)

*Chicago Tribune:* [Labor and disability advocates at odds over future of Chicago-area paratransit](#)

*Crain's Chicago Business:* [Chicago transit's \\$771M fiscal cliff could shrink because of extra sales tax](#)

*Evanston Now:* [Key lawmaker: No special session yet for transit rescue](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Whose downtown is it? Mayors wary transit board will control development near stations](#)

*Streetsblog Chicago:* [Why the Suburban Mayors Coalition's claims about proposed development policies in state transit reform/funding legislation are bogus](#)

*Crain's Chicago Business:* [Realtors go on offense over plan to rescue CTA with real estate taxes](#)

*RTA:* [RTA launches joint development study to leverage land near transit](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Schaumburg lowering requirements for electric-vehicle capability at new multifamily buildings](#)

*Daily Herald:* [‘It’s just getting out of control’: More towns restricting kids from electric bikes and scooters](#)

*Chicago Tribune:* [E-bike laws a confusing patchwork for suburban riders](#)

*Suburban Chicago Bicycling:* [Driver's license? Insurance? On local paths or not? Different suburbs create differing e-bike laws](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Ride Illinois offers guidelines for regulating e-bike use](#)

*WBEZ:* [Chicago suburbs try to balance safety and access for e-bikes, e-scooters](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Delays and declining revenue: Are red-light cameras in the suburbs on their last legs?](#)

*Route Fifty:* [Transit leaders look to efficient, tech-driven future](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Chicago area receives \\$139M in grants to fund bike paths, walking trails](#)

*Eno Center for Transportation:* [How States and Cities Are Adapting to Changing Trump Administration Grant Rules](#)

*America WALKS:* [Finding Funding for Walkability in an Uncertain Environment](#)

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