

# Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: Village of Elk Grove Village



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

*\*\*No December meetings scheduled\*\**



## Transportation Committee Discusses Legislative Priorities, Multimodal Plan

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on Thursday, December 3 to discuss legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Staff presented proposed language in the NWMC state and federal legislative programs to address capital investments in infrastructure and multimodal transportation networks. Staff also shared a sign-on letter created by Transportation for America that advocates for federal dollars being prioritized for maintenance over new roads. Finally, the committee received a brief presentation from staff on GIS tools that will be used to monitor progress made in implementing the NWMC Multimodal Plan and received agency updates from regional partners.

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Provides Feedback on Multimodal Plan Tools

During the November 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting, NWMC staff gave the Committee a preview of two GIS applications intended to help track the progress on [priority bicycle corridors](#) and [sidewalk gaps](#) identified in the NWMC Multimodal Plan. These tools will be used by member communities and staff to identify segments of priority bicycle corridors and sidewalks as non-existing, in progress or complete. Staff also presented the annual survey developed during the Multimodal Plan process and requested feedback. Communities are encouraged to explore the tools and provide feedback online by January 8, 2021.

## IDOT Releases Guidance for Delinquent Bridge Inspections

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently released a circular letter that details guidance on the completion of delinquent bridge inspections. The letter explains the background on state compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) and the process for inspections. Procedures vary depending on the number of days delinquent from Inspection Interval Date, and the specific policies for each category are included. For more information, please refer to [IDOT Circular Letter 2020-19](#), or contact Mr. William Beisner, Bridge Management and Inspection Unit Chief, [DOT.BBS.BridgeMgmt@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.BBS.BridgeMgmt@illinois.gov).

## IDOT Issues Notice of Funding Opportunity for Truck Access Route Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2022 funding cycle of the [Truck Access Route Program \(TARP\)](#). IDOT has proposed that the program continue to be funded at the \$7 million level with funding available in July 2021. Eligible routes should terminate at a designated truck route or municipality and begin at either a truck generator or another designated truck route or municipality. TARP funding provides \$45,000 per lane mile and \$22,000 per eligible intersection, with a maximum of 50% of the project cost or \$900,000, whichever is lower. Applications are due to IDOT District offices by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 18. For more information and to access the application please see [IDOT's circular letter](#) or contact Mr. Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, [babilible.seck@illinois.gov](mailto:babilible.seck@illinois.gov).



Village of Buffalo Grove

## Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Releases EV Readiness Resources

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) recently released an EV Readiness Checklist and Decision Guide for Local Governments, available at no cost below.

- [EV Readiness Checklist](#)
- [EV Readiness Decision Guide for Local Governments](#)

The EV Readiness Checklist provides a list of actions communities can take to ensure they are prepared for the expected increase in electric vehicles in the future. The EV Readiness document was modeled off of the successful SolSmart program, which offered a checklist of actions and resources as a first step for municipalities to become solar ready.

Their second product is our EV Readiness Decision Guide for Local Governments. This guide assists municipalities in the planning and purchasing process as they decide which EVs or EV charging stations are right for their community's needs. This guide can help communities select EV charging station sites, consider parking issues, measure success, and more. For more information, please see the [Becoming EV Ready webpage](#) or contact Edith Makra, MMC Director of Environmental Initiatives, [emakra@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:emakra@mayorscaucus.org).

City of Des Plaines



## New Video from CMAP Highlights Freight Rail Challenges and Opportunities

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) created a short [video](#) to show the importance of issues at highway-rail at-grade crossings and to identify the strategies to address these challenges. The region's rail system helps make northeastern Illinois a premier freight hub in the country, moving 25% of the nation's freight trains, and \$1.3 trillion in goods, each year. But there are challenges where rails cross our highways, such as traffic backups, air pollution and safety issues. More information regarding On to 2050's freight recommendations are available on [CMAP's website](#).

## Metra Introduces Bike Car on Milwaukee District-North Line

On November 7, Metra debuted its first Bike Car, intended to provide more room for multimodal travelers who take their bicycles on the train. The Bike Car can carry 16 bicycles, as opposed to the current limit of 5 on Metra's accessible cars. A unique paint scheme was applied to the Bike Car to make it easily identifiable for riders.

The pilot program will run until the spring of 2021 and is intended to be extended to Sunday schedules once an additional car is completed. Please see Metra's website for a full [schedule](#). More information on the Bike Car pilot and Metra's bike policies in general are available in their [press release](#).



City of Lake Forest

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