

Transportation Newsletter

February 2021
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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Fox Lake



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, February 16, 10:30 a.m. — *NWMC
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee*

Thursday, February 25, 8:30 a.m. — *NWMC
Transportation Committee*

Transportation Committee Discusses RTA Mobility Outreach

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on Thursday, January 28 and received several updates from regional partners as well as a presentation from Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Mobility Outreach Coordinator Sarah Blair. She discussed programs and resources that increase transit accessibility for seniors and people with disabilities and how municipalities can partner with the RTA to inform residents about available resources and services. Staff also updated the committee on the progress of GIS tracking tools for sidewalks and bike facilities in the NWMC Multimodal Transportation Plan and asked members to share any data that they are willing to have incorporated into the maps.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meets IDOT Bike-Ped/ADA Policy Engineer

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on Tuesday, January 19 and was joined by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Bicycle & Pedestrian/ADA Policy Engineer Stephen Letsky. He introduced himself to the committee, explained his role with IDOT and took questions from members. The committee also discussed future meeting topics, progress on the Multimodal Transportation Plan and member updates on local projects within their communities.



City of Evanston

Cook County Opens Invest in Cook Call for Projects

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways is accepting funding applications for Invest in Cook projects through Friday, March 12. The Department has established a formal process that local and regional governments and private partners can use to apply for up to \$8.5 million in transportation funds to cover the cost of planning and feasibility studies, engineering and construction associated with improvements consistent with the county's long range transportation plan. More information, including a complete program description and application form, are available by visiting the Cook County [website](#).

Staff Seeks Member GIS Data for NWMC Multimodal Transportation Plan

As part of ongoing efforts to provide members with useful information in implementing the NWMC Multimodal Transportation Plan, staff requests that members share relevant GIS data showing sidewalk networks and bicycle facilities in your communities. This data will be added to tracking tools currently under development. Once finalized, these tools will be added to the plan's website for public viewing. For more information, please contact Kendra Johnson or Matt Pasquini.

EPA Opens Diesel Emissions Reductions Act Grant Applications

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) anticipates awarding approximately \$46 million in competitive grant funding under the [Diesel Emissions Reductions Act \(DERA\) National Grants Program](#). The program is soliciting applications nationwide for projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions and exposure, particularly from fleets operating in areas designated by the EPA as having poor air quality.

Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through [Grants.gov](#) no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on Tuesday, March 16 to be considered for funding.

The EPA has hosted a series of informational webinars about the program, the last of which is scheduled for Thursday, February 11 at 1:00 p.m. CT. Please visit the [EPA's website](#) for more information about the program and webinars.

IDOT Encourages Information Exchange Process for REBUILD Illinois Projects

To help track and facilitate local projects using REBUILD Illinois capital funding, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has created a form for local public agencies to submit for each intended project during the planning process. The form is [available online](#) and all requested data is for informational purposes only. IDOT has advised local public agencies to review their allotments of REBUILD Illinois bond funding, previous guidance issued for using the funding and the deadlines for eligibility for usage and implementation of the REBUILD Illinois program, all of which is available under the REBUILD Illinois Bond Funds tab on [IDOT's website](#). IDOT is asking local public agencies to complete the form for all intended projects by Tuesday, February 16. For more information, please see [Circular Letter 2021-04](#) or contact Chad Riddle, IDOT District 1 Local Roads and Streets Engineer, Charles.Riddle@illinois.gov.

Village of Buffalo Grove



IDOT Releases Further Guidance for Bridge Inspection Policies

Last week, IDOT released [Circular Letter 2021-02](#) to provide information to Local Public Agencies about the policy and procedure IDOT developed to revoke and/or reinstate Illinois National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) Program Manager (PM) and Team Leader (TL) certifications. The guidance provides examples of what constitutes sufficient reason for revocation of NBIS certification by the Statewide NBIS PM and what procedures will generally be followed prior to revocation. The letter also provides instructions for reinstatement of NBIS PM or TL certification, subject to approval by the Statewide NBIS PM and the Federal Highway Administration Illinois Division Bridge Engineer. For more information, please contact William Beisner, Bridge Management and Inspection Unit Chief, DOT.BBS.BridgeMgmt@illinois.gov.

CMAP Looks to Gather Info on Local Innovations

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has launched a survey “to inform a collaborative capacity-building program focused on helping make permanent the innovative, pandemic-inspired improvements that communities piloted in 2020.” CMAP would like to know about any new programs that communities implemented in 2020 so that they can explore how to help others in 2021, and “ultimately figure out how to keep the most positive and impactful changes that began as experiments in response to the pandemic.” To submit a response, please visit the [online survey](#).



City of Highland Park

IDOT Updates Engineering Agreement Forms and Consultant Compensation Formulas

On February 2, IDOT released [Circular Letter 2021-05](#). It summarizes a number of changes that have been implemented related to revisions of the Engineering Services Agreements and the compensation formulas for consultant services or Local Public Agencies (LPA). The policy that this Circular Letter affects will be further reflected in Chapter 5 of the BLRS Manual and will be issued as part of the planned forthcoming revisions of said Manual. For more information please contact Greg Lupton, Local Project Implementation Engineer, greg.lupton@illinois.gov.

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