

Transportation Newsletter

February 2023
Volume 15 Issue 2

Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: City of Prospect Heights



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Tuesday, February 21, 10:30 a.m.

NWMC Transportation Committee
Tuesday, February 23, 8:30 a.m.

CMAP Call for Projects Deadline
Friday, March 10, 5:00 p.m.

NWMC Publishes Guide to Transportation Programs and Funding

The Conference has created the [NWMC Guide to Transportation Programs and Funding](#), a one-stop source for information on federal, state, and local funding programs, application processes and commonly used terminology. The guide is designed to help members navigate the sometimes complicated processes and issues that are constantly evolving within the federal, state, and local transportation landscapes.

To find out more information about each program, simply click on the title of each page which links directly to the program's website. As this is a living document, please forward any revisions or additions to NWMC Program Manager for Transportation Kendra Johnson, kjohnson@nwmc-cog.org, or NWMC Program Associate for Transportation Eric Czarnota, eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org.

NWMC Committees Learn About Resources for ADA improvements

In January, both the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and Transportation Committee received information and resources from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) staff on their work to support communities in complying with Title II requirements and other resources available to guide American with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements. CMAP staff directed members to their [ADA webpage](#) which includes info on [free ADA Training](#) and additional resources such as the [Accessible Communities Newsletter](#) that provides updates on accessibility planning and funding opportunities. In addition, NWMC staff provided a summary of proposed changes to regional Active Program Management policies that may affect projects with federal funding.

CMAP Opens CMAQ/CRP, STP Shared, and TAP-L Call

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has opened the call for projects to be funded in FFYs 2024 – 2028 using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), Surface Transportation Program (STP) Shared Fund, and Local Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L) funding.

Information, including past webinar recordings, and other application materials are available at cmap.is/2023callforprojects. Applications must be submitted through [CMAP's eTIP database](#) through Friday, March 10.



City of Evanston

IDOT Announces Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Funding Allotments

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently released a [circular letter](#) with the fiscal year 2024 federal funding allotments for Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STR), Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STU), Local Bridge Program (formerly STP-Br), and State Matching Assistance (SMA).

A total of \$213,302,679 in STU funds has been allotted to District 1 for Northern Illinois. The Local Bridge Formula Program will allot \$58,933,567 for all counties and for the most part, will maintain the exact same rules and guidelines as STP-Bridge. The formula for distributing \$6,720,000 in SMA is based on 69 percent federal funding and 31 percent local match. For questions regarding the federal funding allotments or the State Matching Assistance Program, please contact staff or the IDOT District Bureau of Local Roads and Streets office.

Applications Open for Invest in Cook 2023 Grant Program

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways has announced that applications are being accepted for the Invest in Cook 2023 grant program. This program seeks projects consistent with the five priorities of [Connecting Cook County](#), as well as the recommendations of more specialized county transportation plans. Eligible applicants include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies as well as any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for transportation or recreational trails within Cook County. Applications can include proposals for transit, bicycle, pedestrian, freight, roadway modes of transportation, bridge improvement projects and other transportation improvements.

For more information please visit the [Invest in Cook website](#). The call for applications ends on Friday, March 17.

Apply for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

The [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#) (EECBG) is designed to assist states and local governments in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions and improve energy efficiency. \$550 million is available through the program for eligible state and local governments. Local governments can apply through January 2024 and entities that are ineligible for formula grant funding may participate in a competitive grant program.

Funding Available for Traffic Safety Programs

The Illinois Department of Transportation is seeking grant applications for projects to reduce serious injuries and fatalities on roadways. Six safety [funding opportunities](#) are now available:

- [Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program \(STEP\)](#)
- [Non-Enforcement Program](#)
- [Pedestrian and Bicycle Program](#)
- [Racial Profiling Program](#)
- [Traffic Records Program](#)
- [Motorcycle Awareness Program](#)

Please see each opportunity page for details, including example projects. Eligible applicants include municipalities, local government agencies, nonprofits, schools, and other organizations. All applications are due Friday, February 17, at 4:00 p.m.

Metra Unveils New Train-Tracking Website

In January, Metra began the rollout of [metratracker.com](#), a new, real-time train-tracking website that lets customers see precise train locations and station arrival times. The website has three main features: [Station Times](#) which allows customers to check for departure times from selected stations; a [Real-Time Map](#) showing train locations; and, a [Trip Planner](#) for customers to use Metra and other modes of travel between selected addresses or locations. For more information regarding this new service, please visit the [Metra Website](#).

Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation Offering Free Membership for Survey Respondents

Each year, the Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT, formerly Chicago Area Clean Cities) collects alternative fuel fleet data from stakeholders and produces a coalition report to highlight their work taking place in the Chicago area. IACT is once again offering a free membership for 2023 to those who complete the [annual fleet survey](#).

The survey is intended for any stakeholder with alternative fuel vehicles, advanced technology vehicles, alternative fueling stations, idle reduction technologies or policies to reduce vehicle miles traveled (such as carpooling, public transit or telecommuting programs). Interested participants should complete the Excel survey form and email it to info@il-act.org by Tuesday, February 14 to receive a free 2023 membership for one representative at participating organizations. For more information, please visit the [IACT's website](#) or [contact info@il-act.org](mailto:info@il-act.org).

Small Grants Available to Increase Access to Natural Spaces

Nature, Culture, and Human Health (NC2H) is offering small seed-planning grants to support community-engaged, collaborative planning projects that increase access to natural spaces and community health. These \$2,000-\$5,000 grants should align with all three prongs of NCH2's [Triple Aim](#). More information is available in the [request for proposals](#). Applications are due Tuesday, February 21.



Village of Lincolnwood

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