

Transportation Newsletter

January 2021
Volume 13 Issue 1

Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Fox Lake



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Friday, January 8 — **STP-SF & CMAQ/TAP-L
Call for Projects Opens**

Friday, January 15, 10:00 a.m. — CMAP
Webinar - How to Submit STP/CMAQ/TAP-L
Applications via eTIP

Tuesday, January 19, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Thursday, January 21, 8:30 a.m. — North
Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee

Friday, January 22, 8:30 a.m. — Northwest
Council of Mayors Technical Committee

Thursday, January 28, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC
Transportation Committee

Transportation Committee Discusses Legislative Programs, GIS Tools

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on December 5 to discuss legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Staff presented proposed language for the NWMC state and federal legislative programs to address capital investments in infrastructure and multimodal transportation, and members provided feedback. The Committee also 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 updates from regional agency partners.

CMAP Opens 2021 Call for Projects for STP-SF/CMAQ/TAP-L

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is accepting funding applications for surface transportation projects from now through March 5. CMAP programs funding for these projects through three federal sources, including: The regional Surface Transportation Program (STP) Shared Fund, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), and the locally programmed Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L). CMAP is hosting a webinar on Friday, January 15 at 10:00 a.m. on how to submit an application via the eTIP website. Materials for the upcoming application process, including eligible project types and webinar registration info, are available on [CMAP's website](#).

Metra Announces Weekday Schedule Changes

Metra recently announced changes to the weekday schedules on the [Milwaukee District North](#), [Milwaukee District West](#), and [North Central Service](#) lines beginning Monday, January 11. The updated schedules are intended to improve travel options and train operations across the Metra system. Customers are advised to review the entire schedule for their line as departure times and stopping patterns may have been adjusted throughout. Metra will continue to reevaluate its schedules during the COVID-19 pandemic and make changes as warranted to enable social distancing and address current travel patterns. The changes are outlined in their latest [press release](#).

RTA Approves 2021 Budget; 2021-2025 Capital Program

On December 17, the Board of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) adopted the 2021 regional transit budget and five-year capital program, which relied in part on the passage of federal COVID relief. The 2021 operations budget is \$3.02 billion, a 5% reduction of \$157.4 million compared to the pre-COVID plan. The 2021-2025 capital program of \$6.351 billion dollars is 23.5%, or nearly \$2 billion less, than the previous five-year program. The 2021 portion of that five-year program is \$1.492 billion. Additional details on how the budget was created are available in the latest [press release](#) on RTA's website.



Village of Prospect Heights

Illinois Tollway Approves Budget, Extends Toll Violation Relief Program

The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors recently approved a balanced budget consisting of over \$1.4 billion in revenues supporting a \$1.5 billion capital program. The capital budget includes funding for the 10th year of the Tollway's 15-year capital spending program, Move Illinois. These capital improvements will include work on key projects within the NWMC service area including new interchanges connecting I-490 to the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway, Tri-State Tollway and Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

The Board also approved an extension of their existing toll violation relief program to June 30, 2021, allowing drivers an additional six months to clear their toll violation fines at a reduced rate of only \$3 per toll. The relief program is part of the Tollway's TOLLING 2020 reform package launched in June. For more information on the 2021 budget or the violation relief program, please visit the [Illinois Tollway website](#).

Village of Northfield



IDOT Circular Letter Outlines Policy for Completing Delinquent NBIS Inspections Due to Hardship

On January 6, the Illinois Department of Transportation released Circular Letter 2021-01 to provide information to Local Public Agencies about the policy and procedure IDOT developed to complete delinquent bridge inspections due to hardship. In general, the policy and procedure developed by the Department is to provide limited, short-term assistance to entities with legitimate, and properly documented, hardship. For more information, please see the full [circular letter](#), or contact Mr. William Beisner, Bridge Management and Inspection Unit Chief, DOT.BBS.BridgeMgmt@illinois.gov.

Active Transportation Alliance Requesting Feedback on ITEP Webinars

The Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) is seeking feedback on their webinar series held in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) call for projects for their Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) which was held this past fall. ATA hosted webinars and posted resources on their website in order to encourage municipalities and other organizations to submit successful applications to the program, which had an influx of funding due to the most recent state capital bill. To submit feedback on ATA's resources, as well as the application process in general, please complete the [online survey](#).



Village of Bartlett

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