

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Mount Prospect

Northwest and North Shore Council of Mayors STP-L CFP Applications Close

The Surface Transportation Program – Local (STP-L) Call for Projects (CFP) for the Northwest and North Shore Council of Mayors recently closed. Projects submitted during this CFP will be eligible for funding during Federal Fiscal Years 2025-2029. Both Councils received a wide variety of project applications, with the North Shore Council receiving 12 applications from 6 different communities, and the Northwest Council receiving 30 applications from 14 different communities. Proposed draft programs, including the highest-scoring new projects, will be presented for consideration at the upcoming council Technical Committee meetings. The North Shore meeting will be on January 18 and the Northwest meeting will be on January 19. Once the Technical Committees have approved the proposed programs, a 30-day public comment period will open.



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee:
Tuesday, January 9, 10:30 a.m. - *Virtual*

North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee: Thursday January 18, 8:30 a.m.
- *Skokie Village Hall*

Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee: Friday, January 19, 8:30 a.m. -
Barrington Village Hall

NWMC Transportation Committee:
Thursday, January 25, 8:30 a.m. - *NWMC Offices and Virtually*

NWMC Members Among First EV Ready Communities

Congratulations to *Deer Park*, *Glencoe*, *Hanover Park*, and *Skokie* for being in the [first class of communities to complete the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and ComEd EV Readiness Program](#). The EV Readiness Program was launched in 2022 to meet the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act goal of one million EVs on the road by 2030. According to Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Director of Environmental Initiatives Edith Makra, the program “has worked to guide local governments to take essential steps to assure local codes, policies, plans, and programs support the growth of an EV charging infrastructure and EV adoption. These municipalities have been working for a year in the areas of Zoning and Planning, Permitting and Inspection, Safety and Training, Community Engagement, and more.”



Village of Skokie

It's Here! The New MUTCD is Here!

For the first time in fourteen years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released new road design standards by updating the [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways \(MUTCD\)](#). The 11th edition of the MUTCD will enhance safety for people walking, biking and driving through a variety of factors including: improved speed limit setting standards; new bike-oriented infrastructure; and, standardized intersection crossing improvements to make conditions safer for people with disabilities.

FHWA Administrator Shailen Bhatt said the changes reflect a shift in thinking: “Going back to the 1950s and 60s, we were very focused on how we move more cars and trucks,” he said. “Now, what we have awakened to in the 21st century is: How do we move the people? “It’s not just about moving people and cars and trucks. It’s about moving people in buses, walking and cycling.”

The changes are designed to address [the public health crisis of increasing roadway deaths](#), taking a “safe systems” approach to prevent traffic crashes. Northeastern Illinois is seeing statewide and regional agencies coalesce around this goal as well. From the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) promoting the Safe Systems Approach in its recent [Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment](#) (see article on pg. 3) to [CMAP’s Safe Travel for All Roadmap \(STAR\) program](#), research, policies and procedures are under development to ensure the MUTCD updates can be rapidly implemented. Read more about the MUTCD update from [Route Fifty](#).

IDOT Publishes Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment

IDOT has released its [Vulnerable Road Users Safety Assessment](#), the result of months of community outreach, surveys and collaboration with federal, state, county, regional and municipal agencies. As part of a key step in the [Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Plan](#), the assessment identifies strategies and programs to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries of vulnerable road users.

With the number of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities up in the last 5 years, including 18-year highs in 2021 and 2022, the assessment identifies high-injury network location and roadway characteristics, community knowledge of the Safe Systems Approach, IDOT bicycle and pedestrian safety plans, programs and projects as well as infrastructure strategies communities can implement to address these challenges.

IDOT Announces Grade Crossing Safety Program NOFOs

IDOT recently released a [Circular Letter](#) announcing two notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) related to rail-highway safety.

IDOT is accepting Local Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program (section 130 funds) applications for state Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026. Simultaneously, but separately, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is accepting applications for the FY 2025 - 2029 Crossing Safety Improvement Program (CSIP) funded through the Grade Crossing Protection Funds (GCPF). The scope and coverage of these programs are very similar, but please note that each is different in their submission requirements. The following scope of work is eligible for both programs: warning device upgrades; grade separations (new and reconstructed); grade separations (vertical clearance improvements); pedestrian grade separations; interconnects; highway approaches; connecting roads; remote monitoring devices; and, crossing closures.

The deadline for the ICC CSIP 5-year plan program is today, Friday, January 5 and the program contact is Aaron Toliver, Aaron.Toliver@illinois.gov.

The deadline for the IDOT Section 130 Program is Friday, February 2, 2024 and the program contact is William Pearsall, William.Pearsall@illinois.gov.

For more information on each program, please reference the [Circular Letter](#) or for additional questions, please contact the Rail Safety Projects Unit, 217-782-3568 or DOT.LRSRail@illinois.gov.



City of Highland Park

FHWA has updated its Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table

The FHWA [Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table](#) has been updated to include new funding sources implemented since the 2022 update. Newly added programs include [Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program](#), [SMART Programs](#), and [Neighborhood Access and Equity Program](#) eligibility under [Reconnecting Communities](#). Electric bicycle and scooter charging, education programs and technical assistance activities have also been added to the list. Please contact NWMC staff to learn more about these programs.

Metra Unveils “Bike Car 1.5”

Metra unveiled its new “Bike Car 1.5” at Ogilvie Transportation Center on December 20, showcasing the results of feedback from the agency’s Community Bike Working Group. Reworking areas on Metra’s existing gallery cars, the agency developed a bike storage option that can accept a variety of different bicycle sizes and types while not competing with train riders who use the existing accessible seating. The new bike racks can hold up to three bikes, with a variety of options for cyclists to lock up their bike. Metra was able to develop the proposed design using solely in-house manufacturing, allowing the agency to obtain needed materials quickly and roll out the cars during the existing rehabilitation process, resulting in eight Bike Car 1.5 being already built. Read more about the Bike Car 1.5 at [Chicago Streetsblog](#).



Photos by NWMC Staff

IDOT Releases Innovative Transportation Project NOFO for ATTAIN

IDOT recently released a [Circular Letter](#) introducing a Federal Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for grant programs aimed at supporting transportation infrastructure through innovation.

The [Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation \(ATTAIN\)](#) Program, formerly known as the Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovation Mobility Deployment Program (ATTIMD), provides grants to deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies, aiming to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment. Additional information, and a list of frequently asked questions, can be found in the NOFO package on [Grants.gov](#). Interested applicants are encouraged to email ATTAIN@dot.gov with their name, state of the project, approximate total project cost, amount of the ATTAIN grant request, and a brief project description.

The ATTAIN application should be submitted through [Grants.gov](#) and is due Friday, February 2. For further details, please refer to the Circular Letter. To request letters of support from IDOT, contact Tim McMahon, Bureau Chief of Federal Affairs, Timothy.McMahon@illinois.gov, at least two weeks before the program's application deadline.

Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Patch: [Paved Paradise: Skokie's Sculpture Park Path Smoother Than Ever](#)

Transport Topics: [FHWA Says Highway Construction Costs Continue to Soar](#)

Route 50: [\\$1.5 billion now available in federal transportation grants](#)

Daily Herald: [Are electric vehicle owners paying enough for Illinois roads?](#)

New York Times: [Why are so many pedestrians dying at night?](#)

NBC5 Chicago: Illinois' New Laws: [Transit bill includes reduced fares, requires zero-emission buses](#)

Daily Herald: [Train horns will again be silenced in Lake County Quiet Zone](#)

Route 50: [Plans to install EV charging stations are about to run into an ugly wall of permitting and utility delays](#)

Patch.com: [Bicycles Still Not 'Intended' On Roads, Illinois Supreme Court Finds](#)

Yale: [In a win for the climate, urban speed limits are dropping](#)

WREX: [IDOT to create an app for traffic updates in 2024](#)

Daily Herald: [Mount Prospect seeking input on traffic calming project](#)

Illinois Answers: [Evanston's Streets Have Become Safer for Cyclists. What's the Suburb Doing Right?](#)

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