



# Transportation Newsletter

July 2023  
Volume 15 Issue 7

Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: Village of Grayslake



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee  
Friday, July 21, 8:30 a.m. *Barrington Village Hall*

North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee  
Thursday, July 27, 8:30 a.m. *Skokie Village Hall*

## NWMC Bike/Ped Committee Takes to the Trails!

Members and friends of the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee enjoyed great weather on June 20th while riding the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve mountain bike and paved trails in *Hoffman Estates*. Years of volunteer work by the [Chicago Area Mountain Bikers \(CAMBr\)](#) has added twenty-two miles of off-road trails in the forest preserve designed for all abilities of bike riders. The trails will be featured as part of the [Chicagoland Race Series](#) on Sunday, August 20.

Members of the committee enjoyed both trails before retiring to [Bell Works](#) for lunch and a discussion with [Daily Herald Columnist Ralph Banasiak](#) and [Crank Revolution](#) staff on the history of the off-road trails. *Hoffman Estates Director of Planning and Transportation Jennifer Horn* and *Transportation and Long-Range Planner Phil Green* also discussed the creation and future of both the trails and the Bell Works property. Thank you to Hoffman Estates, Crank Revolution, and Bell Works for their hospitality and for everyone who participated in a fun field trip!



## IDOT Vulnerable Road User Public Engagement

If you were unable to attend IDOT's Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Assessment Public Engagement sessions, or would like to rewatch any of the meetings, please visit the links below for each of the sessions' recordings:

- [Urbanized Areas VRU Safety Assessment Public Engagement Recording](#)
- [Non-Urbanized Areas VRU Safety Assessment Public Engagement Recording](#)
- [Cook County VRU Safety Assessment Public Engagement Recording](#)
- [Collar Counties VRU Safety Assessment Public Engagement Recording](#)

Please note that the slide deck will be posted in the [VRU website](#).

## CMAP Developing Plan of Action for Regional Transit

As directed by Public Act 102-1028, CMAP is developing the [Plan of Action for Regional Transit \(PART\) report](#), which will be a set of legislative recommendations to strengthen the regional transit system. This report must be approved by CMAP's Board and MPO Policy Committee before it is submitted to the General Assembly and Governor by January 1, 2024. The recommendations will discuss topics including: improving transit through enhanced bus service; enabling fare integration and other measures; identifying sustainable revenues for the system through changes to the sales tax and other mechanisms; and, exploring governance reforms needed to enact the desired changes.

The PART report will also leverage findings and input from the RTA and its [Transit is the Answer](#) strategic plan, as well as CMAP's [Mobility Recovery](#) project. CMAP is also required to assemble a steering committee comprised of business, civic, labor, and environmental stakeholders who will help guide development of the recommendations. The PART steering committee has held three meetings, with the next convening on Wednesday, **July 19 at 8:30 a.m.** To receive a briefing on the PART report, please contact CMAP Principal for Communications and Outreach Jane Grover, [jgrover@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:jgrover@cmapp.illinois.gov) or 312-386-8802.



## IDOT Finalizes 2022 Statewide Crash Data

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) released a [circular letter](#) reporting that the Bureau of Data Collection has finalized the 2022 crash data. This critical information provides important crash data required for the identification of areas requiring improvement, work on safety studies and the analysis on the location and number of crashes, as well as many other facets. This information can be accessed by logging into [IDOT's Safety Portal](#).

Prior to establishing a new account and being granted access, please work with your specific County Engineer to be approved for an account and granted access. If additional crash data is required, IDOT can provide the data upon request by contacting the Bureau of Data Collection, [DOT.DTS.DataRequests@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.DTS.DataRequests@illinois.gov). For questions or additional information, please contact either Mark Blankenship, 217-785-3056 or [Mark.Blankenship@illinois.gov](mailto:Mark.Blankenship@illinois.gov); or Aaron Rath, 217-557-6080 or [Aaron.Rath@illinois.gov](mailto:Aaron.Rath@illinois.gov).

## Participate in the “I Can Bike There” Campaign

[Ride Illinois](#), [Working Bikes](#) and [Pointz](#) have collaborated on a campaign entitled “I Can Bike There.” The campaign aims to educate and encourage the use of bikes for everyday trips and explore new routes, while celebrating those who already use bicycles as a practical, sustainable mode of transportation. Illinois residents are encouraged to submit photos and stories about their everyday trips by bike to [Ride Illinois - I Can Bike There](#). Your experiences will offer encouragement to others to travel to common destinations via bicycle.

## Deadline Approaching for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. Funding is available to develop or update safety action plans, conduct planning and development activities in support of a plan, or carry out projects and strategies identified in a plan. Applications are now open and are due electronically by **Monday, July 10**. For more information, please review the [SS4A NOFO](#).

## The Illinois Tollway Creates I-PASS Assist for Low-Income Households

I-PASS Assist offers eligible drivers all the benefits of I-PASS, including the standard 50 percent discount on tolls, as well as additional benefits, including waiving the transponder deposit fee and allowing drivers to open an account with as little as \$4 in prepaid tolls. In addition, participants may have fees accrued from unpaid tolls dismissed—and avoid future fees for missed tolls.

Working through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Revenue and the Illinois Department of Human services, the Tollway is able to verify the eligibility of households for I-PASS Assist using a secure web form that requires minimal information to determine if household incomes fall below the required threshold, which is based on 250 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines or if households are currently participating in SNAP or TANF.

Please visit <https://www.illinoistollway.com/assist> to access the application.

## Safe Routes to School Webinar Series Announced

The Active Transportation Alliance, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois Public Health Institute, is hosting a webinar series on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program grant process. This three-part webinar series is designed to help communities and schools apply for funding and will be held as follows:

[Webinar 1 – Grant Guidelines & Overview](#)

Wednesday, July 12, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

[Webinar 2 – Q&A with IDOT Staff](#)

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

[Webinar 3 – Q&A with IDOT Staff](#)

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

For additional information, please visit <https://activetrans.org/resources/education/safe-routes-to-school>.



Village of Lincolnwood

## Upcoming Transportation Webinars

**Thursday, July 13, at 1:30 p.m.**

### *Shared Micromobility Programs and Projects*

The [Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center](#) will host a webinar to provide background information and guidance on Federal legislation, policies, and reference materials related to bicycle, pedestrian, and shared micromobility programs and projects. Please use [this link to register for the event](#).

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that was enacted expanded funding opportunities, promoted Complete Streets policies and modified eligibility related to bicycling and walking. This guidance describes the range of opportunities to improve conditions for bicycling, walking, and shared micromobility, consistent with the Department of Transportation's goals for a safe, accessible, comfortable, equitable and integrated multimodal transportation network infrastructure that serves all ages and abilities.

**Wednesday, July 26, at 1:00 p.m.**

### *Sidewalk Inventories: A Tool for Equity and ADA Compliance*

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center and America Walks will host this webinar on sidewalk inventories. Practitioners from across the country will discuss the benefits of creating a detailed community sidewalk inventory and its use in community decision-making. Panelists “will introduce sidewalk inventories and their importance, compare tools for conducting inventories, and share case studies from communities that have done this work” and participate in a facilitated discussion to answer questions from attendees. [Register here](#).

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