

# Transportation Newsletter

July 2024  
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Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: Village of Mount Prospect



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

**NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Field Trip:**  
Tuesday, July 9, 10:00 a.m. — *Meet at the Glenview Park District Park Center*

**North Shore Technical Committee Meeting:**  
Thursday, July 18, 8:30 a.m. — *Held at Skokie Village Hall*

**Northwest Technical Committee Meeting:**  
Friday, July 19, 8:30 a.m. — *Held at Barrington Village Hall*

## Saddle Up for the NWMC Bike-Ped Committee's Annual Field Trip

On Tuesday, July 9, the NWMC Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee will host its annual community field trip in *Glenview*, visiting recent bike and pedestrian improvements at sites around The Glen. Come out for a guided bike tour through new facilities along Shermer Road and at Chestnut Avenue to learn what was involved in their creation and financing.

The group will meet at 9:30 a.m. outside the Glenview Park District Park Center building, 2400 Chestnut Avenue, for an easy-paced 4 mile ride. A discussion with Glenview and NWMC staff will take place after the ride at the Park District's Schram Memorial Chapel, 1799 Patriot Boulevard. Lunch will be provided. [Register here for the event](#). If you have any questions, please contact Eric Czarnota, [eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org) or Brian Larson, [blarson@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:blarson@nwmc-cog.org).

## CMAP Releases Regional Transportation Priority Investment Project List

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has released the [Northeastern Illinois Priority Investments](#) list, highlighting the region's highest-priority transportation projects for 2024. This blueprint is the result of collaboration between CMAP, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra, Pace, the region's seven counties and the CREATE Program partners.

These projects will be funded with support from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). NWMC member area projects include the IDOT Regionwide Arterial Traffic Management Center in *Schaumburg* and members with Metra stations serving Chicago Union Station (*Antioch, Bartlett, Buffalo Grove, Deerfield, Fox Lake, Glenview, Grayslake, Hanover Park, Lake Forest, Libertyville, Morton Grove, Mundelein, Northbrook, Prospect Heights, Schaumburg, Vernon Hills, Wheeling*) will see improvements with the Chicago Hub Improvement Program.



Village of Kenilworth

## Senate Transportation Committee to Host Hearings on the State of Public Transit

[State Senator Ram Villivalam announced the Senate Transportation Committee will host a number of hearings](#) throughout the coming months to discuss the state of public transit, ranging from its impact on our economic and public health systems to the service improvements needed to better serve our communities. The hearings are as follows:

### **Subject: Transit supports the economy**

*Tuesday, July 9 at 10 a.m.* - Bilandic Building, 160 North La Salle St., Chicago IL, 60601

### **Subject: Transit must be accessible and equitable**

*Wednesday, July 24 at 10 a.m.* - South Suburbs of Cook County

### **Subject: Transit support community quality of life**

*Thursday, Aug. 8 at 10 a.m.* – Counties of DuPage, Will, and Kendall

### **Subject: Transit is crucial for public health**

*Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 10 a.m.* - Kane County and McHenry County

### **Subject: Transit mitigates climate impact**

*Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m.* - Northwest Suburbs of Cook County and Lake County

### **Subject: Funding transit is a statewide priority**

*Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 10 a.m.* – Springfield

Exact locations for most of the hearings are to be determined and additional hearings or adjustments to the schedule may arise.



## FHWA Extends ATIIP Grant Deadline

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced it is extending the deadline for applications for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP). ATIIP grants allow communities to identify, prioritize and implement improvements to the largest barriers to safe, accessible and equitable pedestrian and bicycle network connectivity through the development of infrastructure that will provide substantial additional opportunities for walking and bicycling.

Communities can use ATIIP grants to create plans, implement an active transportation connection between communities, or connect active transportation facilities with transit services. Awards will range from \$100,000 up to \$15,000,000, with applications now due Wednesday, July 17. For more information about ATIIP grants, see the [NOFO](#), and view recordings of webinars held this spring on the [FHWA ATIIP information page](#).

## NWMC Members Receive CMAP Technical Assistance Awards

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) recently announced recipients of the 2024 Project Awards for Technical Assistance. Congratulations to *Bannockburn* and *Fox Lake* for their Pavement Management Plans, *Libertyville* for its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, and *Skokie* for its Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

These grants will assist local communities with ADA compliance, transportation safety, and long-term planning needs. Visit the [CMAP website](#) to read more about the program and see the full list of recipients.

## State Opens Funding for Downtown and Economic Recovery Grants

As a reminder, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) recently announced \$20 million in funding under the Rebuild Downtowns & Main Streets (RDMS) program and \$10 million in funding for Research in Illinois to Spur Economic Recovery (RISE) Implementation Grants. RDMS funds support construction, repair, and modernization of infrastructure in downtown or commercial center areas of economic disinvestment. These projects can include roads, parking, public space enhancements, park investments, sustainability upgrades, structural repairs and mixed-use or transit-oriented development. RISE funds support water and sewer infrastructure, affordable housing, local workforce development, broadband, site preparation and other programs. Awards will range from \$250,000 to \$2,000,000 with a local government 25% match required. Applications are due by Monday, July 22. Interested parties can contact [CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.GrantHelp@illinois.gov). To learn more, please visit the [NOFO on the DCEO website](#).



Village of Fox Lake

## USDOT Now Accepting Applications for SMART Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is now accepting grant applications for Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping projects for FY2024. Transportation projects that use advanced data, technology, and applications to improve safety and reliability, resiliency, equity and access, climate impacts, public-private partnerships and system integration are eligible for these funds. Specifically, USDOT is looking for innovative projects in Coordinated Automation, Connected Vehicles, Intelligent, Sensor-Based Infrastructure, Systems Integration, Commerce Delivery and Logistics, Leveraging Use of Innovative Aviation Technology, Smart Grid and Smart Technology Traffic Signals. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 12. To learn more, read the [press release](#) or the [NOFO](#).

## USDOT to Host Local Public Engagement Workshop

USDOT has organized three in-person public involvement workshops this summer, with one held in Chicago and virtually on Tuesday, July 30 from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Transportation practitioners, community leaders and members of the public can engage with the USDOT on how to deliver meaningful public engagement, better understand the transportation decision-making process, promote equity and civil rights in projects and ensure that stakeholder input is heard. Plenary sessions on equitable transportation decisions, breakout sessions, and small-group activities will also be offered.

To learn more and register for the workshop, visit the [US DOT workshop website](#). Individuals interested in the virtual session should complete the [virtual workshop notification page](#) to receive registration details.



Village of Schaumburg

## CMAP Releases Speed Management Report

CMAP recently issued the [Speed Management report](#) which explores factors that contribute to speed-related traffic safety risks and provides recommendations on road design, speed limit policy, education, and equitable enforcement. The report proposes that the region adopt the [Safe System Approach](#) to achieve [travel safety goals outlined in ON TO 2050](#), the region's comprehensive plan.

The report also informs the region's safety action planning work by recommending roadway design and capacity guidance to reduce speeding and exposure to safety risks, reducing speed limits in urbanized areas where people walk, bike, and use transit, and supporting safe driving behavior with education and equitable enforcement. Read more about the work that led up to the Speed Management report on [CMAP's traffic safety page](#). An [executive summary](#) of the report is also available.

## Learn How to Set Appropriate Speed Limits for All Road Users

FHWA has released a [video](#) on strategies and resources communities can use to set speed limits that are safe for all road users. Panelists included representatives from transportation agencies in Minnesota, Washington, and Oregon. Safer speeds are a core concept of the [US DOT Safe Systems Approach](#). To access the webinar, use passcode **KfB6Q.2**.

## FHWA Opens Round Two of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program

FHWA recently opened \$1.3 billion in funding through Round 2 of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant program. Community grants, focused on eliminating gaps in public EV charging infrastructure, will range from \$500,000 to \$15 million, with projects serving low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, communities with low ratio of private parking spaces to households, or high ratio of multiunit dwellings to single family homes will receive prioritization. Corridor grants, with a focus on EV and alternative fueling infrastructure along designated corridors, will range from \$1 million with no maximum limit. Projects must demonstrate benefits to Justice40 communities and accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities. To learn more, visit the [Grants.gov grant page](#) or read the [NOFO](#). Applications are due Wednesday, August 28.

## Learn How to Identify and Create Winning US DOT Grant Applications

The US Department of Transportation (US DOT) is offering a two-part webinar series to assist local communities in creating effective grant applications. Participants will learn how to use data to identify projects and goals, relevant users, and how to evaluate benefits to the community. Part 1 will be held July 22 and Part 2 on August 15. To learn more and register for both or either webinar, visit the [US DOT Using Data to Effectively Tell Your Community's Story page here](#).



## Considering ITEP Funding? Attend a Webinar this Summer

With the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) application period opening from August through September, Active Transportation Alliance and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are partnering to host a webinar series to help you prepare for the upcoming funding opportunity. These grants will provide \$140 million in state and federal funding for walking, biking and trail projects throughout the state. Webinars include:

### **Webinar 1: ITEP basics, eligibility criteria, what's new, and best practices**

Wednesday, July 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8qj6TRZQZaJAKncYZS5Ow](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8qj6TRZQZaJAKncYZS5Ow)

### **Webinar 2: Scoring, application walk through, Q&A with IDOT staff**

Wednesday, August 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bSo7mvq2R8y5rpGQgS-K0w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bSo7mvq2R8y5rpGQgS-K0w)

### **Webinar 3: Q&A with IDOT staff**

Wednesday, September 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rTzit2wSS4i7HfiWaWzvpA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rTzit2wSS4i7HfiWaWzvpA)

## Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

*Evanston Now:* [City hopes to make Evanston safer to get around](#)

*Route Fifty:* [Midwest states launch new rail service, 12 years in the making](#)

*Chicago Tribune:* [CTA, Metra and Pace could launch joint day pass](#)

*Momentum Mag:* [Here are 8 ways building bike lanes benefit more than just bicyclists](#)

*Governing:* [What Agencies Should Know About the New Accessibility Rule](#)

*Regional Transportation Authority:* [Four months into the Access Pilot Program, over 3,000 Metra riders experiencing low incomes enrolled for more affordable fares](#)

*Daily Herald:* [With money to plan greenway, what's next for defunct Route 53 extension - and should IDOT get paid?](#)

*Mass Transit:* [RTA of Northern Illinois Board of Directors votes in favor of integrated day pass for unlimited rides on CTA, Metra and Pace](#)

*Chicago Tribune:* [North suburban commuter service to close, a sign of changing corporate office landscape](#)

*Streetsblog Chicago:* [At Transport Chicago, experts discussed creative ideas to save the region's transit system from looming fiscal cliff](#)

*State-Journal Register:* [Illinois gas tax is set to increase on July 1. Here's what to know](#)

*Railfan Railroad Magazine:* [Work to Transfer UP Commuter Ops to Metra Continues](#)

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