

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Skokie, NWMC Staff Photo



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee: Please Note Rescheduled Date and Time: Thursday, July 10, 10:00 a.m. — Village of *Skokie*

Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee: Friday, July 25, 8:30 a.m. — Village of *Barrington*

NWMC Soliciting Improvement Feedback for the Bicycle-Pedestrian and Transportation Committees

To improve NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and Transportation Committee discussions and topics for next year, as well as identify how to increase engagement and participation, the NWMC has developed the surveys below. Municipalities, consultants, and non-attendees are all encouraged to complete the surveys. The surveys will take approximately five minutes to complete and will remain open until Tuesday, July 22. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

[Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee survey](#)

[Transportation Committee survey](#)



Rand Road Sidepath
NWMC Staff Photo

Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee Tours Rand Road Sidepath

On June 10, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee hosted its annual field trip to tour the Rand Road Sidepath in Des Plaines and Mount Prospect. Committee members and guests rode an easy 8.2 miles along the recently completed route and learned about each community's efforts to complete this regional path. Following the ride, attendees enjoyed lunch while Mount Prospect Project Engineer Luke Foresman shared expansion plans to connect the sidepath to other regional paths including the Des Plaines River Trail and major destinations like Randhurst Village. Mr. Foresman also discussed Mount Prospect's recently adopted Arterial Bike Network Study and Business Center Drive redesign. Many thanks to Mount Prospect for hosting the presentation!

RTA Seeks Public Comment on Section 5310 Program

From our partners at RTA:

The [Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program](#) is a federal program that aims to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options. The 2025 Call for Projects closed at the end of May and 16 projects, totaling approximately \$16.5 million in federal funding, are proposed. Feedback on these proposals can be submitted on the RTA website through July 30. Following the public comment period, staff will present the Program of Projects to the RTA Board of Directors for approval.



Village of Morton Grove

Morton Grove Taps RTA Local Technical Assistance Program for its Dempster Corridor Plan

Morton Grove hosted its Dempster Corridor Plan kickoff public workshop on Wednesday. Village staff produced the event with support from the [Regional Transportation Authority \(RTA\)'s 2024 Local Technical Assistance program](#), seeking to establish a new vision for the corridor and encourage reinvestment and existing and new businesses, a variety of housing, and improve access to transit services along the corridor. NWMC staff attended the event and were impressed by *Morton Grove* residents' engagement.

NWMC Members Receive CMAP/RTA Local Technical Assistance Awards

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) recently announced project awards from the 2025 Local Technical Assistance program, which helps "local governments build capacity and plan for their communities." Congratulations to *Bartlett, Hanover Park, Kenilworth and Rolling Meadows* for receiving assistance with capital improvement plans, implementation of the ON TO 2050 principles and pavement management plans. [Read the full list of awardees here.](#)



PBIC Invites Cost Data Contributions for New Active Transportation Resource

From the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC):

PBIC is developing a national database of infrastructure and countermeasure costs to support walking, bicycling, and micromobility. This resource will help transportation professionals more accurately estimate project costs and plan for Complete Streets projects. PBIC invites agencies and partners to contribute cost data from their own projects to help build a robust, widely used database tool to use for planning, scoping, and cost estimation. Contributions should focus on start-up or installation costs and can be submitted through an [online form](#) or by emailing pbic@pedbikeinfo.org.

Cook County Seeks Feedback on O'Hare Area Bike Network Study

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH) is currently conducting a [public survey](#) on its [O'Hare Area Bike Network Study](#). Results from the survey will guide development of the network and identify areas and types of improvements to implement in communities surrounding the airport. In addition, DoTH has developed a [flyer](#), [social media graphics](#) and suggested language which can be shared via local government communications channels.

IDOT Soliciting Municipal Feedback on Active Transportation Strategies, Implementation Guide

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is currently developing Walk Roll Illinois, the 2025 Illinois Active Transportation Plan and requests municipal feedback [via this survey](#). Additionally, IDOT has created a draft [Local Implementation Guide](#) to assist "local agency partners who are working to enhance active transportation within their jurisdictions." IDOT [also requests feedback on the guide](#) to identify what will be most useful for Illinois communities. Assistance in sharing this survey with local transportation staff is appreciated.

IDOT Updates Speed Limit Setting Policy

IDOT has revised its speed limit setting policy, coordinating it with the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Control Devices (MUTCD) and current best practices. This new policy provides options other than the historic 85th percentile speed method, as well as how to utilize these policies for different roadway types and contexts. For more information, please reference [Circular Letter 2025-09](#) or contact IDOT Local Policy and Technology Engineer Tim Peters, tim.peters@illinois.gov.



Village of Northbrook
NMWC Staff Photo

Safe Routes to School Resources Now Available, Webinars, Grant Opening Coming Soon

The Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) is teaming up with IDOT to offer a variety of resources to assist your community with developing its [Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) grant](#) materials and applications.

Available assistance and resources include:

- [April 29 webinar recording on developing SRTS Action Plans](#), along with [slides](#)
- [ATA SRTS grant resources and FAQ](#)
- [ATA SRTS application support form](#)
- [SRTS communication toolkit](#)
- [Example voting form for SRTS programs from Skokie School District 73](#)

To further enhance your application, consider attending ATA and IDOT's joint SRTS three-part webinar series, held later this year:

Part 1: Safe Routes to School Grant Guidelines & Overview

Wednesday, July 16, 11:00 a.m.

Register here - [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Part 2: Application Walk-Through + Q&A with IDOT Staff

Wednesday, August 20, 11:00 a.m.

Register here - [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Part 3: Live Q&A with IDOT Staff

Wednesday, September 17, 11:00 a.m.

Register here - [Zoom Registration Link](#)

The SRTS grant application period opens August 1.

Submit Your Projects for the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan

CMAP is soliciting transportation resilience projects to include in the [Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan \(TRIP\)](#) project list. The TRIP is intended to inform transportation planning and decision making. It will also position northeastern Illinois to better compete for federal investment opportunities, including the [FHWA Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Discretionary Grant Program](#), which fund investments in increased transportation resilience to natural hazards.

To develop TRIP, CMAP assessed the climate risks to, and vulnerability of, the transportation system. The [Risk-based Vulnerability Assessment](#) found that flooding poses the biggest threat, impacting all transportation infrastructure, service operations, and users. Extreme heat and severe storms impact service operations and active transportation users, also posing a threat to rail infrastructure, electrical service, and backup power. The [assessment data](#) is available on CMAP's Data Hub and as a [map](#) to help identify projects, inform project selection, and incorporate into local planning activities.

If you have any questions please contact Project Manager Kate Evasic, kevasic@cmmap.illinois.gov or Project Director Cassandra Bhat, Cassandra.bhat@icf.com.



**Transportation
Resilience
Improvement Plan**

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Greater Chicago Survey

From our partners at CMAP:

CMAP, in partnership with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, is creating a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Greater Chicago by 2050. [The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan](#) for Greater Chicago will identify key actions needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all major sources. It will build on previous plans from across the region, creating a coordinated strategy to reduce emissions and address climate impacts in low-income and disadvantaged communities and across the region.

Community input is important and will help inform the final plan's recommendations. Please fill out the [brief questionnaire](#) to share your experience on how climate change has impacted you and your community.

Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR) Resources Available

From our partners at CMAP:

CMAP's [STAR program](#) continues to work to improve regional travel safety with assistance, resources and policy development. Information on the [Countywide Safety Action Plans](#) adopted by the MPO Policy Committee on May 30, 2025, and more, can be found on the STAR webpage. For more information, please contact [Lindsay Bayley](#), (312-386-8826).

Regional Day Pass Now Available

From our partners at RTA:

Riders can now purchase the Regional Day Pass, which allows unlimited rides on CTA, Metra and Pace in a single day – streamlining how people move across the Chicago region. The new pass, available only in the latest version of the Ventra app, is a collaboration between the three transit agencies and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to advance fare integration and more seamless transit rider experience. It offers a more convenient and cost-effective option for regional transit riders.

The Regional Day Pass will cost \$2.50 more than the usual Metra day pass and include full access to CTA buses and trains and Pace regular fixed-route service. Weekday prices are:

- \$10 in Metra's single zone travel area (\$6 for reduced fare card holders)
- \$13.50 in Metra's two-zone travel area (\$8 for reduced fare card holders)
- \$16 in Metra's three-zone travel area (\$9 for reduced fare card holders)

All weekend Regional Day Passes will cost \$9.50. Learn how to purchase the Regional Day Pass and find more information on the [RTA website](#).



Village of Hoffman Estates
NMWC Staff Photo

CMAP Regional Transportation Plan Survey Needs Your Support!

From our partners at CMAP:

CMAP wants to hear from you! Take their [new questionnaire](#) and tell us how you get from point A to point B, and how our transportation system can be improved. As CMAP leads development of the [Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#) -- northeastern Illinois' blueprint for future roads, rails, and trails over the next 30 years -- your feedback will shape how we improve transportation, reduce congestion, and build a more sustainable future for our region.

Responses are being accepted throughout 2025, giving everyone plenty of time to weigh in. Whether you're a daily commuter, a cyclist, or simply passionate about the future of our community, your voice matters. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference!

If you have any questions about the RTP or questionnaire – or would like CMAP to present or attend a local event – please reach out to rtp@cmap.illinois.gov. Together, we can create a transportation system that works for everyone. And please help spread the word! CMAP has developed a [promotional toolkit for your social media and newsletters, including images, sample text, and more](#).



Village of Lake Forest

Communities Encouraged to Contribute to the Northeastern Illinois Development Database

From our partners at CMAP:

Our region is constantly changing, with some communities experiencing rapid growth, while others experience significant changes to land uses. Since 1987, the [Northeastern Illinois Development Database \(NDD\)](#) has tracked significant developments and redevelopments in the seven-county northeastern Illinois region.

Municipalities are encouraged to submit proposed, in-progress, or completed developments, as all phases contribute valuable data for the model. The NDD web map is an opportunity to ensure your community's growth is accurately represented in regional forecasts. The NDD web map is tailored for local government staff to actively participate in the forecasting process by submitting and editing developments. This data informs CMAP's local forecast model, which predicts household and job placements in developments across the region.

2023 IDOT National Highway System (NHS) Pavement and Bridge Data

From our partners at IDOT:

IDOT collects condition data on Interstate pavements annually and on non-Interstate pavements on a two-year cycle. Bridges receive a routine visual inspection at least every 2-4 years, depending on the condition. The results of the most recent NHS pavement condition assessments and bridge inspections, along with performance measures and targets, may be accessed on [IDOT's "Performance" webpage](#).

Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

America Walks: [Funding for Walkability](#) — Thursday, July 10 at 1:00 p.m.

Active Transportation Alliance: [Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) 2025: Grant Guidelines & Overview](#) — Wednesday, July 16 at 11:00 a.m.

Vision Zero Network: [Small Steps, Real Results: Scaling Up Vision Zero](#)—Tuesday, July 29 at 12:00 p.m.

APA Transportation Planning Division: [Transportation Safety](#)—August 1 at 12:00 p.m.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center AASHTO Bike Guide Series:

[Part 2: Design Principles of High-Comfort Bikeways](#)—Thursday, July 31 at 12:00 p.m.

[Part 3: Additional Advances in Bicycling Design](#)—Thursday, September 11 at 12:00 p.m.

Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Daily Herald: [What's next after transit rescue dies in Illinois House, and what caused the meltdown? Lawmakers explain](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Illinois legislators left Springfield without funding public transit \(for now\). Here's what that means for CTA, Metra, Pace.](#)

WBEZ: [How to reduce traffic collisions, deaths across Chicagoland](#)

Daily Herald: [‘This is a real cliff’: Cuts loom as Illinois lawmakers can’t agree on transit reform, revenue](#)

Briefs, Continued

Chicago Tribune: [Thousands of workers caught in middle of transit fiscal cliff talks](#)

Crain's Chicago Business: [House Dems' transit point man says special session is possible](#)

Daily Herald: [New Illinois laws aim to make streets safer for bikers, pedestrians](#)

Daily Herald: [Pritzker: State not responsible for fixing transit crisis alone](#)

Patch: [Speed Limits Decreasing Village-Wide In Skokie](#)

Daily Herald: [Two budgets for Metra? One business as usual, the other a doomsday scenario](#)

Momentum Mag: [Want More Bike Commuters? Build Protected Bike Lanes, Says New Study](#)

Daily Herald: [Arlington Heights mayor pushes for EV charger restrictions in basement garages](#)

Transportation for America: [Unlocking the benefits of transit-oriented development](#)

Chicago Booth Review: [Charge Drivers to Improve Public Transit](#)

Daily Herald: [‘Basically reckless driving’: Schaumburg enacts regulations on use of e-bikes and scooters](#)

Daily Herald: [Elk Grove puts the brakes on kids riding e-bikes and e-scooters on streets](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [CTA, Metra and Pace roll out regional day pass for unlimited rides on all three lines](#)

League of American Bicyclists: [Bicycle Advisory Committees in Action: Highlights from BFCs Across the U.S.](#)

Route Fifty: [How prediction analysis can help further cut traffic deaths](#)

Eno Center for Transportation: [How States and Cities Are Adapting to Changing Trump Administration Grant Rules](#)

Daily Herald: [Schaumburg lowering requirements for electric-vehicle capability at new multifamily buildings](#)

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