

Transportation Newsletter

July 2022
Volume 14 Issue 7

Northwest Municipal Conference
1600 E. Golf Rd. Suite 0700 Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 847-296-9200 www.nwmc-cog.org
Cover Photo: Village of Grayslake



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Friday, July 15, 8:30 a.m.— *Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee*

Thursday, July 21, 8:30 a.m.— *NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Field Trip*

Thursday, July 28, 8:30 a.m.— *North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee*

ON TO 2050 Plan Update Open for Public Comment

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) opened the public comment period for the [draft ON TO 2050 regional plan update](#). CMAP is federally required to update the long range plan every four years to reaffirm the plan's vision, update data projects, review accomplishments and reassess transportation needs. Documents are available to review on [CMAP's website](#), which include an update summary, past presentations to CMAP's various committees throughout the process and new data and analyses relevant to the plan update. Comments should be submitted via email to onto2050@cmap.illinois.gov by Saturday, August 13. After public comments are compiled and presented to the Transportation Committee in September, the plan update will be presented to the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee for adoption in October.

Active Transportation Alliance and Illinois Public Health Institute Hosting ITEP Webinars

This year, \$125 million will be available through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for walking, biking, and trail projects, with the maximum award amount increased to \$3 million per project. In advance of the application period, which is expected to open in late summer, the Active Transportation Alliance and Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) is partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to offer a 3-part ITEP webinar series. The first webinar will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 20 (registration details to come, prior to the ITEP program opening).

Village of Northfield



IDOT Announces Funding Opportunity for the Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has announced a notice for funding opportunity for its Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program. This program will provide funds for the elimination of hazards at railway-highway crossings. Changes to the program in this cycle incorporate provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including an increase of the federal share for the program to 100 percent. The application form for this Program can be downloaded from the [IDOT website](#). Applications are due no later than July 29. If you have any questions on the federal rail / highway grade crossing safety program, or the application process please see [IDOT Circular Letter 2022 -15](#) or contact William Pearsall, Rail Safety Projects Unit Chief at (217) 785-2986 or William.Pearsall@illinois.gov.

Apply for Community Spark Grants Program

The League of American Bicyclists has launched the application period for their Community Spark Grants program. Ten communities will receive up to \$1,500 to kick start small-scale projects that create more bicycle friendly communities. Eligible organizations must be a non-profit or government agency, with other types of organizations considered on a case-by-case basis. Applications should be submitted [online](#) by Friday, July 15. More information, including examples of suggested projects, is available on the [League of American Bicyclists website](#).

Smart Growth America Offering Free Complete Streets Training for Elected Officials

The Smart Growth America Champions Institute is a technical assistance and peer learning program designed to help local elected officials become effective champions for Complete Streets, downtown revitalization and other local initiatives. Eligible participants in the Champions Institute include: mayors, city council members, county commissioners and other local elected officials.

Applications are available online and are due by Thursday, June 30. Champions Institute participants will be selected and notified in July 2022. The program will launch in September and include six virtual learning sessions (two hours each) between September and December 2022, with up to one hour of reading between sessions. For more information, please visit [Smart Growth America's website](https://smartgrowthamerica.org) or contact Anushka Thakkar, athakkar@smartgrowthamerica.org.

League of American Bicyclists Opens Bicycle Friendly Community Applications

The League of American Bicyclists has begun accepting applications for their Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) program, which recognizes communities for providing safe accommodations for bicycling and encouraging people to bike for transportation and recreation. In conjunction with the application period opening, the League will host three webinars to help communities prepare their applications, recordings of which are available on the League's website.

Applications are due by September 29 with awards announced in December. For more information, please visit the [League of American Bicyclists website](https://bicycleleague.org) or contact bfa@bikeleague.org.



Metra Seeking Public Input on Its Next Strategic Plan

Metra has launched a survey to solicit feedback from riders and the public about proposed revisions to its mission and vision statements and its updated strategic goals for the agency. The feedback will be used to help draft Metra's next five-year strategic plan, which will be shared with the Metra Board later this fall. After incorporating additional feedback on the draft plan, a final plan will be written and presented to the Metra Board for adoption in early 2023. The survey is [available online](#). For more information, please see [Metra's press release](#).

USDOT Opens Applications for Bridge Investment Program

The United States Department of Transportation is soliciting project applications for the [Bridge Investment Program \(BIP\)](#). Three categories of funding opportunities are included: Planning; Bridge Projects with eligible costs less than \$100 million; and, Large Bridge Projects with eligible costs greater than \$100 million. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that improve the safety, efficiency and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges. Planning applications are due by July 25, Large Bridge Project applications are due on August 9, and Bridge Project applications are due by September 8. To apply, please visit [Grants.gov](#) or for more information contact Mrs. Angela Jones at (202) 366-4255 or by email at BridgeInvestmentProgram@dot.gov.

Transit Agencies Announce Regional Connect Pass

Metra, Pace and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) recently introduced the Regional Connect Pass. This new monthly pass allows for unlimited rides on all three systems when coupled with Metra's new Super Saver monthly pass. The new fare option reduces costs and provides greater flexibility to Chicagoland transit users. The Regional Connect Pass costs \$30 and is available to holders of Metra's unlimited ride monthly pass, meaning that the total cost for both will be \$130 per month.

The pass will have no day or time restrictions and is available for purchase in the Ventra app or through Metra ticket sales agents beginning Monday, June 20. For more information, please see [Metra's press release](#).

Northwest Municipal Conference
1600 E. Golf Rd Suite 0700
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 847-296-9200 | www.nwmc-cog.org

Kendra Johnson: 847-296-9200 ext. 131
KJohnson@nwmc-cog.org

Eric Czarnota: 847-296-9200 ext. 128
ECzarnota@nwmc-cog.org