

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Elk Grove Village



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Happy July 4th

Public Comment for Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors' STP-L Programs Now Closed

On June 30, the Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors Technical Committees closed the public comment period for their respective FFY 2021-2025 local Surface Transportation Programs (STP-L). Both Councils' Technical Committees will convene in August to consider public comments and vote to send their programs to the full Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors for approval.

FRA Grant Opportunity Aimed at Railroad Trespassing Suicide Prevention

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has published a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) to make funds available for implementing suicide prevention projects. Since 2015, 1351 people have taken their lives by committing railroad trespass-related suicide. Railroad trespass-related suicides account for nearly a third of all fatalities related to railroad operations in the U.S. and has increased over 10% in the last 5 years. The purpose of the Railroad Trespassing Suicide Prevention Program is to implement an outreach campaign to reduce the number of rail-related suicides that involve or result from railroad trespassing. Applications are due at 5:00 p.m. EST/4:00 p.m. CST on August 10, 2020.

FHWA Accepting FLAP Applications until August 3

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is accepting applications until Monday, August 3, 2020 for the FLAP. Public highway, road, bridge, trail or transit systems that are located on, are adjacent to, or provide access to certain Federal lands are eligible. An estimated \$1M will be available for programming. Project applications must be sponsored and/or supported by the appropriate Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) unit whose access would be enhanced by the proposed action. If selected, a 20% matching share is required.

To access the federal application, [click here](#). Completed applications should be forwarded electronically to the FHWA, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, Access Program Manager at EFL.planning@dot.gov. If you have any questions concerning the Federal Lands Access Program, please contact Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, IDOT Local Program Development Engineer, at 217-782-3972 or Bablibile.Seck@illinois.gov.

Metra Expands North Central Service Line to Meet Increasing Demand

As Chicagoans return to work and stay-at-home restrictions are lifted, Metra is expanding its service on the North Central service Line to meet the needs of its growing ridership. On Monday, June 29, service was expanded to include morning and evening express trains, marking the first time that express service has been available on the line.

Metra is adding a 6:38 a.m. inbound departure from Antioch. The train will make all stops between Antioch and Buffalo Grove and then express to Western Avenue, arriving at Chicago Union Station at 8:04 a.m. A 5:01 p.m. outbound departure is also being added to the schedule for the evening commute. This train will operate express to Buffalo Grove and arrive in Antioch at 6:29 p.m. The expanded schedule can be found [here](#).



Village of Northbrook

Grant Opportunity to Support Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery

The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), with funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, is offering grants of \$25,000 to ten member city transportation agencies that are partnering with community-based organizations to reimagine streets, implement ideas, and support ongoing community efforts that meet the needs of populations disproportionately harmed by COVID-19. Cities with populations of less than 500,000 that haven't received federal aid, as well as larger cities targeting interventions in neighborhoods that have historically and continue to be underinvested will be prioritized. Each NACTO member may only submit one application. The deadline for this application is 8:00pm ET on Friday, July 10, 2020. More information and an application are available [here](#).



Village of Schaumburg

Three-Part Webinar Series on Accessing ITEP Funds Begins This Month

The Active Transportation Alliance and Illinois Public Health Institute are partnering to host a three-part webinar series to help build the capacity of communities to successfully apply for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funds. Part 1 took place on July 1 and offered an overview of ITEP and funding eligibility criteria. Part 2 will be hosted in August and will include a walkthrough of the ITEP application, a breakdown of the scoring categories, and an overview on how to utilize IDOT's new mapping tool for identifying community need scores. Visit the Active Transportation Alliance [website](#) for access to the Part 1 recording and for more details about Part 2.

Click, Listen and Learn (CLL) through APWA

The American Public Works Association (APWA) supports the Local Technical Assistance Programs (LTAPs) mission to foster safe and efficient transportation systems through shared training and resources. Click Listen Learn (CLL) is APWA's webinar series of interactive internet educational programs. Each program is led by top experts in the field who convey new ideas, new methods, and new technologies in a fast-paced one-hour time frame. LTAPs with an APWA membership have free access to live CLL programs and recorded programs in APWA's Members' Library. All programs are accredited and eligible for CEUs or PDHs for credit. [Click here](#) to enter your government email and promotion code D5X3-B3D9-52CB-4XCX to access TC3 course offerings.

Union Pacific and Metra Open Negotiations Over Control of Commuter Lines

Union Pacific is negotiating a new agreement with Metra to outline their ongoing and future relationship. Under the new agreement, Union Pacific seeks for Metra to assume direct responsibility to hire and supervise employees, and have control of the equipment needed to operate the Union Pacific (UP) North, Northwest and West lines. Union Pacific would continue to maintain the track and manage train movement across its lines. This proposed new arrangement is similar to what commuters already experience on the Metra North Line, hosted by Canadian Pacific, or the Metra Southwest Line, hosted by Norfolk Southern. With the new agreement in place, Metra will have direct control over 10 of the 11 commuter lines in Chicago.

National Highway Institute Web-based Training Now Available

The National Highway Institute (NHI) is offering no cost training opportunities designed for engineers and construction workers. Topics include: Introduction to Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges; Chip Seal Best Practices; Pipe Installation, Inspection and Quality; Introduction to a Transportation Asset Management Plan; and, Hot In-Place Recycling. To browse courses and register, [click here](#) and enter your government email.



City of Evanston

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