

Transportation Newsletter

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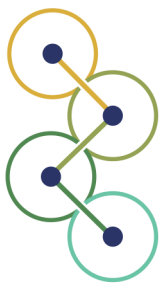
Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Fox Lake



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

-No upcoming meetings-



NWMC Multimodal Transportation Plan

President Rotering Announces Rollout of Multimodal Transportation Plan

NWMC President and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering signaled the organization's commitment to improving travel throughout the region for those biking, walking, and accessing transit at a [virtual press conference](#) held on May 26. President Rotering noted the growing need to provide multimodal travel options for residents and those traveling through the region, and staff explained how the NWMC Multimodal Plan addresses that goal. The press conference was attended by media outlets, members of local bike clubs and advocacy organizations as well as many NWMC members. Thank you to all who attended and we look forward to publicizing the Plan at community events throughout the summer. If your community is interested in receiving a presentation on the plan or having staff attend community events, please contact Kendra Johnson, kjohnson@nwmc-cog.org and Matt Pasquini, mpasquini@nwmc-cog.org.

Transportation Committee Briefed on Cook County Bike Plan

The NWMC Transportation Committee met Thursday and received a presentation from Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways Transit Manage Benet Haller on development on the county's first-ever Bike Plan. He discussed the plan's scope, existing conditions and ways for communities to be involved in the planning process. The county expects plan approval in spring, 2022. The committee also received reports from regional agency partners and approved its meeting dates for the coming year.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Learns About Cycling Without Age

Dave Simmons, Executive Director of Ride Illinois and fellow NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee member, gave a presentation on [Cycling Without Age](#) to members of the Committee at their May 18 meeting. The program provides free trishaw (a three wheeled bike) rides to primarily elderly and less-able community members, providing opportunities for fresh air and interactions with nature and other people. The Committee also discussed plans for the rollout of the NWMC Multimodal Plan and how to get involved in those events throughout the summer.

Public Comment Open on New State Rail Study

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is seeking public input on a new study assessing the state's rail system. The study aims to gather information on current conditions, capacity issues, and safety challenges in order to create solutions and potential improvements to the system. Information gathered through the study will be used to develop a statewide rail plan, which is required of states in order to receive funding under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act. The study will also help inform IDOT's Illinois Long-Range Transportation Plan and contribute to the development of the state's overall transportation system. Comments should be submitted by Monday, June 14 through the project's [online form](#) or emailed to Illinois-RailNeeds@gmail.com. For more information, please see IDOT's [press release](#) or contact Paul Wappel, paul.wappel@Illinois.gov.



Village of Barrington

IDOT Releases Fourth Installment of REBUILD IL Bond Funds

On May 13, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) released [Circular Letter 2021-15](#) announcing the fourth installment of the \$1.5 billion grant program from the local government component of the REBUILD ILLINOIS capital bill program. This installment consists of \$250 million that will be distributed based on the regular Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) formula. These funds are not MFT distributions, but rather represent grants made from bond sale proceeds that must be deposited into each Local Public Agencies' MFT account and must be expended for transportation use with IDOT oversight. This installment will be disbursed primarily through mailed checks from the Illinois Comptroller's Office and Local Public Agencies should have received this funding during the week of May 17. If you have any questions regarding this circular letter, please contact IDOT Local Program Development Engineer Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, Bablibile.Seck@illinois.gov or 217-782-3972.

IDOT Creates System for Safety Information Exchange

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently announced the creation of a Safety Information Exchange Survey Form for local agencies and first responders to help IDOT better understand roadway safety issues. This Information Exchange will be utilized in collaboration with IDOT's numerous years of crash data so a more holistic set of information is analyzed and reviewed. IDOT is especially interested in communication and deeper knowledge in locations/sites in rural areas. Some examples of the information the Department is interested include road segments within a curve that have experienced several runoffs or intersections where near misses occur daily. To ease and expedite the exchange of information, local agencies are highly encouraged to communicate with IDOT via their [online form](#). For more information, please see [Circular Letter 2021-14](#).



City of Lake Forest

Opportunity for Local Students: CMAP's Virtual FLIP Summer Program

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) recently opened registration for this year's virtual Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) program. CMAP is seeking high school and college students in northeastern Illinois to participate in the free summer leadership development series. Sessions will be held on Fridays, July 9 through July 30, for 90 minutes via Zoom. Students who complete all four "FLIP Friday" sessions will receive a FLIP certificate. Registration closes on Friday, June 11 and is available on [CMAP's website](#).

Governor Pritzker Announces Six-Year \$20.7 Billion Construction Plan

On May 19, Governor JB Pritzker announced the release of a \$20.7 billion construction plan made possible by Rebuild Illinois. Based on current funding levels, the FY2022-27 Proposed Highway Improvement Program aims to improve 2,779 miles of roads and 7.9 million square feet of bridge deck. The projects in the program will benefit both the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and local transportation systems. Of the \$20.7 billion to be spent over the six years of the program, \$3.32 billion has been identified for the upcoming fiscal year. More information about the plan can found in the [press release](#) published by the governor's office.

Saturday Schedules on Seven Metra Lines Restored to Full Service

In anticipation of the return of summer festivals and other events signaling the region's return to normality, Metra has restored Saturday schedules to pre-pandemic service levels on seven of its routes. Lines affected by these changes within the NWMC's service territory include the Milwaukee District North, Milwaukee District West, Union Pacific North and Union Pacific Northwest. Moving forward as riders return, Metra will continue to add trains and fill out the weekday schedule to accommodate additional demand. Riders can expect additional announcements of service changes in the coming weeks. To view the latest schedule changes, please visit [Metra's website](#).

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