

# Transportation Newsletter

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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 Committee:**  
Tuesday, June 11, 10:30 a.m. — *NWMC  
Offices and Virtually*

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

## Barrington, Streamwood Receive 2024 Safe Routes to Schools Awards

The Illinois Department of Transportation recently announced the award of \$9.8 million in Safe Routes to Schools grants to boost the health and safety of children by making walking and biking to school safe and more accessible. 143 applications from local governments and schools were narrowed down to forty-seven projects, including two NWMC members who received the maximum award possible under the grant program.

[Congratulations to Barrington, who received \\$250,000 to close sidewalk and safe crosswalk gaps around Grove Avenue Elementary School and to Streamwood, who received \\$250,000 to close a critical sidewalk gap near Hanover Countryside Elementary School. See the full list of recipients here and to read more about the Safe Routes to Schools program, please visit the IDOT website.](#)

## ***IDOT and the Active Transportation Alliance to Host ITEP Webinars***

In advance of the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) August opening of the Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) applications, the Active Transportation Alliance and IDOT are partnering to host a webinar series to help prepare for the upcoming funding opportunity. ITEP grants will provide \$140 million in state and federal funding for walking, biking, and trail projects throughout the state. The dates and topics for each webinar are as follows:

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

Wednesday, July 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Registration Link: [here](#)

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

Wednesday, August 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Registration Link: [here](#)

Webinar 3: *Q&A with IDOT staff*

Wednesday, September 11, 11:30 am to 1 pm

Registration Link: [here](#)

For additional information, please visit the [ITEP website](#).

## **RTA Issues Safety Summit Report, Weighs in on Proposed Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act**

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) recently released [priority recommendations](#) stemming from their Safety and Security Summit held in February. The recommendations focus on enhancing personal security for transit riders and workers and addressing the perception of crime on transit. Additionally, the recommendations call for integrating transit-specific strategies into social services initiatives and creating safer, more welcoming environments at transit stations and stops.

In addition, last week the RTA issued its preliminary [analysis and response](#) to legislation proposing creation of the Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act. The legislation ([House Bill 5823](#)) is part of the broader [Clean and Equitable Transportation Act](#) ([House Bill 5829](#)) and seeks to consolidate the service boards (CTA, Metra and Pace) and the RTA into one agency, the Metropolitan Mobility Authority. The NWMC Transportation Committee met on May 30 to review the proposed legislation and provide preliminary comments. The Conference is also collaborating with its regional council of government partners to identify opportunities and concerns with the proposal.



City of Rolling Meadows

## USDOT to Host Public Engagement Workshop

The U.S. Department of Transportation (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.

## Join Other NWMC Members as a Bicycle Friendly Community

The League of American Bicyclists is currently accepting Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) applications through Tuesday, June 25. The League provides a roadmap, hands-on assistance and recognition for communities seeking to build places more welcoming to people who bike. Past and present NWMC member communities with BFC status include: Silver-ranked *Evanston*; and, Bronze-ranked *Glenview*, *Highland Park*, *Schaumburg*, and *Wilmette*. To learn more about the BFC program, please visit the [League of American Bicyclists website](#).

## Juice Up Local EV Stations With Round 2 of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program!

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has 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 priority being given to 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.

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, please visit the [Grants.gov grant page](#) or read the [NOFO](#). Applications are due by Wednesday, August 28.



Village of Niles

## Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants Open for Applications

Communities interested in testing new street design changes with quick-build demonstration projects should consider the [USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Program](#). \$1.256 billion will be available for planning activities and demonstration projects in this fiscal year, directly awarded to the local jurisdiction, and so far, the funding has not been competitive. Deadlines depend on the grant type pursued, with the next deadline on Thursday, August 29. To learn what kinds of programs are eligible, please visit the [USDOT SS4A website](#), or read more from [Transportation for America](#). NWMC Program Associate for Transportation Brian Larson previously served as a volunteer for one of these demonstration projects, please contact him with any questions.

## USDOT Opens SMART Grant Applications

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, US DOT 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, please read the [press release](#) or the [NOFO](#).

## Align Roadway Projects and Policies With the Safe System Approach

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently released frameworks to assist transportation practitioners and agencies working toward zero roadway fatalities through implementation of the Safe Systems Approach (SSA). These frameworks are user-friendly spreadsheets that apply national and international best practices to understand how projects and policies align with SSA. To read more about these frameworks please see the [FHWA's briefer](#), and access the [Project-Based Framework here](#) and the [Policy-Based Framework here](#).



City of Lake Forest

## Learn More About Improving Regional Accessibility

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has identified resources to improve accessibility for residents and visitors with disabilities. CMAP recently published helpful information on improving accessibility on the [CMAP webpage](#), with regular updates available by signing up for its [Accessible Communities newsletter](#). The agency also offers free Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) training programs with [training slides and session recordings](#) to learn about ADA and Title II requirements, the role of an ADA coordinator, how to complete a self-evaluation plan and how to develop a transition plan. Finally, the U.S. Access Board covers Public Right of Way Access Guidelines (PROWAG) through its [video series](#) on accessibility requirements to make sidewalks, crosswalks, shared use paths, on-street parking and other pedestrian facilities accessible to people with disabilities.

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## Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Block Club Chicago: [State Lawmakers Push to Merge CTA, Metra, and Pace](#)

Daily Herald: [Merge CTA, Metra and Pace? Lawmakers debut fix amid pushback from suburbs, transit agencies](#)

Route Fifty: [E-bikes are a 'game changer' for bike shares](#)

Daily Herald: [Schaumburg buys right of way for bike path near Woodfield](#)

Daily Herald: [A good deal for the suburbs? Transit merger proposal raises questions about finances, fairness](#)

Capitol News Illinois: [Lawmakers pitch sweeping changes to energy industry and Chicagoland transit system](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Secretary of state's office urges residents to get a Real ID as federal deadline is a year away](#)

Daily Herald: [Metra piling more trains on UP and Milwaukee lines; Edgewater stop to debut](#)

Streetsblog Chicago: [Since COVID, Pace ridership has fared better on major corridors and in north, northwest suburbs than in south, west 'burbs](#)

Governing: [Why Some Cities Want to Combine Transit Agencies](#)

WBEZ: [How has Chicago transit ridership recovered from the pandemic?](#)

Daily Herald: [How Hersey High students pitched sidewalk proposal to Prospect Heights](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Select DMVs add summer Saturday hours for teens applying for their first license](#)

Reuters: [People over parking: The U.S. cities that are reclaiming their streets](#)

Route Fifty: [How bullish are Americans on EVs? It depends on where the nearest charger is](#)