

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:

**NWMC Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee
Summer Field Trip:** Tuesday, June 10, 10:30
a.m. — *Mount Prospect* Village Hall

NWMC Gala: Wednesday, June 11, 6:00
p.m. — Chicago Marriott Northwest in *Hoffman
Estates*

Join the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee in *Mount Prospect and Des Plaines* at the Field Trip!

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee will be taking the show on the road again this summer when it visits *Mount Prospect* and *Des Plaines* for the Committee's annual Field Trip.

On Tuesday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m., participants will meet at Mount Prospect Village Hall and tour the recently completed Rand Road Sidepath. The leisurely roundtrip ride of about 9 miles will include stops along the way to learn about the sidepath's development and future connections. Lunch will be provided at Mount Prospect Village Hall while hearing about [Mount Prospect's Arterial Bike Network Study](#).

Interested attendees may [register for the Field Trip here](#).

Transit Governance and Funding Stalls Before Adjournment

In the final four days of the General Assembly's spring session, Sen. Ram Villivalam amended [House Bill 3438](#) multiple times in an attempt to win support for transit governance changes and a comprehensive funding package. While the bill did pass the Senate shortly before midnight on May 31, the House did not call the bill for concurrence votes before adjourning.

Last week, both the House and the Senate introduced their transit proposals, which would replace the current Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) structure with the new Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) and reconstitutes representation on the Metra, Pace and CTA boards. In the House, [Senate Bill 2111 - House Amendment 1](#) (Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado), a bill that did not include new funding for transit, advanced out of the House Executive Committee on Thursday; however, the bill was never called for a vote on the House floor. As mentioned above, [House Bill 3438](#) (Sen. Ram Villivalam) did include funding proposals and was approved in the Senate. Various funding proposals were included and then deleted from the multiple amendments in an effort to gain enough support in the Senate. The revenue package that ultimately passed the Senate included \$1.5 billion in revenues and efficiencies, most notably from a delivery fee ("environmental impact fee") and an expansion of the real estate transfer tax to suburban Cook County and the collar counties.

In his post-session press conference, Governor Pritzker said that, "I think there's significant work that will need to be done over the summer and in the fall," on transit reforms and funding ([Capitol Fax](#)). Because it is past May 31, any transit legislation that the

General Assembly pursues over the summer or fall will require a three-fifths majority vote to become effectively immediately. The RTA has repeatedly highlighted that any new revenues must be implemented before the service board budgets are approved later this year in order to prevent service reductions in 2026.

Northwest Council Technical Committee Seeking New Representatives

With the retirement of Arlington Heights Mayor Tom Hayes and Barrington President Karen Darch, there are now two vacancies on the Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee. Eligible nominees include any Mayor/President or Manager/Administrator from municipalities that are not already represented on the Northwest Council Technical Committee.

Therefore, eligible nominees include any Mayor/President or Manager/Administrator from:

Arlington Heights	Inverness
Barrington	Niles
Bartlett	Park Ridge
Des Plaines	Prospect Heights
Elk Grove Village	Rolling Meadows
Hanover Park	South Barrington
Hoffman Estates	

To nominate individuals for this position, please complete [this form](#) and email it to eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org or fax to 847-296-9207 by Friday, July 11. If you have any questions about this form or the nominating process, please do not hesitate to contact Eric Czarnota, 847-296-9202, or eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org.

Implement Traffic Safety Interventions with Safe Streets for All Grants

With the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) adoption of the region's county-level Safety Action Plans as part of its Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR) process on May 30, municipalities can now access nearly \$1 billion in [Safe Streets for All \(SS4A\) Planning and Implementation Grants and Demonstration Grants](#) under the [SS4A Federal Highway Administration \(FWHA\) NOFO](#).

Unsure where to start? The NWMC has the resource to assist! Use the [Street Design Tools in the NWMC Multimodal Plan](#) (pages 35-73) to choose the street improvements to make things safer for people walking, biking, and driving.

Numerous webinars can further bolster these efforts. Consider watching any of the following:

[Vision Zero Network—SS4A Funds Available for Your Community](#)

[US DOT SS4A Webinar Series:](#)

- Implementation Grants
- Action Plans
- Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities

SS4A grant awards start at \$100,000, up to \$25,000,000, and applications are due by Thursday, June 26 at 4:00 p.m. Read more, including how to apply, at [the SS4A grants webpage](#).

Cook County Adopts Safety Action Plan, Releases Materials and Webinar

With the adoption of the Safety Action Plan by Cook County, the County has also released materials developed in the course of the plan's creation. These include maps of High Injury Networks (HIN) in Cook County, a webinar recording and slides on how to use the various tools created by the Safety Action Plan.

[Cook County Safety Action Plan](#)

[Cook County Safety Action Plan appendices](#)

[CMAP Adoption Memorandum](#)

[HIN webmap](#)

[HIN feature service layer](#)

[Webinar slides](#)

[Webinar recording](#)

For questions, letters of support and coordination assistance, please contact NWMC staff or Victoria Barrett, vbarrett@cmap.illinois.gov, or Joe Seymour, Joseph.Seymour@cookcountyil.gov.



Village of Barrington

Last Chance for IDOT's Call for Highway Safety Improvement Projects

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has announced the [FY 2027 Local Highway Safety Improvement Program \(HSIP\)](#) call for projects. IDOT plans to allocate \$32.75 million to local agencies to support projects that reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries, aligning with the national "moving toward zero" initiative.

This funding opportunity prioritizes projects addressing High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) and Vulnerable Road Users (VRU), with a focus on systemic improvements like signage, pavement markings, and guardrail upgrades. Eligible projects can receive up to 90% federal funding support, with local agencies responsible for the remaining 10% match.

Local public agencies must submit detailed project information, including crash data, cost estimates, timelines, and narratives. Resources such as crash analysis tools and sample applications are available on [IDOT's HSIP website](#). **IDOT encourages interested agencies to review the recording of its informational webinar to learn more about application best practices.** Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 20.

For additional guidance, applicants can contact Tim Peters, Tim.Peters@illinois.gov for questions on safety data and eligibility or Melinda Kos, Melinda.Kos@illinois.gov for questions about the application process.



Village of Arlington Heights
NMWC Staff Photo

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.

Tap Into Those Unused Rebuild Illinois Funds Before They're Gone!

IDOT has notified communities that remaining Rebuild Illinois (RBI) funds can be retroactively applied to projects and substitute out utilized motor fuel taxes (MFT) as far back as 2019. IDOT only requires a community wanting to utilize RBI funds for a project to adopt a supporting resolution by Tuesday, July 1. For guidance on how to implement these funds, please see [IDOT Circular Letter 2020-16](#).

Feedback Requested on CMAP's Navigating Federal Funding Guide

CMAP is updating its Navigating the Federal Process guides for [engineering](#), [right of way](#), and [construction](#) that will be included with CMAQ, TAP-L, and STP SF award letters this summer and requests municipal feedback to guide their revisions. Please submit any comments to Brian Larson at blarson@nwmc-cog.org, by Friday, June 13.

IDOT Hosting Conference on Special Programs

Is your community interested in accessing the Economic Development Program (EDP), Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), or Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)? Assistance from IDOT Special Programs Unit staff will be available during a rotating two day informational conference to offer general information on the programs as well as answer specific questions, with a morning informational session on Day 1 and afternoon 30-minute one-on-one appointments to discuss specific projects and applications on Day 1 and Day 2.

The conference will be held on June 10 and 11 at Hillside Village Hall, and on June 12 and 13 at the McHenry County Administration Building. Learn more about the programs and register for the morning session and/or individual appointments at the [ITEP](#) or [SRTS](#) websites.

NWMC Members Receive Transportation Enhancement Program Funding

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently announced project awards for Cycle 16 of the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). [Sixty-six projects totaling \\$139.2 million](#) received funding, including twelve projects in ten Northwest Municipal Conference member communities. Congratulations to *Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Evanston, Glencoe, Lincolnwood, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Streamwood and Wilmette!*

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 [Federal Highway Administration's \(FHWA\) 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

Safe Routes to School Resources Now Available, Webinars 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](#)

NHTSA Updates Pedestrian/ Bicyclist Crash Typing Manual

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released the [2023 FARS/CRSS Pedestrian Bicyclist Crash Typing Manual: A Guide for Coders Using the FARS/CRSS Ped/Bike Typing Tool](#), in order to help guide analysis of bicycle and pedestrian crashes and how to properly code procedures when using the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS). This system enables analysis of pre-crash actions and events involving drivers and pedestrians or bicyclists to explain the cause of crashes as well as provide standardized data and identify useful safety countermeasures.

Integrate Youth Perspectives in Transportation and Road Safety Campaigns

Vision Zero for Youth, a partner organization of the National Center for Safe Routes to School, has investigated three ways that municipalities are engaging youth: inviting youth to serve on local boards and commissions, creating youth-only boards that report to local government on various issues, and involving youth in specific community initiatives. These efforts focus in on transportation and safety campaigns, identifying the different ways that both municipalities and youth participants can benefit from each other's experience. [Read the summaries on the Vision Zero for Youth webpage.](#)

CMAP Regional Transportation Plan Survey Needs Your Support!

From our partners at CMAP:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (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 Glenview
NMWC Staff Photo

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.

Last Call to Become a Bicycle-Friendly Community

The League of American Bicyclists is currently accepting applications to become recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC). The League provides a roadmap, hands-on assistance and recognition for communities seeking to build places more welcoming to people who bike. NWMC member communities with BFC status include Silver-ranked *Evanston* and Bronze-ranked *Glenview*, *Highland Park*, *Schaumburg*, and *Wilmette*. Applications are due by June 25. Learn more about the BFC program at [the League of American Bicyclists website](#).

Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety: [Educating Drivers, Protecting Pedestrians: A Piece of the Transportation Safety Puzzle](#)—Tuesday, June 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center
AASHTO Bike Guide Series:

[Part 1: Evolution of Bicycle Infrastructure and the AASHTO Bike Guide](#)—Thursday, June 26 at 12:00 p.m.

[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

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

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

Daily Herald: [Despite pause on new biking funds, area projects keep rolling](#)

Daily Herald: [‘It’s a real community builder’: More schools are taking part in Bike to School Day](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Real ID mandate kicks off with seemingly smooth rollout at O'Hare Airport](#)

Daily Herald: [Envision Unlimited hosts third annual Summer of Cycling for all abilities, ages and skill levels](#)

Briefs, Continued

Route Fifty: [The future of identity: Preparing for mobile driver licenses](#)

Trains Magazine: [Metra assumes operation of trains on UP commuter lines](#)

Suburban Chicago Bicycling: [4 bridge/underpass projects happening: Mount Prospect, Streamwood, Barrington, Elk Grove](#)

Daily Herald: [Schaumburg prohibits drones within 100 feet of village-owned property](#)

Daily Herald: [Biking popularity surges with infrastructure improvements, events, clubs](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Glenview, plus Skokie, Evanston, Wilmette, Glencoe, smooths way to electric vehicle charging](#)

Daily Herald: [‘Time to move forward’: UP gives Metra an ultimatum on track fees — agency calls it price gouging](#)

Daily Herald: [The comfy seats are coming, but ‘complexities’ are slowing new Metra railcars’ rollout](#)

Urban Institute: [To Increase Investments in Transportation, Policymakers Must Account for Local Leaders’ Unofficial—but Powerful—Influence](#)

Daily Herald: [‘This is your LAST WARNING’: Tollway texting you about unpaid fees? Don’t believe it](#)

Streetsblog USA: [Is U.S. Transportation Policy Ready For The ‘Silver Tsunami’?](#)

State Smart Transportation Initiative: [Complex urban streets encourage safer driving](#)

Evanston RoundTable: [Photos: Silence in the streets for memorial bike ride](#)

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

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

Suburban Chicago Bicycling: [Two bike network studies in near suburbs: O'Hare area, ‘West Cook’](#)

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