

Transportation Newsletter

March 2022
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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Grayslake



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, March 15, 10:30 a.m. —
NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Friday, March 18, 5:00 p.m. — *North Shore
and Northwest Councils of Mayors Call for
Projects deadline*

Wednesday, March 24, 8:30 a.m. —
NWMC Transportation Committee

Transportation Committee Reviews New Infrastructure Funding Opportunities

At the February 24 NWMC Transportation Committee meeting, staff presented an overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), including Illinois-specific funding levels, recommendations for communities, a funding timeline and additional highlights. The bill provides \$248 billion for transportation investments and will be split into both new and existing formula programs as well as competitive programs.

Almost all formula programs available to Illinois and the north and northwest suburbs received an increase in funding. As further guidance is prepared, communities should start identifying projects compatible with the legislation's vision and reviewing project specific eligibilities and requirements. Slides from the presentation are [available online](#) and include links to more detailed information available from several resources as well as the [White House IIJA Guide-](#)

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Learns About Experiences Abroad

Former *Des Plaines* Civil Engineer and NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Co-Chair Derek Peebles returned to present his experiences living abroad at the February 15 committee meeting. He shared his observations from time spent traveling in Albania, Dubai, Estonia, and the Netherlands and compared and contrasted some of their patterns of development with those in the U.S. Mr. Peebles also explained how each country's unique history and patterns of development shaped their approach to planning and impact on the built environment.

In addition to this presentation, Committee members shared several local project updates in *Evanston, Elk Grove Village, Lincolnwood, and Mount Prospect.*

Village of Bartlett



IDOT Issues NOFO for Statewide Planning and Research Funding

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) program. This program awards federal funds for planning and research activities for making transportation investment decisions and carrying out transportation research activities throughout the state. For fiscal year 2023, approximately \$10 million is available, for which a 20 percent local match is required except in certain circumstances for disadvantaged or economically distressed communities.

Projects will be evaluated based on their connections to studying or implementing a goal, strategy or objective included in the state's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) or one of its associated plans, implementing performance-

based program development or asset management, or benefiting a disadvantaged or economically distressed community. An informational webinar will be held on Wednesday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m. and applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on March 30. More information is available in [Circular Letter 2022-05](#) or by contacting Michael Vanderhoof, Michael.vanderhoof@Illinois.gov.

Cook County Requests Re-Submittal of Invest in Cook and CDBG Applications

Due to technical issues within the Invest in Cook and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application submission forms, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways has asked all applicants to resubmit their application materials if submitted prior to March 1. All issues have been resolved and applicants should use the following links to resubmit their applications by Wednesday, March 16:

- [Invest in Cook](#)
- [CDBG](#)

For more information, please contact InvestinCook@cookcountyil.gov for the Invest in Cook program or info.edev@cookcounty.gov for the CDBG program.

CMAP Seeks EV Infrastructure Strategy Input

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is currently researching the feasibility for an Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy. CMAP will be assessing the current state of EV charging infrastructure, gaps in the network, and exploring considerations for equity, efficiency, partnerships, and coordinated investment. CMAP would like to hear from transportation implementers about current work they are pursuing and their thoughts on the region's EV charging needs. If someone from your agency would be interested in participating in the project, please contact Brian Daly at bdaly@cmapp.illinois.gov.

Rate for Equipment Ownership Expense Index Released by IDOT

A recently published circular letter from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) notified public agencies to use rates from the Schedule of Average Annual Equipment Ownership Expense (SOAAEOE) or Equipment Watch for force account work on their projects, for equipment rental on motor fuel tax-funded day labor work, on federal disaster reimbursements, or on intergovernmental agreements. Since the SOAAEOE was last published in 2004, the Bureau of Local Roads has applied an index to account for the significant increase in equipment costs since the issued date. The index is based on the Producer Price Index for Construction Machinery Manufacturing (PPI-CMM). The PPI-CMM is now 293.9, therefore an index factor of 1.633 should be used for 2022. For more information, please refer to [Circular Letter 2022-04](#) or contact the Local Policy and Technology Unit at (217) 785-5048 or DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov.

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