

Transportation Newsletter

March 2023
Volume 15 Issue 3

Northwest Municipal Conference
1600 E. Golf Rd. Suite 0700 Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 847-296-9200 www.nwmc-cog.org
Cover Photo: City of Prospect Heights



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

CMAP Call for Projects Deadline
Friday, March 10, 5:00 p.m.

NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Tuesday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.

NWMC Transportation Committee
Tuesday, March 23, 10:30 a.m.

NWMC Transportation, Bike/ Ped Committees Discuss CMAP Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Both the NWMC Transportation and Bicycle and Pedestrian Committees received presentations from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Senior Planner Jared Patton this month on the agency's work to support and assist communities in climate action planning efforts. CMAP recently updated its [Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#), which provides county and municipal level analysis on emissions so that communities can make informed decisions in planning for resiliency and reducing carbon footprints.

To receive a briefing on the data at a board/council meeting or at a staff level, please contact jpatton@cmap.illinois.gov.

Northwest, North Shore Councils Discuss Regional Call For Projects

At the February Northwest and North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee meetings, staff provided an update on the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) call for regional transportation projects, including new changes to the Surface Transportation Program (STP) scoring methodology and project readiness requirements applicable to all projects (see article below). Staff summarized recent changes to the region's Active Program Management requirements that were approved at CMAP's February 9 STP Project Selection Committee meeting.

IDOT Opens Statewide Planning and Research Call for Projects

The Illinois Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the [Statewide Planning and Research Program \(SPR\)](#), which provides federal funds to establish a cooperative, continuous and comprehensive framework for making transportation investment decisions and to carry out transportation research activities throughout the state. Approximately \$7 million is available to fund projects related to studying or implementing a goal, strategy or objective within the state's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) or one of its associated plans.

An informational [webinar](#) will be held on Wednesday, March 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The call is open until March 30, and updates or changes to the schedule will be officially announced via the Notice of Funding Opportunity. More information is available on the program's website or by contacting Michael Vanderhoof, Michael.Vanderhoof@illinois.gov or 217-782-8080.



Village of Northbrook

Time to Apply for CMAQ/CRP, STP Shared and TAP-L Funding

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is accepting applications for projects to be funded in FFYs 2024 – 2028 using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), Surface Transportation Program (STP) Shared Fund, and Local Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L) funding.

Please visit cmap.is/2023callforprojects for information and application materials . Applications must be submitted through CMAP's [eTIP database](#) by Friday, March 10.

APA-IL Opens Applications for Pro Bono Planning Services

The American Planning Association - Illinois Chapter (APA-IL) is relaunching its Pro Bono Planning Services Program and accepting applications for new projects. The program provides urban planning services on a pro bono basis by APA Illinois members in order to assist eligible organizations (Illinois-based municipalities, non-profits, community/neighborhood groups) in the initiation, organizing and fine-tuning of early-stage planning projects.

The Pro Bono Planning Services Program is not intended to compete with private sector planning services which may be needed to perform and complete any of a full range of planning activities. Applications are due via this [online form](#) by Monday, March 27. More information, including past project examples, is available on the [APA-IL website](#), and questions can be directed to probono@ilapa.org.

Pace Introduces Reduced Fare Options

Beginning February 20, Pace is offering new or reduced fare pass products that lower the cost for those who ride Pace and CTA. Riders using the Ventra Card can transfer from Pace bus to Pace bus for free as long as the second ride occurs within two hours of the first. Pace is also introducing new Pace/CTA 1-Day passes for \$5, 3-Day passes for \$15, and a 7-day pass for only \$20. All passes offer unlimited rides on Pace and CTA buses and trains. Fares are also reduced for those transferring to or from Pace Premium routes. Please visit the [Pace website](#) for additional details.

Apply Today for COMED Community-Oriented Project Grants

Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) is accepting applications for the 2023 Powering Communities Grant Programs which advance environmental initiatives, enhance public safety and increase access to arts programs in communities served by ComEd. Organizations are encouraged to apply for one of the three annual grant programs: Green Region; Powering Safe Communities; and, Powering the Arts.

Qualifying proposals are eligible for grants of up to \$10,000 each. Organizations interested in applying for the Powering Communities Grants Program should visit [ComEd.com/Grants](https://www.comed.com/Grants) for more information, including how to apply for funding. Applications will be accepted through Friday, March 24.

IDOT Launches Bicycle Facility Inventory System

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently announced the soft launch of the new statewide Bicycle and Facility Inventory System (BFIS). BFIS is an online, interactive map database that includes helpful information about bicycle lanes, paths, trails and associated characteristics. The system allows individuals to search, collect, share, edit and analyze data for project planning and visualization of bicycle facilities. In the current soft launch phase, IDOT is requesting local bicycle facility owners to contact DOT.Bikeped@illinois.gov for access to the system. The BFIS will officially launch on Wednesday, April 5 with a [webinar](#) from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The webinar is open to anyone who wishes to learn how to use the system.

AARP Accepting 2023 Community Challenge Applications

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is accepting applications for its Community Challenge program, which provides small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Applications across three different grant opportunities are being accepted which include Flagship Grants, Capacity-Building Microgrants and Demonstration Grants. For a full list of potential projects and eligibility requirements, please visit the [AARP Community Challenge website](#).

Applications must be submitted through the [online application form](#) with all pertinent information by Wednesday, March 15. For any questions regarding this program, please contact communitychallenge@AARP.org.

IDOT Announces Engineering Agreement Salary Cap Change

With the issuance of the Professional Transportation Bulletin (PTB) 207, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has increased the salary cap for Engineering Agreements from \$78/hr to \$86/hr. BLR forms 05513 and BLR 05514 have been revised to reflect this change. For fully executed and existing Engineering Agreements, no changes will be made to the salary cap, which includes existing and future supplements on the same agreement, irrespective of the date fully executed and will continue with the \$78/hr. cap. New engineering agreements, and agreements not fully executed by February 7, 2023, can use the new cap of \$86/hr.

For additional questions, please contact IDOT Local Project Implementation Engineer Greg Lupton, greg.lupton@illinois.gov or 217-785-1670.

Thank You Kendra!

Today is NWMC Program Manager for Transportation Kendra Johnson's last day with the conference. Kendra joined our staff in 2019 and is leaving to serve the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) as an Associate for Intergovernmental Affairs. We thank Kendra for her service to the organization and wish her all the best at the RTA!



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Phone: 847-296-9200 | www.nwmc-cog.org

Kendra Johnson: 847-296-9200 ext. 131
KJohnson@nwmc-cog.org

Eric Czarnota: 847-296-9200 ext. 128
ECzarnota@nwmc-cog.org