

Transportation Newsletter

March 2024
Volume 16 Issue 3

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, March 12, 10:30 a.m. — *NWMC
Offices and Virtually*

NWMC Transportation Committee:
Thursday, March 28, 8:30 a.m. — *NWMC
Offices and Virtually*

STP Workshop:

Thursday, April 4, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. —
NWMC Offices and Virtually

Save the Date for the NWMC STP Workshop!

On Thursday, April 4, the Northwest Municipal Conference will conduct a Surface Transportation Program (STP) workshop to assist members in obligating and completing projects. Specific focus will be placed on STP funding and engineering, right-of-way and construction agreements.

The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the NWMC office and via videoconference. Invitations with further information will be sent out shortly.

To register for the event, please contact Brian Larson, blarson@nwmc-cog.org or Eric Czarnota, eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org by Friday, March 29.

Learn How to Improve Accessibility in the Region

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has released the spring schedule of free Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) training sessions, which cover ADA and Title II requirements, completing a self-evaluation, the role of an ADA coordinator and developing a transition plan. Training slides and recordings from [previous sessions](#) are available on the CMAP website. Registration is now open for the [spring 2024 ADA trainings](#), which will cover the following topics:

The ADA and Title II of the ADA

Tuesday, March 12, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADA self-evaluation and design standards

Monday, April 15, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADA transition plans

Tuesday, April 16, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)

Wednesday, May 1, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (PROWAG I), 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (PROGWAG II)

Illinois Accessibility Code

Thursday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Please visit <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/accessibility> for more information on CMAP's efforts to improve accessibility in the region, and to find information on prior trainings on Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG).

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants Open for Applications

If your community is interested in testing new street design changes with quick-build demonstration projects, the [USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Program](#) can help you implement these efforts. \$1.256 billion will be available this fiscal year for planning activities and demonstration projects with direct awards to the local jurisdiction. Application deadlines vary from April 4 to August 29, depending on the grant type being pursued. To learn what kinds of projects are eligible, please visit the [USDOT SS4A website](#), or read more from [Transportation for America](#). NWMC Program Associate for Transportation Brian Larson has previously served as a volunteer for one of these demonstration projects, so please contact him with questions.

The US DOT also announced a series of webinars on various parts of the SS4A process, all offering a general overview of the SS4A program and grant application process:

Implementation Grants

Focused on applying for Implementation Grants.

Wednesday, March 13, 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

[Register to attend the March 13 webinar.](#)

US DOT has hosted two additional webinars and will be posting the recordings and slides on the [webinar page](#) soon:

Action Plans

Focused on applying for grants to develop an Action Plan.

Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities

Focused on applying for funding for supplemental planning and demonstration activities.

US DOT Soliciting Project Applications for Bridge Investment Program

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) is providing up to \$80 million in Planning Project grants and up to \$9.62 billion for Bridge Projects focused on safety and condition improvements of existing poor condition bridges. USDOT will accept applications for projects for FFY2023-2026. Applications can utilize templates, a cost-benefit tool, and find answers to questions at the Bridge Improvement Program (BIP) website. Due dates depend on the FFY and type of application submitted as follows:

Fiscal Year BIP Funding	Planning Application Deadline	Bridge Project Application Deadline
FY 2023 and 2024	February 19, 2024	March 19, 2024
FY 2025	October 1, 2024	November 1, 2024
FY 2026	October 1, 2025	November 1, 2025

IDOT is available to provide letters of support if given two weeks prior to the application deadline. Please contact Tim McMahon, Bureau Chief of Federal Affairs at Timothy.McMahon@illinois.gov if interested. The complete NOFO is available on the [Grants.gov website](https://www.grants.gov).



Village of Morton Grove

IDOT Releases Updated Phase I Forms

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Bureau of Local Roads (BLR) has released numerous modifications to its existing Phase I forms as part of the agency's modernization efforts. A key feature is allowing the use of electronic signatures, enhancing the capacity for electronic submissions. For more details on which forms have been changed, please see [Circular Letter 2024-04](#). If you have any questions regarding this Circular Letter, please contact Local Project Implementation Engineer Greg Lupton, Greg.Lupton@illinois.gov. If you have questions concerning the use and applicability of these forms, please contact your respective District Local Roads Field Engineer.

Invest in Cook and Community Development Block Grant Program Accepting Applications

As a reminder, Cook County has recently opened applications for the Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH) [Invest in Cook](#) grant program, aiming to assist communities in transportation infrastructure improvements. These grants are available to local governments and agency partners to prioritize transit and other transportation alternatives, support the region's role as North America's freight capital, promote equal access to opportunities, maintain and modernize existing infrastructure, and increase investments in transportation. For more information and the application for Invest in Cook, click [here](#).

In conjunction, the Bureau of Economic Development (BED) is also accepting [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)](#) applications to support economic development in the County through capital improvement, public service, and Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) programs. For more information and the project application, please click [here](#).

CONNECTING
COOK COUNTY
Beyond Transportation

The application deadline for all grant opportunities is Friday, March 22, at 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions or are interested in finding out if Invest in Cook is a good fit for a potential project or need help applying, please email InvestinCook.CC@cookcountyil.gov. If you have any questions, are interested in finding out if a Community Development Block Grant is a good fit, or need help applying, please email info.edev@cookcountyil.gov.

IDOT Releases Schedule of Average Annual Equipment Ownership Expense Index For 2024

The Schedule of Average Annual Equipment Ownership Expense (SOAAEOE) booklet was last published by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Bureau of Construction on January 1, 2004. The department currently uses [Equipment Watch](#) for all force account work according to [Construction Memorandum 9](#). Local highway agencies may use rates from the 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. The Bureau of Local Roads and Streets is applying an index to the SOAAEOE in order to account for the significant increase in equipment costs since the issued date. The index is based on the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Producer Price Index for Construction Machinery Manufacturing (PPI-CMM). The PPI-CCM for January 2004 was 180.0. The preliminary PPI-CCM for January 2022 is 345.879. Therefore, an index factor of 1.922 should be used for 2024. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Tim Peters, Local Policy and Technology Engineer at Tim.Peters@illinois.gov.

SNAP recipients ride Metra for less



Get Access

Metra Offers Reduced Rides

The RTA, Cook County, and Metra have partnered to launch the Access Pilot Program to grant reduced fare permits for individuals who are enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and live in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry or Will counties. Apply for the Access Program now by visiting [GetAccess.org](https://www.getaccess.org).

Answer the Technical Assistance Call for Projects

CMAAP and the RTA are accepting applications for technical assistance! This opportunity helps support communities as they continue to collaborate, innovate, and plan to thrive post-pandemic while bringing to life the principles in CMAAP's comprehensive regional plan, ON TO 2050, and the RTA's recently updated regional transit strategic plan, Transit is the Answer.

Applications are due by noon on Friday, March 22. Apply at cmap.illinois.gov/ta or rtachicago.org/cp.



Is Your Community Looking to Electrify Its Fleet? ComEd Will Pay for It

ComEd is looking to boost EV adoption across Illinois to fulfill the goal of 1 million EVs in Illinois under the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. To do so, [they have launched a new rebate program for public sector and business customers](#). ComEd is offering a total of \$57 million in rebates of \$5,000-\$180,000 for light duty, medium duty, and heavy-duty fleet vehicles, transit buses, and K-12 school buses. ComEd is also offering \$30 million in up to \$8,000 Level 2 EV charger port and up to \$500,000 Level 3 charger port individual rebates. In both cases, rebates are retroactively available for purchases back to June 1, 2023. Learn more about and apply for the grants at [ComEd's EVSmart page](#).

Have Bold Plans and Want Infrastructure Funding? NRDC Releases Equitable Investment Resource Guide

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recently released [ACT LOCALLY](#), an equitable investment resource guide for local governments to use to access infrastructure funding. Key components include ways to deepen local capacity, flex transportation funds, build out electric vehicle solutions, supporting equitable benefits, and build workforces to support this work in the long term. In addition, the guide highlights federal funding sources, how Illinois compares to other states, and tools and toolkits that can provide data, workforce, and support for federal funding.

Take Advantage of Free Technical Assistance for EV Deployment

The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (Joint Office), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), [offers free technical assistance](#) to help plan, deploy, operate and maintain electric vehicle (EV) chargers and infrastructure. This assistance is available in the form of siting analyses, vehicle procurement, storage opportunities, and much more.

IDOT Opens Call for Projects for Statewide Planning and Research Funds

Local community projects are now eligible for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Planning and Research Funds to study or implement a goal, strategy or objective of IDOT's [Long-Range Transportation Plan](#) or one of the agency's multimodal plans, such as the transit, rail, bike, freight and highway safety plans. Eligible activities include planning studies, data collection and analysis, research and program development, performance management, and outreach efforts.

On Wednesday, March 13 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, [IDOT will host an informational webinar about the program](#).

Applications are due on Sunday, April 14, with awards announced this summer. For more information and how to apply, please visit the [IDOT planning website](#).

Mount Prospect Hosts Arterial Bike Network Open House

Mount Prospect hosted the first open house of its Arterial Bike Study on Wednesday, February 21. Attendees were able to talk with village staff and consultants about the construction of bike facilities along arterial and high traffic streets in order to complete a bicycle network.

Materials from the open house are available on [the project website](#). Interested parties can provide input online as well through a [map survey](#) and corridor prioritization list.

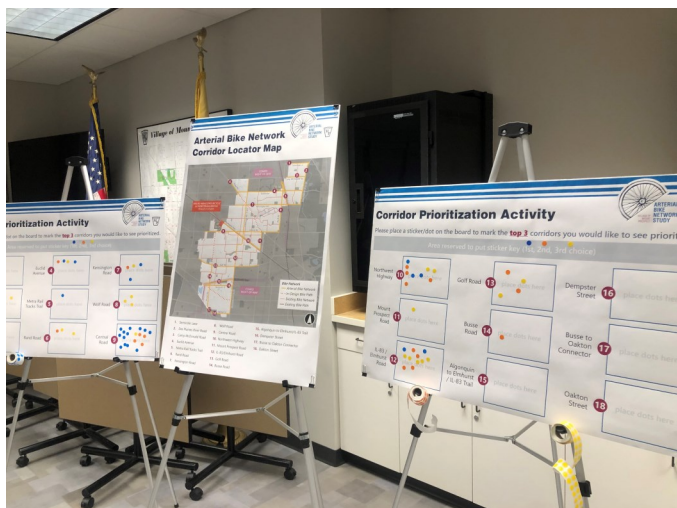


Sign up for the USDOT Climate Change Center 2024 Webinar Series

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Climate Change Center is offering a monthly webinar series through June. Each month, USDOT will explore climate change and transportation topics, ranging from greenhouse gas reduction strategies to climate resilience activities to research and technology advancements. The next webinar will be held Monday, March 25, discussing Transit-Oriented Development. [Register for all webinars through the USDOT Climate Change Center.](#)

FHWA Announces Call to Apply to the Vision Zero Community Pairing Program

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is accepting applications for the next cycle of the [Vision Zero Community Pairing Program](#). The two-year program provides a platform for Vision Zero communities to share information and noteworthy practices, assess strategies and actions, and develop learning relationships. Partnerships take two forms: mentor-mentee pairs, where experienced communities guide less experienced ones, and peer partnerships, where communities at similar stages collaborate. Vision Zero communities interested in applying as a mentor, mentee, or peer organization can learn more about previous program participants, activities, and application process via the [program website](#). Apply by Friday, March 15.



Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Momentum Magazine: [Study shows bicycle-friendly cities are safer for all road users even drivers](#)

NPR: [What Vision Zero Has and Hasn't Accomplished](#)

Streetsblog: [Study: Subsidizing Transit Actually Makes It More Efficient](#)

Bloomberg CityLab: [New Research Shows the 15-Minute City Can Work in the US](#)

Route Fifty via Energy News Network: [A gold star for EV Readiness: Chicago-area program prepares communities for electric vehicle adoption](#)

US DOT: [2024 Progress Report on the National Roadway Safety Strategy](#)

Daily Herald: [New interactive map shows available and planned shared-use paths in Lake County](#)

Active Transportation Alliance: [Surveys help refine DuPage County Trails Plan](#)

Route Fifty: [A decade in, pedestrian deaths dip under Vision Zero](#)

VELO: [The 5 Principles That Make America's Best Bike Lanes: A Lot More Than Painted Lines](#)

Capitol News Illinois: [With influx of state and federal funding, Illinois looks to add enough chargers to support 1 million EVs](#)

NPR: [Eyes on the road: Automated speed cameras get a fresh look as traffic deaths mount](#)

The Verge: [The US will relax pollution-limiting rules for vehicle emissions](#)

Governors Highway Safety Association: [Four Million Total U.S. Traffic Deaths Shows Need for National Safety Strategy](#)

AASHTO Journal: [Congressional Leaders Share Transportation Priorities](#)

Daily Herald: [Pace accelerates EV Revolution; Inaugural battery-operated bus takes off, with 22 more en route](#)

The Record North Shore: [New bike racks going on 50 Metra cars to start](#)

The Hill: [Early testing suggests highway guardrails not built for heavy EVs](#)

Patch: [State Awards \\$600K to Niles Park District, \\$325K to Morton Grove's](#)

Bicycling: [A New Strava Report Reveals Why Women Cyclists Ride Less—and the Fear That Follows](#)

VELO: [Cargo Bikes Have a Notable Impact on Car Ownership, Says Recent Study](#)

Yale Environment 360: [How Parking Reform Is Helping Transform American Cities](#)

Route Fifty: [Want to reform housing? Take a look at parking.](#)

Transportation For America: [Supercharge your community's quick-build safety demonstration projects with Safe Streets for All](#)

USA Today: [Where traffic deaths are high, how can communities get the government's attention?](#)

Planning Magazine: [5 Open-Source Tools for Sustainable Multimodal Planning](#)

Daily Herald: [Suburbs lead in fatal bike, pedestrian collisions as Wheaton crashes prompt school to fundraise for light](#)

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