

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: NWMC Staff



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

NWMC Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee:
Tuesday, March 11, 11:00 a.m. — NWMC
offices and virtually

NWMC Transportation Committee:
Thursday, March 27, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC
offices and virtually

NWMC Approves Resolution in Support of Pace ReVision

The NWMC Board of Directors approved a resolution in support of the Pace ReVision planning process at the February 12 meeting. The resolution highlights the vital public transportation service Pace provides to NWMC member communities, along with the benefits that would result from increased funding to meet ReVision's Pace Plus 50 scenario. Further, the resolution encourages Pace to establish and improve service to areas that experienced pandemic-related service cuts and locations with sufficient residential and employment populations to sustain long-term service.

NWMC Leaders Recognized by CMAP for Contribution to Regional Service

Arlington Heights President Tom Hayes (pictured), Barrington President Karen Darch (pictured), Northfield President Greg Lungmus and Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen were recognized at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Council of Mayors Executive Committee February 28 meeting for their service to CMAP and the region by Chair and Batavia Mayor Jeff Shielke and CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman. Presidents Hayes, Darch, Lungmus and Mayor Van Dusen served on the Council of Mayors, providing municipal expertise to inform, guide, and support CMAP's work. We greatly appreciate their service on behalf of our region.



CMAP

Applications Due Soon for Invest in Cook Grants

The 2025 Invest in Cook grant program is now open for applications. Invest in Cook offers \$8.5 million to local governments and agencies with transportation or recreational trail authority in Cook County. This funding resource supports planning, engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction for municipal projects that follow [Connecting Cook County](#), the county's long-range transportation plan. For more information, including a list of previously funded projects, please visit the [Invest in Cook website](#), or email InvestinCook.CC@cookcountyil.gov. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 21.

CMAP, IDOT Release Memoranda on Federal Activities

On February 26, CMAP released a memorandum updating its partners on ongoing federal activities, including federal transportation funding, grant disbursements, regulatory information, transportation programming, and other related transportation news in response to recent executive orders and federal directives. [Read the full memorandum here](#). At the time of this newsletter's publication, the section on Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) amendments and the review process has been rescinded.

Additionally, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) issued a circular letter in response to the recent federal funding freeze, which can be read [here](#).

CMAP and RTA Technical Assistance Application Open Monday!

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) will be opening their joint technical assistance call for projects soon. CMAP offers a variety of [transportation, capital improvement, ADA, and watershed-related planning assistance](#) and the RTA supports [Transit-Oriented Development, transit corridor, mobility hub, and other bus and rail related planning efforts](#). To learn more about opportunities available under each program and see prior awards, visit the [CMAP](#) and [RTA](#) technical assistance pages. Applications open Monday, March 10 and close Friday, April 4.

Additionally, the NWMC will host representatives from CMAP, RTA, and member communities at the March 27 Transportation Committee meeting to discuss the programs and how members have successfully implemented this assistance.

Section 5310 Program Call for Projects Opens March 20

From our partners at RTA:

The [Section 5310 Program](#) is a federal formula grant program that provides funding assistance to public transportation projects that focus on enhancing mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. As a co-designated recipient of the Section 5310 Program, the RTA awards and administers funding to operating, mobility management, capital improvement projects, and associated administrative expenses to non-profit and local government providers of eligible transportation programs. The 2025 Call for Projects opens on March 20 and applications are due by April 24.

Electrify Fleets and the Community with ComEd Rebate Programs

ComEd recently announced two programs to charge up municipal fleets and empower local electric vehicle infrastructure. The [Electric Vehicle Rebate Program](#) provides rebates of up to \$750,000 for electric vehicle fleet purchases, with larger per-vehicle rates available for Low-Income and Equity Investment Eligible Communities. Rebates can be either point-of-sale with qualified dealers or post-purchase.

The [Make-Ready Rebate Program](#) offers rebates that start at \$5,333 per port for L2 Chargers or \$667/kW for Direct Current Fast Chargers, with higher rebates for Low-Income and Equity Investment Eligible Communities. To learn more, including how to apply, please contact EVSmart@ComEd.com.

Templates Help Communities Comply With Accessibility Rules

From our partners at CMAP:

If improving accessibility is one of your goals for 2025, CMAP is here to help you score some easy wins! Our [user-friendly templates](#) contain vetted language and helpful instructions to make it simple for communities to meet the following ADA Title II requirements:

- ADA coordinator designation
- ADA notice
- Grievance procedure

View the customizable ADA compliance templates [here](#).

The future of transportation includes you!



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](#).

My Daily Travel Survey Continues This Spring

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is continuing a major survey called [My Daily Travel](#) this Spring to better understand the travel needs of residents in northeastern Illinois.

As travel behaviors change and technologies evolve over the next few years, transportation planners will use this survey data to guide future transportation investments and prioritize improvements.

At least 4,000 households in northeastern Illinois are expected to participate in the survey. Households will receive an invitation by U.S. mail to participate in the survey and are strongly encouraged to complete the survey to help northeastern Illinois plan for a transportation system that meets their needs.

Invited households may complete the survey online, over the phone, or through a smartphone app (rMove™). Only invited households are eligible to take the survey.



Chicago Region Needs Input in the Safe Travel for All Safety Action Plan Process

As part of a regionwide initiative called [Safe Travel for All](#), CMAP has partnered with Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties to develop and implement a Safety Action Plan for each county. The goal of these plans is to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries in the region. Utilizing a nearly [\\$4 million federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant](#), the counties will develop individualized safety action plans that will operate in a regional framework for future coordination. To participate in each county's safety survey and to sign up to receive updates, please visit each county's corresponding Safe Travel for All page:

[Cook County](#), [DuPage County](#), [Kane County](#), [Lake County](#), [McHenry County](#)

The Cook County steering committee is also looking to promote community engagement at your local events. If you have upcoming events where the county can staff a table, please contact Brian Larson, blarson@nwmc-cog.org.

Next Round of Public Engagement for IDOT'S Long-Range Transportation Plan

IDOT has begun the next phase of Move Illinois: the 2024 Long-Range Transportation Plan. The plan will strategically outline goals, objectives and strategies for Illinois' diverse transportation network for the next 20 to 30 years.

This is a multi-phase effort that will take place into 2025. The first phase of the plan was focused on transportation studies and public engagement to determine preferences for transportation goal areas. During the second phase, IDOT is focusing on potential actions and strategies to include in the plan.

Residents are invited to provide feedback for the plan by filling out a [survey](#) and staying informed via an online meeting that can be viewed [here](#). The project team works with residents, business owners and transportation professionals from across the state in an advisory group. This group combines the transportation expertise and information gathered from the community in each phase to help form the goals, objectives and strategies of the Long-Range Transportation Plan.



Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

National Center for Rural Road Safety: [Maintaining a Safer Roadway](#)—Wednesday, March 19, 1:00 p.m.

American Trails: [Connecting Recreational Benefits with Transmission Corridors](#) — Thursday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.

Vision Zero Network: [Building a Strong Foundation for Safe Streets](#)—Monday, March 24, 12:00 p.m.

Great Lakes ADA Center: [Can You Read This Map: Checking Maps for ADA Accessibility](#)—Thursday, March 20, 2:00 p.m.

Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Daily Herald: [Public EV charging stations being installed at Rolling Meadows city hall](#)

Crain's Chicago Business: [Federal order could imperil billions in road, transit projects here](#)

Streetsblog Chicago: [Sen. Ram Villivalam on transit funding, and the recent research trip to Germany: "It really showcased how integrated public transit is possible."](#)

Daily Herald: [New IDOT crash data shows drop in traffic deaths but pedestrian fatalities spiking](#)

Streetsblog Chicago: [RTA chief says the agency should get more authority over fares, service quality, and capital investment for](#)

Briefs, Continued

[Chicagoland transit](#)

Daily Herald: [Transit funding crisis on Pritzker's radar but not in his budget proposal](#)

Governing: [State and Local Finance Officers Struggle With Funding Uncertainties](#)

Streetsblog Chicago: [Cook County, CMAP, and CDOT have teamed up on a Safety Action Plan to prevent traffic injuries and deaths](#)

Crain's Chicago Business: [Competing visions for mass transit overhaul emerge in Springfield](#)

Daily Herald: [Transit funding crisis coming to a head in Springfield](#)

Safe Routes Partnership: [Three Weeks In: Impacts of the New Administration's Actions on Safe Routes](#)

Evanston Now: [Evanston route sets the pace for PACE](#)

Daily Herald: [The governor wants to put pause on fuel tax shift. What would that mean?](#)

RTA: [Coalition members provide feedback on 'Transforming Transit,' RTA's vision for improved service and accountability](#)

Daily Herald: ['Instability in the market' or rightsizing? What does federal EV cold shoulder mean for Illinois?](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Pace considers express buses on I-290, I-88](#)

Daily Herald: [Arlington Heights hires traffic expert in anticipation of Bears plans](#)

FOX32 Chicago: [Toll road text scam: Illinois residents targeted by fake payment demands](#)

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