

Transportation Newsletter

March 2026
Volume 18 Issue 3

Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: City of Park Ridge, NWMC Staff



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian and Transportation Committee: Tuesday, March 10, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC Offices and Virtually

NWMC Transportation Committee: Thursday, March 26, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC Offices and Virtually

CMAP Century Plan Meeting With NWMC and Barrington Area Council of Governments: Tuesday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. — Vehe Barn, Deer Park

NWMC Transportation Committee Hosts IDOT Zero Fatalities Task Force

The NWMC Transportation Committee hosted the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for an early peek at [IDOT's Zero Fatalities Task Force](#) recommendations during their February meeting. While the final report for the Illinois General Assembly will not be out until later this spring, the committee received a preview of the planned recommendations that are relevant to local municipalities, including:

- Increasing local speed limit authority
- Tying state funding to traffic calming and safety
- Increasing local authority over design and lettings
- Expediting crash prevention countermeasures deployment

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NWMC Transportation Committee Hosts IDOT Zero Fatalities Task Force

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- Allowing expansion of automated enforcement and education in place of fines

Additionally, IDOT is working on a Traffic Calming Toolkit to guide safety improvement implementation, as well as case studies and local examples.

To review prior meetings of the Task Force, their presentations, and stay on top of developments, please visit the [Task Force website](#).

Administrators, Planners: Learn About CMAP Century Plan at Joint NWMC-BACOG Meeting

As previously reported, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is currently developing [the Century Plan](#), a shared vision for the region to guide long-term policies regarding transportation, environment, and the economy. As part of these efforts, CMAP is working with local partners to identify historic regional patterns, current conditions, and future trends and how best to address regional goals. The NWMC and Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) will host a joint meeting with CMAP on Tuesday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m. at the Vehe Barn, 23570 Cuba Road, in *Deer Park*. Invitations have been sent to municipal administrators and planning staff, however, any elected officials interested in sharing perspectives on

regional and local issues/trends is welcome to attend. Participants can prepare for the meeting by reviewing [State of the Region snapshots at the Century Plan website](#) or by reviewing the presentation made at the March 3 CMAP Council of Mayors meeting. Please RSVP to Mark Fowler, mfowler@nwmc-cog.org by the close of business on Wednesday, March 25.

CMAP/RTA Local Technical Assistance Applications Open Soon

CMAP and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) will soon open their joint technical assistance call for projects. 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 the opportunities available under each program and see prior awards, visit the [CMAP](#) and [RTA](#) technical assistance pages. Applications open Tuesday, March 31 and close Friday, April 17.



Deadline Approaching for MMC/ComEd Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grants

A reminder that the deadline to apply for [Powering Safe Communities program](#) funding is one week away. The program is a partnership between ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) and provides grants of up to \$10,000 for local public safety and clean transportation projects, including electric vehicle charging stations, infrastructure, and electric vehicles. Recent NWMC member awardees include *Morton Grove, Palatine, Rolling Meadows, and Vernon Hills*. Applications are due by Friday, March 13 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit the program's website and view the [program guidelines](#).

How to Create a Simple, Streamlined Safe Routes Project Action Plan

From the Safe Routes Partnership:

Every successful Safe Routes project begins with a great plan – but sometimes the planning process can be a struggle. This two-part webinar series, on Tuesday, March 10 at 12:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 7 at 12:00 p.m., shows how project planning can be simple, streamlined, and fun! Join us as we discuss the ins and out of Safe Routes to School project planning, from goal setting to evaluation. Part One will focus on the components of a strong project plan and how to get a head start on the planning process. Part Two will dive deeper into developing an action plan and preparing it for grant applications, project proposals, and funding requests. We will have plenty of time to unpack your planning questions and concerns, so come ready to share! [Register here](#).

My Daily Travel Phase One Data Offers Insight Into How People Travel Across Northeastern Illinois

From CMAP:

Between September 2024 and June 2025, CMAP collected detailed travel behavior data from more than 3,500 households across the region. CMAP has published the [Phase One dataset](#) from its [My Daily Travel household survey](#), marking a major milestone in a multi-year effort to better understand how northeastern Illinois residents move through the region. The dataset provides critical insight into daily travel patterns, mode choice, telework, transit use, and barriers to travel — and will inform CMAP's travel demand modeling, policy analysis, and long-range transportation planning efforts, including the development of the next Regional Transportation Plan.



City of Evanston

RTA Begins Transition Working Groups, Focus on Rider Experience, Service Coordination, and Other Key Issues

From the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA):

Inter-agency working groups comprised of staff from the RTA, CTA, Metra, and Pace have begun laying the groundwork for the transition to the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) this June, identifying timelines, key issues, and critical decision-making points for early NITA priorities. The RTA has established five working groups to address budget, fares, service, land-use, and rider information policy changes outlined in the NITA Act. Progress from early meetings of each working group was discussed at the February [RTA Board of Directors](#) meeting, and a presentation is available online. The RTA is seeking input from regional stakeholders, please contact [RTA Government Affairs staff](#) to share your perspectives on these issues.



Village of Glenview

New Corridor Studies Map Added to Local Planning Dashboard

From the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA):

Late last year, RTA launched a new [Local Planning Dashboard](#) mapping projects in the Access to Transit program as well as plans related to transit oriented development (TOD). Now, a new map added to the dashboard visualizes the spatial distribution of corridor projects from the [Community Planning program](#). Every project featured in the dashboard has its own standalone project page on RTAMS comprising a project description, current activities, related reports, funding information, and more. [Learn more about RTA's Corridor Studies on RTAMS.](#)

How the NITA Act Will Change Transit Capital Programming in the Future

From the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA):

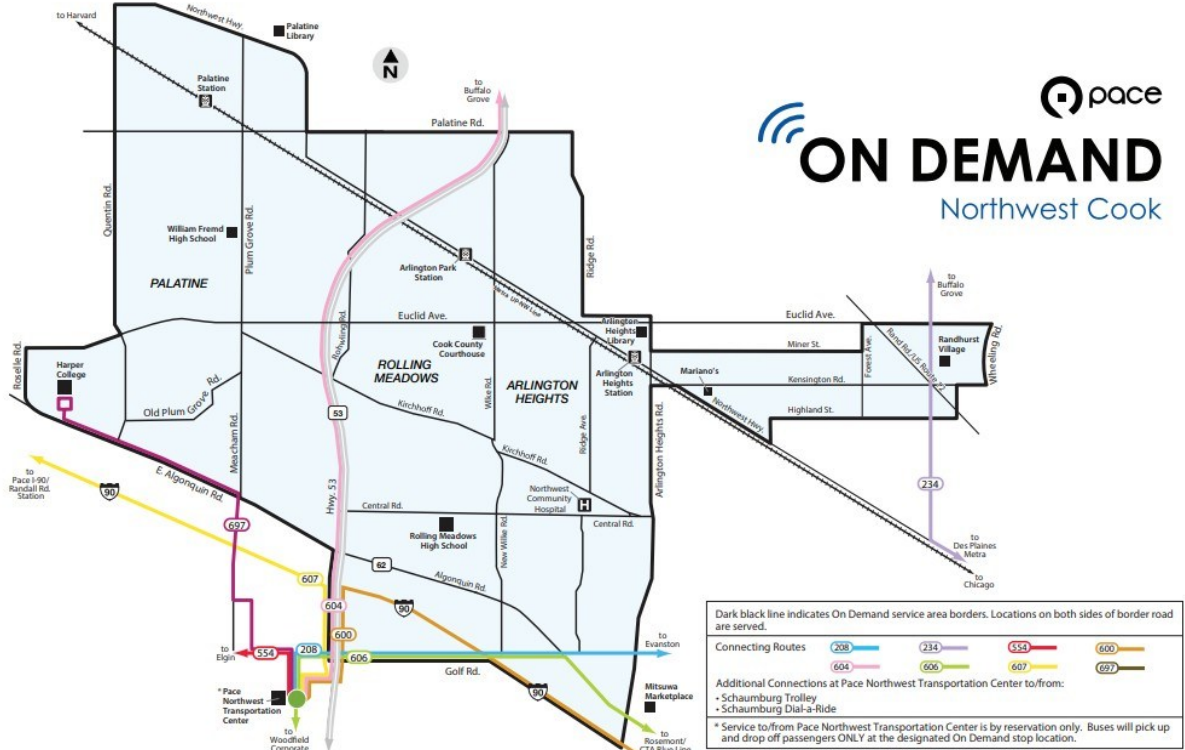
Along with historic operations funding and governance changes, the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) Act, signed by Governor JB Pritzker in December, includes important changes to how the region plans and prioritizes capital improvements, including projects that rebuild infrastructure, modernize stations and vehicles, and keep the system in a state of good repair.

In addition to \$180 million in new annual capital funding, the legislation strengthens the regional agency's role in evaluating and prioritizing projects. This builds on the work the RTA has already begun in recent years, setting NITA up for success with a more transparent capital planning process. [Read a full breakdown at the RTA Connections Blog.](#)

Pace Expands Northwest Cook County On Demand Service with Support from Cook County



L-R: Cook County Board Commissioner Scott Britton; Pace Director Chris Canning; Cook County Board Commissioner Kevin Morrison; Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle; Pace Executive Director Melinda Metzger; Mayor of Rolling Meadows Lara Sanoica; Cook County Board Commissioner Maggie Trevor; Illinois Representative Mary Beth Canty; Illinois Representative Nabeela Syed; Illinois Representative Nicolle Grasse; and Pace Director Bill McLeod



The Basics

Weekdays
6:00 am to 8:00 pm

Reservations
10 minutes - 7 days prior

Plan

Transit app

On Demand app

Book and Manage

Online
PaceBus.com/OnDemand

Phone
224-803-9277

Pay

One way \$2.00
Cash = \$2.25

Ride

You're on your way!

National Center for Rural Road Safety Offering Road Safety Champion Program Webinar Series

The National Center for Rural Road Safety is now offering its [Road Safety Champion Program](#), a nationally-recognized Roadway Safety 101 webinar series to assist transportation staff, public health professionals, and first responders to better understand roadway safety and how their role can better assist their community. Completion of the core training modules and one of the pathways (Maintenance & Construction, Public Health, Planning & Engineering, or First Responder) rewards the applicant with a Road Safety Champion certificate.

See below for the full list of upcoming webinars and the individual webinar registration links:

March 11, 12:00 p.m.—[Public Health Data to Inform Injury Analysis and Monitoring](#)

March 17, 12:00 p.m.—[Overview of Local Road Safety Plans](#)—March 17, 12:00 p.m.

March 18, 12:00 p.m.—[Intersections between Traffic Safety and Health Culture](#)

March 24, 12:00 p.m.—[Overview of Data and Tools for Safety](#)

March 25, 12:00 p.m.—[Partnerships for Safety Program Implementation](#)

April 1, 12:00 p.m.—[Pursuing Transportation and Positive Health Outcomes for Everyone](#)

April 7, 12:00 p.m.—[Systemic Safety Project Selection Tool](#)

April 8, 12:00 p.m.—[Public Health Approaches to Population-Level Behavior Change](#)

April 14, 12:00 p.m.—[Maintaining a Safer Roadway](#)

April 15, 12:00 p.m.—[MUTCD for First Responders](#)

April 21, 12:00 p.m.—[Worker Safety](#)

April 22, 12:00 p.m.—[Safety of Responders on Roads](#)

April 28, 12:00 p.m.—[Take Action Now—Maintaining Safety](#)

April 29, 12:00 p.m.—[Road Safety Audits](#)

May 6, 12:00 p.m.—[Evaluation of the Legal Landscape Impacting First Responders](#)



Village of Wheeling

Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

Safe Routes Partnership: [How to Create a Simple, Streamlined Safe Routes Project Action Plan: Part 1](#)—March 10, 12:00 p.m.

[New Technology to Keep Kids Safe in School Zones](#)—March 11, 12:00 p.m.

Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety: [Right Turn on Red Maneuvers: Vulnerable Road User Safety Concerns](#)—March 11, 2:00 p.m.

Transportation Research and Education Center: [HUD Thriving Communities Technical Assistance: Incorporating Housing into Transportation Planning](#)—March 12, 1:00 p.m.

The United States Conference of Mayors: [Safe Streets, Stronger Communities: Preparing Competitive Applications for the SS4A Program](#)—March 17, 1:00 p.m.

Rails to Trails Conservancy: [Leveraging Unobligated Funding: How to Fund Your Trail with Unspent Federal Funding](#)—March 18, 12:00 p.m.

Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety: [Pedestrian Safety at Transit Bus Stops: Insights from National and State Crash Data](#)—March 25, 2:00 p.m.

Parking Reform Network: [Recipes for Reform: Introducing the PRN Policy Cookbook](#)—March 25, 2:00 p.m.

See [Page 5](#) for the [National Center for Rural Road Safety Road Safety Champion Program webinar series](#)

Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Crain's Chicago Business: [Public transit has a chance to reinvent how people connect and get around](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Noise of train horns in Glencoe to be reduced under agreement](#)

Daily Herald: [Monster trucks bill percolating in DC to boost rig weights is causing concern in the suburbs](#)

Journal & Topics: [Niles Trustees To Consider New Agreement With Pace To Restore Free Bus](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Roundabouts are increasingly popping up in Chicago's suburbs, seen as an answer to traffic problems](#)

American Planning Association: [What Happens to EVs When Washington Backs Out? Ask Rolling Meadows.](#)

Daily Herald: [Illinois moves to rein in e-bike regulation chaos with statewide safety push](#)

Bloomberg: [Congestion Pricing's Unexpected Winners: Suburban Drivers](#)

City Club Chicago: [Gia Biagi, Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation, Addresses City Club Chicago](#)

Roads and Bridges: [USDOT Moves to Restrict Federal Funding for Automated Traffic Enforcement Cameras](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Cook County court clerk piloting electronic traffic tickets](#)

IDOT: [Improving Crosswalk Accessibility](#)

Capitol News Illinois: [How Illinois' Road Fund will help fund transit, especially in the Chicago region](#)

Daily Herald: [Time for electric vehicle owners to pony up? Legislation to hike EV fees has a pay-per-mile option](#)

Capitol News Illinois: [How Illinois' Road Fund will help fund transit, especially in the Chicago region](#)

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