

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Elk Grove Village



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, May 19, 10:30 a.m. – Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee – *via teleconference*

Thursday, May 21, 8:30 a.m. – North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee – *via teleconference*

Thursday, May 28, 8:30 a.m. – Transportation Committee – *via teleconference*

Friday, May 29, 8:30 a.m. – Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee – *via teleconference*

Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors Begin Preparing STP-L Programs

Following the closing of the Calls for Projects for the local Surface Transportation Program (STP-L), both the Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors' Technical Committees successfully held virtual meetings in April to review the submittals. Prior to both meetings, staff had evaluated and ranked submitted projects, which were compiled and presented as preliminary recommended programs to each Technical Committee at their meetings.

Staff will incorporate input from members of each Council before the Technical Committees meet in May to finalize and release the recommended programs for public comment. Both programs will go before the full Councils of Mayors for approval at the NWMC Board meeting in September.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discusses Bike Safety Quiz

At the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee's April meeting, Ride Illinois Executive Director Dave Simmons presented an overview of the organization's [Bike Safety Quiz](#), which is available to municipalities, police departments and other groups to help educate bicyclist and drivers of all ages. Mr. Simmons also provided information on Ride Illinois' efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Committee members discussed new project updates as well as a revised timeline for a committee field trip to observe bike infrastructure in the region.

Attend the 2020 RTA Annual Planning Workshop Virtually

The RTA is launching a four-part webinar series in place of their Annual Planning Workshop. The free, virtual sessions will allow attendees to hear lessons from experts, ask questions, and learn how to make their communities more transit accessible – all while staying safe at home.

The *Transportation Tuesday* series will take place from noon to 1:00 p.m. each Tuesday from May 12 through June 9, with RTA staff and regional leaders in transportation planning, community zoning and mobility services management leading discussions about the opportunities, challenges and resources available to the Chicago region.

Participation is free, but registration is required. Please see this [blog post](#) for descriptions and registration links to each of the four webinars.

Transportation Committee Reviews MPC Toward Universal Mobility Report

The NWMC Transportation Committee met via teleconference on April 23 and received a high-level overview from Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) Director of Transportation Audrey Wennink and Transportation Associate Jeremy Glover on MPC's [Toward Universal Mobility](#) report. Ms. Wennink and Mr. Glover detailed ways that NWMC communities can partner with MPC to provide access to transportation to individuals with disabilities in order to help them get around the region safely and conveniently.

The Transportation Committee and agency partners discussed adjustments that the region and individual communities have had to make in the wake of impacts to transportation services resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.



City of Highland Park

Active Transportation Alliance to Facilitate Bike/Walk Learning Collaborative

The Active Transportation Alliance has partnered with the Illinois Public Health Institute to provide a virtual Bike/Walk Learning Collaborative and webinar series to help identify potential Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) projects. Communities can apply for ITEP project funding during the program's fall call for projects. While the Bike/Walk Learning Collaborative will be composed of members chosen through a competitive application process, the webinar series will be open to all agencies throughout the state.

The Collaborative will run from May through October 2020 and will provide participants with technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning and a \$500 stipend. Applications are due by Friday, May 8 and should be submitted via email to Sarah Chusid, sarah.chusid@iphionline.org.

For more information and application instructions, please see the [Request for Applications](#) document online.



Village of Hanover Park

Metra to Reduce Schedules on Three Lines Starting May 4

Due to extremely low ridership as a result of COVID-19, Metra has announced further reductions in service on three of its lines beginning on Monday, May 4. Affected lines include the Heritage Corridor, SouthWest Service and North Central Service (NCS), which serves six NWMC communities. Service on the NCS line will be reduced to one inbound and one outbound trip per day. Metra suggests riders look into the Milwaukee District North, UP Northwest and Pace service as possible alternatives.

For more information, please see [Metra's latest press release](#), as well as the [North Central Service's alternate schedule](#).

North Shore Coordination Temporarily Placed on Hold

As Pace focuses on responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Phase 2 of the North Shore Transit Service Coordination Plan is temporarily on hold. The Phase 2 proposal was guided by input from transportation professionals and community stakeholders.

In early 2020, Pace held six public hearings to solicit public input on the proposed service changes. 198 people attended the hearings and over 2,000 written comments were submitted. The next step, when work resumes, is for Pace to reevaluate the proposal based on the public feedback.

For updates or to receive regular email communications visit PaceBus.com.

Rebuild Illinois Funding Opportunities

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) recently issued Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for three major components of the Rebuild Illinois capital program:

- \$50 Million - [Public Infrastructure](#)
- \$16.5 Million - [Regional Economic Development](#)
- \$13 Million - [Shovel Ready Sites](#)

The objective of these programs is to fund public infrastructure projects based upon the criteria included in Governor Pritzker's Five-Year Economic Development Plan. Grant ceilings vary among each program, but each one has a minimum award level of \$250,000 per project. Applications for the Public Infrastructure program are due by 5:00 p.m. on June 30, with the other two programs having no firm due date at this time.

For more information and to access each NOFO, please visit the [DCEO's program website](#) or contact Wendy Bell, wendy.bell@illinois.gov.



Village of Schaumburg

RTA Access to Transit Call for Projects Open

The Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) Call for Projects for its Access to Transit program is still open. This program leverages RTA and local funds with federal funding to help implement recommendations from planning studies completed through the RTA's Community Planning program or CMAP's Local Technical Assistance program. New this year, project sponsors can apply for funding to go toward Phase I engineering as well as micro mobility projects.

Applications are due via email by Friday, May 8 and should be submitted to Michael Horsting, horstingm@rtachicago.org. For more information, please visit the [Access to Transit website](#) or contact Heather Mullins, mullinsh@rtachicago.org or Alex Devlin, devlina@rtachicago.org.

IDOT Local Highway Safety Improvement Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) requesting FY2022 projects for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The goal of the HSIP is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. Fatal and serious injury crashes associated with roadway departures, intersections and pedestrians are high priority emphasis areas based on the current Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Applications for this funding program will be accepted through Friday, June 12. Announcement of the selected projects for funding will be made during the week of August 17. For more information, please see the [IDOT circular letter](#) or the [HSIP website](#).

USDOT Soliciting BUILD Program Applications

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) is soliciting project applications for the competitive transportation grant program known as Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD). The BUILD program invests in surface transportation infrastructure with grants awarded on a competitive basis to projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. BUILD funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

Applications should be submitted to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18. For more information, please refer to the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), visit the [BUILD program website](#) or contact BUILDgrants@dot.gov.



Village of Niles

FHWA Now Accepting Applications for Federal Lands Access Program

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Eastern Federal Lands Division has announced that the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is open for applications from now until August 3. FLAP provides funding for transportation projects located on, adjacent to, or that provide access to federal lands. Eligible projects include transportation planning, research, engineering, preventative maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction or reconstruction of federal land access facilities.

Applications should be submitted via email to the FHWA Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division Access Program Manager, EFL.planning@dot.gov. For more information and application materials, please visit [FHWA's Call for Projects website](#), or contact Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, Bablibile.Seck@illinois.gov.

Local Agency Flagger Certification Update

Local Public Agencies are required by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to have trained flaggers. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, there are no flagger trainings currently available. In order for new employees to perform the duties of their jobs safely until in-person training resume, agencies with new employees needing flagger training have a couple options to consider. The options are listed in an [Illinois Department of Transportation Circular Letter](#).

For more information, please contact Stephanie Stoverink, Stephanie.A.Stoverink@illinois.gov.



City of Evanston

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