

# Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: Village of Grayslake



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, May 24, 10:30 a.m. — *NWMC  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee*

Thursday, May 26, 8:30 a.m. — *NWMC  
Transportation Committee*

Thursday, May 26 — *Public Comment  
Deadline for STP-Local Programs*

## Transportation Committee Discusses Rail Merger, Flood Resilience Legislation

At the April 28 NWMC Transportation Committee meeting, *Hanover Park Mayor Rod Craig* provided a status report on the merger between Kansas City Southern and Canadian Pacific Railroads from the perspective of the [Coalition to Stop CPKC](#). Metra Community Relations Representative Rick Mack also provided an update from Metra's perspective. In addition to that discussion, *Village of Barrington Development Director Marie Hansen* provided a summary of federal legislation ([H.R. 481](#)) meant to increase resiliency to flooding and certain concerns with proposed language. Those with additional comments or concerns on the legislation are encouraged to contact NWMC staff.

## North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors Release STP Programs for Public Comment

Both the North Shore and Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committees met in April and voted to release the Councils' draft FFY2023-2027 local Surface Transportation Programs (STP-L) for a 30-day public comment period. The draft programs are available for review on the [NWMC website](#), and comments should be submitted to [northshorepl@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:northshorepl@nwmc-cog.org) for North Shore projects and [northwestpl@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:northwestpl@nwmc-cog.org) for Northwest projects by Thursday, May 26.

The Committees also approved three staff recommended cost increase requests from the *Village of Glenview*, *Village of Schaumburg* and *Village of Streamwood* for the balance of STP funding remaining in federal fiscal year 2022. Finally, the Northwest Technical Committee approved staff's recommendation to support the *City of Rolling Meadows*' functional classification change request for a section of Rohlwing Road between Euclid Avenue and Kirchoff Road. All four recommendations will be included on the May 11 NWMC Board meeting agenda for consideration by the full North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors.



City of Highland Park

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Hears from Project Sidewalk Team

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on April 19 and received a presentation on [Project Sidewalk](#) from University of Illinois at Chicago Professor Yochai Eisenberg. Professor Eisenberg provided information about Project Sidewalk is a study on regional sidewalk networks and accessibility using crowd sourced data. The Committee also discussed field trip options for the group's annual summer outing and local project updates. The next meeting will include a roundtable discussion centered on local bicycle and pedestrian plans and what issues communities face when implementing and updating their plans. Please contact staff if interested in helping to lead that discussion.

## NWMC Members Receive Over \$1 Million in Safe Routes to School Awards

The Illinois Department of Transportation has released the list of grant awards from the latest Safe Routes to School (SRTS) call for projects held in fall 2021. Over \$1 million was awarded to five NWMC members including *Evanston*, *Fox Lake*, *Lake Forest*, *Morton Grove* and *Mount Prospect*. Funding supports projects and activities that improve safety and encourage active transportation options around elementary and middle schools. This year's program funds 57 projects across the state selected from over 100 applications. For more information on the program and awarded projects, please visit [IDOT's website](#).

## IDOT Opens Local HSIP Program Applications

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has opened their call for projects for the Fiscal Year 2024 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). This year, with the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, HSIP eligibility has been expanded to address Vision Zero goals. To that end, IDOT has increased its commitment to the program to \$30.6 million for this year's funding cycle. IDOT will also prioritize projects that address Vulnerable Road Users such as pedestrians and bicyclists. Projects will be eligible for up to 90 percent federal funding with a 10 percent local match required. Applications are due electronically to the appropriate District Local Roads and Streets Engineer by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 17. For more information, please see [IDOT Circular Letter 2022-11](#).



Village of Elk Grove Village

## IDOT Issues New Coordination Meeting Forms

Effective May 1, The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has updated forms BLR 24110 (Coordination of Meeting Data Form) and BLR 22410 (Certification Acceptance/Project Status) which are used for coordination meetings. The updated versions of the forms are available on [IDOT's website](#) in the Local Roads section. For more information, please contact [DOT.Policy@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.Policy@illinois.gov).

## Reminder: Apply Today for the Access to Transit Program

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has opened a Call for Projects for the Access to Transit program. This program supports small-scale capital projects that improve pedestrian and bicyclist access to public transportation. The RTA selects projects through a competitive process according to the criteria that are consistent with [CMAQ program requirements](#). There are two types of eligible projects in this program: Category A, which includes Phase II engineering and construction; and, Category B, which includes only Phase I engineering.

The Access to Transit Program is open to all municipalities and counties that have completed, or are in the process of completing, a planning or implementation project that specifically recommends bicycle and/or pedestrian access improvements to transit. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 20. For more information about this program, project examples and to apply, please visit the [RTA website](#).

## Metra Announces Modifications to UP Northwest and North Line

Recently, Metra announced significant service changes on the Union Pacific Northwest (UP-NW) Line and modifications to the Union Pacific North Line (UP-N) due to increased ridership and planned construction activity. The UP-NW line will see an increase in weekday service by 21 trains, from 45 to 66 trains. The new schedule will also divide rush-period service into a three-zone pattern that will better balance passenger loads and allow Metra to improve express service to stations farthest from Chicago.

On the UP-N line, construction projects that are expected to take several years will necessitate a slight reduction of service during middays to lengthen work windows and reduce delays through single-track areas. The new UP-NW and UP-N schedules can be viewed by visiting [Metra's website](#). The new schedules took effect Monday, April 25.

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