

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: City of Prospect Heights

Ten NWMC Members Receive ITEP Funding

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently announced recipients of Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funding. Approximately \$21.9 million was awarded for projects in the following NWMC member communities:

- *Arlington Heights* - \$2.2 million for Windsor Drive Road Diet
- *Des Plaines* - \$1.8 million for S-Curve Pedestrian-Bicyclist underpass
- *Evanston* - \$3 million for Church Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements
- *Glenview* - \$233,200 for Village-Wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Route Signage and Pavement Markings
- *Lincolnwood* - \$29 million for Pratt Avenue Bike Lanes Project
- *Lake Forest* - \$2 million for Deerpath Road Streetscape Improvement project

- *Mount Prospect* - \$3 million for Melas-Meadows Pedestrian Bridge
- *Schaumburg* - \$3 million for Martingale Road/Higgins Road Bike Path project
- *Skokie* - \$1.65 million for Church Street Bike Lanes
- *Streamwood* - \$2 million for Irving Park Road reconstruction + shared use path.

A full list of all ITEP recipients can be found [here](#).



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Tuesday, May 16, 10:30 a.m.

NWMC Transportation Committee
Thursday, May 25, 8:30 a.m.

IDOT Announces 2023 Special Programs Assistance Conference

On May 23 and 24, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will hold a Special Programs Assistance Conference at the IDOT District 1 office in *Schaumburg* (201 Center Court). The morning session on May 23 will provide general information about three programs: the Economic Development Program (EDP); the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP); and, the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). During the afternoon of May 23 and all day on May 24, IDOT staff will be available by appointment to discuss specific projects and applications in a one-on-one setting. Appointments will be held in 20-minute slots and attendees are encouraged to register in advance and bring any materials related to the project and/or application. Registration for this event can be found [here](#).

FLIP Summer Program for High School Students

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is now accepting applications for its 2023 [Future Leaders in Planning](#) (FLIP) program. FLIP is a free summer program for high school students to explore the field of urban planning and learn about the issues that shape our region and communities. The program will run from Monday, July 10, through Friday, July 14 at CMAP's office in downtown Chicago and additional locations around the region. FLIP is open to high school students in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. Students must [apply online](#) by Tuesday, May 30. To learn more please visit the [CMAP website](#).

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Call for Projects Announced

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will allocate \$31.3 million to its Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for FY 2025 to address serious and fatal crashes on local highways. Projects that protect vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists and High-Risk Rural Road (HRRR) projects will be prioritized. IDOT is also prioritizing projects that address the 2022 Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Plan emphasis areas, such as hazardous intersections, roadway departures, and conflicts with pedestrians. The program provides a maximum of 90% of the eligible improvement cost per project, and all phases of a safety improvement project are eligible.

Interested parties can find a full list of eligible projects and submission requirements in [IDOT's Circular Letter](#) or on the [HSIP website](#). Applications will be accepted through Friday, June 30, and successful applicants will be notified in September.

A [webinar](#) on the HSIP will be hosted on May 11, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. by the Bureau of Local Roads & Streets and the Bureau of Safety Programs & Engineering. Any further questions regarding the Local HSIP can be directed to Mr. Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, Local Program Development Engineer, (217) - 782-3972 or Babilbile.Seck@illinois.gov.

North Shore and Northwest Technical Committees Host April Meetings

The North Shore and Northwest Council of Mayors held their Technical Committee meetings in April. At the North Shore meeting, several projects in *Glenview*, *Morton Grove*, *Skokie*, *Wilmette*, and *Winnetka* received cost increases to utilize unallocated FY23 funds. The committee also approved allocation of their subregional priority points from CMAP's regional transportation call for projects, with the Chicago Avenue project in *Evanston* being the North Shore's top priority choice.

At the Northwest meeting, some new functional classification procedures were approved, and there was a discussion about STP methodology changes. However, a few proposed changes to the STP methodology did not have a consensus, so they were sent back to the STP Working Group to develop recommendations for the July technical committee meeting.

Pace Outlines Kennedy Expressway Alternatives

As construction begins along the Kennedy Expressway in Chicago, Pace Bus has announced several options for suburban commuters to bypass traffic and use public transportation to get to and from Chicago.

Thanks to Pace's ability to use the shoulder to operate [Expressway-Based Service](#) on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and Edens Expressway (I-94), buses can bypass traffic to provide reliable, affordable service to and from the CTA Blue, Yellow, Purple, and Red Lines and many Metra stations. Pace encourages commuters to check out these options using the [Trip Planner](#) or by calling the RTA's Travel Information Center at 847-836-7000. For smartphone users, Pace has partnered with the [Transit app](#).

The [Regional Connect Pass](#) provides Metra Monthly Pass holders unlimited rides all month on CTA and Pace with no day or time restrictions. Many Pace routes connect with the UP-NW Line, MD-N Line, and NCS Line. The Regional Connect Pass can be purchased from Metra ticket agents or in the Ventra app.

Many Pace services connect to the CTA Blue Line at Rosemont, Cumberland, Harlem, and Jefferson Park. For those who enjoy the convenience and affordability of unlimited [ride passes](#), a new Pace/CTA 1-Day Pass for \$5 and a new Pace/CTA 3-Day Pass for \$15 are now available. Additionally, the Pace/CTA 7-Day Pass is now only \$20. All of these passes offer unlimited rides on Pace and CTA buses and trains. Existing 30-Day Passes are also still available.

For those who pay for rides using a [Ventra](#) account, transfers from one Pace bus to another Pace bus are now free! To take advantage of free transfers, passengers must use a Ventra Card or Ventra-linked smart device, and the second or additional rides must occur within two hours of the first ride.



Village of Lincolnwood

Wildlife Crossing Discretionary Grant Pilot Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has announced the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the [Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program](#) (WCPP). The new WCPP is a \$350 million pilot program aimed at protecting wildlife, reducing the number of Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVC) and improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. It has been found that there are over 1 million WVCs annually nationwide, posing a serious danger to wildlife and human safety, resulting in tens of thousands of serious injuries and hundreds of fatalities on U.S. roadways.

WCPP grants are available for all project activities, including but not limited to research, planning, design and construction. The total amount of funding available in this NOFO is up to \$111,850,000, covering FFY2022 and FFY2023. There is no minimum or maximum award size, but it is anticipated that awards may range from \$200,000 to \$20 million. Applicants can find detailed program information, eligibility requirements, key provisions and the application via this [link](#). Applications from eligible entities must be submitted by 10:59 p.m. on August 1, through [Grants.gov](#). For further information regarding this notice, please contact the USDOT Office; wildlifecrossings@dot.gov.

Last Call to Apply for USDOT's EV Infrastructure Grant Program

As previously reported, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. This round of funding makes up to \$700 million available to strategically deploy Electric Vehicle (EV) charging and other alternative vehicle-fueling infrastructure projects in publicly accessible locations in urban and rural communities, as well as along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs).

The CFI is divided into two distinct categories. The Community Program will provide funding to strategically deploy publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure and infrastructure for hydrogen, propane or natural gas fueling in communities. The Corridor Program will provide funding to strategically deploy publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure and hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling infrastructure along designated AFCs. A full list of eligible applicants and projects for both categories is outlined in the [NOFO](#). Please note that applications are due by Tuesday, May 30.

Village of Schaumburg

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