

Transportation Newsletter

May 2025
Volume 17 Issue 5

Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Skokie, NWMC Staff Photo



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

NWMC Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee:
Tuesday, May 13, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC offices and virtually

NWMC Transportation Committee:
Thursday, May 22, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC offices and virtually

Barrington Breaks Ground on US 14 Grade Separation

On April 23, the *Village of Barrington* held a [groundbreaking ceremony for its U.S. Route 14 Grade Separation project](#). The project will feature an underpass beneath the Canadian National Railway tracks, allowing safer travel for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

The village secured a federal grant in 2010 for the project's initial planning and in 2019 received funding from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Surface Transportation Program Shared Fund as the top-scoring project application.

Excavation and grading for a temporary road will happen first, and by late summer, contractors plan to complete the temporary tracks and rail alignments. Following that, early stages of the underpass excavation will begin. The project is expected to be completed by July 2027.

Barrington Breaks Ground on
US 14 Grade Separation



Barrington Village Board



NMWC Staff
Photos courtesy of the Village
of Barrington

IDOT Announces FY 2027 HSIP Call for Projects

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has announced the [FY 2027 Local Highway Safety Improvement Program \(HSIP\)](#) call for projects. IDOT plans to allocate \$32.75 million to local agencies to support projects that reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries, aligning with the national "moving toward zero" initiative.

This funding opportunity prioritizes projects addressing High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) and Vulnerable Road Users (VRU), with a focus on systemic improvements like signage, pavement markings, and guardrail upgrades. Eligible projects can receive up to 90% federal funding support, with local agencies responsible for the remaining 10% match.

Local public agencies must submit detailed project information, including crash data, cost estimates, timelines, and narratives. Resources such as crash analysis tools and sample applications are available on [IDOT's HSIP website](#). IDOT encourages interested agencies to attend the [informational webinar](#) on Thursday, May 8, at 10:00 a.m., to learn more about application best practices. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 20.

For additional guidance, applicants can contact Tim Peters, Tim.Peters@illinois.gov for questions on safety data and eligibility or Melinda Kos, Melinda.Kos@illinois.gov for questions about the application process.



Village of Glencoe
NMWC Staff Photo

Final Reminder: IDNR Bicycle Path Grant Applications Due Next Week

Friday, May 9 at 5:00 p.m. is the deadline to apply for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program. Grants can assist communities in acquiring and developing land for bicycle paths, including land acquisition, easements or leases, trail construction, path renovation, and support facilities. Grants of up to \$200,000 are available and require a 50% project cost match. To learn more, including how to apply, please visit the [Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program website](#).

Tap Into Those Unused Rebuild Illinois Funds!

IDOT has notified communities that remaining Rebuild Illinois (RBI) funds can be retroactively applied to projects and substitute out utilized motor fuel taxes (MFT) as far back as 2019. IDOT only requires a community wanting to utilize RBI funds for a project to adopt a supporting resolution by Tuesday, July 1. For guidance on how to implement these funds, please see [IDOT Circular Letter 2020-16](#).

Become a Bicycle-Friendly Community

The League of American Bicyclists is currently accepting applications to become recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC). The League provides a roadmap, hands-on assistance and recognition for communities seeking to build places more welcoming to people who bike. NWMC member communities with BFC status include Silver-ranked *Evanston* and Bronze-ranked *Glenview*, *Highland Park*, *Schaumburg*, and *Wilmette*. Applications are due by June 25. Learn more about the BFC program at [the League of American Bicyclists website](#).

IDOT Hosting Conference on Special Programs

Is your community interested in accessing the Economic Development Program (EDP), Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), or Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)? Assistance from IDOT Special Programs Unit staff will be available during a rotating two day informational conference to offer general information on the programs as well as answer specific questions, with a morning informational session on Day 1 and afternoon 30-minute one-on-one appointments to discuss specific projects and applications on Day 1 and Day 2.

The conference will be held on June 5 and 6 at the IDOT District 1 Office in *Schaumburg*, on June 10 and 11 at Hillside Village Hall, and on June 12 and 13 at the McHenry County Administration Building. Learn more about the programs and register for the morning session and/or individual appointments at the [ITEP](#) or [SRTS](#) websites.

Learn How AASHTO's Updated Bicycle Facilities Guide Can Support Your Bikeway Projects!

With new guidance from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)'s fifth edition guide on bikeway design, the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) and Toole Design will host a webinar on Wednesday, May 14 at 2:00 p.m. Learn how engineering design guidance can influence physical infrastructure to address bicycling as both a transportation and recreational opportunity in your community. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Submit Your Projects for the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP)

CMAP is soliciting transportation resilience projects to include in the [Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan \(TRIP\)](#) project list. The TRIP is intended to inform transportation planning and decision making. It will also position northeastern Illinois to better compete for federal investment opportunities, including the [Federal Highway Administration's \(FHWA\) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Discretionary Grant Program](#), which fund investments in increased transportation resilience to natural hazards.

To develop TRIP, CMAP assessed the climate risks to, and vulnerability of, the transportation system. The [Risk-based Vulnerability Assessment](#) found that flooding poses the biggest threat, impacting all transportation infrastructure, service operations, and users. Extreme heat and severe storms impact service operations and active transportation users, also posing a threat to rail infrastructure, electrical service, and backup power. The [assessment data](#) is available on CMAP's Data Hub and as a [map](#) to help identify projects, inform project selection, and incorporate into local planning activities.

If you have any questions please contact Project Manager Kate Evasic, kevasic@cmmap.illinois.gov or Project Director Cassandra Bhat, Cassandra.bhat@icf.com.



**Transportation
Resilience
Improvement Plan**

Safe Routes to School Resources Now Available, Webinars Coming Soon

The Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) is teaming up once more with IDOT to offer a variety of resources to assist your community with developing its [Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) grant](#) materials and applications.

Available assistance and resources include:

- [April 29 webinar recording on developing SRTS Action Plans](#), along with [slides](#)
- [ATA SRTS grant resources and FAQ](#)
- [ATA SRTS application support form](#)
- [SRTS communication toolkit](#)
- [Example voting form for SRTS programs from Skokie School District 73](#)

To further enhance your application, consider attending ATA and IDOT's joint SRTS three-part webinar series, held later this year:

Part 1: Safe Routes to School Grant Guidelines & Overview

Wednesday, July 16, 11:00 a.m.

Register here - [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Part 2: Application Walk-Through + Q&A with IDOT Staff

Wednesday, August 20, 11:00 a.m.

Register here - [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Part 3: Live Q&A with IDOT Staff

Wednesday, September 17, 11:00 a.m.

Register here - [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Implement Traffic Safety Interventions with a SS4A Demonstration Grant! Research Ideas and Solutions With NWMC Materials and Other Agency Webinars

As CMAP wraps up its Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR) process with county-level Safety Action Plans, municipalities are eligible to apply for nearly \$1 billion in [Safe Streets for All \(SS4A\) Planning and Implementation Grants and Demonstration Grants](#) under the [SS4A Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\) NOFO](#).

Unsure where to start? The NWMC has the resource to assist! Use the [Street Design Tools in the NWMC Multimodal Plan](#) (pages 35-73) to choose the street improvements to make things safer for people walking, biking, and driving.

Numerous webinars can further bolster these efforts. Consider watching any of the following:

[Vision Zero Network—SS4A Funds Available for Your Community](#)

[US DOT SS4A Webinar Series:](#)

- Implementation Grants
- Action Plans
- Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities

SS4A grant awards start at \$100,000, up to \$25,000,000, and applications are due by Thursday, June 26 at 4:00 p.m. Read more, including how to apply, at [the SS4A grants webpage](#).

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](#).



Village of Skokie
NMWC Staff Photo

Communities Encouraged to Contribute to the Northeastern Illinois Development Database

From our partners at CMAP:

Our region is constantly changing, with some communities experiencing rapid growth, while others experience significant changes to land uses. Since 1987, the [Northeastern Illinois Development Database \(NDD\)](#) has tracked significant developments and redevelopments in the seven-county northeastern Illinois region.

Municipalities are encouraged to submit proposed, in-progress, or completed developments, as all phases contribute valuable data for the model. The NDD web map is an opportunity to ensure your community's growth is accurately represented in regional forecasts. The NDD web map is tailored for local government staff to actively participate in the forecasting process by submitting and editing developments. This data informs CMAP's local forecast model, which predicts household and job placements in developments across the region.

NWMC Communities to Participate in National Bike & Roll to School Day

On Wednesday, May 7, dozens of schools in Illinois will participate in [National Bike & Roll to School Day](#).

NWMC member communities with schools participating include *Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Hoffman Estates, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Schaumburg, and West Dundee*. A full list of the participating Schools can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety: [When Driving Is Not an Option: Community Access for Nondrivers](#) —Wednesday, May 14th, 12:00 p.m.

APBP: [Exploring AASHTO's Updated Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 5th Edition](#) —Wednesday, May 14th, 2:00 p.m.

Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Chicago Sun-Times: [With Chicago's mass transit system on the fiscal precipice, what solutions are on the table?](#)

Route Fifty: [Public safety, government groups call for FirstNet reauthorization](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Amtrak restores full Hiawatha train service to Milwaukee](#)

25 News Now—Peoria: [It's not just Chicago: Downstate public transit agencies face funding challenges](#)

Governing: [Where Are Federal Infrastructure Billions Going?](#)

Streetsblog Chicago: [Dystopia or Utopia? Chicagoland transit officials discuss worst and best possible outcomes as we approach state funding deadline](#)

Briefs, Continued

Daily Herald: [Legislation allowing speed cameras in suburban Cook on hold](#)

Planetizen: [Why Should We Subsidize Public Transportation?](#)

Politico: [7 things holding up transit bill](#)

Slate: [The Risky Plan to Stop Chicago's Transit "Death Spiral"](#)

Smart Cities Dive: [Judge unfreezes billions in IRA, IIJA funds](#)

Daily Herald: ['Nobody asked questions': Metra broadens human trafficking prevention campaign](#)

Active Transportation Alliance: [Reimagining Chicago's transportation future on May 2](#)

Block Club Chicago: [Have Past-Due Traffic Tickets? County Waiving Late Fees Next Week](#)

CBS News: [Bike Lane Uprising offers first-ever fleet driver training class](#)

Daily Herald: [Barrington breaks ground on long-awaited Route 14 underpass](#)

Evanston Now: [Fiscal cliff could devastate bus service for HS kids](#)

Daily Herald: [Why Lake County forest preserves wants to take lead on Route 53 corridor property and planning](#)

AASHTO: [Illinois DOT Hosting Local Funding Workshops](#)

Daily Herald: [The Tri-State, Route 53, the Kennedy, oh my — What to expect on this year's road construction menu](#)

Daily Herald: [Mount Prospect relaunches downtown alfresco dining on Prospect Avenue](#)

Daily Herald: [Despite pause on new biking funds, area projects keep rolling](#)

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