

# 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, November 17, 10:30 a.m. —  
NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee  
Meeting via video conference

Thursday, December 3, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC  
Transportation Committee Meeting via video  
conference

## Local STP Programs Approved by CMAP, Included in FFY 2021 TIP

On Wednesday, October 14, the full board and policy committee of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) voted to approve the most recent amendment to the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment ensures incorporation of the [North Shore](#) and [Northwest](#) Council of Mayors FFY 2021-2025 local surface transportation programs (STP-L) into the TIP, making the projects eligible for federal funding.

The technical committees of both councils met last month to discuss lessons learned from this year's call for projects process. The councils also prepared communities for the transition to using active program management policies.

## Transportation Committee Discusses MFT Revenues, Accessing Rebuild Illinois Funds

On Thursday, October 22 the NWMC Transportation Committee convened to discuss COVID-19 impacts on Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) revenues and capital spending. A review of MFT revenues among NWMC members revealed a consistent decline compared to the previous year, and a recently distributed NWMC survey highlighted the ways our members' capital improvement plans have been impacted by budget constraints and declining local revenues. The committee discussed local agency experiences with accessing line item funding through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Rebuild Illinois Bond Fund and heard updates from regional and state agency partners on various developments and initiatives impacting the NWMC membership.

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Informed on Changes to STP-Shared Fund

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on Tuesday, October 20 and received a presentation from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Senior Program Analyst Kama Dobbs on changes to the Surface Transportation Program – Shared Fund (STP-SF). She noted the changes expand the eligible project types to include transit stations and bicycle/pedestrian barrier elimination projects. Information was also shared about changes to the scoring methodology that are intended to help evaluate the new project types. For more information and resources about the STP-SF, please visit [CMAP's website](#) or contact Ms. Dobbs, [kdobbs@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:kdobbs@cmap.illinois.gov).

## IDOT Releases Revised Guidance for Rebuild Illinois Bond Funding

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently released additional guidance for municipalities using Rebuild Illinois bond funds. Circular Letter 2020-16 expands project eligibility by clarifying the start date of projects as well as language that outlines additional eligible project types, including allowable overlay projects. The letter also notes that stand-alone bicycle and pedestrian projects are not eligible and encourages applicants to instead seek Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funds. For more information, please see the [circular letter](#), or contact IDOT District One, [DOT.D1.BLRS@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.D1.BLRS@illinois.gov).



Village of Northfield

## Metra Proposes 2021 Budget, Sues Union Pacific for Breach of Contract

Metra proposed a 2021 operating budget of \$700 million that does not call for any fare increases or service cuts from present levels but will require expenses to be cut by \$70 million unless the agency receives additional COVID-related financial assistance. Metra also detailed a 2021 capital budget of \$386.4 million that continues significant investment in railcars, locomotives, bridges and stations. Additional information on the proposed budget is available in a [press release](#) on Metra's website.

Metra also announced the filing of a lawsuit seeking compensation from Union Pacific (UP) for breach of contract, alleging that UP has severely damaged Metra's bottom line, reputation and customer experience through its refusal to deploy conductors along UP-owned Metra lines. The lawsuit also seeks a permanent injunction for UP conductors to resume carrying out all normal duties, including selling and validating tickets on the train and passing through cars to assist customers and promote orderly conduct. More information is available in the [press release](#) posted on Metra's website.



## IDOT Seeking Input on Development of FY 2021-2024 STIP

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is seeking input for use in the planning and development of its upcoming Fiscal Years 2021-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which can be uploaded by visiting the [IDOT website](#). Written comments can be emailed to [DOT.STIP@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.STIP@illinois.gov) or mailed to Bobby Johnson at the Illinois Department of Transportation, 2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Room 307, Springfield, Illinois 62764 through Sunday, November 15.

## RTA Highlights Communities' Work to Improve Transit

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is spotlighting communities throughout northeastern Illinois for their efforts to implement transit-oriented development improvements identified in RTA's Community Planning Program. RTA's newly released story map amplifies the work happening locally to create greater access to affordable transportation options. Featured in the story map are two projects implemented by the *Village of Bartlett* to update their zoning code and facilitate downtown commercial development and multi-family housing, both recommended by their Transit-Oriented Development Plan. More information on this project and others are available in the [RTA's 2020 Implementation Report](#).

## Tollway Releases Tentative 2021 Budget for Public Comment

The Illinois Tollway recently released a balanced [Tentative 2021 Budget](#) with \$1.42 billion in revenue. The tentative budget includes \$380 million for annual maintenance and operations and \$1.53 billion in capital spending in the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the agency's 15-year Move Illinois capital program. As part of the budget process, members of the public are encouraged to review the budget and provide comments. Those interested in providing feedback may do so via audio conference at virtual public hearings on Wednesday, November 4 at noon and 6:00 p.m. or by sending written comments to: Communications Department, 2700 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 by Friday, November 13. For more information, please visit the [Illinois Tollway's website](#) or contact Dan Rozek, [drozek@getipass.com](mailto:drozek@getipass.com).



Village of Schaumburg

## Metra extends \$10 All-Day Pass through 2020

Metra is extending the availability of its \$10 All-Day Pass at least through December 31, continuing to give customers a flexible and affordable fare option as they gradually transition back to riding trains again. The All-Day Pass, which was introduced June 1 and is being used by about a third of Metra riders, is good for unlimited rides on any and all Metra lines all day until 3 a.m. the next morning. For most trips, the pass costs less than two one-way fares. More information is available in Metra's [press release](#).

## Regional Sidewalk Data Available from CMAP

ON TO 2050, the region's long-range plan, encourages the development of compact, walkable communities. To support this recommendation, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) created a regional [Sidewalk Inventory](#). This publicly available tool provides data that identifies gaps or opportunities for connections in a community's sidewalk network. CMAP has also published a new [informational video](#) to show how communities can use the database to prioritize future sidewalk improvements.



Village of Wheeling

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