

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Fox Lake



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, November 16, 10:30 a.m. —
NWMC Bike & Pedestrian Committee

Thursday, November 18, 8:30 a.m. —
North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee

Thursday, December 2, 8:30 a.m. —
NWMC Transportation Committee

Transportation Committee Talks Fees, Fines & Fares

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on October 21 and received a presentation from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Senior Policy Analyst Lindsay Hollander on the agency's [Improving Equity in Transportation Fees, Fines, and Fares](#) report. The document details the financial realities that households in Northeastern Illinois face regarding transportation fees, fines, and fares and recommends policy changes at the state and local level to improve equity. The committee also received an update on the status of operational negotiations between Metra and the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad. Metra Board Member and *Hanover Park Mayor Rod Craig* and Community Affairs Administrator Rick Mack further discussed the status of communications regarding potential property development at station sites along the line.

Bike-Ped Committee Briefed on Newly Funded Projects

On October 12, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee received an overview of new funding awards for bicycle and pedestrian projects in the NWMC service territory. Staff placed emphasis on those projects that are included in the NWMC Multimodal Plan.

In all, 16 municipalities received over \$24.3 million for 26 projects that stretch across 18 miles of the region. NWMC members that received funding include: *Buffalo Grove; Des Plaines; Evanston; Elk Grove Village; Glencoe; Glenview; Hoffman Estates; Highland Park; Lake Forest; Mount Prospect; Niles; Northfield; Prospect Heights; Rolling Meadows; Streamwood; and, Wilmette.* Funding sources included the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), Invest in Cook, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements Program (CMAQ), and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP-L).

Northwest Council Technical Committee Grants CRRSAA Funding, Cost Increases

On October 29, the Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee reviewed options for the Council's allocation of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding and unanimously approved staff's recommendation to allocate the full funding toward the *Village of Niles'* Touhy Avenue at Gross Point Road intersection improvements project. This programming move opened up additional Surface Transportation Funding in the current federal fiscal year, which several members requested to be used towards cost increases for current projects and those on the contingency list. These requests were also unanimously approved by the Technical Committee. Both the CRRSAA funding and cost changes will be considered for final approval by the full Northwest Council of Mayors at the November 10 NWMC Board meeting.

North Shore Technical Committee Approves Coronavirus Relief Funding

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met on October 14 to consider several significant items. The committee reviewed Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding options, which allows the Council to apply pandemic funding to its existing Surface Transportation Program (STP). The committee unanimously approved allocating the CRRSAA funding for the Skokie Boulevard – Lake Avenue Project in *Wilmette* and the Gross Point Road project in *Skokie*. This new funding creates opportunities to fund additional projects or cost increases in the 2022 STP-L program. To that end, the committee will hold a special meeting on Thursday, November 18 at 8:30 a.m. to determine which additional projects will be funded.

The committee set the deadline to request Federal Fiscal Year 2022 STP-L funding for Wednesday, November 10, with requests to be sent to Eric Czarnota, eczarnota@nwmc-coq.org. Finally, the committee unanimously approved revised guidance for technical committee procedures.



Village of Niles Mayor George Alpigianis and other local officials cut the ribbon for the Howard Street Bike Lanes project, part of the NWMC Multimodal Plan's Priority Corridors.

IDOT Issues Guidance for Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has issued a public comment feedback memo soliciting volunteers to participate in the Bureau of Local Roads (BLRS) and Streets Manual Committee to make updates to the BLRS Manual. The revised manual is anticipated to be issued for publication in 2022. Committee members should expect to participate in several virtual meetings and complete independent reading with notes and suggestions for the committee. No compensation will be offered for participants, but input provided will have an impact on some of the most important policies and procedures within the BLRS Manual. IDOT will kick-off the committee in early December with an introductory meeting, with full-scale review meetings beginning in early January 2022.

If interested in participating, please contact DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov by November 24. For more information, please see [PCF 2021-05](#).



City of Prospect Heights

Last Chance to Comment on Illinois Tollway Tentative 2022 Budget

The Illinois Tollway Board recently introduced a tentative 2022 Budget for public review and comment. The budget includes \$411 million for annual maintenance and operations and provides funds to support \$1.49 billion in capital spending, including funding for the 11th year of the agency's 15-year, \$14 billion capital program, Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future. As part of the agency's [2022 Budget process](#), the public is invited to review the tentative 2022 Budget book, view a recording of the board presentation, and attend live virtual public hearings to make comments.

The virtual public hearings will be held on Monday, November 8 at noon and again at 6:00 p.m. Those who wish to make comments may participate during the live meetings via audio conference by calling 877-336-4440 (passcode: 295-5165). Comments may also be sent via email to info@getipass.com or by mail to Communications Department, 2700 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515 by Friday, November 12. For more information, please see the [Illinois Tollway's press release](#).

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