

# Transportation Newsletter

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



**Northwest Municipal Conference**

## Dates to Remember:

**Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee:** Tuesday, November 11, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC Offices and Virtually

**Transportation Committee:** Thursday, November 20, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC Offices and Virtually

## Councils of Mayors 2027-2031 STP-L Call for Projects Now Open for Applications

On October 19 and October 31, the North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors respectively opened their Call for Projects for 2027-2031 Surface Transportation Program-Local (STP-L) funding. The [North Shore Call for Projects](#) will be open until December 19 and the [Northwest Call for Projects](#) will be open until December 30. Project selection methodologies and application documents are available on each Council's website.

As a reminder, NWMC staff held a STP-L workshop last month where staff reviewed the Call for Projects timeline, provided a brief overview of STP-L funding and requirements and discussed council-specific applications,

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## **Councils of Mayors 2027- 2031 STP-L Call for Projects Now Open for Applications**

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active program management and project management. A [recording of the workshop](#) can be found on the NWMC YouTube Channel.

Additionally, the North Shore Council of Mayors hosted a workshop in partnership with McHenry County on the Safe Systems Approach process, which is now part of North Shore council's project selection criteria. A [recording of that workshop](#) is available on the NWMC YouTube channel.

If you have any questions for the North Shore Council please contact Brian Larson, [blarson@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:blarson@nwmc-cog.org) and for the Northwest Council please contact Eric Czarnota, [eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org).

## **General Assembly Passes Transit Bill**

On October 31, the Illinois House and Senate approved transit governance and revenue legislation intended to address the anticipated funding shortfalls facing northeastern Illinois transit in 2026 and beyond. Details on the legislation began to emerge late Thursday afternoon as [House Amendments 3 and 4 to Senate Bill 2111](#) (Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado, Sen. Ram. Villivalam) were posted shortly before 10:00 p.m. The House debated and passed the legislation 72-32 early in the morning of October 31. The Senate then debated the legislation and concurred with the amendments 36-21 shortly before 4:30 a.m. The bill, which has a June 1, 2026 effective date will now be sent to the Governor.

The final revenue package is substantially different from that included in Senate Bill 2111 - House Amendment 2 (Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado), which advanced out of the House

Executive Committee on Wednesday, and House Bill 3438 (Sen. Ram. Villivalam), which advanced out of the Senate in late May. As passed, the revenue package in SB 2111 includes:

- The full transfer of the sales tax revenues on gas/diesel to transit, totaling \$860 million a year (\$731 million for the RTA region and \$129 million for downstate).
- Authorization for a quarter percent increase of the RTA sales tax, totaling \$478 million a year.
- The use of Road Fund interest for transit capital, totaling \$175-200 million (90% for the RTA and 10% for downstate).

Separately, the legislation includes a 45-cent increase to tolls on the Illinois Tollway (30% increase for commercial vehicles), which is expected to raise up to \$1 billion in the first year of a large capital program for the Tollway.

Regarding governance, the bill replaces the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) with a new coordinating agency, the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA), with expanded authority to set policies for transit and an enhanced role in land-use planning around stations. The legislation gives the NITA authority over fare structure, capital projects and service standards. The legislation maintains the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Pace and Metra while changing board appointments and voting requirements for action. The NITA will have a 20-person board with appointments coming from the Governor (5), Chicago (5), Cook County (5), and the Collar Counties (5). Municipal elected officials will only be eligible to serve on the NITA Board and the service boards under certain circumstances. A municipal elected official can serve on the NITA Board if they do not receive compensation from an elected or appointed office under the Constitution and laws of Illinois or if the official is also a member of the Suburban Bus Board (Pace). It appears municipal elected officials may still serve on the Metra and Pace boards; however, the

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## General Assembly Passes Transit Bill

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overlapping nature of the NITA Board and service boards complicates eligibility for municipal elected officials and final guidance will be necessary.

Regarding municipal authority, the amendments to Senate Bill 2111 did address various local government concerns raised throughout the spring and summer about local control over transit-supportive development. The amendment provides that the transit authority's power of condemnation within a municipality can only be exercised if the corporate authorities approve the use of those powers by ordinance or resolution. The new transit authority must also comply with land use regulations and other applicable local laws. The approved legislation does eliminate minimum car parking requirements for developments near transit.

As mentioned earlier, the revenue package included in the approved legislation differs dramatically from earlier proposals. The previous version of SB 2111 that was debated in the House Executive Committee included a significant amusement tax, a large event surcharge and a "billionaires' tax." That proposal met an immediate backlash from Governor Pritzker ([Capitol News Illinois](#), [Capitol Fax](#)). In May, the Senate passed a revenue package that included most notably a delivery fee and the extension of the real estate transfer tax to the suburbs. These revenues were not included in the final package.

Recognizing the vital importance of safe, efficient, and accessible public transit in the broader metropolitan region, the NWMC is pleased that the General Assembly took action to address this critical issue. The NWMC continues to review the legislation to fully assess how it aligns with the Conference's principles on governance, representation, local authority and funding.

## Shaping the Next Federal Transportation Bill

*From our partners at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP):*

With the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act set to expire in September 2026, CMAP is working with regional partners, civic and labor organizations, and peer metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) across the country to outline shared principles for the next federal transportation reauthorization. Together, we've developed [One Regional Voice 2025](#), a statement of priorities calling for robust, durable revenues, enhanced safety, efficient transit and rail, maintained bridges, performance-based programming, multimodal freight, technological innovation, resilient systems, and policies that recognize the unique needs of major metropolitan areas.

Similarly, CMAP joined MPOs from other large U.S. regions to advance [common principles for reauthorization](#), including prioritizing safety, preserving core highway and transit programs, balancing formula and competitive funding, targeting investments to the nation's economic engines, and streamlining project delivery.

These efforts reflect a united call for a strong federal transportation package that ensures stable, predictable funding and empowers regions to meet the nation's evolving transportation needs.



*City of Rolling Meadows  
NWMC Staff Photo*

## Assist Cook County in Identifying Infill Rail Stations

*From our partners at the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH)*

Please help the Cook County DoTH promote a survey by sharing the [attached flyer](#) with your members, which can also be accessed at [www.cookralsurvey.com](http://www.cookralsurvey.com). The survey will run through December 31.

The survey is part of a study DoTH is leading to investigate where additional transit rail stations should be considered along existing transit rail lines within Cook County. This effort is called the **Rail Infill Station Study** and is being conducted in partnership with CDOT, CTA, and Metra. The expected results of the study include a set of prioritized stations for the agencies and stakeholders to further investigate and develop, as well as a vision for how key stations may fit into both the local context and the broader transit network. Work on the study is expected to be completed in 2026.

Both CTA and Metra rail networks are being evaluated, and are seeking input through the online survey from the general public and local and regional stakeholders. These survey results will help understand and prioritize opportunities for future rail stations. Social media posts and car card advertisements for the survey will begin appearing on CTA. Kindly limit to one response per organization or municipality.

Please direct any questions about the survey or study to Sam Waldorf ([Samuel.Waldorf@cookcountylil.gov](mailto:Samuel.Waldorf@cookcountylil.gov)), Nicholas Riehle ([Nicholas.Riehle@cookcountylil.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Riehle@cookcountylil.gov)), or Ryan Ruehle ([Ryan.Ruehle@cookcountylil.gov](mailto:Ryan.Ruehle@cookcountylil.gov)).

## CMAP Launches the Century Plan

*From our partners at CMAP:*

The father of urban planning and co-author of the visionary 1909 Plan of Chicago, Daniel Burnham, famously said, “Make no little plans.” A century later, regional leaders are embarking on the next BIG plan for this region.

Nearly 1,000 people, including state officials, mayors, and county board chairs, along with transportation, business, and civic stakeholders, came together to kick off The Century Plan — a shared, overarching vision for the seven-county region that will guide policies for transportation, the environment, and the economy for decades into the future.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) hosted a first-of-its-kind State of the Region event on November 4th to inspire and catalyze a regional initiative to shape the future. The gathering also celebrated CMAP’s 20th anniversary and two decades of regional planning progress.

Over the next two years, CMAP will engage with government, business, and civic groups, along with residents and communities to develop The Century Plan, with a targeted adoption by the CMAP Board and the MPO Policy Committee in fall 2027.

At the State of the Region event, which took place at the iconic Old Post Office in Chicago, guests got a first look at [data trends that will help drive conversations](#) around key quality of life issues, including housing and the economy, flooding and transportation, the region’s aging population, and more.

To learn more, visit [cmap.is/the-century-plan](http://cmap.is/the-century-plan) and [sign up for CMAP newsletters](#) to stay informed about The Century Plan; transportation, planning, and data news; and other CMAP updates.



COOK COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
Transportation  
and Highways

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Metra



Where would you  
like to see new ←  
rail stations?

**Take the survey**

Participe en la encuesta



[CookRailSurvey.com](http://CookRailSurvey.com)

## **Shared-Use Mobility Center Now Seeking 2026 Change Leader Applicants**

As part of its New Shared Mobility Summit, the [Shared-Use Mobility Center](#) is looking to bring together local change leaders from across the region to collaborate and identify ideas to “advance equitable and sustainable shared mobility solutions.” The New Summit will take place over three virtual workshops and a two-day in-person gathering in Chicago at the Shared-Use Mobility Center.

[Applications for the 2026 New Summit](#) are now open through Friday, December 5. Learn more about the [New Summit](#) at the Shared-Use Mobility Center website, and [register for the informational webinar](#) on Thursday, November 13 at 12:00 p.m.

## **BikeSafetyQuiz 2.0 Rolls out to Schools**

Ride Illinois has rolled out its newest iteration of its [BikeSafetyQuiz](#), and is inviting your community and schools to make use of its grant program to fund outreach efforts to reach three different audiences: child bicyclists, adult bicyclists, and motorists/drivers. As part of IDOT's Injury Prevention funding, Illinois schools can be reimbursed \$2 per student for staff time and use of the BikeSafetyQuiz. Contact Ride Illinois at [education@rideillinois.org](mailto:education@rideillinois.org) with questions about the quiz and other teaching resources.



## **UIC Call for Capstone Project Proposals**

*From our partners at the University of Illinois at Chicago:*

You have a project. UIC students can help. Does your organization have a project it wants done but no time to do it?

- Perhaps you collected data that has gone unanalyzed or need a literature review?
- Perhaps you would like to develop a needs assessment, analyze program ideas, or research an implementation plan for possible solutions?
- Perhaps you have a project postponed due to a lack of resources?

[UIC can help this spring!](#)

[Apply here.](#) The Deadline for your ideas is December 8, 2025.

Capstone projects are learning in action. The Capstone provides students earning their bachelor's degree in urban studies with experiences that allow them to integrate classroom learning with relevant problem-solving experience in a professional work situation. Over the course of one semester, senior-level Urban Studies students work in teams to address urban issues, organizational challenges, identify opportunities for a client organization, conduct research on a pressing management issue, and analyze data. Capstone projects contribute to students' professional training, offer organizations the opportunity to access student expertise, and strengthen the relationships between UIC and organizations around the city, state, and region. [Click here to learn more about the Capstone, view the Timeline, Ideal Capstone Proposals, and Things to Consider.](#)

## Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

**APA:** [Transit and Active Transportation](#)—Thursday, November 20 at 12:00 p.m.

**APBP:** [2025 U.S. Federal Policy](#)—Wednesday, November 12 at 2:00 p.m.

**FHWA:** [Designing Smarter Roads: Permeable Pavements & Culverts Webinar](#)—Thursday, December 18 at 1:00 p.m.

## Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

*Daily Herald:* [Looking to improve traffic flow and 911 response times Des Plaines pursuing new railroad underpass](#)

*Suburban Chicago Bicycling:* [Behold Streamwood's new bike-ped bridge over Route 59](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Behind the scenes: How volunteers, advocacy make suburbs more bike-friendly](#)

*Daily Herald:* [New pedestrian bridge in Streamwood will link paths divided by Route 59](#)

*Chicago Sun-Times:* [The road leading to state's mass transit package](#)

*Capitol News Illinois:* [Here's what's in Illinois' \\$50.6B six-year infrastructure plan](#)

*Streetsblog Chicago:* [Everything in the new transit bill on Pritzker's desk](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Paratransit riders hit with major cuts to rideshare program starting this week](#)

*Capitol Fax:* [Pritzker announces \\$50.6 billion multi-year infrastructure program](#)

*Suburban Chicago Bicycling:* [Local news: Park Ridge bicyclists welcome new Busse Hwy.; Elk Grove bridge taking shape](#)

*Evanston Now:* [Metra to test cafe car concept](#)

*Vision Zero Network:* [Slow Down Speeders: Using Intelligent Speed Assistance in Your Community](#)

*AASHTO:* [Illinois DOT Issues New Illinois Official Highway Map](#)

*US DOT:* [BTS Updates Datasets to National Transportation Atlas Database, Fall 2025](#)

*Streetsblog USA:* [Crunching Numbers to Curb Crashes: Using Federal Data to Make Our Roads Safer](#)

*Smart Cities Dive:* [How local governments are tackling traffic deaths with technology](#)

*Reader's Digest:* [Why Are Highway Signs Green? A Highway Expert Breaks It Down](#)

*USA Today:* [Are speed limits on the rise? As states OK 80 mph on highways, cities say '20 is plenty'](#)

*Smart Cities Dive:* [Cities must act now to secure remaining IIJA funds: NLC](#)

*NPR:* [Why more parents are riding cargo bikes, skipping the minivan](#)

*Streetsblog USA:* [PROWAG Passed. Now What?](#)

*AAA:* [AAA Study Reveals Gaps in Pedestrian Braking Technology](#)

*Reuters:* [US probes Alphabet unit Waymo robotaxis over school bus safety](#)

*The Record North Shore:* [Something wicked this way comes through Wilmette](#)

*Daily Herald:* [What does the last-minute fix for transit budget gap mean and why the 45-cent toll hike?](#)

*Streetsblog USA:* [PART III: Policy Solutions to the E-Moto Problem](#)

*Daily Herald:* [What kind of region do you want to live in? CMAP seeks feedback on new 'Century Plan'](#)