

# 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:

Thursday, April 9, 8:30 a.m. – North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee – *via teleconference*

Tuesday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. – Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee – *via teleconference*

Thursday, April 23, 8:30 a.m. – Transportation Committee – *via teleconference*

Friday, April 24, 8:30 a.m. – Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee – *via teleconference*

## NWMC Board Approves Multimodal Plan

On Wednesday, March 11, the NWMC Board unanimously approved the [NWMC Multimodal Plan](#), which expands the focus of previous plans to include pedestrian considerations and transit access. The plan was crafted by communities, residents and stakeholders with the goal of creating a more connected region.

In addition to analyzing existing conditions throughout the region, the NWMC Multimodal Plan includes a toolbox of design and policy strategies, implementation guidance and funding opportunities to increase access to multi-modal transportation options and improve connectivity throughout the region. Staff is working on efforts to raise awareness of the plan later this spring.



## IDOT Local Highway Safety Improvement Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) requesting FY2022 projects for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The goal of the HSIP is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. Fatal and serious injury crashes associated with roadway departures, intersections, and pedestrians are high priority emphasis areas based on the current Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Applications for this funding program will be received through Friday, June 12, and announcement of the selected projects for funding will be made during the week of August 17. For more information, please see the [IDOT circular letter](#) or the [HSIP website](#).

## Metra Announces Lake County Reverse-Commute Service Exceeding First-Year Goal

A two-year reverse-commute pilot project on Metra's Milwaukee District North (MD-N) and Union Pacific North lines is already exceeding the ridership goal within its first year of service. The project is funded by a public-private partnership between Metra and nine Lake County businesses and government agencies, including the *City of Lake Forest* and the *Village of Deerfield*.

Lake County Partners led the effort to make the new MetraMore service possible and set a goal of 300 new passenger trips a day on the MD-N and UP North lines. Metra's most recent count in the fourth quarter of 2019 showed an average of 550 trips a day. For additional information, please see Metra's [press release](#).

## RTA Access to Transit Call for Projects Open

The Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) Call for Projects for its Access to Transit program is still open. This program leverages RTA and local funds with federal funding to help implement recommendations from planning studies completed through the RTA's Community Planning program or CMAP'S Local Technical Assistance program. New this year, project sponsors can apply for funding to go toward Phase I engineering as well as micro mobility projects.

Applications are due via email by Friday, May 8 and should be submitted to Michael Horsting, [horstingm@rtachicago.org](mailto:horstingm@rtachicago.org). For more information, please visit the [Access to Transit website](#) or contact Heather Mullins, [mullinsh@rtachicago.org](mailto:mullinsh@rtachicago.org) or Alex Devlin, [devlina@rtachicago.org](mailto:devlina@rtachicago.org).



City of Lake Forest



## Rebuild Illinois Funding Opportunities

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) recently issued Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for three major components of the Rebuild Illinois capital program:

- \$50 Million - [Public Infrastructure](#)
- \$16.5 Million - [Regional Economic Development](#)
- \$13 Million - [Shovel Ready Sites](#)

The objective of these programs is to fund public infrastructure projects based upon the criteria included in Governor Pritzker's Five-Year Economic Development Plan. Grant ceilings vary among each program, but each one has a minimum award level of \$250,000 per project. Applications for the Public Infrastructure program are due by 5:00 p.m. on June 30, with the other two programs having no firm due date at this time. For more information and to access each NOFO, please visit the [DCEO's program website](#) or contact Wendy Bell, [wendy.bell@illinois.gov](mailto:wendy.bell@illinois.gov).



Village of Bartlett



## **FHWA Now Accepting Applications for Federal Lands Access Program**

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Eastern Federal Lands Division has announced that the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is open for applications from now until August 3. FLAP provides funding for transportation projects located on, adjacent to, or that provide access to federal lands. Eligible projects include transportation planning, research, engineering, preventative maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, or reconstruction of federal land access facilities.

Applications should be submitted via email to the FHWA Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division Access Program Manager, [EFL.planning@dot.gov](mailto:EFL.planning@dot.gov). For more information and application materials, please visit [FHWA's Call for Projects website](#), or contact Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, [Bablibile.Seck@illinois.gov](mailto:Bablibile.Seck@illinois.gov).

## **Metra Updates Interactive Bike Map**

Metra's station-level bike data has been updated with 2019 information and can be found on the [Bikes and E-Scooters on Trains](#) page of their website. The page also includes an updated [interactive map](#) of bike parking facilities, including bike count surveys and photos of racks. For more information please contact Steven Mannella, [SMannella@metrarr.com](mailto:SMannella@metrarr.com).



Village of Streamwood

## **Metra and Pace Operating on Adjusted Schedules**

In response to reduced ridership as a result of school closures, telecommuting and other Coronavirus related social distancing measures, Metra and Pace have implemented alternate weekday schedules. For Metra, the schedule changes represent about half of its normal weekday service. Service reductions will also allow crews a better opportunity to clean cars and keep the system safe for all users. Pace's commuter and Shuttle Bug routes have also adjusted their schedules accordingly. For more information please visit [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com), [Metra's press release](#), or [PaceBus.com](http://PaceBus.com).

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