

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:

Friday, October 15, 8:30 a.m. — North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee via video conference

Tuesday, October 20, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee via video conference

Thursday, October 22, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC Transportation Committee via video conference

Friday, October 23, 8:30 a.m. — Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee via video conference

Local STP Programs Receive Unanimous Approval

At the September 9 NWMC Board meeting, members of the North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors unanimously approved their respective FY2021-2025 local Surface Transportation Programs. Both programs will now advance to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Board and Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee for final approval and inclusion in the region's Transportation Improvement Program.

In other transportation related matters, the NWMC board unanimously approved the FY2021 scope of services and budget to secure Unified Work Program funds through CMAP. These grant funds help support the Conference's transportation planning services.

Can You Do the Northbrook Dutch Reach?

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met Tuesday, September 22 and discussed a number of bicycling safety resources and the virtual field trip of the North Channel Trail. *Northbrook Civil and Special Projects Engineer Jim Baxa* highlighted a project of the village's bicycle task force to create a series of safety videos on bike and pedestrian safety. The village's first video educates residents about the [Dutch Reach](#) to prevent dangerous and even life-threatening accidents between motorists and cyclists. The committee also discussed a series of educational videos and safety resources from Ride Illinois, <https://rideillinois.org/advocacy/digital-ad-safety/>.

Committee members discussed resources available to assist communities in applying for Illinois Transportation Enhancement funds. The Active Transportation Alliance has posted a number of resources, webinar recordings and answers to frequently asked questions regarding the current call for projects, which ends Monday, November 2. Please visit <https://activetrans.org/itep> for more information. Finally, the committee discussed their experiences on the virtual field trip of the North Channel Trail. *Des Plaines Civil Engineer Derek Peebles* created the route and compiled a helpful set of resources and marked points of interest for participants. Mr. Peebles also announced he is leaving his job with the city and therefore stepping down as co-chair of the committee. We are grateful for Derek's service to the committee and wish him the best in his future endeavors!



Village of Northbrook YouTube

(feat. Village of Northbrook Civil and Special Projects Engineer Jim Baxa and Communications Specialist Cheryl Fayne-Depersio)

Transportation Committee Receives FFY 2021-2025 STP-L Program Update

The NWMC Transportation Committee met virtually on Thursday, September 17, led by new committee Co-Chair and *Schaumburg Mayor Tom Dailly*. Staff gave a presentation on the North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors FFY 2021-2025 local surface transportation programs, including project selection processes, program development and implementation steps. State and regional transportation agency partners also updated members of the committee on various initiatives and projects impacting the region.

CTA, Metra and Pace Release New Ventra App

On September 25, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace launched a completely redesigned version of the Ventra mobile app, the widely used app to buy fares and manage travel on the region's transit systems. The new app was redesigned from the ground up and includes new features such as a brand new home screen, door-to-door trip planning and integrated maps and GPS to see nearby transit arrival times. More information about the app can be found by visiting ventrachicago.com. Customers can also interact with Ventra via Twitter (@VentraChicago) and on Ventra Chicago's Facebook page. Information is also available on CTA, Metra and Pace's websites, transitchicago.com, metrarail.com and pacebus.com.

Buffalo Grove Village Manager Dane Bragg Unanimously Approved for Technical Committee

Following the nomination process that began in July, the Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee on August 28 unanimously approved a recommendation to appoint *Buffalo Grove Village Manager Dane Bragg* to the Technical Committee vacancy left by former *Hoffman Estates Village Manager Jim Norris*. The recommendation was presented to the full Northwest Council of Mayors at the September 9 NWMC Board meeting, where it was unanimously approved. Dane has served as Village Manager for 10 years and will bring valuable experience and expertise to the committee.



Buffalo Grove Village Manager Dane Bragg

Cook County Announces 2020 Invest in Cook Program

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and the County's Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH) announced the list of thirty projects that will receive funding under the 2020 Invest in Cook transportation grant program. The program encourages transportation investments that support the County's priorities, including transit, cycling and freight transportation. Of the selected projects, eight are in NWMC communities, including *Evanston*, *Hoffman Estates*, *Lincolnwood*, *Morton Grove*, *Mount Prospect*, *Rolling Meadows*, *Schaumburg*, and *Streamwood*. Together, they account for \$1,373,000 of the total \$8,502,525 distributed throughout the county, or about 16 percent. The full program list and brief descriptions of each project are available in the [2020 Invest in Cook program booklet](#).



Rendering of the City of Evanston's Invest in Cook streetscape project

New Data and Resources from CMAP

Recently, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) released several new datasets and tools for local governments to use when developing strategies to tackle local issues. Since the start of the pandemic, CMAP has been tracking changes in local travel patterns and the potential impact on congestion and local revenue. Last week, the agency produced an interesting and [updated analysis](#) covering these topics and more. CMAP has also completed an update of their My Daily Travel Survey, which began approximately a year before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. A [summary of the trends](#) is available on CMAP's website, and the data itself can be downloaded from [CMAP's Data Hub](#). Finally, CMAP has developed a new guide for local development incentives that provides best practices and strategies for improving their use at the local level. The guide is available for [digital viewing](#) and [printing](#) on CMAP's website.

35th Annual IDOT Fall Planning Conference

This month, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will kick off the 35th Annual Fall Planning Conference, which is to be held virtually over the course of the first three weeks of October. Topics for the sessions include COVID-19, active transportation, equity, sustainability and planning and environmental linkages. The [first welcome session](#) will take place Tuesday, October 6 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m and feature Acting IDOT Secretary Omer Osman and Arlene Kocher, Director of the Illinois Division of the Federal Highway Administration. Information about future sessions and links to register are available on the Conference [event page](#).



Village of Glenview

Metra Launches “My Metra” Campaign to Encourage Ridership

In September, Metra launched a new communications strategy to highlight the agency's recent efforts in ensuring safe rides through the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the campaign is to remind the public of the important role that Metra plays in living and working in the Chicagoland region through a variety of media. It also outlines key steps Metra will continue to take to keep riders safe while serving the region's transportation needs. For more information, please see [Metra's press release](#), which includes fact sheets on the [My Metra campaign](#) as well as [Metra's cleaning procedures](#).

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