

# Transportation Newsletter

October 2022  
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Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: Village of Grayslake



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

*NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee*  
Tuesday, October 18, 10:30 a.m.

*North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee*  
Thursday, October 20, 8:30 a.m.

*NWMC Transportation Committee*  
Thursday, October 27, 8:30 a.m.

*Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee*  
Friday, October 28, 8:30 a.m. @ Barrington Village Hall

## Transportation Committee Discusses CMAP Local Contributions, IIJA

On September 29, the NWMC Transportation Committee received a presentation about how the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) uses municipal contributions to leverage federal transportation funding. CMAP Principal for Outreach and Communications Jane Grover explained how local contributions help fund \$200 million annually in federal construction funds, the eleven regional planning liaisons, regional initiatives as well as valuable planning, data and analysis to partner agencies. She also described CMAP's role with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) including coordinating access to new competitive programs and implementing new policies required by the Act. For additional questions, please contact Jane, [jgrover@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:jgrover@cmap.illinois.gov), or Tim McMahon, [tmcmahon@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:tmcmahon@cmap.illinois.gov).

## USDOT Releases Notice of Funding Opportunity for SMART & ATTAIN Grants

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity for [Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation \(SMART\)](#), and [Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation \(ATTAIN\)](#) grants. Over \$100 million is available annually through the SMART grants program over the next five years to fund projects that use data and technology to solve real-world challenges facing communities today. The ATTAIN program has over \$60 million available for projects that promote advanced technologies to improve safety and reduce travel times for drivers and transit riders and that can serve as national examples.

Public agencies interested in applying for SMART grants should submit their application packages by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18 via Valid Eval, an online submission proposal system used by USDOT, at [SMART-APP](#). Those interested in applying for ATTAIN grants should submit their application packages by 11:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18 through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov)

More information is available in the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Circular Letter 2022-24 or on the [USDOT's website](#). As a courtesy and to assist IDOT in tracking applications submitted, please inform Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, Local Program Development Engineer at (217) 782-3972 or [Bablibile.Seck@illinois.gov](mailto:Bablibile.Seck@illinois.gov).

## NWMC Bike/Ped Committee Receives Cook County Bike Plan Update

On September 20, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee received an update by Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways Transit Manager Benet Haller on the progress of the [Cook County Bike Plan](#). The plan focuses on three principles: ensuring that investments serve a greater number of county residents and are more equitable distributed; expanding the existing system of off-street trails and other low-stress routes into a coherent countywide network; and, enhancing facilities to support everyday biking. For more information on the plan please contact Benet Haller, [Benet.Haller@Cookcountyil.gov](mailto:Benet.Haller@Cookcountyil.gov) or 773-895-1015.



Village of Glencoe



## NWMC Attends Morton Grove Sustainability Expo

On September 10, NWMC staff attended the 2022 Morton Grove Sustainability Expo at the Morton Grove Civic Center. Staff provided information and answered questions regarding the [NWMC Multimodal Plan](#) during the event. The plan identifies priority bicycle corridors to better connect the region's existing system of trails and create comprehensive bicycle network that is safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities. It also evaluates sidewalks along major roads and surrounding transit stops to identify key gaps, and analyzes the issues that make it difficult for people to walk and bike to CTA, Metra, and Pace stops to identify scalable solutions that can be used throughout the region.



NWMC Staff at the Morton Grove  
Sustainability Expo

## Fifteen NWMC Communities Participate in International Walk To School Day

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced that Illinois schools will join others throughout the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 12. International Walk to School Day provides an opportunity for schools to ensure kids have safe routes to school and encourages students to improve their own health and the health of the environment by walking or rolling to school instead of traveling by private vehicles. Of the 122 schools in Illinois participating in the annual event, 22 schools from 15 NWMC communities are registered, including *Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Des Plaines, Evanston, Glenview, Hanover Park, Highland Park, Hoffman Estates, Kenilworth, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Schaumburg, Streamwood and Wilmette*. For more information about International Walk to School Day and how to participate, please visit [www.walkbiketoschool.org](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org).

## Metra Extends Super Saver Pass

In July, Metra introduced a new monthly "Super Saver" pass good for unlimited rides across the system as part of a pilot program. Due to its success, the program has been extended through the end of the year.

Full fare Super Saver passes cost \$100, while a reduced fare pass for eligible seniors, K-12 students and children is \$70. In addition, Metra will continue to sell the \$6 Day Pass, valid for unlimited travel within one to three fare zones in a single day, and the \$10 Day Pass, valid for unlimited travel system wide in a single day. For more information, please see [Metra's press release](#).

## **USDOT Issues Updated NOFO for Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued an amended Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary grant to make technical corrections, primarily updates to the Key Information Table. No substantive updates to the RCP program requirements have been made. The RCP program helps reconnect communities previously cut off from opportunities by transportation infrastructure, such as highways and rail lines, through solutions like high-quality public transportation, infrastructure removal and main street revitalization. Visit the [RCP Program Website](#) to access the [Amended NOFO](#) and learn about eligibility, funding, application and submission process, and evaluation criteria. The application deadline remains unchanged as Thursday, October 13 at 11:00 p.m. For more information, please email program staff at [ReconnectingCommunities@dot.gov](mailto:ReconnectingCommunities@dot.gov).

## **NWMC Board Approves Key Transportation Items**

At their September 9 meeting, the NWMC Board unanimously approved the FY2023 scope of services and budget to secure transportation planning funds through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. Members of the Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors also approved of their respective FFY2023-2027 Local Surface Transportation Programs (STP-L) which will be considered for final CMAP approval later this month.

## **CMAP Technical Assistance and RTA Community Planning Accepting Applications**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), have opened the annual call for communities to apply for technical assistance. CMAP's Technical Assistance and the RTA's Community Planning programs offer targeted services that can assist communities with planning and implementation, providing them with interagency expertise that can build capacity and better leverage the region's transit networks. To learn more about the offerings available through the 2022 Call for Projects, visit the project pages for CMAP and the RTA. Applications will be accepted until noon on Friday, October 14. For questions regarding the CMAP Technical Assistance program, please contact Jonathan Burch, [jburch@cmaphillinois.gov](mailto:jburch@cmaphillinois.gov). For the RTA Community Planning program, please contact Michael Horsting, [horstingm@rtachicago.org](mailto:horstingm@rtachicago.org).

City of Evanston





## Union Pacific Begins Major Project on UP-North Line

The Union Pacific Railroad has begun a major project to replace approximately 68,000 ties along a 45 mile stretch of the Union Pacific-North line. To minimize impacts on current train schedules, work will occur between 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. seven days a week through November. Metra riders should expect minor delays during evening and possible schedule adjustments to late-night trains as the work progresses.

Communities along the tracks should also expect increased noise levels, including train horns, during the work periods. According to the Union Pacific, the accelerated work schedule will result in each community experiencing direct impacts for only two to three days as the work progresses. Any changes to current schedules will be posted on [Metra's website](#) in advance. For more information, please see [Metra's press release](#).

## IDOT Releases Jurisdictional Transfer Survey

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has created an [online survey](#) as part of an on-going research project focused on strategies for small segments of pavement for which the Department has jurisdiction and maintenance responsibilities. One approach under consideration is jurisdictional transfer to other agencies, and this survey will help guide the project. Local public agencies and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide responses to the survey, which should not take more than fifteen minutes.

## Metra and Pace Announce Budget Hearings

It's budget season for Metra and Pace. Both organizations are currently working on their 2022-2023 budgets and both organizations will be holding public hearings on them. Metra will have one on November 2 in the Mundelein Village Hall, and then on November 3 at the Hanover Park Police Department community room with both hearings occurring from 4-6 p.m. Pace will hold 4 virtual and 4 in-person hearings from October 20 to October 28. For more information on the Pace hearings please check their [press release](#).



City of Park Ridge

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