

Transportation Newsletter

October 2025
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Northwest Municipal Conference
1600 E. Golf Rd. Suite 0700 Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 847-296-9200 www.nwmc-cog.org
Cover Photo: Village of Skokie, NWMC Staff Photo



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee: Tuesday, October 14, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC Offices and Virtually

North Shore Council of Mayors: Thursday, October 16, 8:30 a.m. — *Glenview Village Hall* and Virtually

Transportation Committee: Thursday, October 30, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC Offices and Virtually

Northwest Council of Mayors: Friday, October 31, 8:30 a.m. — Location TBD

NWMC e-Mobility Devices Summit Recap

On September 22, the NWMC hosted an e-Mobility Devices Summit, bringing together local decision-makers and industry experts to share insights and ideas to help guide communities considering ordinances regulating e-bike, e-scooter, and e-moto usage. Discussion centered around the need to develop clarity on the subject, especially at the state level, to ensure a consistent transportation network.

Many thanks to *Trustee Terri Gens of Mount Prospect*, *Deputy Chief Brian Budny of Deerfield*, *Transportation Director Sidney Kenyon of Schaumburg*, Benjamin Schuster of Elrod Friedman, and Dave Simmons of Ride Illinois for an in-depth discussion on this topic. [A recording of the summit is now available on the NWMC YouTube page.](#) Read more about the summit in this [Daily Herald article](#).

Councils of Mayors Hosted 2026 STP-L Call for Projects Workshop

On Tuesday, October 7, the North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors hosted a workshop on the upcoming 2026 Surface Transportation Program-Local (STP-L) Call for Projects. Staff reviewed the Call for Projects timeline, provided a brief overview of STP-L funding and requirements and discussed council-specific applications, active program management and project management. A recording of the workshop can be found on the [NWMC YouTube Channel](#).

The North Shore Council of Mayors Call for Projects will open on Monday, October 20 and close on December 19. The Northwest Council of Mayors Call for Projects will open on Friday, October 31 and be open until Tuesday, December 30. If you have any questions for the North Shore Council please contact Brian Larson, blarson@nwmc-cog.org and for the Northwest Council please contact Eric Czarnota, eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org.

FHWA Updates Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has updated its [Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table](#), which highlights eligibility for pedestrian and bicycle activities and projects across USDOT surface transportation programs. The table provides notes and program requirements to help project sponsors identify funding administered through the FHWA, Federal Lands, Office of the Secretary, Federal Transit Administration and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Communities can also use the [DOT Navigator](#) to explore and cross-reference funding opportunities and learn more about funding requirements.

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

ADA Coordinators invited to October 14 session on facility assessments

From our partners at CMAP:

The October 14 meeting of CMAP's [Regional ADA Coordinators Group](#) will focus on accessibility assessments for government buildings and facilities. Robert Judd, Manager and Senior Accessibility Consultant with Jensen Hughes, will lead a discussion on how to initiate and conduct a facility assessment. Come with questions! [Register for the October 14 meeting](#).

Park Ridge Opens Busse Highway Bike Lanes

The *City of Park Ridge* hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 27 to celebrate new bike lanes on Busse Highway - a key safety and mobility enhancement delivered through the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Busse Highway Road Diet and Overlay Project. NWMC staff were in attendance for the ribbon cutting.

Implemented by IDOT in partnership with Park Ridge, the Busse Highway project reconfigured the corridor from an undivided four-lane roadway to a more efficient three-lane design. The new layout includes dedicated bike lanes, a center two-way left-turn lane, and select on-street parking, improving safety and comfort for all roadway users.

The corridor improvements span Busse Highway from Morris Street to Potter Road within Park Ridge, continuing from Potter Road to Miner Street in *Des Plaines*. The project creates a consistent cross-section and clearer operations along this important east-west link. Congratulations to Park Ridge and participating agencies.



NWMC Staff Photo

IDOT Circular on Federal Government Shutdown Impacts on Transportation Funding

From our partners at IDOT:

[From Gia Biagi, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation:](#) "We have received inquiries regarding the lapse in federal appropriations and impacts to transportation funding and projects. Since the majority of federal transportation funds are authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act through September 30, 2026 and supported by the Highway Trust Fund, not the annual appropriations process, IDOT does not anticipate and has not been made aware of any impacts to funding or projects due to a shutdown. We will continue to monitor new developments and will provide additional guidance as warranted. We appreciate your partnership

Cook County Seeks Feedback on O'Hare Area Bike Network Study

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH) is currently conducting a [public survey](#) on its [O'Hare Area Bike Network Study](#). Results from the survey will guide the development of the network and identify areas and types of improvements to implement. This is a key component of the stakeholder engagement process and support sharing the study on social media. DoTH has developed a [flyer](#), [social media graphics](#), suggested language, and [the survey](#), which can be added to existing communications. Assistance sharing this survey among newsletters and social media is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

APBP: [Lessons from Ontario: Engaging People with Disabilities in Micromobility Projects](#) — Wednesday, October 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals: [Using Data to Improve Outdoor Access](#) — Wednesday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m.

Vision Zero Network: [Mapping What Matters: Building Safer Transportation Systems with Pedestrian Asset Data](#)—Thursday, October 23 at 12:00 p.m.

Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Trains Magazine: [STB grants Metra request for trackage rights on Union Pacific](#)

Daily Herald: [Billions for a Route 120 bypass in Lake County? Some residents warn it's a pricey 'pie in the sky'](#)

Daily Herald: [Advantage Metra: Feds give agency track rights in Union Pacific dispute](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Union Pacific sues Metra amid payment dispute](#)

Daily Herald: [Cook Co. invests more than \\$1.5M in suburban biking infrastructure](#)

Evanston Now: [Service cuts unlikely for PACE in 2026](#)

WBBM: [RTA survey: CTA satisfaction lags Pace, Metra](#)

Chicago Tribune: [RTA presses the CTA, Metra and Pace to share more details about looming service cuts](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [How could the transit 'fiscal cliff' play out in Chicago? Philadelphia cuts offer clues](#)

Daily Herald: [Pace reveals passenger upgrades at Schaumburg bus hub but specter of fiscal cliff looms](#)

Daily Herald: [Suburbs look to state to resolve 'confusion' over e-bike and e-scooter rules](#)

Streetsblog Chicago: [GOP State Rep. and Rosemont Mayor Brad Stephens on solving the transit fiscal cliff: "This can't be a city-versus-suburbs thing."](#)

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](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Metra debuts Café Car, surveys riders on prototype](#)

Streetsblog USA: [Report: A Third of Americans Can't Rely On Cars — And 16 Million Have No Access At All](#)

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

Vision Zero Network: [Safer Vehicles in Cities: Five Steps to Advance Vehicle Safety Locally](#)

IIHS: [More localities look at speed from a pedestrian's point of view](#)

Suburban Chicago Bicycling: [Pictures: Streamwood bridge's trusses over Route 59 are in place!](#)

Evanston RoundTable: [Church Street bike lane improvements move forward](#)

Village of Fox Lake



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1600 E. Golf Rd Suite 0700
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 847-296-9200 | www.nwmc-cog.org

Eric Czarnota: 847-296-9200 ext. 128

ECzarnota@nwmc-cog.org

Brian Larson: 847-296-9200 ext. 131

BLarson@nwmc-cog.org