

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:

Tuesday, September 15, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — Ride Illinois Virtual Bike Summit ([click here](#) to register)

Thursday, September 17, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC Transportation Committee via video conference

Tuesday, September 22, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee via video conference

Local STP Programs Advance to full Councils of Mayors for Approval

Both of the Technical Committees of the North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors met in August and voted to advance their respective recommended programs for a final vote by their full Councils of Mayors. The vote will take place during the NWMC Board meeting on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Pending approval, the FFY 2021-2025 Local Surface Transportation Programs of the North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors will be forwarded to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning for inclusion in the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). For more information and to view the recommended programs, please visit the [North Shore](#) or [Northwest](#) Council websites.

Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod Named to Pace Board

On July 29, *Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod* was appointed to the Pace Board of Directors by the Cook County Suburban Caucus. Mayor McLeod succeeds former *Schaumburg Village President Al Larson*, who served on the Pace Board for 20 years. Mayor McLeod helped spearhead and guide the development of the Barrington Road Interchange which is the location of Illinois' first on-highway bus station at Pace's I-90 / Barrington Road Park-n-Ride. He has served as *Hoffman Estates Mayor* since 2000 and is a former President of the Northwest Municipal Conference and co-chair of the NWMC Transportation and Legislative committees. To read the full news release, [click here](#).



Mayor William McLeod
(photo credit: PaceBus.com)

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discusses Road Diets

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee kicked off their new year this past Tuesday with an engaging presentation and several local project updates. *Hoffman Estates Director of Transportation and Engineering Mike Hankey* and *Des Plaines Civil Engineer Derek Peebles* opened the meeting with a presentation on road diets and the various ways they can be implemented locally to improve safety and fill in key gaps for bicycle and pedestrian connections. The presentation included local examples from their respective communities and highlighted best practices and helpful resources to use when taking on road diet projects. For a copy of the presentation, [click here](#). The next Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting will be held on September 22, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom video conference.

RTA Recovery Scenario Planning Survey

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on regional transit have been profound, leading to reduced ridership, service changes, and declining revenues. In response to the crisis the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) initiated a scenario planning and survey project to look 1-2 years into the future. The scenarios offered in the survey were discussed with key partners and stakeholders over the past few weeks and now the RTA wants to hear from you. The survey should be completed by Monday, September 7 as the results will be presented to the RTA Board of Directors at their next meeting on Thursday, September 10. To learn more about scenario planning work being done, [click here](#). To take the survey, [click here](#).

IDOT Accepting Special Bridge Program Applications

On Wednesday, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY 2026 of the Illinois Special Bridge Program (ISBP) as part of the development of the FY 2022-2027 proposed Highway Improvement Program. To qualify, funding must be spent on existing structures eligible for Surface Transportation Program-Bridge funding, have a minimum total project cost of \$1 million and be within the jurisdiction of the local agency applying for the funding. Funding can only be used for construction and construction engineering phases of eligible projects. Applications for the ISBP are due to the appropriate District Local Roads office by Tuesday, October 6. More information and application materials are available in [IDOT Circular Letter 2020-14](#), and questions can be directed to Melinda Kos, Melinda.Kos@illinois.gov.

“Virtual” Field Trip Planned by Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Each year, NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee conducts a field trip to get some fresh air, exercise and observe local multimodal facilities and improvements. To accommodate concerns regarding COVID-19, Committee co-chair and *Des Plaines Civil Engineer Derek Peebles* put together a bike ride along the North Shore Channel Trail.

Materials for the field trip can be accessed online via [Dropbox](#), and the route can be accessed through [Google Maps](#). We are looking forward to discussing the field trip at our next meeting and sharing individual experiences and observations. A huge thanks goes to Derek for creatively coming up with a safe alternative!

Ride Illinois Bike Summit Registration Open

Ride Illinois is holding their annual Bike Summit online on Tuesday, September 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participants will learn virtually about bicycle infrastructure, programs, grants and more.

Ride Illinois is also offering a separate session of in-depth (online) training on infrastructure and IDOT policies geared toward transportation engineers and planning professionals. Both PDH and CM credits are available for the technical training session and the summit. More info and registration options are available by visiting www.illinoisbikesummit.org.



Village of Grayslake

ITEP Funding & Webinar Series Prepare Agencies to Apply for Funds

This year, the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) [Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program \(ITEP\)](#) will provide \$105.6 million in state and federal funding for walking, biking and trail projects around the state. In collaboration with the Illinois Public Health Institute, the Active Transportation Alliance is hosting a three-part webinar series to help communities develop successful applications. ITEP's call for proposals will be open until Monday, November 2. For more information about the program (including an FAQ), please visit the [Active Trans website](#). See below for webinar details:

- Webinar 1: Intro to ITEP and Funding Eligibility Criteria – [recording](#)
- Webinar 2: ITEP Application Walk-Through and Project Scoring – [recording](#)
- Webinar 3: Final Guidance/Q&A on Project Proposals – Wednesday, October 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – [register here](#)



IDNR Boat Access Area Development Program Grants Available

The Boat Access Area Development (BAAD) Program is a state-financed grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public boat and canoe access areas in Illinois. The program is managed in Illinois by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Applications for the program must be submitted to the IDNR by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 2. More information is available in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), on the [IDNR website](#) or by calling the IDNR Grants main line at 217-782-7481.



Village of Fox Lake

IDOT Publishes Township Bridge Program Allotments

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) published the list of counties receiving an allotment from the FY 2021 Township Bridge Program. The General Assembly authorized \$15 million to be used by the road districts for the construction of bridges.

Any unused FY 2021 TBP funds will lapse four years from the date IDOT published CL 2020-15 (August 31, 2024). Please submit your FY 2021 Township Bridge Program to your district office by September 30, 2020, or as directed by your district. For more information, and to view allotments by county, please see the [IDOT Circular letter](#).



City of Lake Forest

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