

Transportation Newsletter

September 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, September 20, 10:30 a.m.

NWMC Transportation Committee
Thursday, September 29, 8:30 a.m.

NWMC Members Receive Funding In IDOT FY 2023-2028 Multi-Year Program

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced a \$34.6 billion program to improve roads, bridges, transit, rail, airports, and ports over the next six years. Over \$318 million will go toward highway reconstruction and preservation; bridge improvements; strategic expansion; engineering and land acquisition; and safety and system modernizations in NWMC communities, with additional funding for multi-modal projects in the region included as part of IDOT's Multimodal Multi-Year Improvement Program.

For the first time, road projects that add capacity will be evaluated by a new [Data-Driven Decisions Tool](#) intended to ensure greater equity and transparency in transportation planning and programming. For further information, both the [FY2023-28 Proposed Highway Improvement Program](#) and the [FY2023-28 Proposed Multimodal Multi-Year Improvement Program](#) are available online.

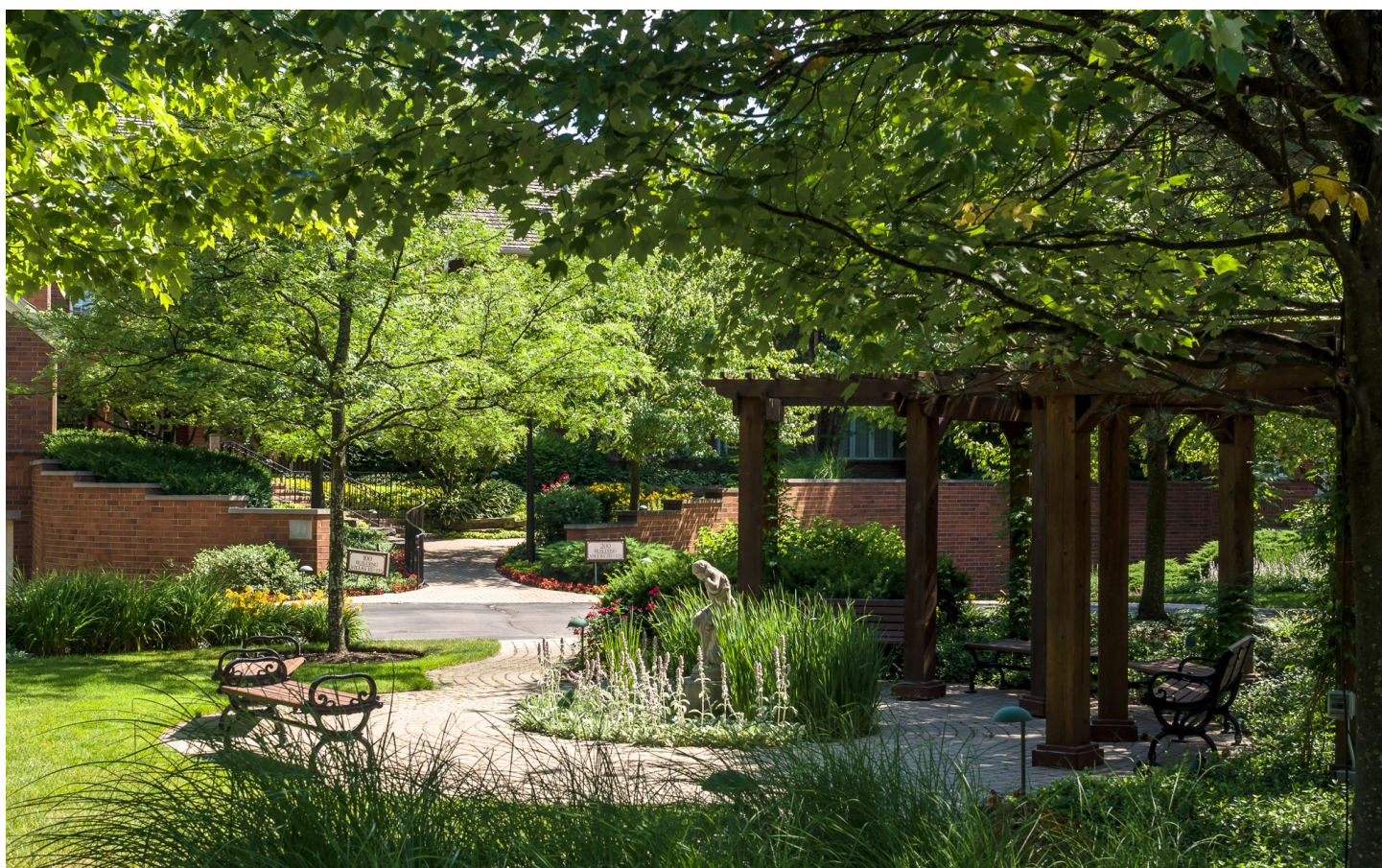
Draft EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan Available for Public Comment

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has submitted a draft [Illinois Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Infrastructure Deployment Plan](#) to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The draft, pending FHWA approval by September 30, provides a framework for addressing many program components moving forward into implementation. IDOT is planning additional stakeholder engagement as the state moves toward implementation of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, both in the coming months and over the life of the program. In particular, IDOT will prioritize gathering public input in the following areas:

- Priority locations for charging infrastructure
- Identifying and quantifying benefits and challenges for disadvantaged communities
- Prioritization considerations for identifying locations, providers, and hosts.
- Program evaluation metrics and key performance indicators for the NEVI program
- Data collection
- Price transparency
- Other areas raised by stakeholders

IDOT requests feedback on the [Drive Electric website](#) or by email and anticipates holding the next public meeting the week of September 6. A recording of Illinois's National Electric Vehicle Plan Outreach Kickoff meeting is available on [YouTube](#).

Village of Northfield



Metra to Convert Six Locomotives to Battery-Powered

Recently, the Metra Board of Directors approved a [first-of-its-kind plan](#) to convert six of their oldest diesel locomotives to zero-emission battery power. The contract with Progress Rail calls for a base order of three locomotives with options for three more. The total cost for all six locomotive conversions is estimated to be \$34.6 million and will take about three and a half years. Metra plans to test the battery-powered locomotives on the Rock Island line. The battery-powered locomotives are expected to have a range of about 150 miles, be less noisy and have lower operating costs and lower maintenance costs than diesel locomotives.

Village of Skokie



CMAP Announces New Community Alliance for Regional Equity Program

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is seeking community based organizations to apply for their new Community Alliance for Regional Equity Program. The initiative seeks to improve the investment process to better serve people traditionally excluded from transportation planning. The program will recruit up to 12 community based organizations and pay \$10,000 for one year of their time and expertise.

Applications are due by Monday, September 19. CMAP is also requesting help from communities to spread the word and connect interested organizations with the program and application resources using their [social media toolkit](#). For more information, please visit the [Community Alliance for Regional Equity Webpage](#) or contact CommunityAlliance@cmaphillinois.gov.

Updated Community Data Snapshots Available from CMAP

Updated Community Data Snapshots are now available online from CMAP. The Snapshots include information on demographic, housing, employment, transportation, land use, revenue and water data for communities in northeastern Illinois. Summary documents are available online, and the raw data can be downloaded from [CMAP's Data Hub](#). The latest snapshots include updated 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) data and employment and tax base tables. For more information, please visit [CMAP's Community Data Snapshots website](#).

ITEP Open for Applications, One Remaining Webinar

IDOT is accepting applications for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). This year, the ITEP 2022 grant cycle will provide \$125 million in state and federal funding for walking, biking, and trail projects around the state. Active Transportation Alliance and Illinois Public Health Institute have worked in partnership with IDOT to host the following webinar series this summer to help communities apply for funding—recordings are available for past webinars:

- Wednesday, July 20 – [Recording](#)
Content: ITEP basics, eligibility criteria, what's new, and best practices
- Wednesday, August 24 – [Recording](#)
Content: Scoring, application walk through, Q&A with IDOT staff
- Wednesday, September 14, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)
Content: Q&A with IDOT staff

Applications are due September 30. For more information, please visit [Active Transportation Alliance's Website](#) or contact Maggie Czerwinski, maggie@activetrans.org.

IDOT Issues Notice of Funding Opportunity for Special Bridge Program

IDOT has opened the application period for the Illinois Special Bridge Program. Projects must be existing bridges eligible for Surface Transportation Program funding that carry a highway and have a minimum total cost of \$1 million. Funding is limited to construction and construction engineering and requires a 20 percent local match. IDOT notes that it is beneficial to have received approval from the Bridge Condition Report (BCR) prior to applying to ensure the scope of work is eligible. Priority consideration will also be given to structurally deficient National Highway System (NHS) structures that will reduce the number that are reported to the Federal Highway Administration. Interested candidates should contact their district office by Tuesday, October 11 and applications are due by Friday, October 14. For more information on application procedures and requirements, please refer to [Circular Letter 2022-22](#) or contact Melinda Kos, Melinda.Kos@illinois.gov.

IDOT Now Allows Electronic Signatures on Select Forms

IDOT recently released a circular letter noting that some Bureau of Local Roads (BLR) forms will now allow electronic signatures. So far twenty-three (23) forms have been converted for electronic signatures with the goal of converting all forms to allow for electronic signatures. Users should consult the [IDOT's website](#) to access the latest version of forms each time a new form is being completed. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Lupton, Local Project Implementation Engineer, Greg.Lupton@illinois.gov or 217-785-1670.

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