

Transportation Newsletter

September 2023
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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Prospect Heights



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

CMAP ADA Training

Thursday, September 14, 9:00 a.m. Glen Ellyn
Police Department

NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Tuesday, September 26, 10:30 a.m. *NWMC
Offices and Virtually*

NWMC Transportation Committee

Thursday, September 28, 8:30 a.m. *NWMC
Offices and Virtually*

Registration Open for CMAP's ADA and Accessibility Fall Training

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is offering a series of American With Disabilities Act (ADA) and accessibility training sessions this fall. The four sessions will be held on matters ranging from understanding responsibilities under the ADA and Title II of the Illinois Accessibility Code (**September 14**), ADA coordinator training (**October 11**), ADA self-evaluation (**November 8**) and ADA transition plans (**November 9**).

It is important to note that ADA Transition Plan status will be required in future funding program scoring methodologies. These training sessions will give your community a head start on ensuring mobility for all residents! For more info and to register for the training sessions, please visit this [CMAP webpage](#).

FTA Announces Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced \$13.4 million in competitive grants through its Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) planning program. Funding is available to integrate land use and transportation planning for new fixed guideway or core capacity transit project corridors. To apply for funding, an applicant must be an existing FTA grant recipient – either a project sponsor of an eligible transit project or an entity with land use planning authority in the project corridor. To ensure that work meets the needs of the local community, transit project sponsors and land use planning authorities must partner to conduct the planning work.

Please visit the [TOD Pilot Program webpage](#) for additional information. The application period will close on **October 10**.

Pace Pulse Dempster Line Station Unveiled in Downtown Des Plaines

On August 9th, Pace unveiled the first Pulse Dempster Line station in downtown Des Plaines. The Pulse Dempster Line offers riders limited stop service between Evanston and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport while seamlessly connecting passengers to the CTA's Yellow and Purple lines in addition to Metra's Union Pacific North, Northwest and North Central Service corridors.

Speakers at the event included *Des Plaines Mayor Andrew Goczkowski*, State Senator Laura Murphy, Pace Chairman Rick Kwasneski, and Pace Board member and former NWMC President Christopher Canning. After the unveiling ceremony, the public was invited to personally experience the convenience and modern amenities offered by Pace's new fleet of stylish purple buses, complete with Wi-Fi connectivity. A full list of stops and additional information can be found on [Pace's website](#).



City of Des Plaines
Photos courtesy of Pace Suburban Bus
and NWMC Staff



Apply Today for Safe Routes to Schools Grants

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is now accepting applications for the Safe Routes to School program. The program provides federal funding to improve safety and reduce traffic in areas around schools by supporting projects that make walking, biking and rolling to school a safe option for students. IDOT will distribute a total of \$6 million, with a maximum award of \$250,000. Projects may include new sidewalks, traffic-calming measures and improvements that increase accessibility for those with disabilities. Successful applications will demonstrate how the projects encourage students to walk, bike or roll.

Eligible applicants include school districts, local governments, planning organizations and nonprofit associations. Preference will be given to schools with higher percentages of low-income students and students with disabilities. The deadline to apply is Monday, **October 2**, with awards to be announced in the spring. For more information on the program, including selection criteria and details on how to register for webinars to assist in the application process, please visit the [Safe Routes to School homepage](#) or email DOT.SafeRoutes@illinois.gov.

RTA to Launch Expanded Transit Benefit Fare Program

Good news for commuters – starting next year, an expanded transit benefit program is coming to more workplaces than ever before. The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) will launch the [Tran\\$it Benefit Fare Program](#) in response to passage of the Transit Benefits Program Act that was signed last month by Governor Pritzker and will take effect on January 1, 2024. The Act will expand pre-tax benefits for both employers and employees to encourage the use of public transportation.

According to the RTA program, “employers with 50 or more full-time employees located within a mile of fixed-route transit service inside the six-county RTA region – such as a CTA or Metra station, as well as a CTA and Pace bus stops – will be required to offer their workers these new benefits. New hires will be eligible after 120 days of employment.”

Employers can consult a [searchable map](#) to assist the business community in implementing the Transit Benefit Program Act.

Learn more and enroll early at www.mytransitbenefit.com. Employers who enroll in the RTA Transit Benefit Fare Program can see their first month of fees waived by using promo code TRANSIT2024.

Village of Barrington



FHWA Publishes e-Bike Information Updates

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently published information on [electric bicycles](#) (e-bikes), including a [literature review](#), fact sheet, research, and a series of case studies. According to the website, “E-bikes present an opportunity to reduce car travel, improve health, and increase access for all, especially traditionally underserved populations; however, the relationship between e-bikes and safety, infrastructure, equity, and the environment is not fully understood and remains of interest to decision makers and potential riders. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is advancing research on e-bikes to better understand e-bike trends and impacts, and how jurisdictions around the country are managing them”. For more information please visit the previously published FHWA research study [The Future of E-Bikes on Public Lands](#).

Community Alliance for Regional Equity Cohort Seeking Participants

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is accepting applicants to participate in the second Community Alliance for Regional Equity (CARE) cohort, which will launch in January and run through December 2024. CARE is a group of community-based organizations that will work with CMAP to make investment processes more equitable and strengthen community collaboration. CMAP is seeking community-based organizations that are traditionally marginalized or excluded in the transportation planning process. To compensate them for their time and expertise, each member organization will receive a \$10,000 honorarium. For more information, including an application, please visit the [CMAP Community Alliance for Regional Equity program](#) website. Applications are due by **September 19**.

Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Crain's Chicago Business: [Efforts at regional economic development paying off](#)

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus: [EV Readiness Program second cohort announced at ComEd/Caucus event](#)

Governing: [How a Public Health Approach to Road Safety Could Save Lives](#)

Active Transportation Alliance: [The unsung heroes who are making the region better for biking](#)



Village of Buffalo Grove

Improving Pedestrian Safety on Urban Arterials Webinars

A recent Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [Improving Pedestrian Safety on Urban Arterials: Learning from Australasia report](#) documents findings from a research team studying Australian and New Zealand approaches to reduce pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries on urban, signalized arterial roadways.

A [four-part webinar series](#) will share the results of the study, focusing on:

- [Key Findings and Recommendations \(Part 1\)](#) - Monday, September 25, 1:30pm to 3:00pm
- [Movement and Place Framework \(Part 2\)](#) - Monday, October 2, 1:30pm to 3:00pm
- [Integration of Road Safety Audit processes \(Part 3\)](#) - Monday, October 23, 1:30pm to 3:00pm
- [Network-level approaches for speed management \(Part 4\)](#) - Tuesday, November 7, 1:30p, to 3:00pm

Panelists from FHWA, PedBikeInfo (PBIC), the USDOT Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, and agency representatives from the US, New Zealand, and Australia will describe how these approaches in policy, planning, and design may be applied to US arterials roadways.

Access USDOT's Thriving Communities Technical Assistance materials now!

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) hosted a Thriving Communities Technical Assistance webinar on July 25 to provide information about their various technical assistance resources and highlight upcoming USDOT programs and grants. The webinar focused on programs and technical assistance related to transit, bicycle and pedestrian planning, reconnecting communities, climate change and resiliency and transportation safety. The webinar materials, including the presentation slides, webinar recording, and resource sheets can be found on the [Thriving Communities Resources webpage](#).



Village of Skokie

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