

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Skokie, NWMC Staff Photo



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee: Tuesday, September 9, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC Offices and Virtually

NWMC E-Bike, E-Scooter, and E-Moto Summit: Monday, September 22, 10:00 a.m.— NWMC Offices and Virtually

Transportation Committee: Thursday, September 25, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC Offices and Virtually

NWMC To Host Discussion on E-Bike and E-Scooter Regulations

Multiple NWMC member municipalities have recently adopted ordinances regulating e-bike, e-scooter, and e-moto usage. Many others are beginning the process of developing their own. NWMC staff is working with member communities to better understand the factors contributing to the development of these ordinances.

In the interest of ensuring a more cohesive regulatory environment across the suburbs, the NWMC will host a panel discussion on this topic on Monday, September 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the NWMC offices (a virtual attendance option will also be available). The panel will bring together local decision-makers and industry experts to share insights and ideas to help guide communities.

[RSVP for the discussion here.](#)

Fund Public-Private Transportation Partnerships with the USDOT Innovative Finance and Asset Concession (IFAC) Grant Program

Communities interested in using public-private partnerships to develop transportation infrastructure projects including roadways, transit, intelligent transport systems, bridges, transit-oriented development, and more, can now tap into \$45.98 million in [Innovative Finance and Asset Concession \(IFAC\) funding](#). Projects must be eligible under the [Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act](#) program. Awards start at \$100,000, with the first \$1 million in project funds not requiring a local match, and a maximum \$2 million award available. An informational webinar [recording](#) (passcode: 0wnaYg0?) is available, along with [slides](#). The application deadline is Wednesday, October 1.

2025 Invest in Cook Awards Announced

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOTH) has announced its 2025 Invest in Cook project list. Nearly \$1 million in transportation funding will support transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and road projects within NWMC member communities. Congratulations to award winners *Buffalo Grove, Niles, Palatine, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Streamwood, and Wheeling*. Pace Suburban Bus also received an award to expand bus service in *Arlington Heights, Palatine, and Rolling Meadows*. Please visit [Invest in Cook](#) for a full list of the awardees and projects.

Four NWMC Members Participating in the 2025 Bicycle Friendly Community Public Survey

With the 2025 application period now closed, the League of American Bicyclists are beginning their Bicycle Friendly Community Public Survey. NWMC member communities *Evanston, Grayslake, Niles, and Skokie* have applied to be part of the 2025 cohort. As part of the application process, the League is [surveying the general public about bicycling experiences in these member communities](#). The deadline for completion is Sunday, October 5. Please visit the [League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community website](#) to learn more about the program and to prepare for the 2026 cohort.

Center for Neighborhood Technology and Elevated Chicago Share Best Practices for Equitable Transit -Oriented Development

The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) and Elevated Chicago have developed a [technical assistance guide for communities implementing equitable transit-oriented development \(ETOD\)](#). Using case studies, project lists, and analysis of the City of Chicago's Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Technical Assistance Program, the guide identifies successes, challenges, and barriers to the project development pipeline and system-level changes that can be implemented to enhance success.

Safe Routes to School Grant Applications Open

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) application period for the [2025 Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) Program](#) is now open. The SRTS program supports projects that improve safety and encourage walking, bicycling, and rolling to and from schools serving grades K-12.

SRTS projects must be located within a 2-mile radius of a school and may include both infrastructure (sidewalks, crossings, bike facilities, traffic calming) and non-infrastructure (safety education events, training programs, school route evaluations) projects. The program is fully funded at 100% with no local match required. Infrastructure awards are capped at \$250,000 and non-infrastructure awards at \$100,000.

Eligible applicants include schools, school districts, municipalities, counties, townships, planning organizations, and other public agencies. Only municipalities and other roadway jurisdictions may sponsor infrastructure projects, though they may partner with other eligible entities.

To assist applicants, IDOT and the Active Transportation Alliance are hosting a series of informational webinars. A session on Wednesday, [September 17](#) from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. will feature a live Q&A with IDOT staff. Earlier recorded webinars provided [an overview of the SRTS grant](#) and a [walkthrough for the application](#). Final applications will be due by 5:00 PM on Monday, October 13.

For additional information, contact IDOT staff at DOT.SafeRoutes@Illinois.gov.

North Shore and Northwest Council of Mayors STP Call for Projects Coming Soon

The 2025 Call for Projects (CFP) for the Surface Transportation Program (STP) for both North Shore and Northwest Council of Mayors will open for applications in October and run through December. Projects submitted during the CFP will be eligible for funding during the FFY2026-2030 period.

In preparation, the NWMC will host a joint training session in October, date to be determined, on the STP application process for North Shore and Northwest. Additionally, the North Shore Council of Mayors will host a separate joint training session, on Friday, October 17, with McHenry County on the new Safety Improvement criteria that covers the Safe Systems Approach evaluation framework McHenry and North Shore have adopted.

The Project selection methodology for the North Shore Council can be found [here](#). The Northwest Council Methodology is currently being revised and will be released prior to the CFP.



Village of Bartlett

IDOT Releases 2024 Crash Data

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has released its 2024 crash data via its [IDOT Safety Portal](#). The Safety Portal allows users to search and retrieve crash reports, view the crash location maps, access 10 year historic and trend analyses, and generate crash data summary reports. Read IDOT's full announcement in [Circular Letter 2025-11](#). If you have any questions regarding this information, future updates, and/or access to the system, please contact Mark Blankenship, Mark.Blankenship@illinois.gov or Aaron Rath, Aaron.Rath@illinois.gov.

Help for Communities Considering Low-speed e-bike and e-moto Regulations

The Active Transportation Alliance and Ride Illinois [hosted an online discussion in August focused on local e-bike and e-moto ordinances](#). The session was developed to help communities better understand the key distinctions between legally defined low-speed electric bicycles and high-powered unregulated e-moto devices.

With the growing presence of e-mobility devices in public spaces and the resulting confusion about where different devices are permitted, this conversation offered valuable context for municipal staff, elected officials and transportation professionals working on local regulations. Participants heard from policy experts about best practices, legal definitions and considerations for local ordinance development. For background information and additional resources, please visit [Ride Illinois Guidance for Municipalities website](#).

NHTSA Releases 2023 Traffic Safety Data

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently published its [Traffic Safety Facts 2023 Data](#), including separate analyses of [pedestrian](#) and [bicyclist](#) fatalities and injuries, [driver electronic device usage](#), [young drivers](#), [motorcycles](#), and [alcohol-impaired driving](#). This data provides year-over-year comparisons and analyzes differences in state-level policies on traffic fatalities and injuries. Access any of these and more via the [NHTSA Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Data Resource Page](#).



City of Des Plaines
NWMC Staff Photo

Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

RTA: [Regional Human Services Transportation Plan Update](#)—Tuesday, September 9 at 12:00 p.m.

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals: [2025Q3 Federal Policy Webinar](#)—Wednesday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center AASHTO Bike Guide Series: [Part 3: Additional Advances in Bicycling Design](#)—Thursday, September 11 at 12:00 p.m.

RTA: [Introduction to Joint Development: What is it and what are the benefits?](#)—Tuesday, September 16 at 12:00 p.m.

IDOT: [Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) 2025: Q&A with IDOT](#)—Wednesday, September 17 at 11:00 a.m.

Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety: [Spatial and Temporal Shifts in Pedestrian Serious Injuries and Fatalities](#)—Wednesday, September 17 at 1:00 p.m.

RTA: [What are we hearing from riders? Customer Satisfaction Survey results](#)—Tuesday, September 23 at 12:00 p.m.

RTA: [What's next for the transit fiscal cliff: A conversation between Chicago and Philadelphia](#)—Tuesday, September 30 at 12:00 p.m.

Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Streetsblog Chicago: [State Sen. Ram Villivalam: Here's how we can stop Chicagoland transit from falling off the fiscal cliff](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Derailed: Looming funding cuts to Philadelphia's transit system offer a lesson for Chicago](#)

Daily Herald: [Rate increases, express lanes, new highways considered in tollway's latest strategic plan](#)

Daily Herald: [Construction of bridge connecting Mount Prospect parks could begin next year](#)

WGN: [PACE Riders with disabilities face increased costs and drastic cuts to paratransit rides from RTA](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Metra cancels some UP-NW trains for 2 months of rail construction](#)

Daily Herald: [Express lanes? Dynamic pricing? Here's what tollway plan could mean for your commute](#)

Crain's Chicago Business: [CTA, Metra, RTA mull raising fares to deal with fiscal cliff](#)

Lake County News-Sun: [Lake County officials discuss the challenges of public transportation during town hall meeting](#)

Daily Herald: [Pace paratransit rideshare program is victim of its own success](#)

Daily Herald: [Arlington Heights hits the brakes on full-scale ban for youth on e-bikes, e-scooters](#)

Daily Herald: [Morton Grove latest in the area to consider e-bike use and rules, while not 'trying to make enemies' with town's children](#)

Crain's Chicago Business: [A make-or-break veto session looms for Chicago transit](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Mass transit bailout a sure thing during Springfield fall veto session, key state lawmaker says](#)

Daily Herald: [RTA drills down into costs of fiscal crisis from 'pizza tax' to 10% higher fares](#)

Streetsblog Chicago: [Illinois House Majority Leader Eva-Dina Delgado thinks Springfield can solve the transit fiscal crisis during six days in October 3](#)

State Journal-Register: [New Illinois law expands the definition of bicycles](#)

Daily Herald: [Mount Prospect exploring internal public transit options](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [CTA gets \\$74M from Metra, Pace to delay 40% service cuts next year](#)

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