

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

1600 East Golf Road, Suite 0700
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
(847) 296-9200 • Fax (847) 296-9207
www.nwmc-cog.org



*A Regional Association of Illinois
Municipalities and Townships
Representing a Population of Over One Million*

MEMBERS

- Antioch
- Arlington Heights
- Bannockburn
- Barrington
- Bartlett
- Buffalo Grove
- Deer Park
- Deerfield
- Des Plaines
- Elk Grove Village
- Evanston
- Fox Lake
- Glencoe
- Glenview
- Grayslake
- Hanover Park
- Highland Park
- Hoffman Estates
- Kenilworth
- Lake Bluff
- Lake Forest
- Lake Zurich
- Libertyville
- Lincolnshire
- Lincolnwood
- Morton Grove
- Mount Prospect
- Niles
- Northbrook
- Northfield
- Northfield Township
- Palatine
- Park Ridge
- Prospect Heights
- Rolling Meadows
- Schaumburg
- Skokie
- South Barrington
- Streamwood
- Vernon Hills
- West Dundee
- Wheeling
- Wilmette
- Winnetka

- President*
Donna Johnson
Libertyville

- Vice-President*
Eric Smith
Buffalo Grove

- Secretary*
Paul Hoefert
Mount Prospect

- Treasurer*
Scott Anderson
Barrington

- Executive Director*
Mark L. Fowler

**Northwest Municipal Conference
Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee**

Agenda

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026
10:30 a.m.**

NWMC Offices or via Video Conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88376206191>

Meeting ID: 88376206191

Passcode: f7gc8a79

- I. Call to Order/Introductions**

- II. Approval of February 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)**
Action Requested: Approve Minutes

- III. ILSOS “Ride Safe Ride Smart Ride Ready” Initiative**
Ride Illinois staff will provide an update on “Ride Safe Ride Smart Ride Ready” an initiative launched by the Secretary of State to improve safety for bicyclists, e-bike users and scooter riders. Additionally, Ride Illinois staff will also provide an update on the K–12 education initiative they have been working on.
Action Requested: Informational/Discussion

- IV. Local Project Updates**
Committee members will have an opportunity to provide updates on local projects.
Action Requested: Discussion

- V. Funding and Planning Opportunities**
Staff will provide an update on funding and planning opportunities.
1) [Invest in Cook](#) – March 20
2) [CMAP/RTA Local Technical Assistance](#) – April 17
Action Requested: Informational

- VI. Other Business**

- VII. Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in person at the NWMC offices or virtually via Zoom.

- VIII. Adjourn**

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**Northwest Municipal Conference
Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee
Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026
10:30 a.m.**

NWMC Offices and via Video Conference

Members Present

- Terri Gens, Trustee, Village of Mount Prospect, Chair
- Katie Rivard, Village of Barrington
- Doug Hammel, Village of Glenview
- Herb Porter, Trustee, Village of Hanover Park
- Bill McLeod, Mayor, Village of Hoffman Estates
- Phil Green, Village of Hoffman Estates
- Luke Foresman, Village of Mount Prospect
- Nathan Bruemmer, Village of Niles
- A.C. Buehler, Village of Northbrook
- Larry Schroth, Village of Palatine
- Rachel Applegate, Village of Schaumburg
- Erik Sanchez, Village of Skokie
- Aldair Vargas, Village of Streamwood
- Ross Klicker, Village of Wheeling
- Scott Mangum, Village of Winnetka

Others Present

- Andrew Barna, Village of Bartlett
- Andrea Larson, Village of Buffalo Grove
- Sarah D. FioRito, City of Evanston
- Kathy Thake, Village of Kenilworth
- Chris Tomich, Village of Morton Grove
- Aram Beladi, Village of Northbrook
- Ron Milanesio, Village of Wilmette
- Rithvika Dara, Lake County Department of Transportation
- Dave Simmons, Ride Illinois
- Larry Bury, Northwest Municipal Conference
- Brian Larson, Northwest Municipal Conference

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Trustee Gens called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

II. Approval of January 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Buehler motioned to approve the January 13, 2026 minutes. Mr. Green seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

IV. Bicycle Friendly Community Awards and Honorable Mentions

Mr. Larson recognized the recent NWMC members who received the [League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community](#) Award, including Silver for *Evanston*, Bronze for *Niles* and Honorable Mentions for *Grayslake* and *Skokie*. Nathan Bruemmer of the Village of Niles shared how Niles' Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Advisory Group requested the village to apply for the award, and how the award's categories allow Niles to focus on improvements to education, accessibility, and equity. Mr. Bruemmer noted that Niles mostly received its score from its existing work and policies, but that the award has prompted the Advisory Group to determine how to reach a Silver award in the next four-year cycle.

Ms. FioRito said that including all the staff stakeholders is important in both reviewing the application and the final report card, as the award is only as useful as the level of engagement and ability to take action on areas for improvement. She agreed with Mr. Bruemmer that the application is detailed and extensive and noted that the municipality takes the lead on what level of award to apply for.

Mr. Simmons said Ride Illinois has reviewed several recent applications to offer feedback and suggestions, and is available to do so for any interested communities.

Ms. FioRito asked whether Niles has a plan to achieve a Silver designation? Mr. Bruemmer responded that the gap is substantial between Silver and Bronze ratings, but Niles will focus on infrastructure and education improvements.

Mr. Simmons said the next cycle for [Bicycle Friendly Business applications](#) closes on March 10, which is helpful for building local business support. Trustee Gens asked if the application is for the wider business community or for individual businesses. Mr. Simmons said the application is for individual business. Trustee Gens asked for some ways businesses can be bike friendly. Mr. Simmons said efforts can be as simple as a bike rack, and gave the example of Maple Leaf Café in St. Charles which also provides a bike pump and tools, as well as Grind and Gears in Niles which offers a discount when arriving by bike, noting that the application provides suggestions.

Mr. Tomich asked to what extent residents and businesses in Evanston and Niles were involved in the application. Mr. Bruemmer said involvement primarily came from their committee, who shared within local bike groups, and that there are limited bike-focused business and limited strategies in place to increase bike access. Ms. FioRito said during the application process, the League of American Bicyclists provides a public link to share for community feedback to be used as part of the score evaluation, and that Public Works is leading public engagement on Evanston's bike plan.

V. Local Project Updates

Trustee Porter said Hanover Park will be marking bike trails throughout town and adding striping. Trustee Gens asked how long it took to develop signage. Trustee Porter said efforts began during last summer's budgeting process. Trustee Gens asked if Hanover Park has a bike committee. Trustee Porter replied no, but that he works closely with the public works director and community development director.

Ms. Applegate shared that Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg are collaborating on the Higgins Road sidepath, and Phase 1 engineering has begun. Trustee Gens asked how long the process will take. Ms. Applegate responded that the final design is to be completed following phase 1, and they are pursuing grant funding for construction. She said that once grant funding is obtained, they will have a clearer timeline.

VI. Funding and Planning Opportunities

Mr. Larson provided an update on funding and planning opportunities, including the IDOT ADA Transition Planning and Self-Evaluation Webinar, US DOT BUILD Grant, AARP Community Challenge Grant, and Invest in Cook. Mr. Larson also shared the eTIP portal for communities looking for project ideas.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Larson announced the introduction of HB4840, the NWMC e-Mobility bill introduced by Rep. Mary Beth Canty. He said that the bill provides a clear definition of e-mobility devices based on classification and capabilities; identifies appropriate user age and/or licensing requirements; and specifies locations where use is allowed or restricted.

Trustee Gens said that a Bike and Roll to School draft letter will be discussed with NWMC for eventual distribution to municipalities.

VIII. Next Meeting

Trustee Gens announced that the next meeting of the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in person at the NWMC offices or virtually via Zoom.

IX. Adjourn

Mr. Buehler moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Mr. Bruemmer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.