

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

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Des Plaines
Elk Grove Village
Evanston
Fox Lake
Glencoe
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Morton Grove
Mount Prospect
Niles
Northbrook
Northfield
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Palatine
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Northwest Municipal Conference Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee Agenda

Tuesday, September 10, 2024
10:30 a.m.

NWMC Offices or via Video Conference

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84690579871?pwd=CeE3kjrGMcUPLbgbMccTijx6ProlXv.1>

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions**
- II. **Approval of June 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)**
Action Requested: Approve Minutes
- III. **NWMC Response to Public Transit Legislation (Attachment B)**

The spring introduction of the Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act (HB5323) in Springfield initiated a conversation about the vision of regional public transit. In response, the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) assisted members in developing the guiding principles for future transit legislation. Officially adopted by the NWMC over the summer, the document is now available for distribution.

Senate Transportation Committee Chair Ram Villivalam has also been hosting subject matter hearings on public transit in the region throughout the summer. So far, hearings have been held in Chicago, the South Suburbs of Cook County, DuPage, Will and Kendall Counties, and Kane and McHenry Counties. Upcoming hearings are scheduled in the Northwest Suburbs of Cook County, Lake County, and a final hearing in Springfield.

Staff will provide a brief overview of the origin of the transit fiscal cliff, the status of the hearings, and the NWMC Regional Transit Legislation Guiding Principles.

Action Requested: Informational

- IV. **North and Northwest Suburb Bicyclist Fatalities**

Staff will lead a discussion on the recent increase in bicyclist fatalities in NWMC member communities, and how member communities have previously addressed similar instances.

Action Requested: Informational/Discussion

- V. **Grant Opportunities Closing Soon (Attachment C)**

Staff will share bicycle and pedestrian project grant opportunities that will be closing before the next committee meeting.

1. Ruby Bridges Walk to School Mini-Grant – September 13
2. Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program – September 30
3. Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant – September 30
4. Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – September 30

Action Requested: Informational

VI. Other Business

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8 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
Tuesday, June 11, 2024
NWMC offices and Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Trustee Herb Porter, Village of Hanover Park, Chair
Caroline Gabiga, Elk Grove Village
Adriana Webb, Village of Glenview
Phil Green, Village of Hoffman Estates
Scott Mangum, Village of Lincolnwood
Sean Dorsey, Village of Mount Prospect
Tim O'Brien, Village of Niles
A.C. Buehler, Village of Northbrook
Mayor Lara Sanoica, City of Rolling Meadows
Rachel Benson, Village of Schaumburg
Scott Nielsen, Village of Streamwood
Erik Sanchez, Village of Skokie
Ross Klicker, Village of Wheeling

Others Present

Eric Heiker, City of Des Plaines
Sarah D. FioRito, City of Evanston
Luke Foresman, Village of Mount Prospect
Aram Beladi, Village of Northbrook
Mark Fowler, Northwest Municipal Conference
Eric Czarnota, Northwest Municipal Conference
Brian Larson, Northwest Municipal Conference

I. Call to Order/Introductions

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

II. Approval of May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Buehler moved approval of the May 14, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Mangum seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. NWMC Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee Summer Field Trip

Mr. Czarnota shared the location and details for this year's Bike Field Trip, which will be held in the Village of Glenview at The Glen. He noted that attendees will meet at the Glenview Park District Park Center building to begin the ride and see completed improvement projects at Shermer Road and Chestnut Ave. Staff shared that a pedestrian route will also be offered.

Ms. FioRito asked what the total time, inclusive of presentation, would be. Mr. Czarnota indicated that the 2023 event was scheduled from 10:30 to 1:30, but ended by 1:00. Mr. Larson shared that last year the event was held in June, and the later start time was potentially cooler.

Mr. Mangum preferred that the event syncs up with lunch, with Ms. FioRito suggesting a 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. event. Trustee Porter recommended that staff schedule the event for the 9:30 start time.

Trustee Porter asked whether local bike shops would be present to assist attendees. Mr. Czarnota indicated the shop at the 2023 event was local and involved with the creation of the bike paths, hence their involvement. Ms. Webb recommended the Glenview Cycle shop as a partner for the 2024 event. Mr. Larson said that NWMC staff would reach out to the shop to determine their availability.

IV. 2024-2025 Meeting Dates

Staff presented the proposed meeting dates for FY 2024-2025. Mr. Mangum suggested that it would be beneficial to have a future June meeting on the schedule due to the number of active transportation-related municipal events. Mr. Czarnota said that NWMC staff can add a June meeting on June 10, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. to the schedule and that there would be no staffing concerns. Trustee Porter voiced his support due to its ability to help plan future events.

Mr. Buehler moved approval of the 2024-2024 Meeting Dates. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

V. Other Business

Mr. Czarnota shared that the Active Transportation Alliance is looking to identify Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) eligible projects within Quigley's (IL-5) district, and encouraged members to contact NWMC staff with recommendations.

Ms. FioRito shared that Evanston is developing an income-qualified bike voucher program pilot, including traffic safety education as part of school-based educational programming. She asked that any communities with experience building educational programs contact her at sfiorito@cityofevanston.org.

Mr. Green shared that Crank Revolution is hosting a free bike tour of Hoffman Estates, with both a 4.5 and 25 mile route option, starting and ending at Crank Revolution. The 25 mile route can be found at <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/47018806> and the 4.5mi Route at <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/47018970>.

Mr. Mangum shared that Evanston has organized group rides, including a family ride and adult ride held in May. The next ride is Saturday, June 29. More information can be found at <https://downtownevanston.org/evanstonrides>. Mr. Mangum added that the Village of Skokie is hosting an open house for its Church Street bike lanes on Thursday, June 27, 5-7 PM at the Weber Leisure Center. More information can be found at <https://www.skokie.org/1498/Church-Street-Bike-Lanes-Project>.

Mr. Czarnota and NWMC staff thanked Chairman Porter and the Committee's involvement for their work this year. He added that staff will see everyone July 9 at the Field Trip.

VI. Next Meeting

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

VII. Adjourn

Mayor Sanoica moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m. Ms. Webb seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

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Northwest Municipal Conference Regional Transit Legislation Guiding Principles

The \$730 million “fiscal cliff” presents an opportunity to discuss and address how to improve regional transit services. The Northwest Municipal Conference believes that any legislation should focus specifically on how to leverage assets to better serve the evolving transit needs of the Chicago region.

Key Principles***Transit should accommodate the evolving needs of system users***

- Better integration of services
- Updated schedules and networks that reflect modern daily needs
- Greater access to key generators (employment centers, educational/medical/cultural resources, etc.)

Governance should represent the region

- Critical votes representing suburban Cook County and the collar counties on the governing board(s) must be preserved and strengthened
- Need for municipal elected official input in governing board appointments
- Governing board decision making should align with local and regional needs

Transit requires sustainable funding

- Should reflect an investment in the region’s ongoing economic success
- Revenue sources should not place an undue financial burden on riders or taxpayers
- Any legacy financial obligations or debt (e.g. CTA pension liabilities) should not be shifted onto other constituent groups

2024 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Application

Submitted on Mon, 08/12/2024 - 14:07 by Kori Johnson



Applications are now open for 2024 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day mini-grants! Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day honors the living legacy of civil rights activist Ruby Bridges. In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges etched her name in history when she integrated all-white William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans. Since then, Ruby has become a national icon for her courageous action. Every November 14th, we celebrate Ruby's courageous and historic act by encouraging students to walk to school and engaging in a day of dialogue about activism, anti-racism, and anti-bullying. The goal is to inspire kids to make positive changes in their school and community.

We are excited to offer grants in the amounts of \$500 and \$1000 to support your Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day celebrations this Fall. Submissions are due by Friday, September 13, 2024. Grants will be awarded by Friday, October 4, 2024.

Apply here: [2024 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Mini-Grant Application](#)

Register your Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day event: [The Ruby Bridges Foundation](#)

Please review our grant eligibility guidelines before submitting your application:

GRANT ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

- **Eligible Applicants**
 - Local governments
 - Public school/system
 - Nonprofits with 501c3 status (individuals can partner with community organizations,

PTA/Os, etc. with nonprofit status)

- Open to Safe Routes to School programs (cities, schools, districts, counties, and regional entities)
- Community partners (non-profits, libraries, PTA/PTO/caregiver groups, artists)

- **Event Requirements**
 - Funds must be used to support a Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day event on November 14, 2024
 - Projects must align with the goals of Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day:
 - Promote constructive dialogue about activism, anti-racism, and anti-bullying, and
 - Inspire young people to make positive changes in their community

- **Funding Allocation**
 - Awards will be distributed based on the number of students reached.
 - \$500 grants will be awarded for events reaching less than 400 students.
 - \$1000 grants will be awarded for events reaching 400 students or more.

- **Reporting**
 - As a final report, grantees must submit a brief summary of how funds were used and share stories, photos/videos, media, or resolutions/proclamations passed with SRP
 - Schools and communities celebrating Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day for the first time are encouraged to apply.

- **Funds can be used for, but not limited to, some of the following ideas:**
 - Incentives and giveaways
 - Printing costs – posters, handouts, banners
 - Supplies for students to make banners, posters
 - StoryWalk® Supplies
 - Stipends for staff/volunteer organizing

- Books about Ruby Bridges, activism, anti-bullying, anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Guest speakers and presentation
- Educational workshops and activities
- Art, photo, or essay contests
- T-shirts, badges, or other commemorative items (bookmarks, pins, wristbands)
- Food and refreshments
- Media Roundtable

For additional questions, please email kori@saferoutespartnership.org

To register for the 2024 Celebrating Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day webinar, [please visit our webinar webpage with more information.](#)

ITEP Grant Resources

See below for resources related to IDOT's Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funding opportunity.

2024 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)

In 2024 the **Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)** will be open beginning of August through September and provide **\$140 million in state and federal funding for walking, biking, and trail projects around the state.**

Through the Illinois State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program and funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Active Transportation Alliance and Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) are partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to help build the capacity of communities to successfully apply for ITEP funds.

Please join us for our **3-part webinar series** this summer to learn more about the grant program and application process.

This page will be updated as new recordings and resources become available. Additionally, below are webinars recordings and answers to frequently asked questions about ITEP.

2024 ITEP Webinar Registration

- *Webinar Part 1: ITEP basics, eligibility criteria, what's new, and best practices*
 - Wednesday, July 10, 2024
 - [Part 1 Slides](#)
 - [Part 1 Recording](#)
- *Webinar Part 2: Scoring, application walk through, Q&A with IDOT staff*
 - Wednesday, August 21, 2024
 - [Part 2 Slides](#)
 - [Part 2 Recording](#)
- *Webinar Part 3 – Q&A with IDOT staff*
 - Wednesday, September 11, 11:30 am to 1 pm – [register here](#)

2024 ITEP Resources & Support

- The 2024 ITEP call for projects will be open from August 1, 2024 8 am CST to September 30, 2024 5 pm CST with \$140 million in available funding.
 - Visit [IDOT's ITEP webpage](#) for all grant related information including the ITEP application portal, the new [2024 ITEP Guidelines](#), and other resources.
 - For questions about ITEP, contact IDOT's ITEP staff at DOT.ITEP@illinois.gov
 - For questions about GATA requirements, contact GATA staff at DOT.GATA@illinois.gov
 - [Example of a Government Resolution](#) for your ITEP project.
 - [Cost Estimate Template](#) (IDOT's BDE 213 Form)
- The Active Transportation Alliance is offering additional application support to 5 to 10 communities, including reviewing and providing feedback on project narratives.

- If interested in receiving support, please apply here by Wednesday, July 24.
- Depending on staff capacity, **the following engineering firms are able to offer pro-bono support to some high-need and low-capacity communities (updated list in 2024)** in need of assistance including creating cost estimates or developing your project scope. Many of these firms can also brainstorm and provide general advice to local communities or are available for hire. [View the list of engineering firms here.](#)
 - If you work for an engineering firm that can provide pro-bono support and you are not listed on the above list, [please take our Engineering Firm Survey.](#)
 - Please note, providing pro-bono application support does NOT guarantee a firm will be selected for paid work. It also does NOT mean that the project sponsor can skip the Quality Based Selection (QBS) process. Because ITEP uses federal funding, QBS must be followed for any services that will ultimately be granted funds by the awards.

Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program

Overview: This program provides funding for highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods. Applications are due no later than 11:59 pm ET on September 23, 2024. See the [FY 2023-2024 RCE NOFO](#) for more information.

- To view presentation materials from the July 25, 2024, webinar, visit FRA's [Webinars web page](#), Grants & Loans drop-down.

Legislative Authority: This program was authorized in Section 22305 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 49 U.S.C. § 22909. Funding made available by the FY 2023 and 2024 advance appropriations provided in Title VIII of Division J of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and by remaining unawarded FY 2022 RCE Program balances.

Funding Available for Award Under FY 2024 NOFO: \$1,148,809,580

Eligible Projects:

- Grade separation or closure, including through the use of a bridge, embankment, tunnel, or combination thereof;
- Track relocation;
- Improvement or installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other;
- Measures to improve safety related to a separation, closure, or track relocation project;
- Other means to improve the safety if related to the mobility of people and goods at highway-rail grade crossings (including technological solutions);
- The planning, environmental review, and design of an eligible project type.

Eligible Recipients:

- States, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other United States territories and possessions;
- Political subdivision of a state;
- Federally recognized Indian Tribe;
- A unit of local government or a group of local governments;
- A public port authority;
- A metropolitan planning organization;
- A group of the entities described above.

Resources:

- [FRA Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Pre-Award Authority](#)

News:

- [July 9, 2024 Press Release](#)

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program

Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program FY24 NOFO is now live. Applications are due at 11:59 Eastern on September 30, 2024.

Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program Overview

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) has released an FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) program. This is a continuation of two previous rounds of RCP Funding in FY22 and FY23. The RCP Program focuses on improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster equitable development and restoration, and provide technical assistance to further these goals.

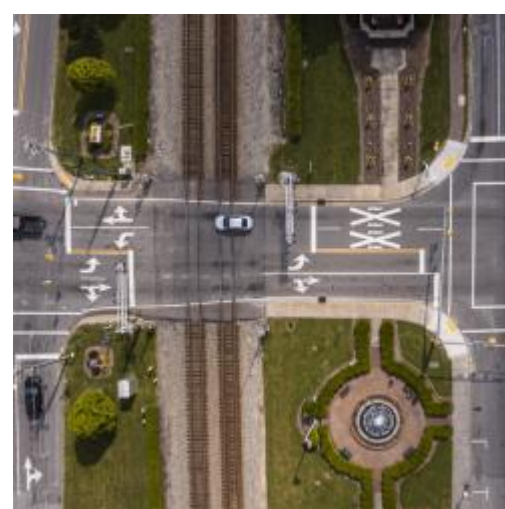
Funding for this fiscal year is a combined allocation of FY 2024, 2025, and 2026. **Up to \$607 million is available for planning, capital construction, and technical assistance.** The funding will be implemented as appropriate and consistent with the priorities in Executive Order 14052.

The Department will prioritize grant funding applications that demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Equity and Justice⁴⁰ (i.e., will benefit economically disadvantaged communities)
- Access
- Facility Suitability
- Community Engagement, and Community-based Stewardship, Management, and Partnerships
- Equitable Development
- Climate Change Mitigation and/or Adaptation and Resilience
- Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity
- Planning Integration

Potential applicants who are interested in pursuing a reconnecting type project but are not prepared to submit funding requests within 90 days can submit a request for technical assistance through the [Reconnecting Communities Institute](#). Many reconnecting projects are also eligible for funding under formula programs or eligible discretionary grant programs. More information can be found on DOT's [Discretionary Grants Dashboard](#).

The Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) Program is now closed as all NAE funds were expended during the FY23 grant cycle. Please refer to the FY24 NOFO for more information.



If you wish to receive updates about the program, [sign up for email updates](#).

Grant Types

The RCP NOFO solicits grant applications for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot discretionary grant program, established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) USDOT offers two grant types:

- Capital Construction
- Community Planning

Grant Type	Objective(s)	Funding
Capital Construction	<p>To fund both reconnecting-focused projects and smaller projects focused on reducing environmental harm and improving access in disadvantaged communities. Projects may address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removal of a dividing facility• Enhance community connectivity• Improved access by building or improving Complete Streets.	\$457 Million available FY24
Community Planning	<p>To provide funds for planning activities to support future construction projects and allow for innovative community planning to address localized transportation challenges. Projects may address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community engagement activities• Planning studies to assess the feasibility of removing, retrofitting, or mitigating an existing eligible facility to reconnect communities (for example: mobility, safety, environmental and public health impacts etc.).• Conceptual or preliminary engineering or design• Other needs including land-use and zoning reform, transit-oriented development, housing supply, among others	\$150 Million available FY24