

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
Streamwood
Vernon Hills
West Dundee
Wheeling
Wilmette
Winnetka

President
Nancy Rotering
Highland Park

Vice-President
Dan Shapiro
Deerfield

Secretary
Tom Dailly
Schaumburg

Treasurer
Anne Marie Gaura
Lincolnwood

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

Northwest Municipal Conference

Transportation Committee

Agenda

May 27, 2021

8:30 a.m.

Via Zoom Video Conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81045350125?pwd=QmxKRnpXTC9YaDZvdDBGTU5IUeVHZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 4535 0125

Passcode: TC052721

Dial by your location: (312) 626-6799 US (Chicago)

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions**
- II. **Approval of April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)**
Action Requested: Approval
- III. **Cook County Bike Plan Presentation (Attachment B)**
Benet Haller from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways will provide an update on the Cook County Bike Plan and how communities can get involved in the planning process.
Action Requested: Informational
- IV. **Agency Reports**
 - a. CMAP (Attachment C)
 - b. Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (Attachment D)
 - c. IDOT Highways
 - d. Illinois Tollway (Attachment E)
 - e. Metra (Attachment F)
 - f. Pace (Attachment G)
 - g. RTA
- V. **Proposed Meeting Dates for 2021-2022 (Attachment H)**
Staff will review the proposed meeting dates for 2021-2022, and requests feedback and approval from the Committee.
Action Requested: Approval
- VI. **Other Business**
- VII. **Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the NWMC Transportation Committee is tentatively scheduled for September 23, 2021 at 8:30 a.m., location TBD.
- VIII. **Adjourn**

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**NWMC Transportation Committee
Via Teleconference
Thursday, April 22, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Rod Craig, President, Village of Hanover Park, *Co-Chair*
Tom Dailly, President, Village of Schaumburg, *Co-Chair*
Heather Lis, Village Engineer, Village of Barrington
Darren Monico, Village Engineer, Village of Buffalo Grove
Bob Benton, Trustee, Village of Deerfield
Eric Heiker, Civil Engineer, City of Des Plaines
Jeff Brady, Director of Planning, Village of Glenview
Ramesh Kanapareddy, Director of Public Works, City of Highland Park
Bill McLeod, Mayor, Village of Hoffman Estates
Sean Dorsey, Public Works Director, Village of Mount Prospect
Tom Powers, Village Engineer, Village of Niles
Matt Farmer, Village Engineer, Village of Northbrook
Robert Israel, Trustee, Village of Northbrook
Lou Arrigoni, Civil Engineer, City of Park Ridge
Peter Falcone, Assistant to the City Administrator, City of Prospect Heights
Lara Sanoica, Alderman, City of Rolling Meadows
Karyn Robles, Director of Transportation, Village of Schaumburg

Others Present

John Walton, Chair, Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition
Jason Navota, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Sam Wright, Transportation Planner, Cook County Dept. of Transportation & Highways
Joe Cwynar, Senior Project Manager, Engineering Enterprises
Ted Barnes, Director of Research & Development, Gas Technology Institute
Kelsey Passi, Community Relations Corridor Manager, Illinois Tollway
Katie Renteria, Community Relations Representative, Metra
Steve Andrews, Community Relations Representative, Pace
Thomas Gill, President, Thomas Engineering Group
Larry Bury, Deputy Director, NWMC
Kendra Johnson, Program Associate for Transportation, NWMC
Matthew Pasquini, Program Associate for Transportation, NWMC

I. Call to Order/Introductions

President Craig called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Approval of March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Grossi moved approval of the March 25, 2021 meeting minutes. Mayor Dailly seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. Alternative Fuels Corridor Presentation

Mr. Barnes, Director of Research and Development with the Gas Technology Institute, presented on the Michigan to Montana Alternative Fuels Corridor. He explained the proliferation of alternative fueling sites along the I-94 corridor and described how local partners can play a role in the development of the corridor. Additionally, Mr. Walton, Chair of the Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition, provided information to the committee on resources available for municipalities to train first responders on dealing with crashes and incidents involving vehicles using or transporting alternative fuels. Trustee Benton asked a follow up question regarding the expected decline in gas tax revenues as alternatives fuels and electric vehicles become more prevalent. Mr. Barnes responded that while certain alternative fuels would still be subject to the motor fuel tax, discussions are also being held regarding a vehicle miles traveled tax.

IV. Agency Reports

A. CMAP – No report.

B. CCDOTH – Ms. Wright reported CCODTH has interviewed all of the communities that submitted applications for Invest in Cook. He reported that the initial evaluations will be occurring in early May and a draft program will be submitted to the Cook County Board for approval in late June or early July. He also reported that the Department is tracking the federal surface transportation reauthorization process and coordinating alongside municipalities to submit Community Project Funding requests to their members of Congress.

C. IDOT Highways – No report.

D. Illinois Tollway – Ms. Passi reported that the Illinois Tollway has moved completely to cashless tolling and is maintaining the 14-day grace period allowing customers to pay unpaid tolls without additional fines or fees. She also reported that the Tollway is working to spread awareness of the state's move over law, intended to improve safety for vehicles stopped on the sides of highways and especially for state troopers who frequently have to make stops on highway shoulders. She reported construction for the 10th year of the Illinois Tollway Capital program has begun and noted additional details on the I-490 Tollway Project and the I-294 project.

E. Metra – Ms. Renteria reported that Metra is beginning to see an uptick in ridership and in response is expanding service on the MD-N, NCS, and BNSF lines. She reported that Metra's 2021 construction season is under way which will include improvements for stations and parking, bridges and tracks, and signal and communication system upgrades and highlighted the upcoming groundbreaking to replace a 122-year-old bridge. She also highlighted the RFP for manufacturers to propose solutions to convert three diesel-powered locomotives to zero-emission battery power. Finally, she reported that Metra is extending the 10-day all day pass to June 30th of this year.

F. Pace – Mr. Andrews reported that Pace is finalizing design for the Northwest Garage Facility and expects constructions to begin in 2021 and go through 2022. He also added that this will be a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) facility. He reported for the Pulse Dempster Line project Pace awarded contracts for the fabrication of the Pulse shelters and vertical

markers and anticipates construction to begin this summer. Finally, he reported Pace is beginning to look at the restoration of services but anticipates it to be a long-term process and will prioritize routes that are experiencing overcrowding. He also added Pace hopes to resume their school routes but is monitoring health and safety guidelines that address crowding on their buses.

G. RTA – No report.

V. Other Business

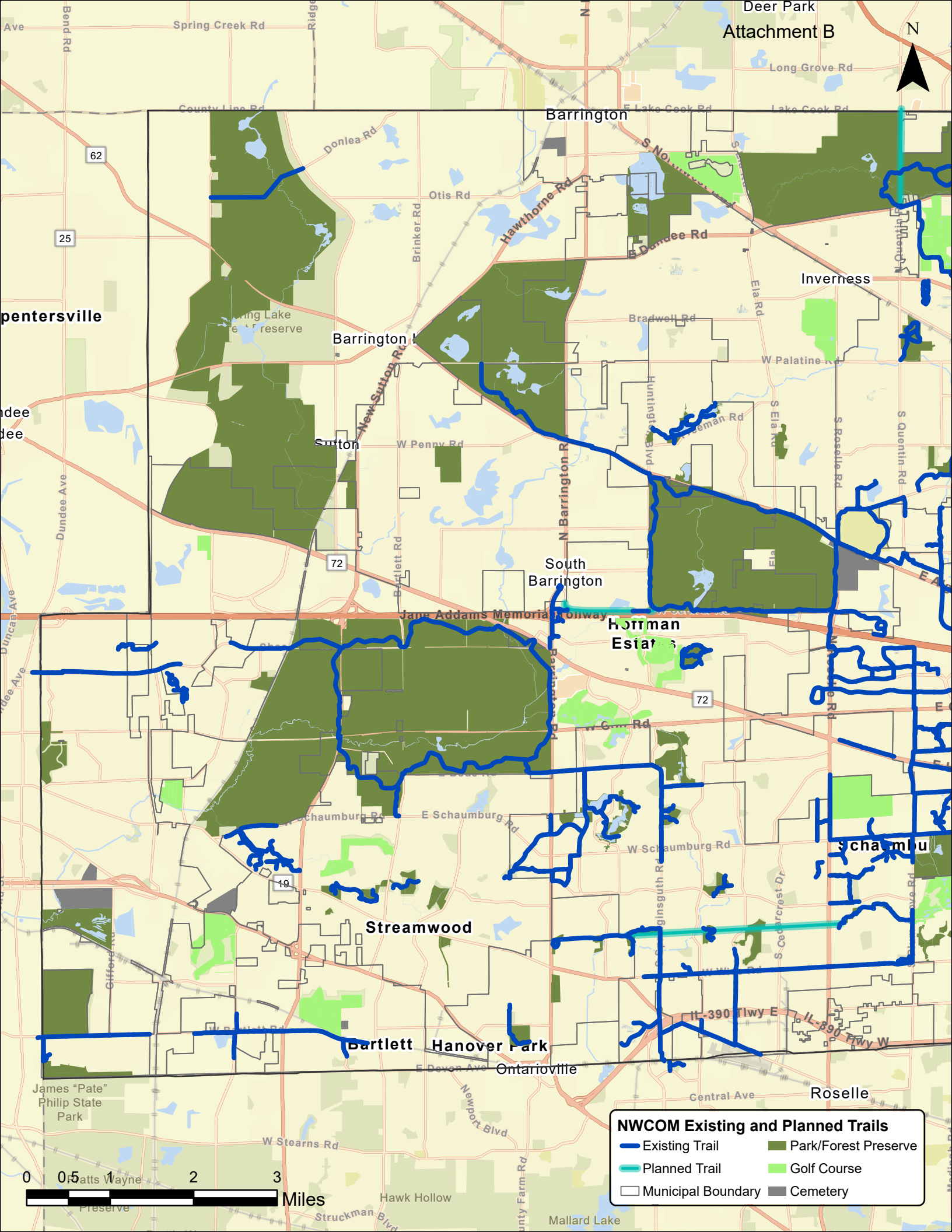
None.

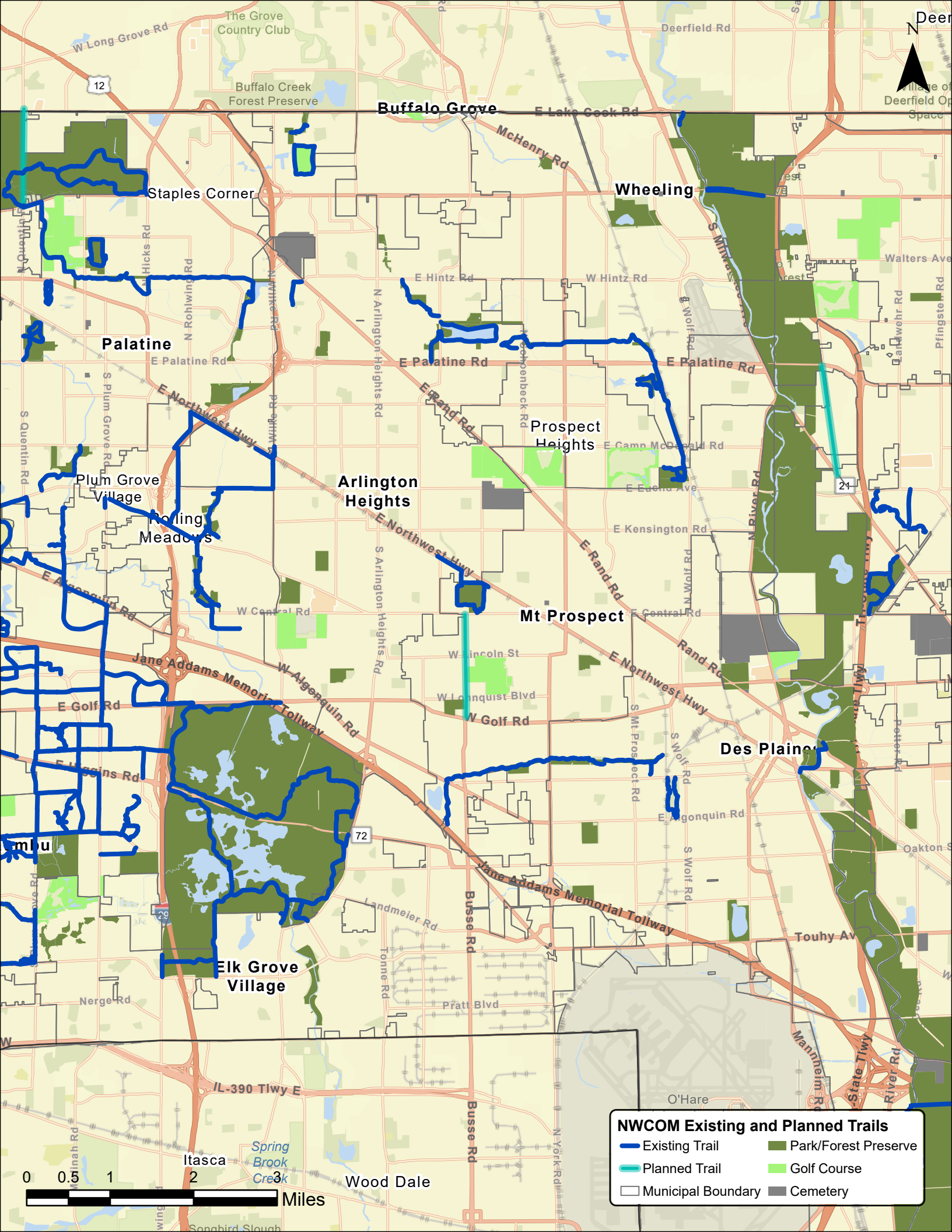
VI. Next Meeting

Mayor Craig noted the next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via teleconference.







VII. Adjourn

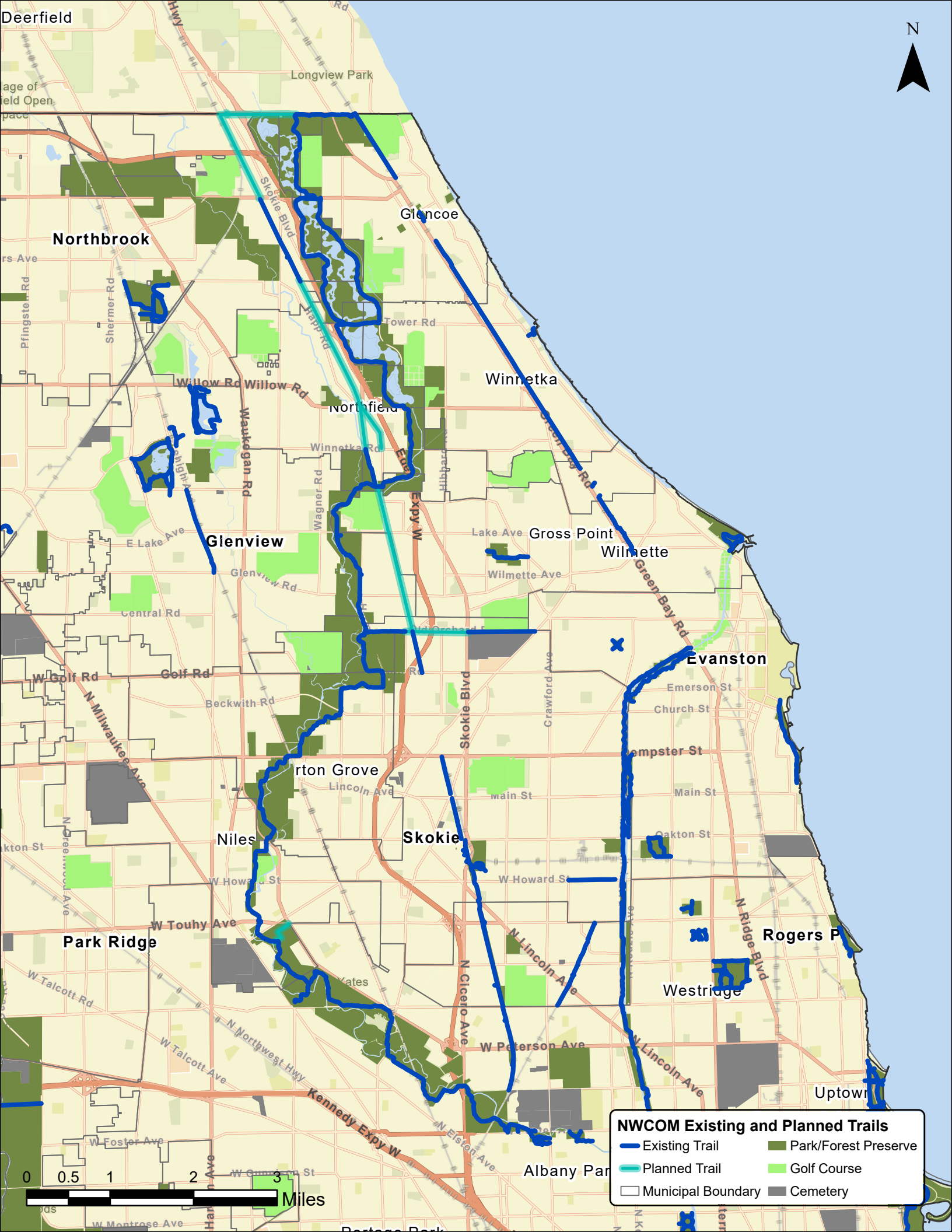
Mayor Dailly moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 a.m. Mayor McLeod seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.





NWCOR Existing and Planned Trails

 Existing Trail	 Park/Forest Preserve
 Planned Trail	 Golf Course
 Municipal Boundary	 Cemetery



CMAP News

In accordance with the stay at home order, the CMAP office remains closed for the foreseeable future, but [staff](#) are working remotely and are available via email and telephone. [CMAP committee meetings](#) continue to be conducted virtually.

For general questions, you can send an email through our [contact form](#) and remember to stay up-to-date by subscribing to CMAP's Weekly Update emails or [viewing online](#).

COVID-19 Response and Resources

CMAP wants to keep you updated on COVID-19 impacts to the region. Each week, we will bring you more information and analysis to help shape decision making. You can find previous analyses on our [COVID-19 Response](#) page, as well as a [list of resources](#) to aid our partners in this uncertain time. We've also updated our [transportation system analysis](#) — covering roads, trips, safety, transit, and freight rail — with the latest data.

Job Opportunities

CMAP is seeking applicants for an program manager, executive operations manager, an associate planner/analyst and a senior planner/analyst. Visit the agency's [Careers](#) page to learn more and apply.

FLIP Summer Program

CMAP is excited to announce this year's virtual Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) program. We are currently seeking high school and college students in northeastern Illinois for this free summer leadership development series. Sessions will be held on **Fridays, July 9 through July 30, for 90 minutes via Zoom**. Students who complete all four "FLIP Friday" sessions will receive a FLIP certificate. Registration closes on **Friday, June 11**. Register [here](#).

Moving Forward on Regional Economic Recovery

CMAP continues to convene the Regional Economic Recovery Task Force to identify strategies that support a strong economic recovery from COVID-19. The task force, [launched](#) in November 2020, includes working groups dedicated to economic development, tourism, and workforce. Leaders from across northeastern Illinois are meeting regularly to discuss how to build back a more inclusive, prosperous, and resilient region.

Treasury guidance on state and local aid

Last week, the U.S. Treasury Department [released guidance](#) on the upcoming distribution of \$350 billion in American Rescue Plan aid to state and local governments. Eligible state, county, and metropolitan cities (over 50,000 population) may now request their allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the treasury's website.

Local governments under 50,000 population should expect to receive this funding from the State of Illinois. According to the treasury, local governments will receive funds in two portions, with 50 percent provided during May and the remaining balance delivered approximately 12 months later. The funds may be used to support public health expenditures and investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Funds can also address economic impacts to workers and households. The treasury is encouraging feedback on this guidance.

Monitoring Legislation

Each legislative session CMAP staff monitors legislation that is of interest to the agency and partners, highlighted in this [list of active legislation](#). Currently, the Illinois General Assembly is considering legislation that could impact the region's approach to governance and funding local infrastructure:

- **HB162**: Requires local governments to complete a study of potential efficiencies and consolidations at a minimum of once every 10 years.
- **SB117**: Creates an Infrastructure Development Account within the investment portfolio of the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer.

Program Status Updates

Surface Transportation Program

The next STP Project Selection Committee (PSC) meeting will be held virtually on July 1, 2021. A full calendar of 2021 meetings is available on the [committee web page](#). Program status reports for the STP Shared Fund, based on quarterly updates submitted by project sponsors and an accounting of available, programmed, and obligated funds is for the region are available on CMAP's [STP web page](#).

Staff Contact: [Kama Dobbs](#) (312-386-8710)

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives (TAP)

The next CMAQ Project Selection Committee (PSC) meeting will be held virtually on July 1, 2021. Project change requests for the July meeting are due **Thursday, June 17th**.

Staff Contact: [Doug Ferguson](#) (312-386-8824), [Elliott Lewis](#)

Regional Safety Action Agenda

CMAP is placing increasing attention on traffic safety as the number of fatalities and injuries continue to increase, and we've lacked progress towards meeting federally required safety performance targets. As part of our commitment to safety, CMAP is kicking off a Safety Resource Group. The group will inform a 'Regional Safety Action Agenda' to recommend safety improvements through the lenses of equity, engineering, education, enforcement and emergency services and public health. The Resource Group will include members from across these fields to prioritize actions, build consensus and develop safety tools, resources and policy for our regional partners. We will keep you informed as this work progresses.

In our latest CMAP Talks on [complete streets](#) design, panelists from the Illinois Department of Transportation, City of Aurora, and Epstein discussed how design can improve safety, and how communities in northeastern Illinois have adopted complete streets policies. We encourage you to share the webinar recording and [presentation](#) with your network as we work to improve safety for all travelers. Watch a recording of the session [here](#).

Staff Contact: [Victoria Jacobsen](#)

Calls for Projects

Federal Transportation Grants

Regional and local governments can apply for \$1 billion in [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity](#) grants through **Monday, July 12**. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) will evaluate applications on safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic

competitiveness, and other merit criteria. USDOT will prioritize projects that can demonstrate improvements to equity, as well as reduce impacts of climate change and create good-paying jobs.

RAISE Discretionary Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1 billion in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 discretionary grant funding through the [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\) grants](#). For this round of RAISE grants, formerly known as BUILD and TIGER, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State. Up to \$30 million will be awarded to planning grants, including at least \$10 million to Areas of Persistent Poverty. The deadline to submit a RAISE application is **July 12, 2021**.

Water Infrastructure Projects

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approximately \$5.5 billion available to finance water infrastructure projects through the [Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program](#). Letters of intent are due by **Friday, July 23**.

CMAP Products and Data

FY21 Community Cohorts

CMAP determines the level of local capacity and technical assistance needed for communities in the region by using the [Community Cohort Evaluation Tool \(CCET\)](#). This tool assigns Community Cohorts throughout the CMAP region based on four factors: population, income, tax base per capita, and percent of population located in an economically disconnected or disinvested area (EDA). The Community Cohorts will be assigned on an annual basis every April using this tool and the most current data available. Please [click here](#) for the Fiscal Year 2021 list of Community Cohorts.

CMAP flood index can help region prepare for risks

To help northeastern Illinois better understand and prepare for flood risks, CMAP developed the [regional flood susceptibility index](#). The comprehensive data resource helps communities identify areas that have experienced flood damage and may be at greater risk of flooding in the future. Communities then can target investments to mitigate the potential for flooding.

CMAP uses the index to visualize flood risk regionally and integrate stormwater management strategies into local planning projects. Our [flood susceptibility guide](#) also describes the different ways communities can use the index for their own planning activities.

Improving Equity in Transportation Fees, Fines, and Fares

Our transportation system is a literal route to opportunity, connecting residents to jobs, education, and services. And yet significant inequities exist. In a [new report](#), CMAP details how transportation fees, fines, and fares impact residents with low income and people of color, and recommends policy changes to improve equity. [Read more](#).

Share your thoughts on planning projects

Plans that reflect the values and priorities of their communities require meaningful public participation from residents and stakeholders. The [Engage with CMAP](#) website allows residents to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns on current planning projects in the region. Stay informed and connected by checking out the site. We look forward to hearing from you!

From Our Partners

IDOT requests reporting of safety issues

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is asking local public agencies and emergency providers to complete an information survey, to help reach the goal for zero fatalities on roadways. The form asks for locations and sites where a safety concern is present. Submissions are due by **Friday, June 18**. IDOT will use the survey results and its existing crash data to produce a more complete set of information. Read more in [Circular Letter 2021-14](#).

Summer Travel Around the Region

Nine tourism organizations in northeastern Illinois have partnered to launch a summer campaign to encourage travel to and around northeastern Illinois. The [Visit Chicagoland](#) campaign, themed *The Only Thing Missing Is You*, is designed to promote awareness and generate interest in luring visitors back to the region's many sights and experiences. This initiative is the result of the [Regional Economic Recovery Task Force](#), a group convened by CMAP to identify strategies that support a strong recovery.

IDOT 36th Annual Fall Planning Conference – Call for Topics

The theme for IDOT's 26th Annual Fall Planning Conference is "Planning for Recovery!" What lessons has the past year of COVID taught us and what adaptations should we make as we move forward into the brave new world of transportation? You can suggest a topic or volunteer to present [here](#).

Assistance for Restaurants and Venue Operators

The U.S. Small Business Administration opened registration for the [Restaurant Revitalization Fund](#). The fund provides direct relief funds to restaurants and other food establishments that experienced economic distress and significant operational losses due to the pandemic.

The Small Business Administration also reopened the [Shuttered Venue Operator grant program](#). This grant provides emergency assistance for theaters, museums, and other eligible venues affected by COVID-19.

A New Tree in Every Community of Northeastern Illinois

Trees improve quality of life by providing significant social and health benefits, cleaning the air and water, reducing energy costs, and more. To realize these benefits, the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) encourages northeastern Illinois' 284 communities and Chicago's 50 wards to plant at least one tree this year. Read more about CRTI's [Plant Trees for Communities initiative](#), and commit to planting a tree in your community.

Training Opportunities

National Highway Institute (NHI) Web-based Training

The NHI has no-cost trainings available that are recommended for engineers and construction workers. These includes topics such as such as Introduction to Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges, Chip Seal Best Practices, Pipe Installation, Inspection, and Quality, Introduction to a Transportation Asset Management Plan and Hot In-Place Recycling. To browse courses and register visit <http://bit.ly/nhitraining> and enter your government email.

District	Representative	Project Name	Phase Requested	Submitted to Committee?	Request Website
IL-01	Bobby Rush	I-294 Crestwood/Robbins new interchange	Preliminary, Design	Yes	https://rush.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/fy22-surface-transportation-authorization-project-submissions
		Pulaski Road from 159th Street to 127th Street reconstruction	Design	Yes	
		Western Avenue Grade Separations (GS17)	Preliminary	Yes	
		131st Street reconstruction	Design	No	
		I-294 Crestwood/Robbins new interchange	PEL	No	
IL-02	Robin Kelly	Burnham Avenue Grade Separation	Design	No	https://robinkelly.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/FY22-ti-community-project-requests
		Butler Drive: 130th St to Doty Av reconstruction	Construction	Yes	
		Old Plank Road Trail extension	Preliminary, Design	No	
		167th Street reconstruction	Construction	No	
IL-03	Marie Newman	I-294 Chicago Ridge new interchange	Preliminary, Design	Yes	https://newman.house.gov/services/member-designated-transportation-projects
		Plainfield Road	Design	No	
		GS1	Design	No	
IL-04	Chuy Garcia	GS13	PEL	Yes	https://chuygarcia.house.gov/services/fy22-member-designated-projects-and-community-project-funding
		GS18	Preliminary	No	
		RTA Interoperability	Construction	No	
IL-05	Mike Quigley	606 Trail Extension	Design	Yes	https://quigley.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/quigley-champions-local-transportation-infrastructure-projects
		Rosemont Transit Center	Construction	No	
		Des Plaines River Trail (5-7)	Design	No	
IL-07	Danny Davis	118 N Clark Pedway Extension	Construction	Yes	https://davis.house.gov/newsroom/congressman-danny-k-davis-fy2022-surface-transportation-projects/
IL-08	Raja Krishnamoorthi	Lake Cook Road: IL-53 to Raupp Blvd	Preliminary	Yes	https://krishnamoorthi.house.gov/congressman-krishnamoorthis-hr2-member-designated-project-requests-0
		Central Road from Barrington Road to Huntington Blvd	Construction	Yes	
		Central Road from Barrington Road to Huntington Blvd	Design	No	
IL-09	Jan Schakowsky	Skokie Valley Trail	ROW, Construction	Yes	https://schakowsky.house.gov/surface-transportation-project-requests
		Busse Road: Golf Road to Central Road	Preliminary	Yes	
IL-10	Brad Schneider	Lake Cook Road: IL-53 to Raupp Blvd	Preliminary	No	https://schneider.house.gov/services/appropriations/2021-local-transportation-priority-projects

IL Tollway Updates – May 2021

Work Zone Awareness

Each year, the Illinois Tollway along with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois State Police commit to getting the word out that work zone safety affects drivers as well as construction workers.

In 2021, National Work Zone Awareness Week was April 26-30 and we are reminding the public to "Drive Safe. Work Safe. Save Lives."

There have been too many incidents where people have been killed or injured while doing their jobs building or maintaining roads. And it's not just construction workers. Of the 159 work zone fatalities in Illinois between 2015 and 2019, 6 were workers and the rest were vehicle drivers or passengers.

Cashless Tolling – What Customers Need to Know

In March 2020, the Illinois Tollway halted cash toll collection in an effort to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protecting its customers and employees from exposure points to the rapidly-spreading virus. Since then, the Illinois Tollway has taken extensive measures to better serve customers who previously relied on cash payments, including measures to provide relief during the pandemic.

Moving forward, Illinois Tollway drivers will continue to have the option to pay tolls with I-PASS, E-ZPass or pay online with the Tollway's Pay By Plate service. The Tollway continues to maintain a 14-day grace period – one of the longest in the nation – allowing customers to pay unpaid tolls without additional fees or fines prior to being mailed an invoice.

Using Pay By Plate, customers simply enter their license plate, payment method and dates of travel, and the Pay By Plate system takes care of the rest. This service has been leveraged by over 650,000 customers to date demonstrating the quick and seamless transition for many cash customers to the new service.

With regard to the future of our toll plazas, over the last year changes were made to ensure the safety of our customers, and throughout 2021 more changes will be made to improve the customer experience. These changes include additional signage, striping and other changes to reduce our maintenance costs and further improve the service to our customers.

This work is common across all toll plazas on the Illinois Tollway system. A long-term plan for each site will be developed to assess the potential to better serve our customers, and as those changes are announced we'll be sure to share them with you.

Operations during COVID-19

Since March 2020, extensive protocols have been in place to protect employees, keep our essential and front-line workers safe and the entire agency working. The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors has continued to meet virtually each month to keep all business, roadway services and construction activity moving.

In 2020, at the height of the stay at home order passenger transactions fell as far as 55 percent below forecast, and commercial fell by over 15 percent below forecast. At this time, Tollway transactions are recovering and trending towards pre-pandemic levels, with commercial traffic recovering at a much stronger pace. And while passenger traffic is still down, our system

continues to see the region's slow and strong recovery as our transaction volumes continue to climb.

The Tollway Customer Service Call Center is operational and assisting customers. In addition, Customer Service Centers at the Belvidere Oasis on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway and the Chicago Southland Lincoln Oasis and Lake Forest Oasis on the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) are open during the week to assist customers.

Reform and Relief

In June 2020, the Illinois Tollway launched Tolling 2020 which reduced the initial cost of missed tolls from \$20 per toll to \$3 per toll, while offering an amnesty program to reduce all outstanding \$20 and \$50 fines to that same \$3 dollars for customers who pay their outstanding violations. The initial amnesty program ran through the end of 2020 but was extended for an additional six months. That program is set to expire on June 30, 2021. Customer can take advantage of the program by simply paying their existing violation online, where reduced balances have already been calculated.

More information and assistance for customers is available on the Tollway's website www.illinoistollway.com.

Construction

The Illinois Tollway has kicked off the 2021 construction season as the 10th year of the Move Illinois capital program begins with some of the biggest and most challenging projects lying ahead.

The Tollway's 2021 capital program calls for investing \$1.53 billion in the region's infrastructure. This includes more than \$451 million to continue planning and advance construction for the new I-490 Tollway and new interchanges connecting to the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), Tri-State Tollway (I-294), the Illinois Route 390 Tollway, as well as providing direct access in and out of O'Hare International Airport as part of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project.

Work to reconstruct and widen the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) will continue in 2021 with more than \$690 million budgeted to continue design and construction of the roadway, as well as the new BNSF Railway Bridge, the new Mile Long Bridge and to begin work to reconfigure the I-290/I-88 Interchange at I-294. In addition, \$78 million is allocated in 2021 for ongoing work to complete the final ramps for the I-294/I-57 Interchange.

The 2021 capital program also provides \$312.2 million for systemwide roadway and bridge repairs to keep the existing Tollway system in good repair. Several local projects include replacing the Deerpath Road Bridge over the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) in Aurora, rebuilding the Stearns School Road Bridge over the Tri-State Tollway (I-94) in Gurnee, and building a new Windsor Road Bridge at I-88 and I-294 in coordination with roadway improvements by the Village of Oak Brook.

Northwest construction projects:

- I-490 Tollway Project includes interchange construction for ramps to westbound I-90, the I-490 bridge that will carry traffic over the Touhy Avenue Reservoir and collector-distributor roads along I-90.
- Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) Project mainline roadway construction and widening continues between the O'Hare Oasis and North Avenue and between I-55 and 95th Street.

Additional bridge, sewer and ramp work is underway throughout the rest of the corridor to prepare for mainline work.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kelsey Passi at kpassi@getipass.com

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Metra Media Relations 312-322-6776

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Leading the charge, Metra challenges the industry to prototype battery-powered, zero-emission locomotives

Request for proposals will seek to retrofit diesel engines with batteries

CHICAGO (April 21, 2021) – Demonstrating its leadership and commitment to innovation and cleaner energy, Metra is challenging the industry to create a zero-emission commuter locomotive by converting an older engine from diesel to one powered solely by batteries.

The Metra Board of Directors at its April meeting today approved the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will ask manufacturers to propose solutions to convert three of Metra's older F40PH-3 diesel locomotives to zero-emission battery power. The RFP will be issued in the upcoming days; the contract is expected to be awarded in the fall and the first solutions should be delivered about 30 months later.

"This proposal could be game-changing," said Metra Executive Director/CEO Jim Derwinski. "We have been monitoring the development of this technology for several years and believe the time is right to work with the industry and set a path for a brighter and cleaner future. With the Biden administration pushing for greener energy, we believe this is the perfect time to pursue this course of action. As we emerge from the fog of this pandemic, we see this as an opportunity to transform Metra, and to become a cleaner partner in the region. And this is only the first step."

Metra estimates that replacing three older diesel locomotives with zero-emission batteries would reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions by more than 100 tons per year and particulate matter (PM) emissions by more than two tons per year. By replacing diesel power with battery power, Metra will significantly reduce its emissions footprint and greatly improve air quality for its riders and the Chicago region.

Metra will require the zero-emission locomotives to be fully compatible with its existing railcars and diesel locomotives. They must be capable of operating on any Metra line with trains that range in size from two to 11 cars, and they must be capable of providing a safe and comfortable ride at all speeds up to the maximum speed of 79 mph. The batteries must also power onboard systems, such as lighting, intercoms and HVAC. The locomotives may be painted in a green version of Metra's paint scheme (per the conceptual illustrations) to indicate the green technology.

Respondents to the RFP will have to address several key questions: Operating distance? Recharge Time? Operations in Chicago weather? Life cycle maintenance costs? Supporting infrastructure?

The answers to those questions will help determine if Metra proceeds with the purchase and where and how the locomotives would be used in the Metra system. The Rock Island Line's Beverly Branch is a likely candidate for the first use because of its shorter length; a battery-powered train could make several trips before needing to be recharged.

Metra has taken other recent steps to reduce its diesel emissions, including:

- Seeking to purchase six switch locomotives that meet the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Tier IV emissions standards, the highest standards currently in effect, and one zero-emission, all electric-powered switch locomotive.
- Ordering 15 remanufactured locomotives that meet the EPA's Tier 3 emissions standards, with an option to buy up to 27 more. These locomotives will be replacing Tier 0 emissions locomotives currently in service. The first of those locomotives is expected to be delivered in early 2022.

###

About Metra

Metra is an essential resource that safely and reliably connects individuals to the things that matter most in their lives — their work, their homes and their families.

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Attention Passengers

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) did offer new guidance about masks for fully vaccinated individuals, the guidance does continue to require masks on public transportation, including all buses. All Pace customers are required to wear a mask while onboard or at Pace facilities, per a federal law which is in effect until at least September 13, 2021.

Get the latest updates on Pace's response to COVID-19 at www.PaceBus.com/Health.

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VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Presentations @ 10:00AM & 1:00PM

Via Zoom

**Participants need to register
in advance by clicking
one of the links below:**

[Click here for our 10am session](#)

[Click here for our 1pm session](#)

Limited to 300 registrants per session



NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

1600 East Golf Road, Suite 0700
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TO: NWMC Transportation Committee

FROM: Kendra Johnson, Program Associate for Transportation
Matt Pasquini, Program Associate for Transportation

DATE: May 27, 2021

RE: NWMC Transportation Committee Meeting Dates for 2021-2022

Below are the NWMC monthly Transportation Committee meeting dates for 2021-2022. While meetings are traditionally held at NWMC Offices at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Suite 0700 in Des Plaines, current circumstances surrounding COVID-19 may warrant that meetings continue to be held via teleconference.

Thursday	September 23, 2021	8:30 a.m. – NWMC Offices
Thursday	October 21, 2021	8:30 a.m. – NWMC Offices
Thursday	December 2, 2021	8:30 a.m. – NWMC Offices
Thursday	January 27, 2022	8:30 a.m. – NWMC Offices
Thursday	February 24, 2022	8:30 a.m. – NWMC Offices
Thursday	March 24, 2022	8:30 a.m. – NWMC Offices
Thursday	April 28, 2022	8:30 a.m. – NWMC Offices
Thursday	May 26, 2022	8:30 a.m. – NWMC Offices