

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
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- President*
- Tom Dailly
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- Vice-President*
- Rodney Craig
- Hanover Park

- Secretary*
- Donna Johnson
- Libertyville

- Treasurer*
- John Lockerby
- Skokie

- Executive Director*
- Mark L. Fowler

**Northwest Municipal Conference
Transportation Committee**

Agenda

September 26, 2024

8:30 a.m.

NWMC Offices and Video Conference

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85335582881?pwd=YnhsU2ZUaE1PM2dn](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85335582881?pwd=YnhsU2ZUaE1PM2dnU3lMT2RDSm0wUT09)

[U3lMT2RDSm0wUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85335582881?pwd=YnhsU2ZUaE1PM2dnU3lMT2RDSm0wUT09)

Meeting ID: 853 3558 2881

Passcode: 118658

I. Call to Order

II. May 30, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

Action Requested: Approve Minutes

III. Agency Reports

- a. **CMAP (Attachment B)**
- b. **Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways**
- c. **IDOT Highways**
- d. **IDOT Local Roads**
- e. **Illinois Tollway (Attachment C)**
- f. **Metra**
- g. **Pace (Attachment D)**
- h. **RTA (Attachment E)**

IV. RTA Local Support for Transit Service Draft Resolution (Attachment F)

NWMC staff will share a draft resolution on local support for transit service prepared by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), who are requesting the NWMC’s support. The transit legislation guiding principles adopted by the NWMC this summer will also be shared to guide the discussion.

Action Requested: Discussion

V. Amtrak Chicago Hub Improvement Program

Amtrak staff will share information on the Chicago Hub Improvement Program (CHIP), a train service and capacity upgrade that will address reliability and growth throughout the Chicagoland region.

Action Requested: Informational/Discussion

VI. Upcoming Funding Deadlines (Attachment H)

NWMC staff will share upcoming transportation funding opportunities that will close prior to the next committee meeting.

- 1. Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program – September 30
- 2. Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant – September 30
- 3. Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program – September 30

Action Requested: Informational

VII. Other Business

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NWMC Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 24 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices and via videoconference.

IX. Adjourn

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**Northwest Municipal Conference
Transportation Committee
Agenda
May 30, 2024
NWMC Offices and Video Conference**

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
Tom Dailly
Schaumburg

Vice-President
Rodney Craig
Hanover Park

Secretary
Donna Johnson
Libertyville

Treasurer
John Lockerby
Skokie

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

Members Present

President Rodney Craig, Hanover Park, Co-Chair
Marie Hansen, Barrington
Heather Lis, Barrington
Kyle Johnson, Buffalo Grove
Bob Benton, Trustee, Deerfield
Maggie Jablonski, Elk Grove Village
Ken Jay, Elk Grove Village
Jeff Brady, Glenview
Bill McLeod, Mayor, Hoffman Estates
Terri Gens, Trustee, Mount Prospect
Sean Dorsey, Mount Prospect
Thomas Powers, Niles
Bob Israel, Trustee, Northbrook
Lou Arrigoni, Park Ridge
Lara Sanoica, Mayor, Rolling Meadows
Brian Bieschke, Trustee, Schaumburg

Others Present

Sarah D. FioRito, Evanston
Tim O'Brien, Niles
Aram Beladi, Northbrook
Eric Heiker, Des Plaines
Sidney Kenyon, Schaumburg
Sanjay Joshi, Cook County DOTH
Katie Herdus, IDOT
Katelyn Dote, Metra
Steven Andrews, Pace Suburban Bus
Jess Rybarczyk, Pace Suburban Bus
Kendra Johnson, RTA
Suzette Quintell, DMMC
Matt Pasquini, DMMC
Joe Cwynar, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
Tom Gill, Thomas Engineering Group
Mark Fowler, NWMC
Larry Bury, NWMC
Eric Czarnota, NWMC

I. Call to Order

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

II. April 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Benton moved approval of the April 25, 2024 minutes. Trustee Israel seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. Agency Reports**a. CMAP**

Mr. Czarnota said that CMAP was unable to attend but provided a written report prior to the meeting.

b. Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

Mr. Joshi thanked this year's Invest in Cook applicants, and stated that selections would occur by the end of July.

c. IDOT Highways

Ms. Herdus shared that IDOT is waiting for the Governor's announcement of 2025-2030 program, and construction is underway.

d. IDOT Local Roads

Mr. Househ had no additional information to share. Mr. Czarnota said that NWMC would coordinate with Mr. Househ for future presentations to the Committee on projects that are occurring in the North Shore and Northwest Council of Mayors.

Trustee Israel expressed his appreciation for Mr. Househ's attendance.

e. Illinois Tollway

No written report.

f. Metra

Ms. Dote shared that ridership is currently at 57% of pre-pandemic levels. She mentioned that the Milwaukee District-North line would also see late evening service changes and schedule adjustments. Additionally, Metra will be celebrating its 40th anniversary with a spirit week, which will include free rides and a railroad museum exhibit at downtown stations. She encouraged rider participation in a regional survey and a public meeting regarding Metra's systemwide network plan.

Mayor Craig mentioned that Metra CEO Jim Derwinski had expressed interest in speaking to the COGs and asked if there was interest in having Mr. Derwinski attend a future Transportation Committee meeting. Mayor McLeod agreed. Ms. Dote noted that Mr. Derwinski was looking to schedule the event for late summer or early fall. Mayor Craig indicated that he would coordinate this with NWMC staff.

g. Pace

Ms. Rybarczyk introduced herself and informed the committee that she would be taking over for Mr. Andrews in the North/Northwest suburbs. She shared that Pace will be celebrating its 40th anniversary with free rides and mentioned that Harper College

would be hosting upcoming open houses for its bus operator hiring program. Ms. Rybarczyk also updated the committee on Pace ReVision, stating that Phase 1 is underway, with Phase 2, which will identify the preferred network alternative plan, starting in late summer or early fall. Additionally, she noted that construction on the Pulse Dempster Line is resuming, with communities being contacted prior to local work. Finally, Ms. Rybarczyk shared that Pace ridership is at 78% of 2019 levels, with ADA paratransit ridership back to 2019 levels.

Trustee Benton welcomed Ms. Rybarczyk and asked if she was covering Lake County. Ms. Rybarczyk responded that she is Cook County. Mr. Craig also welcomed Ms. Rybarczyk.

Mr. Kenyon asked whether there would be upcoming municipal meetings. Ms. Rybarczyk responded that some meetings have already occurred at the county level, and future municipal feedback meetings are planned. Mr. Andrews added that Pace intends to host a municipal briefing in mid-June, with invitations to follow.

Ms. FioRito asked via chat whether Pace job postings provide pay rates. Ms. Rybarczyk responded that they do not, but flyers have district-specific information that changes regularly due to union negotiations. She added that website-specific payrates runs the risk of outdated information getting reshared and harm union relationships.

h. RTA

Ms. Johnson shared that RTA's Transportation Tuesday series has begun. She added that RTA is leading a regional application for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Program to electrify the service boards fleets and thanked the NWMC for its letter of support. Ms. Johnson shared that the pre-tax benefit program will be waiving its first three months of administrative fees for new sign-ups. Additionally, she highlighted the RTA Access to Transit storymap. Finally, she shared that a recording of RTA's Transit Safety forum has been uploaded and will provide NWMC staff with a copy.

IV. Metropolitan Mobility Authority Legislation

Mr. Czarnota presented an overview of HB5329, the Metropolitan Mobility Authority legislation that proposes merger of the RTA, CTA, Metra, and Pace into a single regional transit agency.

Ms. Hansen expressed concern over zoning authority and governance and asked if agency representatives would share their perspectives. Mr. Czarnota mentioned that the Governor had requested transit agencies to propose their own plans and comment on the legislation, with more information expected over the summer. Mr. Andrews stated that the fiscal cliff is not due to mismanagement but rather decreased ridership and revenue, and he believes restructuring is unnecessary. He emphasized that identifying sustained funding is a priority. Trustee Israel agreed with Mr. Andrews' assessment but noted that the perception of a lack of coordination among agencies should be addressed. Ms. Johnson concurred and welcomed discussions on reforms and efficiencies, particularly fare coordination and accountability that riders expect. She also shared an RTA blog post by Chairman Dillard analyzing the proposed legislation.

Trustee Gens shared concern about local control regarding zoning, but believed appropriate leadership would ensure appropriate transit access. Mr. Kenyon shared that the missing

municipal involvement is an appropriate avenue for the NWMC to pursue. Mr. Fowler agreed and shared that NWMC is working with other regional COGs to be prepared for the legislative subject matter hearings.

V. Future Transportation Committee Dates

Mr. Czarnota presented the proposed meeting dates for 2024-2025 and requested Committee review and approval of the proposed schedule.

Mayor McLeod moved approval of the proposed Committee meeting dates. Mayor Sanoica seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

VI. Upcoming Funding Deadlines

Mr. Czarnota shared upcoming transportation funding opportunities that would close prior to the next committee meeting, including the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), Rails to Trails Conservancy Grants, U.S. DOT SMART Grants, Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP), and IDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Fowler requested that Committee members be alert for any emails from the NWMC this summer in case action is required regarding the Metropolitan Mobility Act legislation.

VIII. Next Meeting

Mayor Craig announced that the next meeting of the NWMC Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 26 at 8:30 a.m.

IX. Adjourn

Mayor McLeod moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 a.m. Trustee Gens seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

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CMAP news

New CMAP website – now live and seeking feedback!

CMAP is excited to announce that our [new website](#) is live! The updated website features a modern design with user-friendly navigation as well as improved accessibility, interactivity, and search functionality. Pages include integrated data, resources, and related information that show the interconnectivity of various aspects of regional planning and programming.

Let us know what you think! After you explore the website, [fill out our short survey](#) to tell us your thoughts and how we can further improve the site. Please also share the survey with your colleagues and networks.

Job opportunities

CMAP is hiring for several full-time positions: a [Regional Policy and Implementation Director](#) in the Regional Policy Implementation division; a [Principal](#) in the Planning division. Visit CMAP's [Careers page](#) to discover more job opportunities.

CMAP awards technical assistance to 30 communities

CMAP approved 30 new [technical assistance program](#) projects following a joint call for projects with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). The [RTA announced 8 projects](#) as part of their community planning assistance program.

CMAP will continue to work with communities across our region's seven counties to strengthen compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), plan for improvements that protect bicyclists and pedestrians, better prepare for grant opportunities, and address long-term planning needs. A [program guide](#) describing each project in greater detail is also available.

Program status updates

Surface Transportation Program

The [STP Project Selection Committee](#) last met on August 28, 2024. The committee is scheduled to meet next on **November 7, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m. [Meeting Materials](#) are posted on CMAP's Legistar site one week in advance of the meetings. 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 for the region were updated in April and are available on CMAP's [STP web page](#).

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

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Carbon Reduction (CRP), and Transportation Alternatives (TAP-L)

The most recent [CMAQ Project Selection Committee](#) meeting was held on August 28, 2024. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for **November 7, 2024**, at 11:00 a.m. [Meeting materials](#) are posted on CMAP's Legistar site one week in advance of the meetings. Information for submitting change requests for CMAQ, CRP, or TAP-L funded projects can be found on CMAP's [CMAQ web page](#).

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

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Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR)

CMAP's [STAR program](#) continues to work to improve regional travel safety with assistance, resources and policy development. Our *Safe Streets and Roads for All* Regional Safety Action Plan program is starting, with county-led safety action plans across the region. Contracts have been executed with vendors and meetings have kicked off in Cook, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Kane, McHenry, and Will counties. Communication and outreach strategies are being finalized across the counties.

CMAP recently shared its new Speed Management report, which explores the factors that contribute to speed-related traffic safety risks and provides recommendations on road design, speed limit policy, education, and equitable enforcement. The report proposes that the region adopt the Safe System Approach to achieve travel safety goals outlined in ON TO 2050, the region's comprehensive plan. Learn more in the [full report](#) and [executive summary](#).

Staff contact: [Lindsay Bayley](#) (312-386-8826)

Accessibility Improvement Program

CMAP launched the Accessible Communities Program to help communities in northeastern Illinois improve accessibility for their residents and visitors with disabilities. Essential information about improving accessibility can be found on this [CMAP webpage](#) and in the Accessible Communities newsletter. Receive the latest news by updating your subscriber preferences [here](#).

CMAP wrapped up a series of free ADA trainings, which cover ADA and Title II requirements, completing a self-evaluation, the role of an ADA coordinator, developing a transition plan, and PROWAG. All training slides and recordings are now available on the [CMAP website](#).

CMAP is working to convene and facilitate a Regional ADA Coordinator Group that seeks to organize Northeastern Illinois' ADA Coordinators into a regional peer network. Finally, CMAP is developing resources to help communities meet the administrative requirements of Title II of the ADA.

Staff contact: [Jaemi Jackson](#) (312-386-8706)

CMAP products and data

2024 Community Data Snapshots

Updated 2024 CMAP [Community Data Snapshots](#) are now available. The annual snapshots provide data-driven profiles for every county, municipality, and Chicago Community Area (CCA) in our region. The snapshots include updated demographic, socioeconomic, and employment data from the American Community Survey (ACS) datasets, updated land use summaries using data from the [Land Use Inventory](#), and updated estimated vehicle miles traveled per household. Staff has also created a [toolkit](#) to help communities share this information.

Please email data@cmap.illinois.gov with any questions or provide feedback [here](#).

2024 Northeastern Illinois Priority Transportation Investments

CMAP recently released [Northeastern Illinois Priority Investments](#), a blueprint documenting the highest-priority projects across the region for 2024. It reflects collaboration between CMAP and our partners at the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Chicago Department of Transportation, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra, Pace, the region's seven

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counties, and the CREATE Program partners. Additional [online resources](#) to provide communities and partners with the essential information they need to know about Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and its benefits to the region are also available.

Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART)

Following CMAP's delivery of the [PART report](#) to the General Assembly and Governor's Office, legislative deliberations about the future of transit funding have continued. Most recently, the Climate and Equitable Transportation Act (CETA) was filed, which includes three bills that address several transit and climate issues in the region. One component of CETA, the Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act, details several reforms to transit governance and operations in northeastern Illinois. A companion appropriations bill was also introduced with the intent to provide \$1.5 billion in additional operating funds each year to transit across the region.

PART outlined three areas that must work in tandem to address the \$730 million fiscal cliff facing our region in 2026 and strength our transit system: system improvements, funding solutions, and governance reforms. CMAP will continue to provide feedback and input in alignment with the PART report. We look forward continued collaboration with partners, stakeholders, and legislators to strengthen transit in the region.

Staff contact: [Kasia Hart](#) (312-386-8630)

Climate Action Planning

CMAP collaborated with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to prepare the [Priority Climate Action Plan](#) that will set the region on a path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and allow communities in northeastern Illinois to compete for investments from the U.S. EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. The plan supports equitable investment in policies, practices, and technologies that can enhance the quality of life in our region. The goal is to reduce pollutant emissions, create high-quality jobs, and spur economic growth.

CMAP has begun work on the regional Climate Action Plan. Due in June 2025, the plan will provide an overview of major regional sources and sinks of emissions, develop emissions scenarios and targets, and recommend strategies to reduce emissions.

Staff contact: [Nora Beck](#) (312-386-8677)

Explore the CMAP data hub

CMAP's [Data Hub](#) provides vetted and trustworthy information about northeastern Illinois so local governments, community organizations, academic researchers, and businesses can learn and make informed decisions about their communities. The Data Hub allows you to search or browse by categories and tags. You can find tables or shapefiles for transit routes and stops, greenhouse gas emissions, economically disconnected and disinvested areas, bikeway inventory system, and more!

Explore CMAP's updated Land Use Inventory

CMAP's [2020 Land Use Inventory](#) identifies up to 50 different land categories in the region and is available now for download.

The Land Use Inventory is a resource for planners, transportation agencies, federal and state agencies, university researchers, non-governmental organizations, consulting firms, and more. It can help you

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understand existing land uses when creating a comprehensive plan and track progress towards goals. For example, you can analyze the success of development policies, such as tracking if recent policies have led to more infill and transit-oriented development.

Discover historical aerial photos of the region

[The Imagery Explorer](#) showcases CMAP's large collection of historical aerial photographs of northeastern Illinois from 1970 through 1995. The archive includes 6,300 images in six of the region's counties. Historic aerial photographs are valuable resources for planning activities like landscape and land use analysis, environmental impact assessments, development projects, and education. These images provide a method for examining changes in properties, neighborhoods, and land use in general. You also can examine changes in historical, environmental, or architectural information about sites over time.

From our partners

IDOT D1 PPI form update

Effective August 8, 2024, the IDOT D1 PPI Form **D1 PI0004** has been updated. Any PPI's submitted on the previous form will be returned for revisions. The new form can be found [here](#). Choose "District 1" in the Topic dropdown menu, hit "Filter Table", and scroll down to **D1 PI0004 Project Program Information**.

2023 IDOT National Highway System (NHS) pavement and bridge data

IDOT collects condition data on Interstate pavements annually and on non-Interstate pavements on a two-year cycle. Bridges receive a routine visual inspection at least every 2-4 years, depending on the condition. The results of the most recent NHS pavement condition assessments and bridge inspections, along with performance measures and targets, may be accessed on [IDOT's "Performance" webpage](#).

2023 IDOT statewide crash data

On July 22, IDOT released [Circular Letter 2024-15](#) announcing that 2023 statewide crash data is now available. This information can be accessed by logging into "IDOT's Safety Portal" via this [link](#). If you are a first-time user, please select "Create a New Account" and enter the required information.

2024 IDOT Fall Planning Conference

Join the Illinois Department of Transportation for the 2024 Fall Planning Conference, taking place from October 2-4, 2024, at the Four Points by Sheraton St. Louis-Fairview Heights. This three-day event is a key gathering for transportation professionals across the state. It's a unique opportunity to engage with program administrators, transportation professionals and planning experts.

Registration is **now open** via [this form](#). To book your group rate for the IDOT Fall Planning Conference, call the Radisson Fairview Heights-St. Louis (Formerly Four Points Sheraton) at 618-622-9500 or email Peter Cwalino, Director of Sales at pcwalino@radissonstl.com and reference the IDOT Fall Planning Group Rate!

Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment (VRUSA)

The IDOT [Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment \(VRUSA\)](#) is available for download and use. The VRUSA contains IDOT's efforts to help stakeholders identify programs and projects to address vulnerable road user safety through stakeholders' engagement and data analysis. It also outlines safety strategies based on the safe system approach with a profound consideration for equity principles. It is IDOT's intention for this document to be an important tool for stakeholders to continue to address the needs of VRU's in their communities.

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To assist in the use of the VRUSA for the planning of future projects that address the safety of VRUs, a [VRUSA Dashboard](#) has been created that allows the user to view the results of the VRUSA data analysis in a way that can be filtered to specific areas of the state.

Funding opportunities

ITEP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and webinar series

On July 8, 2024, the Illinois Department of Transportation released [Circular Letter 2024-14](#) announcing the NOFO for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). The program funding for this Cycle 16 is estimated at \$140 million. ITEP awards, including ITEP matching funds, will be capped at \$3 million. ITEP applicants will be accepted through the ITEP Application Portal available through the [ITEP website](#). Applications will be accepted **August 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024**.

The Active Transportation Alliance slides and recordings of the informational webinar series for the [2024 ITEP funding](#) cycle are now available.

Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) NOFO and webinar series

The US Department of Transportation has released the 2024 [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program. This NOFO offers FFY24–26 funding for two grant types: Capital Construction and Community Planning.

State, county, township, and city governments are eligible to apply. Applications are due **September 30, 2024**. Please check the "How to Apply page" regularly at the [Reconnecting Communities Website](#) and sign up for email updates. Application links are live on Valid Eval at:

- [Capital Construction](#) Application Portal
- [Community Planning](#) Application Portal

To assist potential applicants, the RCP team is hosting a series of webinars, see more information and recordings on the [RCP website](#). The Reconnecting Communities Institute (RCI) is also offering technical assistance with a series of virtual Grant Writing Clinics and Office Hours, which are available for registration through the [RCI webpage](#).

Illinois Special Bridge Program (ISBP) Notice of Funding Opportunity

On August 28, 2024, IDOT released [Circular Letter 2024-16](#) detailing availability of FY2030 Illinois Special Bridge Program funding. Each candidate project must be a deficient bridge eligible for the Local Bridge Formula Program (formerly Surface Transportation Program-Bridge). The total project cost for all engineering, utilities, land acquisition, and construction costs, including minimal approach work, must total a minimum of \$1,000,000 for local special bridge candidates. Any proposed local bridge must be under the jurisdictional responsibility of a county, municipality, or township and located on a route with appropriate jurisdictional responsibility.

Please work with your District Local Roads Engineer to complete the required special bridge fund request form along with a briefing paper. The [PRO 2171](#) application form is available on the IDOT website. Each candidate project must also complete the LRS Grant Application, LRS Risk Assessment ([BLR 04101](#)), and a Conflict of Interest Form ([BoBS 2831](#)). Applications are required to be submitted electronically through the application's email feature to your appropriate District Local Roads office. The Districts must receive all program applications by **October 9th, 2024**.

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CMAP FFY26-2030 Call for Projects: STP-Shared Fund, CMAQ, CRP, and TAP-L

Funding is available for the [STP-Shared Fund](#), [CMAQ](#), [CRP](#), and [TAP-L](#) fund sources. The biannual call for projects administered by CMAP staff will open on **October 21 through December 20**. Detailed information about eligibility, the application process, and FAQs can be found on the [Call for Projects](#) webpage.

Training opportunities

FHWA Learning Management System

FHWA's National Highway Institute launched its [Blackboard Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#) to provide a more interactive and user-friendly platform, offering easier access to course information, simplified course registration, transcript viewing, and online management of profile information and passwords.

IDOT BLRS 2024 MFT Eligibility and Spending Process T2 training

IDOT's T2 Center has announced that a new, informative 2024 MFT [training](#) is now available online. For more information on how to navigate this training, along with 35+ additional trainings offered by T2 Center, please reference the [Getting Started Guide](#). New users will need to contact Barry.Kent@illinois.gov for credentials.

Engage with CMAP

The CMAP office is open daily and [staff](#) have established hybrid work schedules. All CMAP committee meetings are held in-person, and a quorum of committee members must be physically present. CMAP continues to provide options for non-member attendees to participate in meetings virtually. Meeting materials, webinar links, minutes, and recordings can be found on [CMAP's Legistar page](#). For general questions, complete our [contact form](#). Subscribe to updates from CMAP on transportation, the economy, climate and more [here](#).

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Federally-Funded Project Implementation and Active Program Management Reminders – September 2024

9/30/2024: Quarterly status updates due for all active, contingency, and/or deferred projects funded with CMAQ, CRP, STP-L, STP-SF, and/or TAP-L funding.

Final plans and draft agreements due for projects targeting January 2024 letting

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This information is compiled from these official sources:

- IDOT Bureau of Local Roads and Streets Region One Letting Schedule (latest version available from IDOT District 1 BLRS staff)
- CMAP's TIP Due Dates and Master Transportation Schedule (latest version posted [here](#))
- [STP Active Program Management Policies](#)
- CMAP's call for projects [web page](#) (Refreshed prior to each call)
- CMAP's [CMAQ and TAP-L Program Management and Resources web page](#)

If there are any discrepancies in dates, the dates listed on the official sources above should be used. Consult with your planning liaison to resolve any questions or concerns.

Illinois Tollway Update

Capital Plan – Investing in the Future

The Illinois Tollway is continuing to advance its planning process seeking input to inform its next capital plan and to shape the framework for the agency's long-term capital priorities.

The Tollway has established a Stakeholder Advisory Team to assist with defining program goals and providing regional input for the next capital plan, as well as a Strategic Planning Committee, a Board-level committee overseeing the agency's strategic and capital planning process with a goal of delivering plans in 2025.

Everyone is invited to be a part of this process, and we invite you to visit the Tollway's website at www.illinoistollway.com/future to learn more.

I-PASS Sticker Tags

This summer, the Tollway has begun to mail I-PASS Sticker Tags directly to customers when their current I-PASS transponders expire. I-PASS Sticker Tags are the new, more efficient and cost-effective transponder technology.

In addition, I-PASS Sticker Tags can still be picked up at Illinois Tollway Customer Service Centers ordered online via the Illinois Tollway [website](#) or at a Jewel-Osco or RoadRanger retail location.

Customers will not be required to switch to the I-PASS Sticker Tag as long as they have a working transponder.

There is no deposit fee for I-PASS Sticker Tags. For customers with current transponders, the \$10 transponder deposit will be transferred into their pre-paid toll accounts once a new I-PASS Sticker Tag is registered to the account.

The introduction of I-PASS Sticker Tags is being done in collaboration with other E-ZPass agencies and will ensure that customers have continuity in service wherever they travel in the 19 states that are part of the E-ZPass consortium.

I-PASS Assist

The Illinois Tollway's I-PASS Assist program continuing to provide more assistance than ever.

Income-eligible drivers are receiving the cost-saving benefits of I-PASS after signing up for I-PASS Assist Accounts that also offer few up-front costs. In addition, I-PASS Assist customers may be eligible to have invoice fees dismissed once enrolled.

We've put together a tool kit [I-PASS Assist Communications Toolkit - Illinois Tollway](#) if you'd like to promote this program to your residents.

To be eligible for enrollment in I-PASS Assist, household income must not exceed 250% of Federal Poverty Guidelines as verified by the Illinois Department of Revenue or qualified by the Illinois Department of Human Services for cash and food assistance programs.

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



Express to Events Service



SOLDIER FIELD 2024 (CHICAGO BEARS REGULAR SEASON "SUNDAY ONLY" HOME GAMES)

ALL TRIPS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE 1 HOUR PRIOR TO START (Actual times may vary depending on weather and traffic)			Updated: 6/5/24 - EM					
			236	776	768		769	
Date	Event	Event Time	Depart Northwest Transit Center	Depart Hillside	Depart Bolingbrook	Depart Burr Ridge	Depart Palos Heights	Depart Oak Lawn
Sunday, September 8, 2024	Bears v. Titans	12:00p	9:15am	9:40am	9:30am	10:00am	9:50am	10:15am
Sunday, September 29, 2024	Bears v. Rams	12:00p	9:15am	9:40am	9:30am	10:00am	9:50am	10:15am
Sunday, October 6, 2024	Bears v. Panthers	12:00p	9:15am	9:40am	9:30am	10:00am	9:50am	10:15am
Sunday, November 10, 2024	Bears v. Patriots	12:00p	9:15am	9:40am	9:30am	10:00am	9:50am	10:15am
Sunday, November 17, 2024	Bears v. Packers	12:00p	9:15am	9:40am	9:30am	10:00am	9:50am	10:15am
Sunday, November 24, 2024	Bears v. Vikings	12:00p	9:15am	9:40am	9:30am	10:00am	9:50am	10:15am
Sunday, December 22, 2024	Bears v. Lions	12:00p	9:15am	9:40am	9:30am	10:00am	9:50am	10:15am

PLEASE NOTE: The 12/26/24 Thursday Night game and any playoff games will not be served due to availability conflicts with our regularly scheduled bus services.



Local Government Update

175 W Jackson Blvd
Suite 1550
Chicago, IL 60604

312 913 3200
rtachicago.org

September 2024 Update

RTA seeks feedback on proposed reforms to improve transit service and accountability for riders and taxpayers

The RTA is advocating for new funding to come with reforms that would establish a stronger RTA with more influence on service, fare policy, and capital project prioritization. These are areas featured in RTA's *Transit is the Answer* strategic plan and CMAP's *Plan of Action for Regional Transit*, where the RTA's regional perspective and budgetary role could add value for riders and taxpayers. The *Transit is the Answer Coalition* met in July to gather feedback on the following reforms from legislative staff, advocates, and other stakeholders, and the RTA continues to seek feedback from other partners as the next legislative session approaches.

- **Regional Service Standards**
A potential reform is for RTA to define regional service standards for minimum levels of service for each mode of travel to ensure a basic level of access to transit for residents. This could include additional accountability, requiring operating agencies to testify quarterly to the RTA Board on how they are meeting these standards and answer questions from the regional board.
- **Regional Fare Policy**
Establishing a regional fare policy could help ensure simple, easy to understand fares and fare programs, that support travel across the system. A regional fare policy can make paying for transit more seamless for everyone while improving affordability for those who need it most.
- **Regional Planning & Capital Project Prioritization**
Empowering the RTA with regional planning and capital project prioritization would help advance a systemwide vision and coordination on projects to tackle climate change and deliver more connected communities. A strong regional agency setting the vision and taking the lead on key federal and state grant applications would ensure that we are maximizing the benefits transit brings to the region.



Local Government Update

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Regional transit budget process begins, vote to be held in December

Each year, the RTA reviews, adopts, and monitors the annual operating budgets of CTA, Metra, and Pace. The process begins in earnest in the fall, when the Service Boards present their initial budget proposals to their boards and the public. Following these presentations, the RTA will schedule a series of public hearings throughout the region to present the proposed 2025 regional operating budget and five-year capital program. The Service Boards will present their final budgets at the RTA's November 22 Board meeting once their public comment period has concluded, and a final vote will be taken by the RTA Board of Directors in December. Previous regional budgets, capital plans, and other financial documents can be found on the [RTA website](#).

Illinois Senate hosts regional hearings on the value of transit

To highlight the value of transit and gather input on funding and reform ideas, Senate Transportation Committee Chair Senator Ram Villivalam scheduled a series of six subject matter hearings to be held over the summer to continue the conversation about the future of public transit in the Chicago region. The first four hearings featured testimony from leadership at the RTA and Service Boards. The remaining hearings are scheduled throughout the region and in Springfield and can be viewed live at www.ilga.gov.

- Wednesday, Sept. 18 | 10 a.m. | Location TBD in Northwest Cook or Lake County
- Wednesday, Oct. 16 | 10 a.m. | Location TBD in Springfield



Local Government Update

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RTA seeks user feedback on online data portal

The RTA is seeking feedback from users of [RTAMS](#), the agency's mapping and statistics website, to better understand who uses it and how it can be improved in the future. [Take the survey](#) now through October 21 to weigh in; it will take about 5 minutes to complete.

The last time a survey was conducted on RTAMS was in 2016, when a visioning survey provided direction on a full redevelopment and relaunch of the website in 2020. As part of that redevelopment, new content was added, improved reporting of projects and studies was deployed, a more stable hosting environment was implemented, downloadable data sets were incorporated, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compatibility was addressed, and search and filter options were improved.

A Resolution Regarding Local Support for Transit Service in Northeastern Illinois

WHEREAS, the **X COG** is a Council of Government representing **X** communities located within the transit service area of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), which includes three Service Boards: Pace Suburban Bus, Metra Commuter Rail, and the Chicago Transit Authority; and

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, **X COG** residents and businesses have benefitted from transit's impacts on the region's economic vitality, mobility needs, and general quality of life; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the transit system is essential to accomplishing regional, state, and national climate, economic development, and equity goals; and

WHEREAS, transit agencies in Northeastern Illinois are facing a projected budget gap equivalent to 20 percent of the region's operating budget beginning in 2026 due to decades of systemic underfunding and exacerbated by changes in travel patterns stemming from the increase in remote and hybrid work following the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has begun to discuss how to address the fiscal cliff through legislation focused on additional funding and reforms to the transit system; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. That the **X COG** supports additional public investment for the RTA to continue providing operating funding for the Service Boards to operate transit service in the 6-county region; and
2. That new funding should include a mix of durable sources positioned to grow over time that do not put undue burden on riders or taxpayers, while prioritizing revenues that have the potential to incentivize transit use; and
3. That transit service enhancements to achieve regional riders' desired outcomes of better frequency, reliability, connectivity between modes, and access to key destinations are possible with increased funding, and should be prioritized; and
4. That additional funding should be leveraged to serve the evolving needs of riders and ensure equitable service delivery and accessibility to all parts of the region; and
5. That the **X COG** supports a strengthened RTA through transit governance reforms grounded in improved outcomes for those using the system, where a regional perspective and budgetary role can add value for riders and taxpayers; and
6. That any changes to transit governance must preserve the role of municipal elected officials and consensus-driven decision making through voting requirements and regional representation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **X COG** supports increased funding to address the projected operating budget shortfall, prevent catastrophic service cuts and fare hikes, and provide additional sustainable funding to make transit more accessible and reliable for all residents; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Governor JB Pritzker, Members of the Illinois General Assembly, regional Councils of

Government, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and the Illinois Municipal League to make them aware of the commitments of the X COG regarding regional transit funding.

APPROVED, this Xth day of Xmonth, 202X in Xtown, Illinois.

DRAFT

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

1600 East Golf Road, Suite 0700
 Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
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*A Regional Association of Illinois
 Municipalities and Townships
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- Prospect Heights
- Rolling Meadows
- Schaumburg
- Skokie
- Streamwood
- Vernon Hills
- West Dundee
- Wheeling
- Wilmette
- Winnetka

**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

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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 providing support, please contact us by Wednesday, July 24](#)

- 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