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Dates to Remember

September 10	CMAQ Project Selection Committee reviews public comment on proposed FY 2010-11 Program – 10:00 a.m CMAP, Willis Tower
September 14	2009 Railroad Safety Education and Enforcement Workshop – 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. James R. Thompson Center Auditorium, 100 West Randolph Street - Chicago, IL
September 15	CMAP Council of Mayors Executive Committee – 9:30 a.m. CMAP, Willis Tower
September 16	North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee – 8:30 a.m. Skokie Village Hall
September 18	CMAP Transportation Committee Approves FY 2010-2011 CMAQ Program – 9:30 a.m. CMAP, Willis Tower
September 24-26	2009 American Planning Association Upper Midwest Planning Conference

Hyatt Regency - Downtown Chicago

October 1 NWMC Transportation Committee - 9:00 a.m.

NWMC Offices



Members Learn Finer Points of Federal Funding at STP Workshop

Over forty municipal staff and consultants attended a workshop on the Surface Transportation Program (STP) hosted by the Northwest Municipal Conference on August 27 at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines. The attendees heard from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) staff on the requirements of the federal transportation funding process. Members of the Illinois Department of Transportation

(IDOT) Local Roads Bureau gave presentations on all steps needed to complete an STP funded project, from project initiation through construction. Included in their presentation were highlights of recent changes in IDOT approval procedures which have streamlined certain aspects of the process, including revised forms and quicker approval procedures for simple resurfacing projects. Finally, attendees met with other members of

their respective councils to discuss each council's methodology for funding STP projects. Please contact NWMC staff to obtain any of the materials from the workshop including the CMAP and IDOT presentations, an IDOT staff chart and/or IDOT project letting schedule.



News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

Three North Shore Council American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects have been awarded from the July 31 letting. Three additionally projects will be included in the September 18 letting. Four projects will be let in November and one project will be let in January 2010.

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee meets on Wednesday, September 16 to discuss the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010-2014 Surface Transportation Program (STP). The North Shore Council continues to carry a negative program balance; however, the Council has two large construction projects scheduled for FFY 2010. In addition, the Technical Committee will discuss the progress of the ARRA program and the potential to program additional ARRA funds.

North Shore ARRA Projects— July and September Letting

Sponsor	Project Location
Evanston	Sheridan Rd.
Glenview	Central Rd.
Golf	Overlook Dr.
Morton Grove	Lehigh Ave.
	Old Willow Rd.
Northfield	Bridge
Winnetka	Tower Rd.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met at the Arlington Heights Village Hall on August 27 and recommended that the following projects from the recent call for projects be added to the active program: Touhy Avenue at Gross Point Road and Harts Road intersection improvement in Niles for FY 2012, with \$560,000 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds; Irving Park Road reconstruction from Barrington Road to Schaumburg Road in Streamwood for FY 2013, with \$3,500,000 in STP funds; and, Salem Avenue at Bode Road intersection improvement in Hoffman Estates for FY 2014, with \$3,500,000 in STP funds. The Committee also approved a cost increase for the Kensington Road reconstruction in Mount Prospect from \$1,309,000 to \$2,332,750 due to increased project scope and a change in project limits.

The committee held a lengthy discussion on possible solutions to the lower amount of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds the council is receiving due to an error in the regional distribution formula. The committee agreed to allow staff to supplement any projects funded with ARRA which experience a

shortfall with STP funds. However, the STP funded portion of the project would require a thirty percent local match, unlike the fully federally funded ARRA portion.

Staff also briefed the committee on a draft plan from regional Council of Mayors staff to ensure all ARRA funds allocated to the Council of Mayors as a whole are spent. The draft plan allows Councils who spend all of their ARRA to be eligible for funds from Councils who are unable to spend all of their ARRA funds. The committee endorsed the draft plan, which will be voted on at the September 15 Council of Mayors Executive Committee.

The next meeting will be on call, with staff and the committee continuing to monitor ARRA spending by the Northwest Council and other Councils as well.

Member Spotlight

If your municipality is undertaking a transportation plan or project of note, please contact NWMC staff to be featured in an upcoming edition of the NWMC Transportation Newsletter.

Northwest ARRA Projects— July and September Letting

Sponsor	Project Location
	Hawthorne School
	Bicycle and Pedes-
Wheeling	trian Bridge
Streamwood	Irving Park Rd.
	Rt. 53 Frontage
Rolling Meadows	Roads
Barrington	Dundee Ave.



RTA Releases Project List

On August 20, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) released a list of nineteen proposed transit projects throughout the region for public comment. The proposed projects receive funding under the Community Planning, Subregional Planning and Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs. Three projects included in the preliminary program affect NWMC members.

The Village of Skokie's Skokie-Dempster Station Area Plan will create a transitoriented development plan for an approximate ½ mile radius of the future relocated and elevated Skokie-Dempster Station on the CTA Yellow Line. The CTA is currently conducting an Alternatives Analysis to extend the Yellow Line from the current terminus at Skokie-Dempster to Old Orchard Road. If the line is extended, the existing Skokie-Dempster Station will be elevated near its current location. The new elevation presents an opportunity to improve circulation around the station where the at-grade tracks and station currently act as a physical barrier that limits development.

Pace's Milwaukee Avenue Rapid Transit Planning Study will focus on the characteristics of a potential Arterial Rapid Transit (ART) corridor along Milwaukee Avenue from the Jefferson Park Transit Center in the City of Chicago to Golf Mill Mall in the Village of Niles.

Pace's Dempster Street Rapid Transit Planning Study will focus on the characteristics of a potential Arterial Rapid Transit (ART) corridor along Dempster Street from the Davis Street station in the *City of Evanston* East-West to the Kiss-n-fly at O'Hare Airport and from Lee Street and Mannheim Road in a north-south direction, traversing six communities: *Evanston, Skokie, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Des Plaines*.

The deadline to submit comments is Wednesday, September 30. Public comments may be submitted by telephone or email. To leave your public comment by email, <u>please click here</u>. If you would like to leave a public comment by telephone, please call 312-913-3143.



Pace and Illinois Tollway Pursue TIGER Grant

Pace and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority are partnering to pursue Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding 9 (see sidebar). Pace and the Tollway are seeking \$200 million in TIGER grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to implement express bus service on I-294.

In the proposed plan, the Tollway will convert the inside lane of I-294 between South Holland and Rosemont into a high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane. The Tollway would designate the lane for express Pace bus service and carpools. Additionally, single occupancy vehicles would potentially be able to pay a premium toll to use the HOT lane. The project aims to link the south suburbs with

job centers in Oak Brook and surrounding O'Hare International Airport. Pace and the Tollway would use the funding to build and improve parking facilities, develop the HOT lanes and purchase over fifty new buses. The project could reportedly be ready in 2012.

On September 2, the Pace Board of Directors voted to support the grant submittal. Pace and the Tollway plan to submit the grant application by the September 15 deadline. Pace and the Tollway are not alone in seeking TIGER grant funding. Illinois is anticipated to seek funding for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. No state can receive more than \$300 million in TIGER grant funding.

TIGER Discretionary Grant Information

- \$1.5 billion is available nationwide in discretionary grants for capital investment in surface transportation projects
- Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a region or metropolitan area and can create jobs and benefit economically distressed areas
- The grants can range from \$20 million up to \$300 million to support high impact transportation projects.
- Mo more than 20 percent of the \$1.5 billion in TIGER grant funding can be awarded to any one state. Consequently, the maximum Illinois can receive from the TIGER Discretionary Grant program is \$300 million.
- Primary selection criteria include contributing to the medium- to long-term economic competitiveness of the nation, improving the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, improving the quality of living and working environments through livable communities, improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the safety of U.S. transportation facilities.
- Applications for TIGER discretionary grants must be submitted by September 15, 2009, from state and local governments, including transit agencies, port authorities and others To find more information about the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program, please visit:

http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/

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Railroad Safety Grants Available

The Illinois Commerce Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration have announced the latest round of Public Education and Enforcement Research Study (PEERS) grants to implement railroad safety education and enforcement programs. Programs must be designed to enhance compliance with applicable motor vehicle laws pertaining to highway-rail grade crossing safety and trespass prevention.

A PEERS application and reports summarizing previous PEERS grants can be found at:

www.icc.illinois.gov/railraod/peers.spx.

Applications are due at noon on September 15. Please contact Steve Laffey at the ICC, slaffey@icc.illinois.gov or 217-785-9026 for additional information.



2009 Railroad Safety Workshop

On September 14, the Illinois Commerce Commission, Operation Lifesaver Illinois and the DuPage Railroad Safety Council will host the 2009 Railroad Safety, Education and Enforcement Workshop. Speakers from local law enforcement agencies and rail safety education groups will share their tips and strategies to reach people and educate them about how to be safe at highway rail crossing. The workshop runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and will be held at the James R. Thompson Center Auditorium (lower level). For more information and to register for this free workshop, contact Steve Laffey of the Illinois Commerce Commission (slaffey@icc.illinois.gov or 217-785-9026).



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