



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

No Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee or Transportation Committee In August

August 15 **Deadline for Local Rail/Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program (see article on page 4)**

August 21 **Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.**
Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street

Joint Meeting Reviews Revised Des Plaines River Trail Plan

On July 15, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met jointly with the Des Plaines River Trail Steering Committee. The groups reviewed the revised draft of the Des Plaines River Trail Plan and made a number of comments before ultimately agreeing to the move the plan forward in the approval process. The goals of this plan are to improve access to and the quality of the Des Plaines River Trail in order to highlight the trail as an economic, transportation and recreational asset for the surrounding communities.

The plan recommendations focus on making improvements to trail crossings, providing trail access for bicyclists and pedestrians and ensuring consistent, high quality trail conditions. Conditional on the consultant team making the final edits, the plan will be presented to the NWMC Executive Board on September 3 and the full NWMC Board on September 10.

Dundee Road



Recommendations

- Traffic Signal Improvement
- Trail Realignment to Minimize Distance to Signal
- Existing Trail
- Vacate & Let Existing Trail Overgrow

- Existing Trail Upgrade
- Existing Sidepath
- Creek Crossing Improvement
- Crosswalk Removal
- Restoration Area

Notes

- Realign main trail to avoid ecosystem restoration area

Excerpt from draft plan - proposed trail realignment at Dundee Road to create a safe crossing at future Portwine Road traffic signal



Commuter Drive Reconstruction and Enhancements Completed

The reconstruction of Commuter Drive, which serves commuters at the Arlington Park Metra station, has been completed.

The *City of Rolling Meadows* was the lead agency for the project, which was also coordinated with the *Village of Arlington Heights*. Planning for the project began eight years ago and required extensive coordination between Metra, the Illinois Department of Transportation, various utilities, multiple landowners, Arlington International Racetrack and the Union Pacific Railroad. The project included a full reconstruction of the roadway, drainage improvements, the installation of curbs and gutters and a new bike path. The bike path links to an existing path along Rohlwing Road and to the larger Rolling Meadows and Palatine bicycle networks. It is also part of the planned Northwest Highway Bikeway corridor.

The reconstruction of the roadway was funded through Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds from the Northwest Council of Mayors, while the bike path was funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds administered by CMAP. The total construction costs, including construction engineering, was about \$1.7 million.



The Commuter Dr. project provides bicycle, pedestrian and auto access to the Arlington Park Metra station.



News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

At the June North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting, the committee agreed to hold a call for new Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects at the end of this calendar year. Committee members wanted to have adequate time to assess local needs and priorities before having to submit project applications. The following is a tentative programming schedule. The Technical Committee will review and adopt the schedule at its September meeting.

December 2014 – The North Shore Council of Mayors will formally open the call for STP project applications.

January through March 2015 – Municipalities meet with the Illinois Department of Transportation to confirm project eligibility and project scope for potential projects. Project scoping prior to submittal of an application is extremely important. Requirements associated with the use of federal funds and the IDOT review process can delay and add costs to projects. Poorly scoped projects can face significant delays and considerable cost increases.

March 30, 2015 – Following project scoping, project applicants will complete the project application by the end of March.

April through May 2015 – The Planning Liaison, with the assistance of the Tech-

nicul Committee, shall review each project application in accordance with the project prioritization system outlined in the North Shore Council's STP methodology.

June 2015 – The Technical Committee will review project applications, project rankings and available funding in making programming recommendations. The Technical Committee will recommend projects within the STP program.

September 2015 – The North Shore Council of Mayors will consider the Technical Committee's programming recommendation at its September meeting. Following the North Shore Council's approval, the Planning Liaison will submit the required documentation to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAQ) so that the project may be considered for addition to the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

As outlined by the tentative schedule, federal fiscal year 2016 is the earliest that a new project could be included in the program. Please feel free to contact Chris Staron (847.296.9200 ext. 131, cstaron@nwmc-cog.org) with any questions about the upcoming call for projects.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on August 21 at 8:30 a.m. at Barrington Village Hall. Project updates, funding requests or new project applications are due to Mike Walczak by August 8.

The Council still has Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds available for transportation projects in all upcoming fiscal years. These projects can include road resurfacing or reconstruction, bike and pedestrian projects, transit infrastructure improvements and lighting projects.

The Council's STP Methodology Review Working Group will meet on August 15 at 1:00 p.m. at NWMC offices. The goal of the group is develop a methodology which will maximize the Council's ability to spend its annual allotment of STP funds and reflect the priorities of the Council's members, the current regional plan (Go To 2040) and federal legislation. It will present at the next Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting.

Illinois Tollway and Pace Partner to Build I-90 Park and Ride Facilities

On July 24, the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors approved an intergovernmental agreement with Pace to design and build new Park & Ride facilities on the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90). The agreement was approved on July 9 by Pace's Board of Directors.

As part of the \$2.5 billion Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project, the Illinois Tollway will accommodate transit and direct access for the public to Pace bus service along one of its roadways for the first time in the agency's history. The agreement with Pace will feature three Park & Ride facilities constructed on the Tollway system at Randall Road, Illinois Route 25 and Barrington Road. Pace will pay the Tollway \$1.3 million dollars for dedicated transit ramps that will be built as part of the Barrington Road Interchange Project currently under construction. The new facilities will initially provide space for 225 vehicles, with the ability to accommodate as many as 450 vehicles in the future. The new Park & Ride facilities will be funded by the federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant administered by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAQ).

The Tollway's I-90 Rebuilding and Widening Project is providing \$240 million to integrate transit in partnership with Pace, as well as future transit expansion plans. When construction is complete, the new I-90 will feature wider inside lanes and shoulders to handle bus traffic and flexible design to provide dedicated and reliable transit service, as well as the technology to support bus-only lanes if needed in the future. When the I-90 project is complete in 2016, Pace will offer additional bus service in the corridor. All-new express service and Call-n-Rides to provide first- or last-mile connections to and from areas adjacent to the Park-n-Rides will debut in late 2016, around the time construction finishes on I-90 and the new parking facilities.



Route 53/120 Land Use and Finance Committee Continue Busy Summer

On July 21, the Illinois Route 53/120 Extension Land Use Committee met and discussed existing condition findings and future market projections for the corridor. The central Lake County corridor has seen dramatic changes over the past thirty years, which show the corridor is already capturing a significant portion of new development in the County. The 53/120 parkway is designed to ease congestion and bring additional economic development to the corridor.

However the consultant team warned that a new mindset must be adopted for those benefits to last. The consultant team projected that communities will not achieve the full build-out depicted in their municipal future land use plan within the next thirty years. They said that current municipal land use plans target greenfield sites, which would cause a significant loss of natural areas and agricultural land while failing to identify underutilized or infill sites that could accommodate part of the development demand. They also noted that current zoning in the corridor does not permit the population or employment density necessary to support transit. Finally, the consultant team said that policies and plans that guided the area through the decades of explosive growth must be re-imagined.

A draft corridor land use plan is anticipated in the first quarter of 2015. For more information, please visit <http://www.lakecorridorplan.org/>.

The Illinois Route 52/120 Finance Committee met on July 29 and discussed the

next steps in developing a financial plan for the roadway project. Based on input from Lake County communities and stakeholders, the Finance Committee committed to a deeper analysis of potential funding sources deemed to be more politically feasible. These funding options discussed included value capture through a tax increment financing structure, changes to tolling throughout Lake County, congestion pricing, index tolling and a county motor fuel tax.

The Finance Committee formed three working groups to analyze the funding options and bring recommendations back to the full committee. The Value Capture Working Group will attempt to define the structure and parameters of an appropriate value capture mechanism for the corridor. With the assistance of the consultant team, the group will assess the revenue potential of the funding source and identify implementation steps, such as passing legislation. The Tolling in Lake County Working Group will examine additional tolls on the existing system, congestion pricing and toll indexing in order to recommend a tolling strategy for the entire county. An Environmental Stewardship Fund Working Group will examine how local funding sources should be used to support environmental work within the corridor.

These working groups will be meeting over the next month and plan to present recommendations to the Finance Committee as it begins to formulate a financial package at its next meeting on September 11.

IDOT Accepting Applications for Local Rail/Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2015 Local Rail/Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program. IDOT is continuing to place a strong emphasis on signal and circuitry related projects as opposed to crossing surface projects. Additional emphasis is being placed on locations with an increased number of trains or vehicles and at locations having a crash history. Please note that signal related projects are eligible for 100 percent federal funding.

A completed application providing as much information as possible, along with a location map showing the crossing, should be submitted to IDOT for each location where safety improvements are proposed. An application form for the project is available by visiting www.dot.il.gov/blr/blrforms.html. Click on Form BLR 04100 in the table of forms.

Applications to IDOT are due by Friday, August 15. Following receipt of the applications, IDOT intends to perform on-site inspections at the candidate locations. For additional information, please contact Jason L. Johnson, 217-557-1399.



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