



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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## Dates to Remember

<b>February 17</b>	<b>Deadline for Safe Routes to School Applications (see article on page 5)</b>
<b>February 18</b>	<b>NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—10:30 a.m.</b> NWMC Offices
<b>February 27</b>	<b>NWMC Transportation Committee—8:30 a.m.</b> NWMC Offices

## Transportation Committee Updated on Route 53, Transit Task Force and Bike Plan

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on January 30 at NWMC offices. Illinois Tollway Senior Manager for Strategic Planning and Programming Aimee Lee updated the committee on the work of the Finance Committee for the Illinois Route 53/120 project. She recapped the work of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council and discussed possible funding sources to narrow the project's \$2.87 billion funding gap. Last week's scheduled Finance Committee meeting was canceled due to the weather, but has been rescheduled for February 13. The Land Use Committee, which will be led

by CMAP, will begin its work this spring. NWMC staff provided an update on the Northeastern Illinois Public Transit Task Force. The Task Force's System Performance Working Group produced a report recommending the preparation and implementation of a plan to improve regional mobility, increase transit ridership, identify new resources for transit, leverage existing resources and create regional performance measure to assess progress. The report found that the region's transit system operates efficiently relative to peer agencies, but

transit ridership, mode share and access to jobs do not compare favorably to other metropolitan regions. Specific recommendations on changes to the current transit governance structure and funding have not been made at this point. The Task Force's final report is due March 27. For additional information, please visit the [Task Force website](#).

Finally, staff presented an update on implementation progress for the 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan. See the full report under the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee update on page 2.

## McLeod Appointed to NLC Transportation Committee

Congratulations to *Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod* on his appointment to the National League of Cities Transportation Infrastructure and Services Steering Committee. The committee is responsible for developing policy posi-

tions on issues involving transportation, including planning, funding, safety and security of public transit, streets and highways, aviation, railroads and ports. Mayor McLeod joins *Schaumburg Village President Al Larson* on the steering com-

mittee, with *Hanover Park Village President Rod Craig* serving on the policy and advocacy committee.



## Bike/Ped Committee Reviews Niles Multimodal Plan, Receives Project Updates

On January 21, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee heard a presentation on the *Village of Niles* draft Multimodal Plan and reviewed the planning direction for the Des Plaines River Corridor planning process. To begin the meeting, staff presented the 2013 implementation highlights. The *Village of Hoffman Estates* completed work on Hassell Road between Barrington Road and Fairway Court which included changes to the lane configuration to provide bicycle lanes and shared lane markings. This project is part of the NWMC's Evanston-Elgin Bikeway, a series of bicycle facilities which will ultimately allow bicyclists to ride safely from the Fox River Trail to Lake Michigan.

The *Village of Wheeling* constructed a sidepath along Dundee Road between the Des Plaines River and the overpass of the Tri-State Tollway. The path addresses a critical gap on the Dundee Road Bikeway, which spans the northern portion of Cook County between the Fox River Trail and Lake Michigan. Since the plan's adoption in December 2010, 4.81 miles of new bicycle facilities have been constructed on the six Tier One corridors, with another 9.36 miles programmed to be completed in the next few years. The report also highlighted recent funding received by the *Village of Skokie* and the Lake County Division of Transportation for projects on the Evanston-Elgin Bikeway and Deerfield Road Bikeway, respectively.

Niles Senior Planner Bruce Sylvester presented the village's draft Multimodal Plan, which aims to address walking, bicycling and supportive land uses. The plan includes bicycle facilities on the Evanston-Elgin Bikeway and Elk Grove-

Evanston Bikeway, which are regional bicycle corridors from the 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan. The draft plan was released in late 2013 and Niles is targeting adoption of the plan in the first half of 2014.

Finally, the Active Transportation Alliance consultant team discussed standard crossing typologies and projects requiring additional focus for the Des Plaines River Corridor plan. The initial

crossing typologies are tailored to the roadway characteristics such as number of lanes and surrounding land uses. The committee noted that the plan will highlight significant projects that will require unique solutions and discussed ideas for a project selection process. The consultant team is surveying members of the Des Plaines River Corridor Steering Committee to gain additional feedback.



Hassell Road in *Hoffman Estates*



Dundee Road Sidepath in *Wheeling*



## Pedestrian-Bicycle Infrastructure Cost Estimator

Last month, The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) reported on a new tool that provides cost information for typical pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC), in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Active Living Research Program and the Federal

Highway Administration, has produced [Costs for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Infrastructure Improvements: A Resource for Researchers, Engineers, Planners, and the General Public](#). The tool is designed to help communities understand the costs of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

The resource, which consists of a document and associated database of project cost information and calculations, provides meaningful estimates of infrastructure costs by collecting up-to-date cost information for pedestrian and bicycle treatments from states and cities across the country.



## NWMC Members Earn APWA Honors

Infrastructure projects in the *Village of Northbrook* and *Elk Grove Village* were honored by the American Public Works Association (APWA) – Chicago Metro Chapter at the chapter’s awards luncheon on January 16.

*The Village of Northbrook’s* comprehensive roadway reconstruction and storm-water management project on Techny Road and Pfungsten Road was honored in the “Environment \$5 Million to \$25 Million” award category. The new storm sewers reduce the flooding impacts for 28 structures and 450 properties.

The project was completed a year ahead of schedule and under-budget due to an aggressive construction schedule and favorable weather conditions. All project components (storm sewer, roadway paving and restoration), excluding the traffic signal, were completed by December 15, 2012. The traffic signal at

storm relief sewer pipe ranging in size from 7-feet diameter to 4-feet diameter,

- Relocation of conflicting existing utilities,
- The reconstruction of one mile of roadway,
- Over 20,425 cubic yards of trench backfill,
- Over eighty new utility structures (manholes)
- A modernized traffic signal at the Techny Road and Pfungsten Road intersection
- A traffic management and detour plan
- Over ten miles of temporary and permanent pavement markings
- New roadway signage
- 3.75 acres of lawn restoration with topsoil and sod

The project was completed for a final

to complete the Techny Road work as part of a jurisdictional transfer. The CCDOTH funded all pavement reconstruction, lawn restoration, the traffic signal and a pro-rated share of the relief sewer. Northbrook now owns and maintains this segment of Techny Road.

*Elk Grove Village’s* Busse Woods Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Overpass at Illinois Route 72 (Higgins Road) was honored in the “Transportation: Less than \$5 Million” category. The project constructed a new multi-use overpass over Route 72 and was a coordinated effort by the *Village of Elk Grove* and Forest Preserve District of Cook County to provide the final overpass for the Busse Woods Trail System. The trail draws over 2.5 million visitors a year, an attendance volume greater than Yellowstone National Park. The existing at-grade path crossed the six-lane arterial roadway at a signalized intersection. The roadway carried 34,100 vehicles. These heavy traffic volumes coupled with the high vehicular speeds created a hazardous crossing for trail users. The new structure replaced this existing dangerous at-grade condition and provides a safe overpass crossing by eliminating vehicular conflict with bicyclist and pedestrian traffic, safely connecting the northern and southern portions of this heavily used 11.2 mile-long trail.

Construction of the Busse Woods Overpass involved many elements and challenges that set this project apart from a typical project including construction within a Forest Preserve, a limited staging area, maintaining an active regional trail during construction, foundation construction within 10-feet of a critical high pressure petroleum products line, nighttime closure of a major arterial (Illinois Route 72) to install the prefabricated main span, and protecting the integrity of the adjacent open prairie and heavily wooded areas.

Engineering for the project was funded through federal Transportation Community & System Preservation funds secured by Congressman Rep. Peter Roskam, while construction was funded with federal Congestion Mitigation and

*(Continued on page 4)*



Paul Kendzior, Northbrook Village Engineer, demonstrates scale of storm relief sewers



the intersection of Techny Road and Pfungsten Road was completed in mid-April 2013.

The project included:

- Installation of just over one mile of

construction cost of just over \$5 million, which was approximately \$188,000 under the original construction contract price. Northbrook partnered financially with the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOTH)



## NWMC Members Earn APWA Honors Continued



(Continued from page 3)

Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds and matching local funds from *Elk Grove Village*. A dedication ceremony was held for the project on November 22, 2013.

### Project Information:

- Project Length: 0.41 miles
- Bike Path: 12-foot wide bituminous path
- Bridge Structure: 3-Span, prefabricated steel truss structure, 275 feet in length
- Structure Weight:
  - Span 1 = 90'-0" span - 133,800 lbs.
  - Span 2 = 120'-0" span - 181,600 lbs.
  - Span 3 = 65'-0" span - 96,800 lbs.
- The total weight of the bridge is 412,200 lbs.
- Retaining Wall: Mechanically Stabilized Earth - 3,350 square feet
- Earth Embankment: 22,700 cubic yards

Busse Woods Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Overpass, *Elk Grove Village*

# Congratulations to both award winners!

## Breaking New Ground: Innovative Financing Strategies for Municipal Infrastructure Projects

The Metropolitan Planning Council and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus are hosting a unique workshop to explore financing tools to deliver infrastructure projects. The workshop is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fountain View Recreation Center (910 N. Gary Ave., Carol Stream). The event is designed to consider financing options for real infrastructure project proposals relevant to suburban communities. A panel of finance experts will present introductory information about private finance options for municipalities. More importantly, mayors and municipal staff are encouraged to present their ideas for real-life, specific projects in advance. At the workshop, finance experts and municipal leaders will meet one-on-one to evaluate projects and consider financing options.

Participants will be asked to submit project ideas in advance of the meeting to spark informative dialogue and collaboration. Project details should be submitted by February 10. This interactive format will help us all learn about these new finance tools and how they can work for municipalities. For more information contact Edith Makra at the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus at [emakra@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:emakra@mayorscaucus.org) or 312-201-4506.



## News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

The North Shore Council of Mayors is gearing up for a busy construction season. Two Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects were let in January and will begin construction later this year. In *Skokie*, an intersection improvement project at Church St. and Crawford Ave. will provide additional capacity with improved operations and safety. *Northbrook* will resurface Happ Rd. between Sunset Ridge and the Village limits under the Local Agency Functional Overlay (LAFO) guidelines. Combined, the projects will obligate over \$1 million in federal STP funds. The North Shore Council will remain busy with the resurfacing of Main St. in *Skokie* and the intersection improvement of West Lake Ave. and Greenwood Rd. in *Glenview* both targeting lettings later this month. Finally, the Central Ave. and Pratt Ave. intersection, which includes portions of *Lincolnwood*, *Skokie* and *Chicago*, will be let in April. These five construction projects represent over \$4 million in STP funding.

In addition to STP funding, *Skokie* and *Lincolnwood* are targeting lettings later this year for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funded projects along the Skokie Valley Trail. After the two projects are completed, the southern end of the Skokie Valley Trail will have a 4-mile continuous path from Chicago through *Skokie*. The projects have over \$1.2 million in federal CMAQ funding. *Lincolnwood* is also targeting a letting for the Weber Spur bike path project, which will run on abandoned Union Pacific right-of-way.

The next North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 19 at the *Skokie Village Hall*.



## News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The next Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting will be held in late March or April. As discussed at the last Technical Committee meeting, a working group has been formed to review the existing Northwest Council methodology for selecting projects and programming Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. The task force will begin meeting later this month. Please contact Mike Walczak if you are interested in serving on the task force.

The Council continues to have a large balance of unspent funds in 2014 and 2015 due to recent projects in the Council being completed under budget. If your municipality currently has a project either later in the current program or on the "B" list that is advancing through preliminary engineering, please contact staff to discuss when funding may become available.

Northwest Council projects tentatively projected to be let in 2014 include: Northwest Highway streetscape in *Mount Prospect* (ITEP funded), Dundee Road lighting in *Wheeling* (STP funded), Salem at Bode intersection improvement in *Schaumburg* (STP funded), Nichols Road reconstruction in *Arlington Heights* (STP funded), Raupp Boulevard bridge over Buffalo Creek in *Buffalo Grove* (BRR funded), Jeffery Avenue bridge over Buffalo Creek in *Wheeling* (BRR funded), Salt Creek bikeway in *Rolling Meadows* (ITEP funded).

## Safe Routes to School Application Deadline Extended

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has extended the deadline for Safe Routes to School Program applications until **February 17**. The Safe Routes to School program uses funding set aside from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program. IDOT is requesting candidate projects that will be initiated in state fiscal year 2014 and 2015.

The Safe Routes to School Program is a federally funded program with the goal of enabling and encouraging children to walk and bicycle to school. With the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) federal surface transportation authorization, the Safe Routes program was consolidated under the Transportation Alternatives Program. This legislative change affects the federal share for local projects. While Safe Routes projects previously were funded with 100 percent federal funding, under MAP-21, federal funding will now cover 80 percent of the project cost.

IDOT anticipates programming \$6 million (\$5 million of infrastructure and \$1 million for non-infrastructure projects) statewide. IDOT will fund infrastructure projects up to \$200,000 and non-infrastructure projects up to \$30,000.

Applications require a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) letter of concurrence. At the recommendation of IDOT, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has delegated the MPO letter of support to the Councils of Mayors. To obtain a letter of support, please contact Mike Walczak ([mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org)) for the Northwest Council of Mayors and Chris Staron ([cstaron@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:cstaron@nwmc-cog.org)) for the North Shore Council of Mayors. For members outside of Cook County, please contact your local Planning Liaison. More information and applications are available at the [IDOT website](#).



## Governor Announces Barrington Road Interchange Project



*Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod speaks at Barrington Rd. Interchange announcement*

Earlier today, Governor Pat Quinn announced the construction of the Barrington Road Interchange on I-90 (Jane Adams Tollway). The \$68 million project will complete the partial interchange currently in place and provide much improved access to the St. Alexius Medical Center and Alexian Brothers Women

& Children's Hospital. The project is being funded through a variety of sources, including funding from the state, Illinois Tollway, Hoffman Estates, and Alexian Brothers. The project will be further enhanced by a Pace park-and-ride facility, which will be funded through the Congestion Mitigation and

Air Quality (CMAQ) program. The park-and-ride will connect with planned transit service enhancements in the I-90 corridor. Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod spoke at the announcement and heralded this important infrastructure project for the region.



## Highway Safety Improvement Program Seeking Applications

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is requesting candidate projects for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) that will be initiated in state fiscal year 2015. The HSIP is a core federal funding program with the goal of achieving a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads. The anticipated funding level for the local highway sys-

tem is approximately \$13.3 million. The federal funding level is a maximum of ninety percent of the total improvement cost with the local agency responsible for the ten percent matching funds. Because HSIP funds are limited, low cost safety improvements are encouraged. Funds may be used to address safety issues independently without requiring reconstruction to all the

latest policies and standards.

Municipalities must submit electronic copies of HSIP applications to the IDOT District One Bureau of Local Roads and Streets office in Schaumburg no later than April 18. To learn more about the program and review submittal requirements, please visit the [IDOT website](#).

### Follow @NWMCTrans on Twitter

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