



Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

- January 21** **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—10:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- January 30** **NWMC Transportation Committee—8:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- January 31** **Deadline for Safe Routes to School Applications (see article on page 4)**



Transportation Committee Discusses Transit Task Force, Route 53, Commute Options

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on December 19 and received an update on the work of Governor Quinn's Northeastern Illinois Public Transit Task Force as well as the Illinois 53/120 Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee's Finance Committee and the Metropolitan Planning Council's (MPC) Commute Options Program.

The Transit Task Force has been hearing from national experts on the regional transit structure in other cities including New York and Washington. Staff noted that the reforms being discussed so far have focused on the governance structure and less on how transit is funded. No formal recommendations have been made to date and the deadline for the group's final report has been pushed back from January to March.

The Route 53/120 Finance Committee, at its December 3 meeting, was presented with a menu of options to close

the project's \$2.5 billion funding gap. These options, which were also included in the Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee report in 2012, include: implementing congestion pricing; indexing tolls to inflation; imposing tolls on the existing Illinois Route 53 north of I-90; increased tolls in Lake County at the existing Waukegan Toll Plaza and the currently untolled Route 132 exit; implementing value capture in the corridor; increasing the Lake County sales tax; and increasing the Lake County motor fuel tax. Due to the possibility of tolling the existing Route 53, the Finance Committee agreed to include formal representation from Cook County municipalities along the roadway.

MPC Project Manager Tim Grzesiakowski presented the results from the organization's recently completed Commute Options Program. The program, which began in 2011, assisted local businesses in surveying their employees about com-

muting patterns and designing programs that provide alternatives to driving alone. The overall response among employers was positive and now MPC is pushing for a regional Transportation Demand Management program for northeastern Illinois. More information is available by visiting the [MPC website](#).

The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.



Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Reviews Plan Implementation Progress

On December 17, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met and reviewed the draft bicycle plan implementation report. The Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) adopted its most recent bicycle plan in 2010, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has been diligent in tracking progress towards implementation of regional bicycle corridors and other initiatives. The bicycle plan included an implementation table for each regional corridor that highlighted the major implementation activities and responsible parties. The draft report attempts to record actions that support the implementation activities in the 2010 bicycle plan. The committee and staff will review the draft report and add any missing implementation activities before the final report is presented in January.

Additionally, staff will be producing a short implementation highlights report. The goal of this report is to draw attention to major developments for corridor implementation in an accessible format. For 2013, the report will highlight construction of the Hassell Road bike lanes in *Hoffman Estates* on the Evanston-Elgin Bikeway and *Wheeling's* construction of the Phyllis Harmon Path along the Dundee Road Bikeway. Roughly 2.7

percent (3.7 miles) of the 138.6 miles of Tier One regional bicycle corridors have been constructed since adoption of the plan. Sixty-four percent of the Tier One corridors are complete and another nearly eight percent (10.5 miles) are currently programmed for construction. The final reports will be presented to the Transportation Committee in January.

In addition, the committee received an update on the Des Plaines River Corridor planning process. The consultant team is working through the feedback from municipalities on the preliminary findings and working to develop potential recommendations. The consultant team will present draft recommendations to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and the project Steering Committee in early 2014. The NWMC anticipates completing the plan in the first half of 2014.

The next Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met December 13 at the *Barrington Village Hall* and approved funding for two projects – Dundee Road lighting in *Wheeling* and Nichols Drive resurfacing in *Arlington Heights*. A new application from *Des Plaines* for an intersection improvement at Lee Street (US 12/45) and Forest Avenue was also approved and placed on the “B” list.

Staff informed the committee that, due to recent projects in the Council being completed under budget, Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding has become available in the next few years of the program. 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.

Finally, the Committee approved the creation of a working group to update the council’s project selection methodology. Volunteers from municipalities are welcome and should contact Mike Walczak, 847-296- 9200, ext. 134 or mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org to serve on the working group.

Illinois Tollway 2013 Year in Review

In 2013, the Illinois Tollway vigorously continued *Move Illinois*, the agency’s 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, and invested in projects to repair and rebuild roadways, bridges and interchanges and other capital investments across its 286-mile system. *Move Illinois* will address the remaining needs of the existing Tollway system: rebuild and widen the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) as a state-of-the-art 21st century corridor; construct a new interchange to connect the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to I-57; build a new, all-electronic Elgin O’Hare Western Access; and fund a planning study for the Illinois Route 53/120 Extension.

The following were the Tollway highlights affecting NWMC communities:

In October, Governor Pat Quinn, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Tollway broke ground on the \$3.4 billion Elgin O’Hare Western Access Project, which will build 17 miles of new toll roads, construct or improve 15 interchanges and provide western access to O’Hare International Airport.

In November, the Tollway delivered the first segment of the \$2.2 billion Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project, completing 37 miles of eastbound lanes between Rockford and the Elgin. Between the Elgin Toll Plaza and the Kennedy Expressway, shoulder work is underway to prepare for rebuilding and widening work beginning this year.

The Tollway reconvened the Illinois Route 53/120 Blue Ribbon Advisory Council and agreed to create new Finance and Lane Use committees to develop and build consensus around a plan for implementation. The work would develop Route 53 as a four-lane, 45 mph tolled highway extending through central Lake County and connecting with Route 120, which also would be improved and widened.

To learn more about what the Tollway accomplished in 2013, please visit the [Illinois Tollway website](#).



News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On December 18, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met at the *Skokie Village Hall* to review the council's Surface Transportation Program (STP) and annual report. The annual report reviews progress in the STP, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). The annual report will be included on the January 15 NWMC Board agenda.

The North Shore Council of Mayors utilized \$2,285,664 in STP funds in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013. Because the council spent less than its funding mark, the council will enter FFY 2014 with a positive program balance for the first time since FFY 2006. The North Shore

Council of Mayors completed a call for projects in early FFY 2013, which led to the programming of eight projects totaling just over \$10 million. The call enables the Council to aggressively pursue regional priorities and address critical infrastructure needs. The North Shore Council plans to obligate \$7.1 million in FFY 2014. Despite entering FFY 2014 with a positive program balance, the large FFY 2014 program will require advanced funding from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Council of Mayors Executive Committee if all projects move forward as scheduled.

In FFY 2013, the North Shore Council municipalities obligated \$180,000 in

CMAQ funding and have over \$2.5 million programmed in FFY 2014. An additional \$5 million in funding is on the CMAQ deferred project list because a project was unable to meet the accomplishment deadlines established by CMAP; however, the project is moving forward, and the council anticipates it will be reinstated into the program in the near future.

Additionally, the North Shore Council area had a productive FFY 2013 in obligating ITEP funds. Nearly \$3 million was spent to provide transportation enhancement for the region. In FFY 2014, the North Shore Council area has over \$1 million in ITEP funds programmed.

FFY 2013 STP Projects	Sponsor	Phase	Total Cost	STP Funding
West Lake/Greenwood Intersection	Glenview	ENG II	\$86,400	\$60,480
Central/Pratt Intersection	Lincolnwood	ENG II	\$60,000	\$32,000
Chestnut/Waukegan Intersection	Glenview	Construction	\$4,453,846	\$2,193,184
Total STP Funding				\$2,285,664

FFY 2013 CMAQ Projects	Sponsor	Phase	Total Cost	CMAQ Funding
Dempster St. Signal Interconnect	Evanston	ENGI	\$30,000	\$24,000
ComEd ROW / Skokie Valley Trail	Lincolnwood	ENGII	\$105,000	\$84,000
UP Line / Weber Spur Bike Trail	Lincolnwood	ENGII	\$90,000	\$72,000
Total CMAQ Funding				\$180,000

FFY 2013 ITEP Projects	Sponsor	Phase	Total Cost	ITEP Funding
E Oakton St Streetscape Imps	Skokie	Construction	\$1,487,543	\$992,280
Techny Trail Segment 4	Glenview	ENGII	\$46,429	\$37,143
Lake-Cook Rd Bike Path	Cook Co FPD	Construction	\$1,431,851	\$1,181,212
Willow Road Enhancements	Northfield	Construction	\$917,488	\$733,990
Total ITEP Funding				\$2,944,625



Safe Routes to School Call for Projects

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is conducting a call for projects for the Safe Routes to School Program. IDOT is responsible for oversight and implementation of the Safe Routes to School Program using funding set aside from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program. IDOT is requesting candidate projects that will be initiated in state fiscal years 2014 and 2015 (ending June 30, 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. As part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) federal transportation program, the Safe Routes initiative 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 a total of \$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.

More information and applications are available by visiting the [IDOT website](#). The deadline to submit applications is January 31, 2014.



Lake County Pace Service Restructuring

On December 22, Pace implemented modified bus service through Lake County as part of a service restructuring effort spanning several months that involved collaboration among Pace, Lake County, the College of Lake County (CLC) and other local stakeholders, along with surveying and other public input. Although the scale and scope of changes varies from route to route, the over-all goal of the project was to respond to changes in demand by updating the decades-old bus service model. Many of

the timing and routing changes are also designed to improve on-time performance, which has been plagued by rail crossings and an overall increase in traffic on the county's roads. The completed restructuring will be implemented in two phases: Phase 1 was implemented on December 22, 2013, and Phase 2 will be implemented in March, 2014.

Among the more significant changes is the split of the existing Route 572 into

two separate routes— the new Route 572 Washington connecting downtown Waukegan and the CLC and the all-new Route 574 CLC-Westfield Hawthorn which covers the southern portion of current Route 572 service. Route 565 Grand Avenue will have more frequent service along with later weekday evening service. For more information, please visit www.PaceBus.com.



2013 LAKE COUNTY SERVICE RESTRUCTURING

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 22, 2013

PaceBus.com

THE FOLLOWING LAKE COUNTY ROUTES WILL EXPERIENCE MINOR TO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES.
VISIT PACEBUS.COM FOR DETAILED INFORMATION FOR EACH ROUTE, OR SEE THE NEW ROUTE SCHEDULES.

ROUTE 272

- Noticable schedule changes on weekdays

ROUTES 561 & 562

- Minor schedule changes only

ROUTES 563, 564 & 568

- Minor route changes
- Minor schedule changes
- All connections will remain

ROUTE 565

- Extended to the College of Lake County
- More frequent service and later evening service
- Routing change at Gurnee Mills

ROUTE 569

- Service frequency reduced to 60 minutes during midday

ROUTE 570

- Will no longer operate between CLC and Gurnee Mills (see Route 565)
- New Route Name: Fox Lake - CLC

ROUTE 571

- Minor schedule changes
- Minor route adjustment in Zion
- Route adjustment in downtown Waukegan

ROUTE 572

- Will no longer operate south of College of Lake County (see Route 574)
- Will travel to/from Waukegan Metra station
- More frequent service
- New Route Name: Washington

ROUTE 574 (NEW)

- Will travel between CLC and Westfield Hawthorn
- Will follow same route as southern portion of current Route 572
- Hourly service, Mon-Sat

DOWNTOWN WAUKEGAN

- Posted stops policy in effect for Downtown.
- Some transfers will now occur on Washington St.
- Routes 565, 571 and 572 now offering service to Waukegan Metra station

ROUND LAKE AREA & VERNON HILLS-MUNDELEIN CALL-N-RIDES

- Minor schedule changes to facilitate connections with fixed routes.
- No service area changes

NEW SCHEDULES, DATED **DECEMBER 22, 2013** OR **DECEMBER 23, 2013**,
WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON-BOARD BUSES IN THE COMING WEEKS.



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