



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

June 16	NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m. NWMC Offices
June 24	North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m. <i>Skokie Village Hall</i>
June 25	Municipal Design Review Network (MDRN) Workshop - 9:00 a.m. <i>Skokie Village Hall</i>
June 25	Application Deadline for CMAP, RTA, Cook County Planning Funds - 12:00 p.m.



Apply Today for Planning Funds

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) are accepting applications for the latest round of their popular planning programs for local governments: CMAP's Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program and the RTA's Community Planning Program. New this year, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will also provide funding for local active transportation (pedestrian and bicycle) plans in suburban Cook County. Just one application is needed to be considered for all three programs. Program details and applications are available online at the [RTA website](#).

Applications are due on Thursday, June 25 at noon and can be submitted by

local governments (municipalities and counties) as well as other units of government or by nongovernmental groups. Projects can also contain multijurisdictional components. The most common types of projects include transportation plans, subarea or corridor plans and comprehensive plans.

Examples of applications from the two programs can be found at the [RTA website](#) and the [CMAP website](#). Please note that the LTA program now includes the requirement of a local match. Depending on population and tax capacity, municipalities will be required to provide up to a 20 percent local match. Please contact NWMC staff to discuss potential multijurisdictional projects or for assistance with an application.

TMA of Lake-Cook Annual Meeting Features Dold, Redden

The annual meeting of the Transportation Management Association (TMA) of Lake-Cook took place on May 29 in *Deerfield*. U.S. Representative Bob Dold discussed ongoing negotiations in Washington on a new federal transportation bill. Expectations are low for a full reauthorization this year due to no consensus on the source of additional long term revenue. Regional Transportation Authority Executive Director Leanne Redden briefed the group on the agency's efforts to keep the transit system in a state of good repair while seeking much needed additional funding. The new TMA Board was also introduced.



Transportation Committee Hears State and Federal Updates, Regional Grant Programs

The Transportation Committee met on May 28 and received an update on the recently released 2016-2021 Illinois Department of Transportation Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Major projects in the NWMC area include: widening of Illinois 22 from Quentin Road to west of Illinois 83; reconstruction of Willow Road west of the Tri-State Tollway; and, an intersection improvement at Milwaukee Avenue and Sanders/Euclid. To view the full program, please visit [IDOT's](#)

[website](#). Staff also provided an update on federal reauthorization efforts and informed the committee that negotiations in Washington continue to favor short term extensions rather than a full reauthorization.

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) staff reminded the committee that they are currently accepting applications for the latest round of popular planning programs for local governments: CMAP's Local Technical Assistance (LTA)

Program; and, the Regional Transportation Authority's Community Planning Program. Funding is also available this year funding for local active transportation (pedestrian and bicycle) plans in suburban Cook County through the Cook County Department of Public Health. See article on page 1 for more details.

The next scheduled Transportation Committee meeting is September 24.



IDOT Listening Tour Rolls into Wheeling

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Acting Secretary Randy Blankenhorn heard ideas for the future of infrastructure projects and funding sources from a nearly full room of municipal representatives, private sector consultants and members of the general public at the *Wheeling Village Hall* on May 7.

Joining Acting Secretary Blankenhorn were Capital Development Board Deputy Director of Operations Michael Wilson and former RTA Chairman John Gates on this leg of the listening tour. The listening tour's goal was to solicit ideas on the state's infrastructure needs and how they can drive economic development.

Acting Secretary Blankenhorn laid out the importance of infrastructure to the state's competitiveness as well as discussed future challenges, including establishing long-term sustainable funding. Participants then shared their visions for revenue sources, public transit needs, bicycle and pedestrian projects, the importance of increased cooperation between IDOT and municipalities as well as project specific recommendations. The listening tour will conclude with a report from IDOT to the General Assembly and Governor.

Special thanks to *Wheeling Village President Dean Argiris*, *Village Manager Jon Sfondilis* and staff for hosting the event.



IDOT Listening Tour attendees at the Wheeling Village Hall listen to Acting Secretary Blankenhorn and provide their feedback on the region's transportation priorities.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discuss Kane County Planning Efforts, LTA Applications

On May 26, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee heard two presentations on efforts to improve biking and walking in Kane County. The Committee was joined by Patrick Knapp from the Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors and Tom Armstrong from the City of Elgin's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Mr. Knapp discussed his efforts to update and improve signage and mile markers along the Fox River Trail using a combination of GPS technology and outreach to the public, municipalities and the forest preserve. You can find out more about planning efforts along the Fox River Trail at: <http://www.kkcom.org/BikePedInfo.aspx>.

Mr. Armstrong described the creation of the Elgin Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and its efforts to improve bicycle infrastructure, education and enforcement in the city. Among the items of interest for NWMC is the work that Elgin is doing to complete the western segment of the Evanston-Elgin Bikeway. In Elgin, the bikeway will connect between the Fox River Trail and a Village of Hoffman Estates bike path along Shoe Factory Road. More information on Elgin's bike planning is at: <http://www.cityofelgin.org/index.aspx?NID=1059>.

NWMC staff also discussed the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program (see related article on page 1). A call for LTA projects is currently underway and will close on Thursday, June 25. For more information on the program or assistance in applying, please contact NWMC staff.

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met on June 4 at *Barrington Village Hall*. The Committee approved requests from the *Village of Schaumburg* to split two reconstruction projects on Woodfield Road and Plum Grove Road and stage the projects over multiple years. The *City of Rolling Meadows* also received STP funds for their Salt Creek Bikeway project, which is currently partially funded through the state's Transportation Alternatives Program.

The Committee approved revisions to the Council's project selection methodology. Among the changes are a revised scoring system with more emphasis on multimodal improvements and project readiness;

more aggressive program management practices to ensure all Council funds are spent and funding Phase I engineering for potential CMAQ or TAP projects. The revised methodology and project application will be posted on the Council's website. A call for new projects will take place this summer.

Attention Village Managers

The Technical Committee has an open spot for a village manager/administrator from the Northwest Council area. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Mike Walczak at mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org or 847-296-9200 x 134. .



News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

The North Shore Council of Mayors recently closed a call for projects for the council's Surface Transportation Program (STP). This program provides flexible funding that states and municipalities can use for projects on federally eligible roadways, bridge projects on any public road, transit capital projects, or intracity and intercity bus terminals and facilities.

Fifteen applications were received from eight municipalities.

NWMC staff is in the process of evaluating these applications with initial scores and rankings to be presented to the North Shore Council Technical Committee at their next meeting on Wednesday, June 24, at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*.



Metropolitan Planning Council Hosts Infrastructure Week Forum

On May 13, transportation stakeholders from across the region gathered at the Union League Club of Chicago to participate in a forum entitled "Infrastructure Week 2015: Broke, Broken and Out of Time". The event was hosted by the Metropolitan Planning Council, Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program and Union League Club of Chicago Public Affairs Committee. This three-part forum focused on transportation infrastructure, water and sewer infrastructure and innovative ways to finance those projects.

The first panel, moderated by Illinois Department of Transportation Acting Secre-

tary Randy Blankenhorn, discussed the importance of transportation both regionally and nationally as well as the need for consistent, long-term funding. The second panel discussed how the US EPA, private sector and local governments are working to address storm and wastewater issues. A special thanks to *City of Evanston Director of Utilities Dave Stoneback* for his presentation on the city's water management efforts. The finance panel closed by discussing innovative financing strategies that included public-private partnership examples from Detroit, Indiana and Ontario, Canada.



Purple Line Express Pilot Program

The Chicago Transit Authority and the *City of Evanston* will conduct a pilot program to gauge the need for additional weekday evening express train service along the CTA Purple Line. The program will run from Monday, June 1st to Friday, July 10th. The proposed additional train will depart the Linden station in *Wilmette* at approximately 7:58 p.m. making all regularly scheduled stops along the Purple Line Express route. It will arrive at the Clark and Lake station in Chicago at

approximately 8:48 p.m. before circling the Loop and heading north again, arriving at Linden at 9:50 p.m.

CTA is expected to conduct an official ridership count Thursday, June 25. An estimated 468 weekday riders will be required to continue the service beyond the pilot project. For additional information on the project as well as events highlighting the new service, please visit the *City of Evanston's* website.



IDOT Releases Multi-Year Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation has released its FY 2016-2021 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Due to the end of the state's last capital program, funding for this year's program was flat. The program totals \$8.385 billion statewide, with \$1.85 billion in 2016. The largest portion of funding is going towards system maintenance (44%). Even with this round of investments, the backlog of maintenance and improvements to the state's road and bridge network is still expected to grow

In the NWMC region, major projects include: widening of Illinois 22 from Quentin Road to west of Illinois 83; Willow Road reconstruction from east of the Des Plaines River to Culligan Parkway

(near Tri-State Tollway); and, the Milwaukee Avenue at Sanders/Euclid intersection improvement in *Glenview*.

Projects programmed for Fiscal Year 2016 include a series of intersection improvements along Dundee Road, plus resurfacing of Dundee east of Potawatomi Woods to I-94; Sheridan Road resurfacing in *Glencoe and Winnetka*; and, the Illinois 59 at Stearns Road intersection improvement in *Bartlett*.

Other projects later in the program include Wolf Road reconstruction in *Wheeling*; Cumberland Circle reconstruction in *Des Plaines*; and, an intersection improvement at Higgins/Illinois 83/Oakton Street in *Elk Grove Village*.

Skokie to Host MDRN Summer Mobile Workshop

On Thursday, June 25, the Municipal Design Review Network (MDRN) of DePaul University's Chaddick Institute will conduct its summer mobile workshop in the *Village of Skokie*. Participants will take a walking tour of downtown Skokie (CTA station, new streetscape and wayfinding signs, Skokie Valley Trail), the Floral Avenue Residential Development (showroom and new home), and the "100% Corner" to view the existing vista and envision future development.

This free event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, with participants gathering at the *Skokie Village Hall*, 5127 Oakton Street. An optional lunch will be held at a downtown restaurant. For more information, please contact mdrn@depaul.edu and to RSVP, please email chaddick@depaul.edu by Monday, June 8.



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