



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

- October 22** **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—10:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- October 24** **NWMC Transportation Committee—8:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- October 31** **Context Sensitive Solutions Workshop—9:00 a.m.**
Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave.
- November 8** **TMA of Lake-Cook Transportation Update Meeting—9:00 a.m. (see article on page 2)**
Baxter Healthcare, 1 Baxter Parkway, Deerfield



Transportation Committee Discusses Regional Issues and Trails Master Plan

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on September 26 for the first time under new chair, *Buffalo Grove Village President Jeff Braiman*. The meeting focused on ongoing and future regional transportation issues which the Committee will likely address this year. Staff presented a summary memo of the issues which include: possible regional mass transit governance reform; the Route 53/120 Extension into Lake County (see article on page 4); the Elgin O'Hare Western Access project; the I-90/Jane Addams widening (see article on page 5); and, the Des Plaines River Trail Corridor Plan (see article on page 3).

As the Governor's Transit Task Force examines wide-ranging transit reform options, staff was directed to develop NWMC's guiding principles on the subject, including stressing the need to retain strong local representation in

regional transit governance.

Kindy Kruller, Senior Planner for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, presented the District's draft Trails Master Plan (see article to the right). The Plan is focused around five areas of improvements to the District's trail system: updating trail classifications; developing a process and criteria for unrecognized trails; improving existing trail signage system and wayfinding to enhance user experience; creating a process for prioritizing capital investment for new trails and trail improvements; and, increasing user experiences through improved trail facilities at trailheads. The full draft Plan can be viewed by visiting www.fpdcc.com/trailmasterplan.

Cook County Forest Preserve District Releases Draft Trail Master Plan

In September, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County released a draft of its Trail Master Plan, which will be open for public comment through October 18, 2013. The overarching goal of the plan is to improve the user experience and identify opportunities for safe and easy navigation of the trail system. The plan addresses key policies and long-range planning for more than 300 miles of Forest Preserve trails. Specific improvements include adding more trail signage, updating the trail classification system, piloting a trail naming system, identifying and developing new trailheads and building a larger volunteer program. To review the full plan, please visit <http://fpdcc.com/trailmasterplan/>.

The Forest Preserve welcomes feedback on the plan. Please contact Senior Planner Kindy Kruller at:

kindy.kruller@cookcountyil.gov.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Functional Classification Working Group met on October 1 at the NWMC offices. Using the draft scoring system that was discussed by the Technical Committee at its last meeting, staff presented scores of recent Functional Classification change requests, requests that were recently approved by the Council and scores from current and upcoming STP projects. They were also able to see how the proposals fit into the existing network on regional Functional Classification maps provided by CMAP. The Working Group recommended that applications include factors such as travel speed, design speed and the cross section of the road to further determine if the road is local or regional in nature. To further refine the scoring system, Working Group members will use

the scoring system on roads in their municipalities. The findings will be presented to the Technical Committee at its next meeting, which is on call.

Current STP funded projects in the Northwest Council that have websites to track progress include:

Arlington Heights – [US 14/Arthur/Davis Intersection Improvement](#)

Schaumburg – [Schaumburg Rd at Barrington Rd Intersection Improvement](#)

Hoffman Estates – [Palatine Road Reconstruction and Hassell Road Reconstruction](#)

TMA of Lake-Cook Transportation Update Meeting

The Transportation Management Association (TMA) of Lake-Cook will host a Transportation Update on Friday, November 8 with Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur and Illinois Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Doug Whitley. Kristi Lafleur will provide an update on 2013 Tollway Construction Projects such as I-90 expansion as well as the recent initiatives for the Route 53/120 project. Doug Whitley, who also leads the Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC), will discuss Illinois transportation infrastructure needs and TCIF funding proposals to address this situation. RSVP to lynn_staley@baxter.com.

Friday November 8, 2013

9:00 a.m.

Baxter Healthcare
1 Baxter Parkway
Deerfield, IL



News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On September 18, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met at the *Skokie Village Hall* to approve the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014-2019 Surface Transportation Program (STP). Facing the October 1 beginning of FFY 2014, the Technical Committee approved necessary modifications to the program and planned for anticipated advanced funding requests. While the North Shore Council will enter the year with a positive STP balance of roughly \$3.35 million, the FFY 2014 program will still require advanced funding. The FFY 2014 program includes over \$7 million in

STP funding for ten projects. The proposed FFY 2014 program is outlined in the table below.

The Technical Committee authorized staff to seek advanced funding when necessary to accomplish programmed projects. North Shore Council of Mayors will consider the FFY 2014-2019 program and the advanced funding authorization at the October 9 NWMC Board Meeting.

Additionally, the Technical Committee discussed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for sidewalks and

crosswalks as part of resurfacing projects. Technical Committee members discussed various approaches to meeting ADA requirements and budgeting for the additional costs. Finally, the committee reviewed North Shore area projects funded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). The next North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*.

Project Title	Sponsor	Phase	STP Funding
Church/Crawford Intersection	Skokie	Construction	\$ 820,627
Willow Road	Winnetka	ENG II	\$212,843
Gross Point Road	Skokie	ROW	\$88,684
Gross Point Road	Skokie	ENG II	\$141,895
Willow Road	Winnetka	Construction	\$2,259,680
West Lake Avenue	Glenview	Construction	\$2,202,937
Techny Trail - Seg. 5	Glenview	ENG II	\$113,787
Techny Trail - Seg. 5	Glenview	ROW	\$71,738
Happ Road	Northbrook	LAFO	\$262,275
Skokie/Hibbard Intersection	Wilmette	ENG II	\$162,636
Main Street	Skokie	Resurfacing	\$423,299
Central/Pratt Intersection	Lincolnwood	Construction	\$406,507
Total STP Funding			\$7,166,909



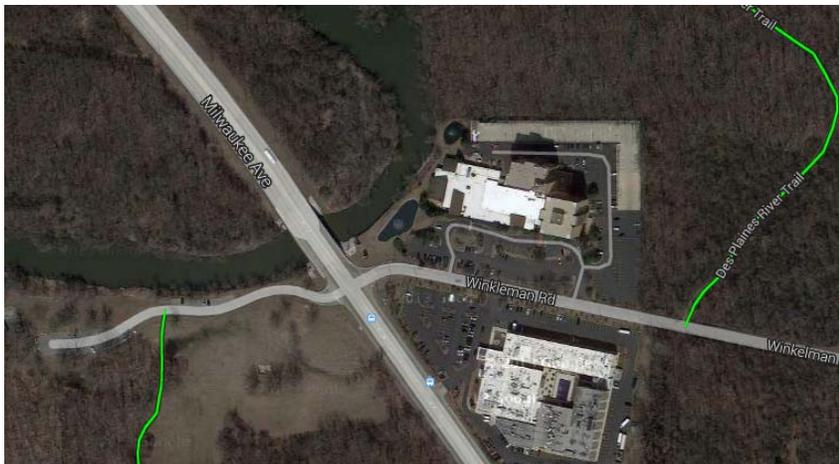
NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Rides the Des Plaines River Trail

On September 17, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee conducted a group bicycle ride of the Des Plaines River Trail near Oakton Community College. As part of the NWMC's Des Plaines River Corridor planning process, the group assessed strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the trail. Participants highlighted difficult crossing environments and limited safe bicycle and pedestrian access to the trail. Additionally, participants discussed opportunities to improve difficult trail crossings and noted the varying trail conditions.

The group traveled to one of the most difficult crossings within the study area at Milwaukee Ave. adjacent to Allison Woods. There is a roughly quarter-mile gap in the trail at this location. Currently, no clear wayfinding signage exists directing bicyclist and pedestrians. Additionally, the five-lane Milwaukee Ave.

has no crosswalk markings at this location. The picture below shows the uninviting nature of the crossing. The corridor plan will identify problem areas such as this and recommend potential projects that can improve the usability of the trail.

[The Des Plaines River Trail Corridor Plan project website](#) is now live. It includes background information on the plan and links to a project survey and the online mapping tool, sMap. We encourage anyone interested in the project to visit the site and provide feedback directly on a project map. We also encourage communities along the corridor to share information about the website and feedback opportunities. All of the information collected will be used to build the project's existing conditions report, which the consultant team plans to release in late October.



An example of a difficult crossing at Milwaukee Ave.

Wheeling to Dedicate Phyllis Harmon Path

On Friday, October 11, the *Village of Wheeling* will dedicate a newly constructed path along Dundee Road between the Des Plaines River and the overpass of the Tri-State Tollway. The path addresses a critical gap in the area's pedestrian network: a three-quarter-mile section of Dundee Road that pedestrians could only traverse along a well-worn six-inch-wide dirt path. Cyclists passing through this stretch had to choose between riding in the mud and braving the 50-mile-per-hour traffic on the road.

The new path is being named in honor of Phyllis Harmon, a nationally-prominent bicyclist and former Wheeling resident credited with helping to renew the status of cycling as a sport, a social activity and a practical means of transportation.

The completion of the Phyllis Harmon Path closes the only remaining gap in a 12.5-mile pedestrian thoroughfare that runs along the south side of Dundee Road from Illinois Route 53 in Arlington Heights to Green Bay Road in Glencoe. Dundee Road is now the only street south of Half Day Road that permits a direct and uninterrupted pedestrian crossing of the full Des Plaines River area, which includes Milwaukee Avenue / River Road, the river itself, adjacent Forest Preserve lands, and the Tollway. The Phyllis Harmon Path also helps realize Dundee Road's long-recognized potential as a critical east-west corridor that will allow pedestrians and bicyclists throughout north Cook County greatly improved access to regional amenities such as the Skokie Lagoons, the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Green Bay Trail. The 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan identified Dundee Road as a regional bicycle corridor.

Notably, the path also provides a connection to the 53-mile Des Plaines River Trail, which runs from North Avenue in River Grove to the Wisconsin border, and is popularly used for hiking, cycling, horseback riding and other recreational activities. The Phyllis Harmon Path is one of the few entry points to the Des Plaines River Trail that can be accessed

(Continued on page 4)



Wheeling to Dedicate Phyllis Harmon Path

(Continued from page 3)

by bicycle, and is the southern entry point to the longest stretch of the trail with no difficult street crossings (32 miles). The path will soon connect to a new pedestrian crossing signal at Portwine Road.

Engineering and construction costs for the path are approximately \$600,000, substantially below the initial estimate of \$1.26 million. Eighty percent of project expenses were federally funded through an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant awarded in October of 2010 and administered by the Illinois Department of

Transportation. The length of the path totals 1.16 miles: 4,550 feet on the south side of Dundee Road, as well as 1,550 feet on the north side, extending from the Potawatomi Woods access road to Portwine Road.

The Village has scheduled a dedication ceremony for 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 11, to be held at the Potawatomi Woods picnic shelter just north of Dundee Road and east of Milwaukee Avenue. Ms. Harmon will be in attendance.



Final Week of IDOT MYP Public Meetings

Four meetings remain in the Chicago region for municipalities to provide early input for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program for fiscal years 2015-2020. The remaining public meetings for the Chicago region are listed below.

Will County

Tuesday, October 8, 2013
The Jacob Henry Mansion Estate
20 South Eastern Avenue
Joliet, IL 60433
3:00pm – 6:00pm

North Cook County

Thursday, October 10, 2013
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601
3:00pm – 6:00pm

DuPage County

Tuesday, October 15, 2013
Hilton Lisle/Naperville
3003 Corporate West Drive
Lisle, IL 60532
3:00pm – 6:00pm

South Cook County

Thursday, October 17, 2013
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Office
1906 West 174th Street
East Hazel Crest, IL 60429

3:00pm – 6:00pm

Also called the Multi-Year Program (MYP), this planning and programming guide for transportation is based on current estimates of local, federal and state funding. The MYP for the current FY 2014-2019 totals about \$9.5 billion for the state road and bridge systems alone.

Public meetings will be conducted informally, with no formal presentation planned. IDOT staff will be present to answer any questions related to the multi-modal program, planning and project development process.

Additionally, IDOT will present the latest developments on the first ever statewide Illinois Bicycle Transportation Plan. For more information on the Illinois State Bike Plan, please visit www.illinoisbikeplan.com.

Comment sheets will be provided for those in attendance who wish to provide a written statement on the MYP and the statewide bicycle plan. Comments received at this meeting or sent to the **IDOT District 1 Office at 201 West Center Court, Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096** by November 1, 2013, will be included in the meeting record.

Next Phase of Route 53/120 Planning Begins

The Blue Ribbon Advisory Council (BRAC) of the Illinois Route 53/120 project reconvened on September 17 to kick off the next planning phase for the project. The Illinois Tollway, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Lake County will develop a feasibility analysis and corridor land use plan, which were both recommended by the BRAC in June 2012. The BRAC is co-chaired by Metropolitan Strategies President and CEO George Ranney and Lake County Board Chair Aaron Lawlor. The Northwest Municipal Conference is represented by *Buffalo Grove Village President Jeff Braiman*, while the Northwest Council of Mayors is represented by *Rolling Meadows Mayor Tom Rooney*.

As part of this phase of the project's development, the Tollway will lead a Finance Committee, which will focus on five key study areas: design, environmental, financing, operations and regulatory. The Finance Committee will ultimately make a recommendation to the Tollway Board on the feasibility of the project and whether it should be undertaken by the Tollway. At the same time, CMAP will work with Lake County and the municipalities in the corridor to develop a land use plan that will guide development in the corridor, balancing environmental resources while ensuring the financial feasibility of the project. The analysis and land use plan are anticipated to be complete in early 2015.

Please visit the Illinois Tollway website for more information on the project.



Evanston to Host Context Sensitive Solutions Workshop

Northwestern University's Transportation Center, the *City of Evanston* and Downtown Evanston, in association with Parsons Brinckerhoff, are holding a free seminar on "Context Sensitive Solutions: The Path to Sustainable Streets and Highways." The one day session will be held at the Evanston Public Library (1703 Orrington Ave.) on Thursday, October 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be served, and continuing education credits (5 AICP Certification

Credits and 0.5 IACET CEU credits which is equivalent to 5PHHs PE continuing education credits) will be awarded. The interactive seminar is for anyone interested in the planning, design, or management of streets and highways in ways that focus on sustainability and sensitivity to the physical as well as the less visible context. Advance registration is required, so please contact Emma Chapman, 312-294-6106 or chamane@pbworld.com by October 25.



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Des Plaines Tollway Oasis to Close

On September 26, The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors approved an agreement with Tollway oases lessee SFI Chicago Tollway LLC (SFI) to remove the Des Plaines Oasis. The over-the-road Des Plaines Oasis structure will be removed as part of the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) Rebuilding and Widening Project and the termination costs are included in the project's \$2.2 billion budget.

Closure of the oasis building and utility work will begin in April, with removal of over-the-road structure anticipated in June 2014. The two adjoining fuel stations and convenience stores operated by 7-Eleven will remain open to provide services for both eastbound and westbound travelers along I-90.

By removing the oasis, The Tollway will be able to construct a fourth lane in each direction from O'Hare International Airport to Elgin. Removal of the Des Plaines Oasis is also necessary as the Tollway proceeds with construction of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project. The I-90 and Elgin O'Hare Western Access projects are both part of the agency's 15-year, \$12 billion capital program, *Move Illinois: The Illinois Tollway Driving the Future*.

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