



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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## Dates to Remember

<b>August 13</b>	<b>Pace - Milwaukee Ave. Pulse Line - Corridor Advisory Group - 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</b> Niles Public Library, 6960 W Oakton St, <i>Niles</i> <i>See article on Page 3</i>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.</b> NWMC Offices
<b>September 11</b>	<b>Northwest Council of Mayors Call for Projects closes</b>
<b>September 24</b>	<b>NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m.</b> NWMC Offices



## Northwest Council Holds STP Workshop, Opens Call for Projects

On Wednesday, July 29, the Northwest Council of Mayors held a workshop to present the Council's new Surface Transportation Program (STP) methodology and project application. Staff presented the changes, which include: a revised scoring system with more emphasis on multimodal improvements and project readiness; more aggressive program management practices to ensure all Council funds are expended; and, funding Phase I engineering for potential Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

(CMAQ) or Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects.

Illinois Department of Transportation staff also provided an overview of the federally funded transportation project process. New project applications are due on Friday, September 11 (please note this is date has been moved back from the previously announced August 28). The new methodology and project application are available on the Council's website, <http://www.nwmc-cog.org/Transportation/Northwest-Council-of->

[Mayors.aspx](#). Please direct all applications as well as any questions to Mike Walczak, [mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org) or 847-296-9200, ext. 134.

The next Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, October 2 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Barrington Village Hall*. All requests or changes to existing projects to be considered at this meeting must be submitted to staff by September 18.



## North Shore Council of Mayors Update

Construction season is well underway throughout the region and the North Shore Council of Mayors is no exception. The *Village of Skokie* recently completed its Main Street bike lane project. This project, funded by the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program, constructed marked bike lanes along Main Street from Lincoln Avenue on the west, to McCormick Boulevard on the east. At each potential con-

flict point, the village installed green paint and thermoplastic markings to alert both motorists and cyclists. On the eastern end, the lane markings help direct cyclists through the busy intersection at McCormick Boulevard and safely onto the off-street path through the Skokie Northshore Channel Park. This project was identified in the Village's 2003 Bikeway System Plan.

The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23-8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*. The committee will review and approve its federal fiscal year (FFY) 2016-2019 Surface Transportation Program (STP).



## Short Term Federal Transportation Bill Extension Signed by President Obama

President Obama signed a three-month stopgap bill to keep federal highway funding from ending on July 31. The \$8.1 billion measure, which relies on general fund transfers, will extend infrastructure spending until October 29. Before passing the short term extension, the Senate passed the DRIVE Act, a multi-year bill, but House Republican leaders refused to address the measure before the House adjourned for summer vacation.

The House is set to reconvene after Labor Day, when it is expected to take

up their version of a multi-year surface transportation bill.

The Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy (DRIVE) Act, as the bill is known, would spend \$275 billion over six years. The bill largely continues existing road and highway policies but makes a few notable changes that would strengthen local control.

## Central Tri-State Tollway Planning to Begin

The Illinois Tollway is kicking off planning work for improvements on the Central Tri-State (I-294) Corridor by forming a Corridor Planning Council of communities, businesses, elected officials, environmental and transportation organizations. As part of the 15-year, \$12 billion Move Illinois Program, the Tollway is developing a master plan to reconstruct I-294 from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street. The first Corridor Planning Council meeting will be held at the Illinois Tollway offices on Friday, August 14, 10:00 a.m. The NWMC will be represented by *Park Ridge Mayor Marty Maloney*.



## Local Communities Recognized for Prioritizing Bike Safety

The League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB) announced this month that more than 25 communities in Illinois participated in the group's inaugural Mayor's Bike Safety Challenge. The challenge required the village board or city council of each participating community to approve a proclamation for Bike Safety Week and encourage citizens to take the LIB's online bike safety quiz. Six NWMC members including; *Bartlett, Crystal Lake, Elk Grove Village, Evanston, Highland Park and Lake Bluff* took part in the challenge.

The League of American Bicyclists also released the newest round of Bicycle Friendly Communities awards. *Glenview* was awarded Bronze status becoming the third NWMC member, along with *Schaumburg* and *Evanston*, to receive recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community. The deadline for the Fall 2015 round of applications is August 11. More information about the program can be found by visiting <http://www.bikeleague.org/community>.



## Illinois Bike Summit Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the 4th Annual Illinois Bike Summit, to be held on Wednesday, October 28 at the I-Hotel in Champaign. Be sure to join those interested in better bicycling conditions. Learn from experts and network with others at this year's event, co-sponsored by the League of Illinois Bicyclists and

Champaign County. Nearly 300 advocates, professionals, and government officials from around the state attended last year's summit. Registration can be found by visiting [www.illinoisbikesummit.org](http://www.illinoisbikesummit.org).



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## Pace Sets Next Meeting For Milwaukee Avenue Pulse Project

Pace is holding its second Corridor Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for the Pulse Milwaukee Line, a new arterial bus rapid transit project, on Thursday, August 13 from 1:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m. at the *Niles Public Library*, 6960 West Oakton Street.

Pace and its team of consultants will present updated information since the first meeting to the CAG regarding public feedback received, an environmental and technical study, station location updates and next steps.

More information on this project is available by visiting [www.pacebus.com/pulse](http://www.pacebus.com/pulse).