



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

## Table of Contents:

Transportation Committee update	1	News from the North Shore Council of Mayors	3
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee update	2	News from the Northwest Council of Mayors	3
CMAQ Information Meetings	2	Second Round of Metra Public Hearings	4
APBP Wayfinding Options for Cyclists Webinar	2	Contact Information	4

## Dates to Remember

- December 11**    **Metra Budget Public Hearing (North Cook County) - 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**  
*Arlington Heights Village Hall, 33 S. Arlington Heights Road (see article on page 4)*
- December 11**    **Metra Budget Public Hearing (Lake County) - 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**  
*Grayslake Village Hall, 10 South Seymour Avenue (see article on page 4)*
- December 11**    **Metra Budget Public Hearing (McHenry County) - 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**  
*Crystal Lake City Hall, 100 West Woodstock Street (see article on page 4)*
- December 17**    **CMAQ Informational Meeting - 10:00 a.m.**  
*Orland Park Civic Center, 14750 S. Ravinia Avenue (see article on page 2)*
- December 18**    **CMAQ Informational Meeting - 10:00 a.m.**  
*Oakton Community College, 1600 Golf Road, Des Plaines (see article on page 2)*
- December 19**    **North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.**  
*Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street*
- December 19**    **APBP Wayfinding Options for Cyclist Webinar - 2:00 p.m.**  
*(see article on page 2)*

## Transportation Committee Approves Funding Statement

On November 29, the NWMC Transportation Committee approved a statement encouraging increased investment in the transportation system. Recognizing the backlog of deferred maintenance on roads, bridges and transit, the statement calls on all levels of government to generate adequate revenues to support the transportation system. The approved statement will be included in the Conference's 2013 legislative program.

Additionally, the Transportation Committee heard a presentation on the Metropolitan Planning Council's (MPC) Commute Options program, which works with local employers to develop customized commuting options for employees.

The presentation highlighted Champro Sports in the *Village of Wheeling*, which examined options to better serve the reverse commute of its employees. For more information on the Commute Options program, please visit [www.metroplanning.org/commuteoptions](http://www.metroplanning.org/commuteoptions).

Finally, the committee heard updates from Pace and Metra on their respective budgets for 2013. Pace is advancing a balanced budget with no fare increases or service reductions. Metra's Board has proposed a fare increase for ten-ride tickets that would generate \$8.2 million in funding (see article on page 4). For more information on the Pace budget,

please visit [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com). For more information on the Metra budget, please visit [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com).

The December Transportation Committee has been cancelled. The next Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 24 at the NWMC offices.



## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discuss Des Plaines River Trail Plan

On November 20, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee discussed the Des Plaines River Trail Plan that will be funded through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Community Planning Program. On November 13, staff met with CMAP to start the project's development process. Staff noted that CMAP, with NWMC coordination, will lead the consultant hiring process. The committee discussed the project's scope, time and the creation of a steering committee. Staff anticipates that the consultant hiring process will start early in 2013, with the planning process commencing shortly thereafter.

Additionally, the committee discussed the upcoming Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program call for projects (see article below). Under new programming policies, projects must have substantially completed Phase I Engineering before CMAP will recommend CMAQ funding. The committee considered projects along the regional bicycle corridors that would qualify under the new requirements.

The December meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15 at 10:30 a.m. at NWMC offices.



## CMAQ Workshops for the FY 2014-2018 Call for Projects

Two informational meetings on the upcoming Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program call for projects will be held on Monday, December 17, 2012 at the Orland Park Civic Center hosted by Southwest Conference of Mayors and on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at Oakton Community College hosted by the Northwest Municipal Conference. See below for the workshop information.

Monday, December 17, 2012  
Orland Park Civic Center  
14750 S. Ravinia Avenue  
Orland Park  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
RSVP to:  
Allison Bos, [bos@swmayors.com](mailto:bos@swmayors.com)

Tuesday, December 18, 2012  
Oakton Community College  
1600 E. Golf Road  
Room 1604  
Des Plaines  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
RSVP to:  
Chris Staron, [cstaron@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:cstaron@nwmc-cog.org), or  
Mike Walczak, [mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org)

Participants will learn about the application process, including recent changes to programming policies. Potential applicants and their consultants who are

considering applying for CMAQ funds are encouraged to attend. The call will open on December 10, 2012. Local sponsors (municipalities, park districts, forest preserve districts, etc.) must submit applications to their Council of Mayors planning liaison by January 22, 2013 for review. The final deadline to submit all applications to CMAP is February 8, 2013.

As a reminder, new CMAQ programming policies make phase I engineering the responsibility of project sponsors. Additionally, projects must be complete (phase I engineering design approval) or nearly complete (submitted phase I engineering report) in order to be selected by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee. A sponsor can request funding for phase I engineering based on financial hardship or if the proposal is directly identified by a GO TO 2040 Focused Programming Group. Currently, the NWMC is working with municipalities along the Skokie Valley Trail and Northwest Highway Bikeway regarding the potential to be regionally identified for phase I engineering funding.

For more information, please visit the [CMAQ webpage](#). Application materials will be available to download on December 10, 2012.

## Wayfinding Options for Cyclists Webinar

On Wednesday, December 19, the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) is hosting a webinar entitled Wayfinding Options for Cyclists. Bicycle wayfinding signs are different than other signs placed in the right-of-way because they are part of a system of sequential destination information; thus, planning, placement and maintenance are critical to maintaining the system. This webinar will go beyond the guidance found in the MUTCD and the 2012 AASHTO Bicycle Guide to consider the details of developing and implementing a city-wide bicycle sign system. Planners, engineers, municipal staff and consultants should attend this webinar to gain a better understanding of an increasingly common bicycle amenity.

The presentation will cover these topics:

- The value of providing wayfinding for urban cyclists
- Approaches to planning and implementation
- Strategies to determine and prioritize signed bicycle routes
- Issues of planning, placement and maintenance of signs, including sign design and placement within the right of way that integrates guidelines from the 2009 MUTCD, the 2012 AASHTO Bicycle Guide, and the AASHTO Green Book
- Special issues related to trails

Examples from Seattle, Baltimore, and other locations will be included. In February, the Northwest Municipal Conference approved a bicycle signage plan for north and northwest Cook County that addresses wayfinding and branding on the regional bicycle corridors. To review the plan, please visit the [NWMC website](#).

The webinar will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19. The cost of the webinar is \$50 per site for APBP members and \$75 per site for non-members. For more information and to register, please visit the [APBP website](#).



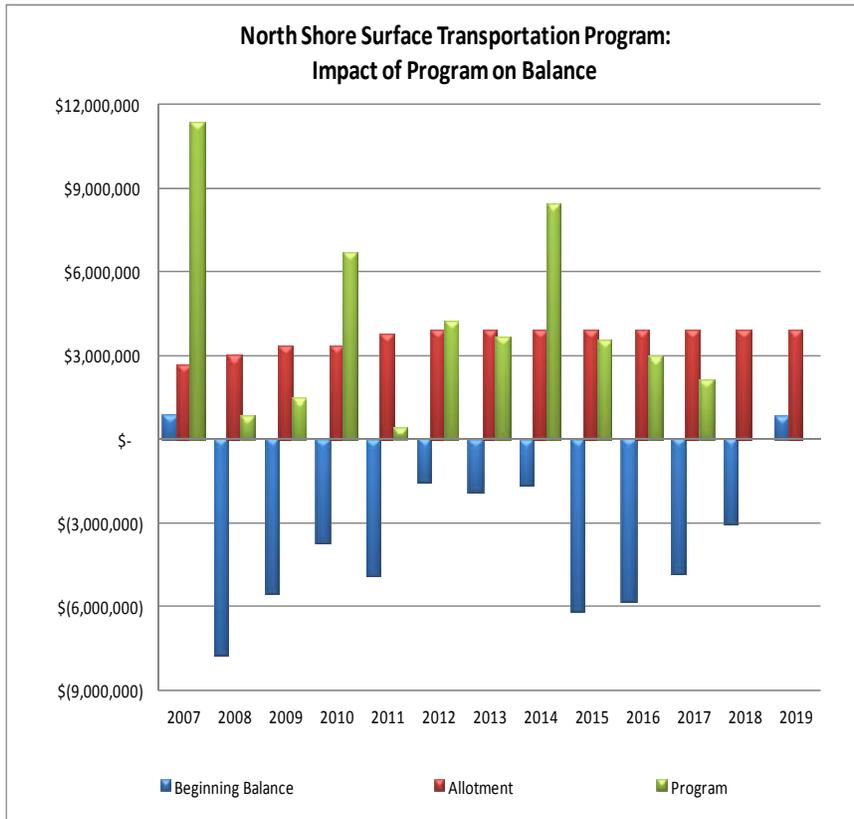
## News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2012, which ended on September 30, the North Shore Council received \$3.9 million in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. The North Shore Council entered FFY 2012 with a negative balance of roughly \$1.57 million, but the Council remained aggressive in completing STP projects. The North Shore Council of Mayors utilized \$4,206,088 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds in (FFY) 2012. Because the council spent more than its STP funding allocation, the negative program balance grew to \$1.88 million at the end of FFY 2012.

The North Shore Council plans to obligate \$3.67 million in FFY 2013. Due to the Council's negative balance, projects advancing in FFY 2012 must request advanced funding from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Council of Mayors Executive Committee.

While the council's program balance remains negative, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee programmed multi-year B (MYB) list projects and opened a call for new projects in FFY 2012. The council programmed nine projects from six municipalities totally roughly \$9 million. These projects had remained on the MYB list since the 2006 call for projects.

The graph displays the historic and planned STP obligations in the North



Shore Council. With the programming of MYB list projects, the North Shore Council will still reach a positive program balance in FFY 2018. The Technical Committee remains aggressive in utilizing STP funds and is in the process of programming additional projects in the

out-years of the council's program. The Technical Committee will consider programming projects from the recent call for projects at its December 19 meeting at the *Village of Skokie*.



## News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met Friday, November 30 at the *Arlington Heights Village Hall*. The Committee approved a Surface Transportation Program (STP) cost increase request from *Mount Prospect* (Kensington Road reconstruction), approved STP funds for Phase II engineering for *Schaumburg* (Salem Drive improvements) and accepted a new project application from *Elk Grove Village* (Lively Boulevard reconstruction).

New STP programming marks were introduced for Fiscal Years 2013 through 2017. The mark is the amount of funds

the Council can program for projects each fiscal year. Starting in FY 2013, the Council will receive approximately \$7 million per year. Due to a large unspent balance coming into FY 2013, the Council plans to obligate \$15.1 million this year. However, there are currently no projects programmed in FY 2016 and FY 2017. Given the large amount of projects currently on the Council's "B" list, staff will follow up with municipalities to determine which projects are ready to move forward and which can be removed from the "B" list. To view the current Northwest Council of Mayors 2013-2017 program please visit:

<http://www.nwmc-cog.org/Transportation/Northwest-Council-of-Mayors.aspx>

The Committee also discussed the upcoming CMAQ Call for Projects (see article on Page 2) and the difficulties that municipalities will face without Phase I Engineering funding available. For future CMAQ Calls for Projects, the Council discussed funding Phase I engineering to allow more projects from the Northwest Council to qualify for CMAQ funding.

The next meeting was left on call.



## Second Round of Metra Budget Public Hearings

---

Metra has proposed a change in the cost of a 10-ride ticket so that it would equal 10 one-way fares, rather than the current practice of having the price equal nine one-way fares. The change, which would start Feb. 1, 2013, is part of the revised proposed Operating and Capital Program and Budget for Fiscal Year 2013. The fare increase for the 10-ride ticket would raise \$8.2 million per year.

Metra recognizes that this increase cannot fully fund its capital needs, which are estimated at \$7.37 billion over the next ten years. Metra anticipates that federal funding at current levels will only cover roughly \$2 billion, which leaves a \$5 billion gap in funding. Metra reports that with prospects dim for more state and federal dollars, boosting the Fare-box Capital Program is about the only

immediate means available to create or leverage new capital dollars.

Metra will hold a second series of public hearings, all on Tuesday, December 11. All hearings will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with the following locations most convenient to NWMC members:

*Arlington Heights Village Hall*  
33 South Arlington Heights Road

*Crystal Lake City Hall*  
100 West Woodstock Street

*Grayslake Village Hall*  
10 South Seymour Avenue

For more information on the proposed Metra budget, please visit [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com).

## Municipal Spotlight

---

If your municipality is undertaking a transportation plan or project of note, please contact NWMC staff to be featured in an upcoming edition of the NWMC Transportation Newsletter.



## Contacts

---

Mike Walczak  
NWMC Program Manager for Transportation  
Northwest Council Planning Liaison  
1616 E. Golf Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
847-296-9200, ext. 34  
[mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org)

Chris Staron  
NWMC Program Associate for Transportation  
North Shore Council Planning Liaison  
1616 E. Golf Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
847-296-9200, ext. 31  
[cstaron@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:cstaron@nwmc-cog.org)