



Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

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- February 6** **2013 Chicago and Great Lakes Regional Operations & Construction Coordination Meeting - 9:00 a.m.**
CMAP Offices—233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago (see article on page 5)
- February 19** **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting - 10:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- February 25** **Riders for Better Transit Summit: Building a 21st Century Transit System - 8:30 a.m.**
UBS Tower Conference Center, 1 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago (see article on page 6)
- February 28** **NWMC Transportation Committee Meeting - 9:00 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- March 1** **IDNR Bike Path Program Application Deadline (see article on page 4)**
- March 6** **ADAAG/PROWAG Seminar - 8:00 a.m.**
IDOT District 1 facility, 201 West Center Ct. *Schaumburg*
- March 7** **Understanding the Local Roads Process from Agreements through Construction - 8:00 a.m.**
Lisle Hilton, 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle

Transportation Committee Voices Support For Regional Projects, Initiatives

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on January 24 with an agenda full of regional topics. Regional Transportation Authority Senior Deputy Executive Director Leanne Redden discussed the work of the Getting America to Work coalition, which works to inform members of Congress of the national need for higher levels of transit funding. With an aging transit infrastructure, the coalition argues that more deferred maintenance would lead to less reliable service and a higher cost to eventually fix the problem. Please visit the [Getting America to Work website](#) for more information. The committee voted to recommend to the full NWMC board that the Conference join the coalition.

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Principal Planner Erin Aleman requested the committee's support of a resolution in favor of congestion pricing in the region. As previously discussed by the Committee in October, congestion pricing is being considered on various new regional expressways and those where new lanes are added with the goal to insure a free flow of traffic. Regional projects which may utilize congestion pricing include the Jane Addams Expressway, the Elgin O'Hare Western Access and the Illinois Route 53 Extension. The committee voted in favor of recommending the resolution to the full NWMC Board.

DuPage Mayors and Managers Confer-

ence Transportation and Planning Director Tam Kutzmark along with DuPage County Transportation Planning Coordinator John Loper requested the committee's support of a joint application for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access project. The CMAQ funds, which will be used on eligible parts of the project including intersection improvements and traffic signal timing, are projected to close part of the project's \$300 million funding gap. The application will be submitted to CMAP by the February 8 deadline with a decision on funding expected in October. The committee voted to recommend the resolution to the full NWMC Board.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee Reviews Plan Status, Local Projects

On January 15, the Conference Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met to discuss progress on implementation of the 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan. The committee reviewed implementation highlights from the past year including the adoption of the Cook County Bicycle Signage Plan and the Northwest Highway Bicycle Facility Plan. Additionally, *Barrington, Highland Park, Lake Forest, Mount Prospect* and *Wheeling* have all either adopted or are in the planning process

for new bicycle or active transportation plans that incorporate the NWMC regional bicycle corridors. For more on the implementation of the 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan, please see the article below.

The committee also discussed the consultant hiring process for the Des Plaines River Trail Plan, which is being coordinated with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). Volunteers

from the committee will review the scope of work for the draft request for proposals. Finally, the committee discussed the ongoing call for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects. The deadline to submit applications to the appropriate Planning Liaison for review was January 25. The deadline to submit applications to CMAP is February 8.



NWMC Members Fill Gaps in Regional Bicycle Corridors

The 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan identified approximately 139 miles of Tier One Regional Bicycle Corridors. When adopted, approximately 85 miles (61 percent) of the corridors had existing bicycle facilities. In 2012, three significant construction projects increased the total of existing bicycle facilities to nearly 89 miles (64 percent).

The *City of Evanston* completed work on a series of improvements on Church Street from Dodge Avenue to Chicago Avenue which include a resurfacing of the road, streetscaping and sidewalk improvements and a enhanced bicycle facilities. The bicycle improvements include both buffered and protected bicycle lanes. This protected bike lane is part of the NWMC's Evanston-Elgin Bikeway, a tier one bicycle corridor, which will ultimately allow bicyclists to ride safely from the Fox River Trail to Lake Michigan. The roughly 38-mile Evanston-Elgin Bikeway is currently 55 percent complete. An additional 4 miles is programmed for construction within the next two years.

The *Village of Skokie* constructed a new bituminous path on the existing railroad ballast connecting Oakton Street to Dempster Street as part of the Skokie Valley Trail. This one mile path links Skokie's two Yellow Line stations. The Skokie Valley Trail, which is a tier one corridor, will run from central Lake County to the City of Chicago when completed. 64 percent of the 22-mile trail is currently complete. Another 2 miles of

(Continued on page 3)



Evanston-Elgin Bikeway in Evanston

Skokie Valley Trail in Skokie





NWMC Members Fill Gaps in Regional Bicycle Corridors - Continued

(Continued from page 2)

the trail is programmed for construction within the next two years.

The *Village of Hoffman Estates* constructed a new sidepath adjacent to Higgins Rd. between Apple Street and Basswood Street. In addition, the Village completed gaps in the sidewalk network, ensuring a continuous sidewalk or sidepath between Golf Rd. and Plum Grove Rd. The Higgins Rd. Bikeway is a Tier One corridor that connects the Fox River to the Dundee Rd. to the Busse Woods Forest Preserve. Approximately 53 percent of the bikeway is complete.

For all Tier One corridors, 7.82 miles of bicycle facilities (six percent) have identified funding and will be constructed within the next two years.



Higgins Road Bikeway in *Hoffman Estates*



Governor Announces ITEP Funding

On January 30, Governor Pat Quinn and Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann Schneider announced nearly \$50 million in funding for the latest round of projects through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). The projects include bike paths, walking trails, historic preservation and streetscape beautification projects in communities across Illinois.

The ITEP program is designed to promote and develop alternative transportation options, including bike and pedestrian travel, along with streetscape beautification. The federal funds are awarded competitively, and any local or state government with taxing authority is eligible to apply. Local matching funds are required.

For the current round of funding, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) received 328 applications requesting ITEP federal funding totaling nearly \$327 million. IDOT awarded funding to eleven NWMC municipally sponsored projects amounted to nearly \$8 million in funding. The project details are listed in the table.

Project Sponsor	Project Title	Federal Funds
<i>Niles</i>	Milwaukee Avenue Corridor Improvements - Phase IV	\$747,840
<i>Northfield</i>	Willow Road Enhancements	\$733,990
<i>Skokie</i>	East Oakton Streetscape Improvements	\$1,442,060
<i>Glenview</i>	Village-wide Bike Route Signage and Pavement Marking	\$97,920
<i>Mount Prospect</i>	Northwest Highway Streetscape Project	\$678,000
<i>Park Ridge</i>	Uptown Streetscape	\$841,380
<i>Lake Forest</i>	Historic Train Station Rehabilitation	\$1,236,520
<i>Evanston</i>	Ladd Arboretum Multiuse Trail	\$580,000
<i>Palatine</i>	Bicycle Transportation Plan Implementation	\$147,560
<i>Hoffman Estates</i>	Shoe Factory Road & I-90 Bicycle and Pedestrian Project	\$676,000
<i>Barrington</i>	Hart Road Path Improvements	\$798,880
Total Funding to NWMC Communities		\$7,980,150



Municipalities Advance Bicycle Initiatives with ITEP Funding

Palatine's ITEP funding will help implement approximately 26 miles from its Bicycle Transportation Plan. When implemented, Palatine's bicycle network will provide access to local destinations and existing routes in neighboring communities. In addition, Palatine's application supports implementation of the NWMC regional bicycle corridors. It includes a portion of the Northwest Highway bicycle corridor, which is a proposed twenty-mile bicycle facility traveling from Barrington to Chicago. The Northwest Highway corridor will connect transit, commercial and recreational destinations. Furthermore, the application contains linkages to the Deerfield Rd., Dundee Rd. and Fairfield/Quentin regional bicycle corridors. Connections to these corridors will enhance the transportation network by expanding the number of destinations accessible to bicyclists.

The *Village of Hoffman Estates'* ITEP funding will construct a bike facility along Shoe Factory Road, then under Interstate 90 to Hoffman Avenue. This project will be an important link in the Evanston-Elgin Bikeway and Higgins Rd. Bikeway, which are both tier one regional bicycle corridors from the 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan, and provide a much needed bicycle crossing of I-90. The project will provide a convenient non-motorized option for commuter and

recreational users to the Prairie Stone Business Park, Poplar Creek Forest Preserve and the Fox River Trail, which are all important regional destinations.

Barrington's ITEP funding will install a shared-use path between Barrington High School and the intersection of Hart Road and Northwest Highway. The project includes a path along Lake-Cook Road; connecting to an office park on the west side of Hart Road and the Village's downtown to the east. Furthermore, this project will connect to a programmed path along Hart Road and Northwest Highway, thus providing safe bicycle and pedestrian access to the high school across Northwest Highway and the Union Pacific – Northwest train tracks.

Glenview's ITEP application will install bicycle route signage throughout the Village. The project will install bicycle signage on 24.6 miles of existing bicycle routes and facilities within Glenview. Bicycle signage is a cost-effective treatment that will improve the bicycling environment in the community and region. Signage serves both wayfinding and safety purposes by: familiarizing users with the bicycle system; identifying the best and safest routes to significant destinations; overcoming a "barrier to entry" for people who may not bicycle; and, alerting motorists to expect bicyclists on the signed route.



IDNR Funding for Bike/Ped Projects Available

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is now accepting applications for two grant programs which fund bike and pedestrian projects.

The federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides up to 80% federal funding on approved projects and requires a minimum 20% non-federal funding match. Eligible project activities include: trail construction and rehabilitation; restoration of areas adjacent to trails damaged by unauthorized trail uses; construction of trail-related support facilities and amenities; and acquisition from willing sellers of trail corridors through easements or fee simple title.

The Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program provides up to 50% of approved project costs. Maximum awards for development projects is \$200,000, but there is no maximum for land acquisition projects. Eligible project costs include: land acquisition costs, including associated appraisal fees; and bicycle path development or renovation including site clearing and grading, drainage, surfacing, bridging, fencing, signage, and directly related support facilities

More information on both programs is available at: <http://www.dnr.state.il.us/ocd/newtrail2.htm>. Applications for both programs are due to IDNR by March 1.

Upcoming Bicycle and Pedestrian Training Opportunities

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)/Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) Seminar

On Wednesday, March 6, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will hold a seminar on the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). The seminar includes presentations by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Federal Highway Administration – IL Division and IDOT that will discuss accessibility guidelines that impact transportation agencies. Additionally, the seminar will provide an overview of the PROWAG that are currently under development.

The Seminar will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the IDOT District 1 facility (201 West Center Ct. *Schaumburg*). The seminar is worth 6.0 Professional Development Hours (PDH). For more information and to register, please visit the [IDOT website](#).

APBP Driving Deaths Down: Proven Countermeasures that Work Webinar

The Association for Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) will hold a webinar on Wednesday, February 20 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. entitled *Driving Deaths Down: Proven Countermeasures that Work*. Are there certain countermeasures that have proven to be more effective than others in reducing crashes along a corridor or in an area of a community? This webinar will provide examples of successful treatments in improving the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

A webinar site license costs \$85 (\$50 for APBP members). Member discounts for five or more webinars are available. To register, please visit [here](#). To view the full 2013 webinar schedule, please visit the [APBP website](#).



News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On January 18, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) let the intersection improvement at Waukegan Rd. and Chestnut Ave. in the *Village of Glenview*. The intersection is currently the highest accident location in Glenview. The accidents are generated by access problems, substandard lane tapers and lane widths. Additional capacity is needed at the intersection to provide an acceptable level of service for existing and proposed traffic volumes. The signalized intersection currently operates under a split phase cycle, which this project will eliminate. Improvements will include an extension of the existing northbound left turn lane and eastbound right turn lanes storages, con-

struction of a southbound right turn lane, and closure or reconfiguration (with partial commercial building removal) of the east leg of the intersection. The project will eliminate the substandard lane widths and taper rates and access problems will be alleviated through consolidating and limiting access drives. The riding quality will be improved by pavement resurfacing and widening of the pavement. There is widespread support for the intersection improvements in this commercial corridor of the community and the project provides a regional benefit as Waukegan Road is classified as a Strategic Regional Arterial.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

With Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee chair and *Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder* stepping down in May, there will be a vacancy on the Technical Committee. Interested mayors are requested to contact Mike Walczak for more information.

The Northwest Council currently has Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds available in all years of the current program (fiscal years 2013-2017). If your municipality has a new project or a project currently on the Multi-Year "B" list that can move forward into one of these years, please contact staff. The current program is available at: [http://](http://www.nwmc-cog.org/Transportation/Northwest-Council-of-Mayors.aspx)

www.nwmc-cog.org/Transportation/Northwest-Council-of-Mayors.aspx.

Federally funded Northwest Council projects currently projected to be on the March IDOT letting are: Hassell Road reconstruction and bike lanes in *Hoffman Estates* (STP funded), Schaumburg Road at Barrington Road intersection improvement in *Schaumburg* (STP and CMAQ funded) and Commuter Drive reconstruction and bike path (STP and CMAQ funded) in *Rolling Meadows* and *Arlington Heights*.

A date for the next Northwest Council Technical Committee will be announced soon.

Elgin O'Hare – West Bypass Clears Federal Hurdle

On January 24, the U.S. Department of Transportation gave final approval for the Illinois Tollway to construct the Elgin O'Hare – West Bypass project. The approval allows the Illinois Toll Highway Authority to charge tolls on the existing freeway section of the Elgin O'Hare Expressway.

The project includes construction of a new, all-electronic toll road around the western border of O'Hare International Airport linking the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), the extension of the Elgin O'Hare Expressway east along Thorndale Avenue to O'Hare and the rehabilitation and widening of the existing Elgin O'Hare Expressway. The 2013-2025 construction plan is broadly supported by local governments to address the area's diverse travel needs. For more information on the project, please visit the [Illinois Tollway website](#).



Chicago and Great Lakes Regional Operations & Construction Coordination Meeting

On Wednesday, February 6, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will host its annual construction coordination meeting. This meeting provides the opportunity to hear about construction projects scheduled for 2013.

The meeting is split into a morning and afternoon session. In the morning (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.), the focus will be on major construction projects planned in Northeastern Illinois for 2013. In the afternoon (1:00 to 4:00 p.m.), the focus

will broaden to include Great Lakes Transportation Operations Coalition (GLRTOC) and Lake Michigan Interstate Gateway Alliance (LMIGA).

Most participants will choose to attend either the morning northeastern Illinois session or the afternoon Great Lakes Regional session. To RSVP for the meeting, please contact Claire Bozic (cbozic@cmapp.illinois.gov). Additionally, CMAP will be offering a simulcast webinar of the meeting for those unable to attend in person.

To register for the webinar, please visit [here](#).

For more information about the construction coordination meeting, please visit the [CMAP website](#).



CMAP Board Approves State Legislative Agenda

On January 9, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Board approved its State Legislative Agenda for 2013. The legislative agenda contains six items:

- CMAP Funding: CMAP supports efforts to diversify its funding support from the state to secure stable dedicated non-transportation funding in addition to funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation.
- State Fiscal Health and Tax Policies: CMAP supports comprehensive reforms to the state's pension program that will help close budget deficits, maintain essential services and restore fiscal responsibility. In addition, CMAP will support legislative initiatives that broaden the sales and income tax bases to keep rates low and the state economically competitive.
- Transportation Investment and Revenues: CMAP will support legislation to increase the existing 19 cents per gallon gasoline tax and index the tax to inflation. CMAP will support legislation that enables the creation of value-capture districts, to allow increased region wide flexibility to finance all modes of transportation.

- Performance-based Transportation Funding: CMAP supports an initiative that urges the formation of a technical advisory group for implementing performance-based funding for transportation.
- State/Regional Water Planning and Management: CMAP supports increasing funding to IDNR with new revenues that will support state and regional water resources planning, with a portion to be directed to the 11-county CMAP water planning area.
- Transparency and Accountability: CMAP supports legislation that facilitates more data and information sharing, especially at the budget and appropriations level. Additionally, CMAP supports legislation that requires agencies to report and make public outcomes and results.

To review the full CMAP legislative agenda, please visit the [CMAP website](#).



Tollway Expands Public Access to Traffic Cameras

The Illinois Tollway has announced expanded public access to traffic images via live feeds from 15 traffic camera locations along its network. The camera feeds will show views from three cameras along the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), eight cameras along the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294), two cameras along the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355) and two cameras along the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88).

The camera feeds are easily accessible by selecting the "View Traffic Cameras" link on the Tollway's homepage, www.illinoistollway.com. This link directs customers to the Illinois Tollway Virtual Map, an interactive map that

allows customers to zoom in on a section of the system and select a camera icon to get a view from that location. Most cameras offer customers multiple roadway views. Customers can click on the "Traffic Cameras" tab located in the left navigation bar to identify camera locations. Camera images are uploaded approximately every five minutes, and viewers must refresh the page to view updates. Image quality is dependent on weather conditions.

Riders for Better Transit Summit: Building a 21st Century Transit System

On Monday, February 25, the Active Transportation Alliance is hosting a summit to discuss the Chicago Region's transit governance. The Governance Matters panel will be moderated by Steve Schlickman, executive director of the University of Illinois – Chicago (UIC) Urban Transportation Center and former executive director of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA); featuring panelists Frank Beal, executive director of Metropolis Strategies; Dan Cronin, chairman of DuPage County; and John Gates, chairman of the RTA.

The RTA is responsible for financial and budget oversight of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace, and regional transit planning issues. In 2008, the Illinois General Assembly passed reforms to the agency, including increasing funding, granting new oversight authority and changing the composition of the board. Metropolis Strategies, which helped draft the 2008 reform legislation, has recently suggested additional reforms, including the possibility of merging the RTA with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

The *Building a 21st Century Transit System* summit is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., February 25 at the UBS Tower Conference Center (1 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL). The cost to attend is \$25 (\$15 for Active Transportation Alliance members). To learn more and to register, please visit the [Active Transportation Alliance website](#).



ULI to Host O'Hare Modernization Economic Development Seminar

On Friday, February 8, the Urban Land Institute of Chicago (ULI) will conduct a half day seminar to explore innovative financing structures and development opportunities from the O'Hare Modernization Project and Elgin-O'Hare West Bypass projects. *Airports, Infrastructure Investment & the Built Environment* will be held from 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Ridgemoor Country Club in Harwood Heights.

Speakers will focus on land use, development and opportunities for the Chi-

cago region's transportation infrastructure that are designed to create jobs, investment and economic growth. This event is for elected officials, members of the development community, real estate professionals, business leaders, public agency leadership/staff and interested citizens. To register or for more information, please visit [here](#).



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Understanding the Local Roads Process Seminar

On Thursday, March 7, the American Council of Engineering Companies – Illinois (ACEC-Illinois), Local Agencies, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will host a seminar entitled *Understanding the Local Roads Process from Agreements through Construction* on March 7, 2013 at the Hilton Hotel in Lisle. Attendees will learn about the latest policies and procedures to get your project programmed, planned, designed and constructed. Policy and decision makers from IDOT, FHWA, and local agencies will be on hand to discuss Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) initiatives, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, procurement laws, the IDOT process and much more. Break-out sessions will provide you an opportunity to get all of your questions answered.

The seminar is being is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., March 7 at the Hilton Hotel in Lisle (3003 Corporate West Drive). Six Professional Development Hours (PDH) credits will be given upon completion. Government agency employees will receive the discounted member rate of \$190. To learn more about the seminar and to register, please visit [here](#).