



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

## Table of Contents:

Transportation Funding Needs Reports Released	1	Illinois Tollway Landscape Policy	3
North Shore and Northwest Council Updates	2	Bicycle and Pedestrian Training Opportunities	3
CMAQ Call for Projects Update	2	RTA Seeks Strategic Plan Input	4
Regional Construction Coordination Meeting	2		



## Dates to Remember

<b>January 15</b>	<b>NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting - 10:30 a.m.</b> NWMC Offices
<b>January 24</b>	<b>NWMC Transportation Committee Meeting - 9:00 a.m.</b> NWMC Offices
<b>January 25</b>	<b>CMAQ Applications Due to Planning Liaisons</b>
<b>February 6</b>	<b>2013 Chicago and Great Lakes Regional Operations &amp; Construction Coordination Meeting—9:00 a.m.</b> CMAP Offices—233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800 (See article page 2)



## Reports Highlight Transportation Funding Needs

The Civic Federation and DePaul University's Chaddick Institute recently released reports that explore the pressing need for adequate transportation spending.

In November, the Civic Federation released "The State of Illinois Infrastructure," which provides an overview of the condition and funding of Illinois's infrastructure. The report goes beyond the surface transportation system to examine infrastructure related to aviation, drinking water, wastewater and dams. Pulling from various sources, the Civic Federation found that state and local governments would need to invest more than \$300 billion over the next 30 years to maintain depleted roads, bridges, mass transit, water systems and other public infrastructure throughout the state. The report also explores the need for a comprehensive approach to prioritizing and funding critical capital investments. To view the full report, please

visit the [Civic Federation website](#).

In December, the Chaddick Institute released "Tending to Transit," which examines the benefits and costs of bringing public transportation in the Chicago region into a state of good repair. The report finds that the condition of the transit system has been continuously deteriorating due to the chronic shortfalls in capital investment. The report concludes that "Without additional investment, system performance will likely be seriously impaired." The report points to strong public support for transit and the economic benefits of transit service as justification for increased investment. The report states that the Chicago region's transit system requires a minimum of \$2 billion annually to maintain service at its current level. This is approximately twice the average level of capital funding in recent years and substantially above the amount of anticipated future funding.

The report concludes that "If the region only maintains current levels of financial support, the system will see increased failures in infrastructure and deteriorating vehicle stock, leaving transit agencies to face mounting concern for maintaining operational safety as service quality declines." To view the full report, please visit the [Chaddick Institute website](#).

Additionally, the draft 2013 Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) Legislative Program addresses the need for additional investment in the region's transportation system. The NWMC Board will consider the full legislative program at its January 9 meeting.

For additional information on the reports and the Chicago region's infrastructure needs, please visit the [Chicago Metropolitan Agency \(CMAP\) for Planning website](#).



## News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On December 19, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met at the *Skokie Village Hall* and approved seven new projects for inclusion in the Council's Surface Transportation Program (STP). During the call for projects, seven municipalities submitted twenty projects requesting over \$23.5 million in STP funding.

Following this summer's call for projects, staff, with assistance of the pavement rating volunteers from *Evanston, Glenview and Skokie*, used the newly adopted project selection methodology to rate all twenty projects. In addition, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning assisted in providing information for the rating of bicycle and pedes-

trian components of projects. Projects received ratings in seven categories: regional transportation significance, safety, pavement condition, congestion mitigation, complete streets/multimodal, project readiness and local need.

Based upon the project ratings, the Technical Committee approved seven projects totaling nearly \$10 million in funding. In addition, the committee agreed to consider future programming of one project in *Northfield* at its March 2013 meeting. The approved projects will be sent to the North Shore Council of Mayors for consideration at the NWMC Board meeting on January 9.



## News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

As noted after the November 30 Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting, the 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 Council's Multi-Year "B" list that can move forward into one of these years, please contact Mike Walczak. The current program is available at the [NWMC website](#).

The January letting is projected to have

the following projects from the Northwest Council: Arthur Avenue/US 14/Davis Street intersection improvement in *Arlington Heights* (STP funded), Longmeadow Lane bridge in *Hanover Park* (BRP funded), Palatine Road improvements in *Hoffman Estates* (STP funded) and Kensington Road reconstruction in *Mount Prospect* (STP funded).

The Technical Committee left the next meeting on call.

## CMAQ Call for Projects Now Open

On December 10, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) opened a call for new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects. Application materials are available by visiting <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/congestion-mitigation-and-air-quality>.

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.

Eligible projects for CMAQ funds include:

- Traffic flow improvement projects (intersection improvements and bottleneck elimination)
- Signal interconnects
- Transit projects
- Bicycle and pedestrian facility projects
- Bicycle parking/bicycle encouragement projects
- Commuter parking projects
- Demonstration projects
- Diesel emission reduction projects

If you have any questions on the application, please contact NWMC staff.



## 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@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:cbozic@cmap.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](#).



## Illinois Tollway Soliciting Comments on Landscape Policy

The Illinois Tollway Board of Directors Strategic Planning Committee is considering a new Landscape Policy to address requests for removal and trimming of trees and vegetation on Tollway property throughout its 286-mile system of roadways in Northern Illinois. The public review is part of an ongoing effort by the Tollway to enhance transparency and accountability and ensure that the interests of those impacted by its policy decisions are considered.

The proposed Landscape Policy creates guidelines for municipalities and commercial entities along the Tollway system to request trimming or removal of trees on the Tollway's property to clear obstructions blocking visibility or clearing of undesirable vegetation.

The Landscape Policy outlines:

- A consistent approach for residential and commercial requests for tree removal and trimming on Tollway property which requires all requests to be made through a municipal or government sponsor.
- Submission of a landscape plan for the replacement, restoration and long-term maintenance of trees and vegetation for requests that involve tree removal.
- A consistent application process for removing invasive and other trees, which includes opportunities to enhance and maintain landscape along the Tollway property.

To view the proposed policy and submit comments, please visit the [Illinois Tollway website](#). The public comment period will extend through February 1, 2013, to allow sufficient time for review and comment and to provide Tollway Directors the opportunity to consider public input and make further revisions. Following the public comment period, the Tollway will allow for a trial period to implement the new process and rules with municipalities before a final policy is presented for approval by the Tollway's Strategic Planning Committee.



## Upcoming Bicycle and Pedestrian Training Opportunities

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

On 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 2013 Bicycle and Pedestrian Webinar Schedule**

The Association for Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) has announced their monthly webinar series for 2013.

- January 16 - Best Practices in Pedestrian Wayfinding
- February 20 - Driving Deaths Down: Proven Countermeasures that Work
- March 20 - Dynamics of Effective Advisory Committees
- April 17 - Economic Benefits of Walkable and Bike Friendly Communities
- May 15 - Bike Signals
- June 19 - What's in There for Me: Mining National Data for Information on Walking and Bicycling
- July 17 - From Paint to Preform: Getting the Most from Pavement Markings
- August 21 - Getting Better Data for Better Decisions: Improving Performance Measures and Outcomes

- September 18 - Integrating Spatial Data to Develop Community Priorities
- October 16 - Using Photo-enforcement to Improve Pedestrian Safety
- November 20 - Is There Safety in Numbers for Cyclists and Pedestrians?
- December 18 - Integrating Equity into Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

Generally, a webinar site license costs \$85 (\$50 for APBP members). Member discounts for five or more webinars are available. For more information and to register, visit the [APBP website](#).



## RTA Seeks Input on Strategic Plan

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In accordance with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Act, the RTA is currently in the process of updating the region's transit Strategic Plan, which will serve as a roadmap for regional transit and will help to guide the decisions made over the next five years.

The RTA strongly believes that input from municipal governments is vital to ensuring that the Strategic Plan addresses the emerging issues that face our public transit system in Northeastern Illinois. RTA is asking municipal offi-

cial from across the RTA region to complete an online survey on the vision, goals and objectives laid out in the region's current Strategic Plan, *Moving Beyond Congestion*, which was released in 2007. The survey should take no more than ten minutes and closes on January 25, 2013. To complete the survey, please visit [here](#).

## Municipal Spotlight

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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

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