



Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

August 2-25	Public Comment Period for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program
August 20	NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—10:30 a.m. NWMC Offices
August 20	Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application Deadline (see article on page 3)
August 27	Northwest Council of Mayors Functional Classification Working Group—9:00 a.m. NWMC Offices
September 6	Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee—8:30 a.m. <i>Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street</i>
September 18	North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee—8:30 a.m. <i>Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street</i>
September 20	Truck Access Route Program (TARP) Application Deadline (see article on page 3)



Bike/Ped Committee Hears Des Plaines Corridor Update, Reviews Funding Options

On July 16, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee discussed the Des Plaines River corridor plan and funding opportunities for bike/ped projects. On June 25, the NWMC hosted the first Steering Committee meeting for the Des Plaines River corridor plan, which will primarily examine access to and the quality of the Des Plaines River Trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. The consultant team is working on data collection and preparation of the project website, which will be made public later this month.

The committee also reviewed the proposed Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, which con-

tains fifty projects totaling nearly \$286 million in federal funds. With regard to bicycle projects, the CMAQ Project Selection Committee recommended nearly \$2 million in CMAQ funding for five Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) member projects (see July Newsletter). The proposed program will be open for public comment between August 2 and August 25. For more details on the program and information about submitting public comment, please visit the [CMAQ website](#).

Finally, the committee discussed the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) and the Chicago

Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Both programs provide funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects (see article on page 3).

A group of communities is pursuing a joint ITEP application for the Skokie Valley Trail between Dempster St. and Lake-Cook Rd. The NWMC identified the Skokie Valley Trail as a Tier One Regional Bicycle Corridor in its 2010 Bicycle Plan. If funded, the entire length of the Skokie Valley Trail will either be programmed or funded.

The next Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting is scheduled for August 20 at the NWMC offices.



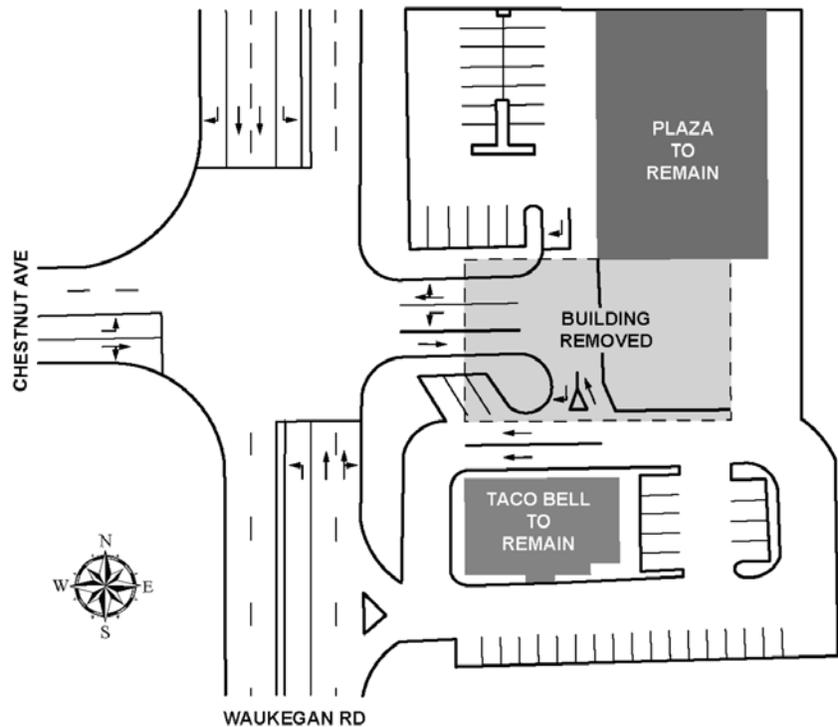
News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

Construction on the *Village of Glenview's* Chestnut Ave. and Waukegan Rd. intersection improvement project, the centerpiece of the North Shore Council of Mayor's federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013 Surface Transportation Program (STP), is well underway this summer. The intersection has long been a safety concern as the highest accident location in the village. Currently, motorists must wait through three phases of the intersection's traffic signals, and southbound Waukegan Road drivers must navigate a slight "S" curve. Business patrons who park in front of the strip center on the east side of the intersection must back out their vehicles over a public sidewalk to exit, and the shopping center does not have adequate space for exiting vehicles to queue. Improvements to the intersection will include:

- The northbound and eastbound left turn lanes will be lengthened to provide more vehicle stacking,
- A southbound right turn lane will be constructed,
- Travel and tapered lanes will be straightened and lengthened,
- Connecting sidewalks will be constructed,
- Storm sewer and stormwater detention will be improved,
- Modernized traffic and pedestrian signals will be installed, and the signals will be timed for two phases,
- Several driveways will be closed, and
- The pavement will be widened and resurfaced.

An agreement with the owner of the strip center will remove a portion of the shopping center to allow adequate vehicle stacking in the eastern leg of the traffic signal (see diagram). Construction is currently underway on the intersection and Glenview's goal is to complete the roadway construction by the end of this year. For construction updates, please visit the [project blog](#).

The next North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee is scheduled for September 18 at the *Skokie Village Hall*. The committee will approve the North Shore Council's STP funding program for FFY 2014-2019 and consider the need for advanced funding.



Planned improvements for the Chestnut Ave. and Waukegan Ave. intersection



East leg of the Chestnut Ave. and Waukegan Ave. intersection under construction.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors will next meet on Friday, September 6 at 8:30 a.m. at *Barrington Village Hall*. At the meeting, the Committee will have two vacancies to fill. Nominations are still being accepted for the open mayor spot. Additionally, with the retirement of *Schaumburg Manager Ken Fritz* at the end of August, there will a manager's seat to fill. Any village manager interested in serving on the Technical Committee should notify Mike Walczak. Any other new project requests or project changes must be submitted by August 23.

The Council's Functional Classification Working Group will meet on August 27 at 9:00 a.m. at NWMC offices. The group will look at how Functional Classification requests are analyzed and approved by the Northwest Council. Previous functional classification changes, the

existing network of federally eligible routes and the experience of other regional Councils will all be taken into account. The Working Group will report back to the Technical Committee at its September meeting. If you'd like to serve on the Working Group, please contact Mike Walczak.

Northwest Council projects on IDOT's upcoming September letting are: Arlington Park Metra Station Commuter Drive roadway reconstruction and bicycle improvements in *Rolling Meadows and Arlington Heights* (STP and CMAQ funded) and Cambridge Drive/Syracuse Lane culvert replacements in *Schaumburg* (BRP funded)



Truck Access Route Program Call for Projects

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is soliciting projects for its Truck Access Route Program (TARP). Applications and location maps must be submitted to the District One office of the IDOT Bureau of Local Roads by September 20.

IDOT has proposed that the Truck Access Route Program (TARP) continue to be funded in fiscal year 2015 at its existing \$7 million funding level. Assuming enabling legislation is passed and signed, IDOT anticipates funding will be available for this program beginning in July 2014.

Each candidate project must have a completed application form and a project location map. Applications should include information pertaining to prior commitments by IDOT; a description of industries, municipalities and truck generators along the proposed route; projected growth in the area; and the number of trucks using the proposed route. The project location map should clearly identify the proposed route and each of the project termini.

Only roadway sections determined to be eligible for upgrading to a designated

truck route will be funded through this program. Eligible routes must terminate into a designated truck route or a municipal border and begin at a truck generator, another designated truck route or municipal border. Roadway sections that were previously upgraded with TARP funds are not eligible for funding from this program. The TARP is not intended for use in pavement preservation or maintenance projects. The program will provide \$45,000 per lane mile and \$22,000 per eligible intersection, with total project funding up to one-half of the project cost, subject to a maximum of \$900,000 per project. TARP funds may be used for project construction only.

Once again, completed project applications and location maps should be submitted to your IDOT District One Local Road's office no later than September 20, 2013. Any questions regarding TARP funding should be directed to Steve Dwyer at 217-782-3401. Questions regarding design issues should be addressed to the appropriate District Local Roads Field Engineer. For more information about the program, please visit the [IDOT website](#).

Last Call for ITEP/TAP Funding

The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) call for projects is currently open, with the application deadline set for Tuesday, August 20. Please visit the [IDOT website](#) for more information about ITEP. In response to additional federal guidance, a determination has been made that sidewalks are eligible as stand-alone projects as long as the project is for the construction of new sidewalks or improvements that would bring them into compliance with ADA standards. Stand-alone sidewalk construction and improvement projects are eligible for ITEP funds under Category 1 (Pedestrian/ Bicycle Facilities) as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements listed in the 2013 ITEP Guidelines Manual.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is also currently accepting applications for its Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The deadline for applications is also set for Tuesday, August 20. Please visit the [CMAP website](#) for more information about TAP and contact NWMC staff for any questions about the IDOT and CMAP review process and a potential project's eligibility. TAP projects are not eligible for phase I engineering funding and are limited to bicycle and pedestrian projects.

LTA and Community Planning Applications Announced

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) received 66 applications for its Local Technical Assistance program and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) received 18 for its Community Planning program this year.

In the NWMC area, the following applications were submitted: *Arlington Heights* (Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan), *Crystal Lake* (Master Transportation plan), *Glenview* (Sustainability and Natural Resources Plan), *Northbrook* (updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan), Northbrook Park District (bike route signage and wayfinding).

The final LTA and Community Planning programs will be announced in January.



League of Illinois Bicyclists Launches Online Bike Safety Quiz

The League of Illinois Bicyclists has launched www.bikesafetyquiz.com. The free, first-of-its-kind website teaches users key safety techniques and relevant Illinois state laws in an interactive quiz-based format for various audiences: "Adult Bicyclists," "Motorists" and "Child Bicyclists." The website educates both cyclists and motorists about the proper way to share the road in Illinois. The tool is meant to help close an education gap – and reduce resentment – for both road user types.

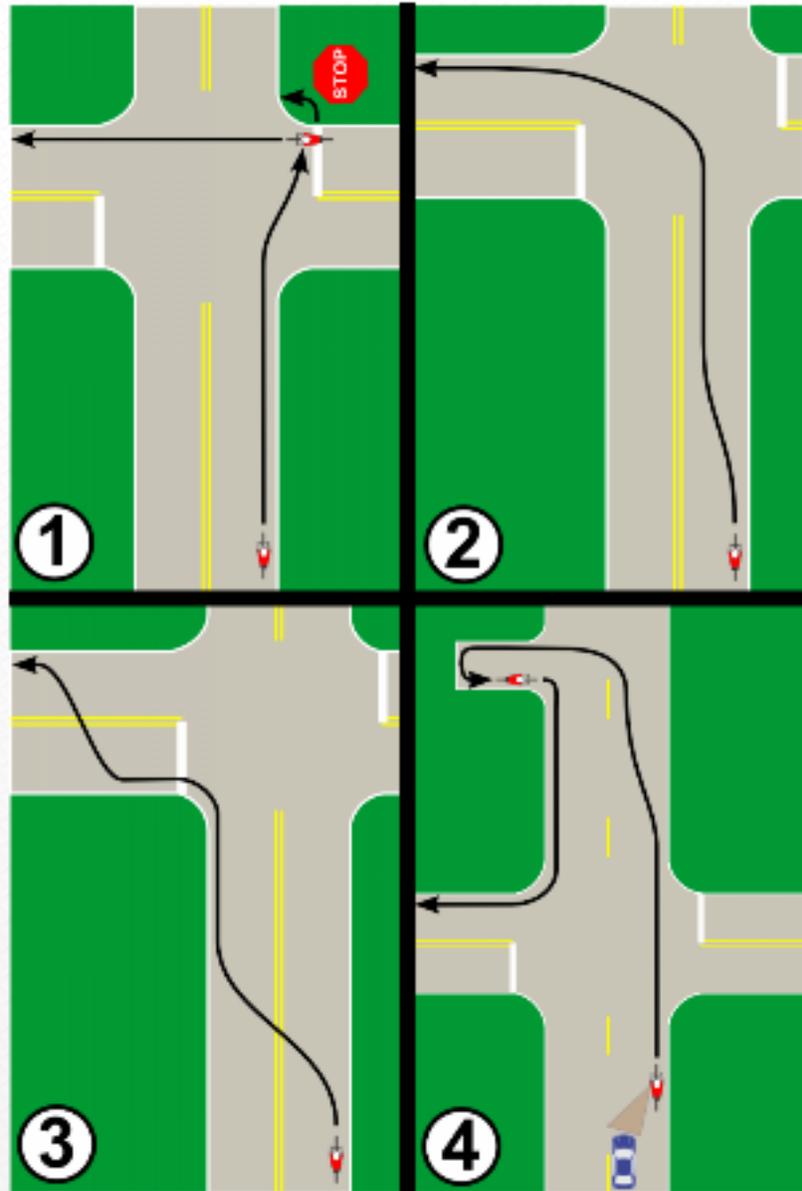
For each quiz, the user progresses through a total of 25-33 multiple-choice questions, divided into bronze, silver and gold levels. The learning comes from explanations about the correct answers. Users get up to three chances to answer each question correctly. If motorists and bicyclists know how to share the road and follow the rules, the goal is to make trips safer and less stressful for both.

The sample question to the right instructs bicyclists on the proper ways to make a left turn.

The League of Illinois Bicyclists believes that it is crucial that the state becomes more multi-modal and the online quiz is an important resource to ensuring the safety of road users. Elementary schools and driver education programs with high participation rates are eligible for prizes. The annual prizes are funded by Illinois' Share the Road specialty license plates for cars, vans, and light trucks.

Ed Barsotti, the Executive Director of the League of Illinois Bicyclists, will discuss the online quiz at the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee on August 20. To take the quiz, please visit www.bikesafetyquiz.com.

When making a left turn, which of the following is NOT legal?



Option 3 is NOT legal. It is very unsafe and unpredictable bicycling.





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