



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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## Dates to Remember

- February 11** Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.  
*Barrington Village Hall*
- February 16** NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.  
NWMC Offices
- February 24** CMAP Next Plan Launch Event - 9:30 - Noon - See article on Page 3  
CMAP Offices, Willis Tower (233 S. Wacker Dr, Chicago), Suite 800
- February 25** NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m.  
NWMC Offices

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discusses Plan Implementation

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met January 19 with a focus on efforts to build regional support for complete streets policies and the implementation of regional bike and pedestrian plans. Staff discussed efforts to implement the recommendations of the Bikeway Feasibility Study, which released its final report in October. The study, funded through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program, aims to connect the Old Stover Trail/Crabtree Nature Center south of Barrington with the Fox River Trail using a mix of both on- and off-street bicycle facilities. NWMC will work with the municipalities in the corridor and other participating agencies to take the next steps towards implementation including

preliminary engineering.

The Committee also discussed possible strategies for implementing the NWMC North and Northwest Cook County Bicycle Signage Plan. The plan, approved in 2012, recommends a network of way finding and destination signs along the key corridors identified in the 2010 NWMC Bike Plan.

Finally, NWMC staff and representatives from the Active Transportation Alliance discussed the latest meeting of the Chicagoland Complete Streets Coalition. The Coalition's aim is to build support for complete streets policies throughout the greater Chicago region, advance changes that make those policies possible and identify funding strategies. If you would like to share your commu-

nity's successes or challenges in pursuing complete streets, please contact NWMC staff.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16 at 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.





## Transportation Committee Talks RTA Transfer Signage, CMAP Financial Situation

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on January 28 and learned about the Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) new Interagency Signage Program. RTA Regional Coordination Division Program Manager Joe Moriarty discussed the agency's efforts to improve signage and maps at stations where transit riders transfer between CTA, Metra and Pace. Locations in the first testing phase of the project included the *City of Evanston's* Davis Street station as well as some downtown Chicago Metra stations. With the demonstration locations deemed successful, the next phase will include signs at the Lake-Cook Metra station in *Deerfield*, Main Street station in *Evanston* as well as the Jefferson Park and Irving Park stations on the Metra UP – Northwest line/CTA Blue Line in Chicago.

Staff also reported on efforts by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) to pursue more consistent local funding. These funds are needed to

match federal planning funds which make up most of the CMAP's budget. Currently IDOT provides most of the local match; however, in reaction to the ongoing state budget impasse, CMAP staff has prepared other options for their board to consider. These include: lobbying the General Assembly to fully fund the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund; imposing dues from local transportation agencies and municipalities; and, establishing fees for some of CMAP's programs and services. The CMAP Board is expected to take action on the options at their March 9 meeting. Staff will continue to provide updates as more details on the proposals involving municipal dues and fees are being developed.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.



The sign above on Benson Avenue in *Evanston* is part of the first phase of RTA's Interagency Signage Program. It is near the Davis Street CTA Purple Line and Metra UP-North line stations and was designed to help riders transfer between transit service providers.

## Central Tri-State Plan Gets Approval

On January 21, the Central Tri-State Tollway Corridor Planning Council approved its final report, which makes a series of recommendations as the Illinois Tollway begins to plan for a reconstruction of the Tri-State (I-294) from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street. Recommendations in the report include: improving the current and future reliability, mobility and performance of the Central Tri-State; addressing environmental impacts including managing stormwater; supporting sustainability within the corridor; and, promoting innovation and economic opportunity within the corridor.

Currently, the Tollway's Move Illinois capital program includes approximately \$1.7 billion for a full reconstruction of the corridor. With the completion of this report, it is now up to the Tollway Board to decide if the project will ultimately include other enhancements such as added capacity, improved interchanges, transit improvements, and improved stormwater storage and drainage needs. The Tollway Board and staff will incorporate the recommendations from the report as they develop a master plan for the project over the next year. Following the adoption of a master plan, construction is expected to begin in 2020 and be complete in 2022. More information on the project is available by visiting <http://www.illinoistollway.com/construction-and-planning/community-outreach/central-tri-state-tollway-i-294-corridor>.



## North Shore Council Ready for Construction Season

The North Shore Council of Mayors is gearing up for a busy construction season in 2016. Two Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects were let in January and will begin construction later this year. *Glenview* will begin a resurfacing project on various roadways along Patriot Boulevard and surrounding streets in and around The Glen commercial and residential development. This project will obligate nearly \$1.9 million in STP funds. *Evanston* will also receive STP and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds to improve the intersection of Emerson Street, Ridge Avenue and Green Bay Road. This pro-

ject will obligate nearly \$1.9 million in STP funds and \$1.9 million in CMAQ funds. Finally, *Skokie* will receive \$428,000 in CMAQ funds to construct a multi-use path along Old Orchard Road. The path will extend from Skokie Boulevard (U.S. 41) to Gross Point Road.

The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will be held Wednesday, March 23 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*. Any program modification requests or agenda items for this meeting should be sent to Planning Liaison Brian Pigeon by Wednesday, March 9.

## Northwest Council Meeting February 11

The next Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, February 11 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Barrington Village Hall*.

The agenda will include project updates and changes, agency updates and the selection of a new manager/administrator to fill the vacant seat on the committee.



## CMAP to Launch Next Regional Plan

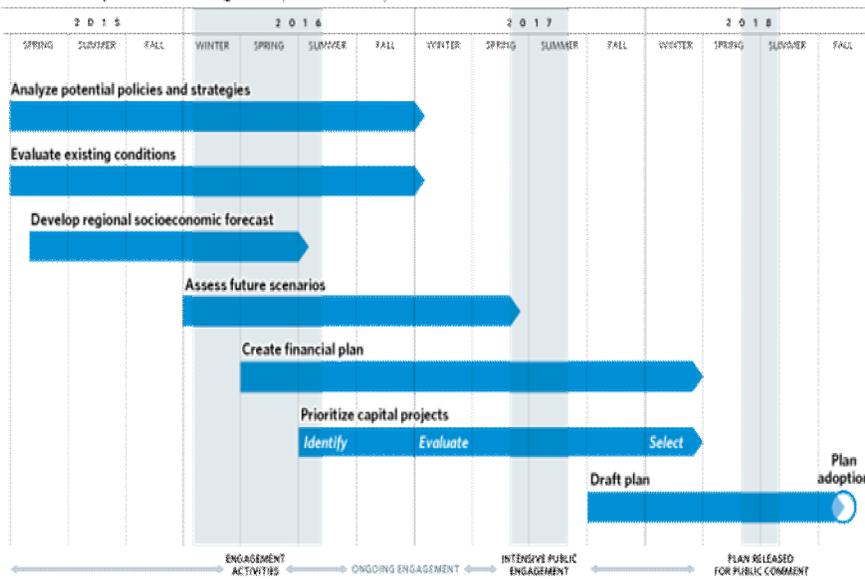
Save the date! On Wednesday, February 24, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will kick off the development of the Chicago region's next comprehensive regional plan. This open house will reveal the new plan's name and allow participants to voice their opinions on what the new plan should accomplish. The new plan will be a suc-

cessor to the current GO TO 2040 plan and aims to build off GO TO 2040's main goals and objectives. The event will be held at the CMAP offices (Willis Tower, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago) and will run from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Guests are welcome to come anytime as featured talks and opportunities for comment will repeat throughout the morning. If you are

unable to attend but would still like to submit comments, you may do so via Twitter using the hashtag #2050BigIdeas.

An RSVP for the event is required. To reserve a spot please visit [here](#). More information on the new plan development may be found by visiting [www.cmap.illinois.gov/next-plan](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/next-plan).

CMAP comprehensive regional plan development timeline



Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

### Next plan priorities

- Advance the benefits of one thriving region.
- Emphasize reinvestment and leverage the region's existing assets.
- Present specific strategies for making our region more livable and resilient.
- Promote inclusive economic growth region wide.
- Clarify funding needs by clearly stating costs and funding availability.
- Provide clear, focused recommendations.
- Establish measurable objectives.

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

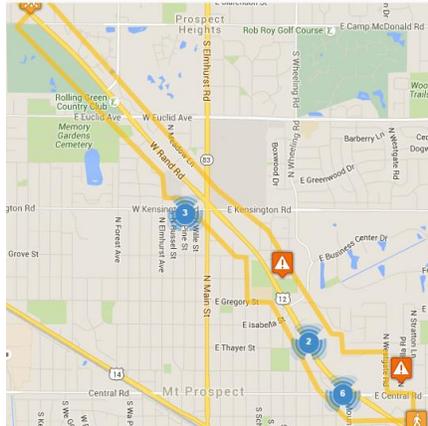


## Mount Prospect, RTA Seek Input on Rand Road Study

The Village of Mount Prospect is developing a plan to improve connections for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users along the Rand Road corridor. This plan will also address safety improvements and identify potential new commercial developments. The project team consists of consultants and representatives from the Village, IDOT, PACE, and RTA. The study is funded by a grant from the RTA.

More information on the study can be found by visiting: [www.plan4randroad.com](http://www.plan4randroad.com). On the website, you can make comments directly on a map of the corridor, as seen on the right. You can also complete a survey about the corridor by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/plan4randroad>.

Please contact *Mount Prospect Senior Planner Nellie Beckner* at [nbeckner@mountprospect.org](mailto:nbeckner@mountprospect.org) or 847-818-5312 with questions or comments.



## CMAP to Offer Census Workshops

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will host a free hands-on workshop about U.S. Census products for urban planning on Wednesday, March 16 and Wednesday, April 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800 in Chicago. Municipal planning staff and volunteers are invited to attend one of the two workshops, each of which will feature the all-new U.S. Census website, hands-on searches for municipal data, and an introduction to OnTheMap, featuring characteristics of workers who live and/or work in your municipality. Five laptops will be provided and five additional seats will be reserved for persons bringing their own laptops. To RSVP or for more information, contact Jon Hallas ([jhallas@cmaphillinois.gov](mailto:jhallas@cmaphillinois.gov) or 312-386-8764).

## TMA of Lake Cook Annual Construction Meeting

The Transportation Management Association (TMA) of Lake Cook's 2016 Construction Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016 (St. Patrick's Day) at 9:00 am at Baxter Healthcare in *Deerfield*. Speakers from the Cook County Department of Highways and Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Tollway, Lake County Division of Transportation, as well as adjacent communities are being invited to speak about their projects. The TMA's 2016 Construction Map will be distributed at this meeting. More details will be available soon.



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