



Transportation Newsletter

Table of Contents:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Update	1	Remaining CMAQ Schedule	3
Schaumburg Bicycle Program	2	North Shore Council Update	4
IDOT State Bike Plan	2	Northwest Council Update	4
Complete Streets Symposium	2	Enhancement Funding Available	4
Des Plaines River Corridor Plan Kickoff	2	Grade Crossing Safety Funds	5
Recommended CMAQ Program Released	3	Pavement Markings Webinar	5



Dates to Remember

July 15	Deadline for Grade Crossing Safety Program Applications (see article on page 5)
July 16	NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—10:30 a.m. NWMC Offices
July 17	Getting the Most from Pavement Markings Webinar—2:00 p.m. (see article on page 5)
July 25-26	Complete Streets Symposium Chicago Transit Authority Headquarters, 567 W. Lake Street, Chicago (see article on page 2)
July 30	Illinois Bike Transportation Plan Online Meeting—12:00 p.m. (see article on page 2)
August 2-25	Public Comment Period for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program (see article on page 3)
August 20	Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application Deadline (see article on page 4)



Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discusses Crosswalks, Des Plaines River Plan

On June 18, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee visited the Prairie Center for the Performing Arts in Schaumburg and learned about the Village's 30 year history of progressive bicycle planning. The Committee met members of the village's Bicycle Patrol, learned about the village's ordinances which encourage and support bicycle riding as well as future plans for the bicycle network. Schaumburg staff also provided the committee with a map highlighting bicycle and pedestrian

amenities near the Village Hall and Prairie Center for a self-guided walking tour. Special thanks to *Schaumburg staff Richard Bascomb* and *Bill Blanchard*. For more information on bike planning in Schaumburg, please see the article on page 2 and visit the [Schaumburg website](#).

NWMC staff also updated the Committee on the Des Plaines River Trail Corridor Plan (see article on page 2), Transportation Enhancement funding currently available through IDOT (see arti-

cle on page 4), and the work of a subcommittee of municipalities currently pursuing lease agreements for trails through ComEd corridors.

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



Schaumburg Bicycle Program a Regional Model

Schaumburg's forward-looking and awarding-winning Bicycle Program was developed in 1979 with the creation of a Bikeways Advisory Committee and development of a comprehensive map detailing locations for current and future bike paths/routes. It was during the 1970s that the village adopted a multi-modal approach to transportation planning with the integration of bicycling as one of the key components to create a more livable community. The last major revision to the Plan was in 1999; however, there have continued to be edits and updates throughout the years. In 2011, the village received funding for review of the Plan by the Active Transportation Alliance, who provided the village with a document of suggested updates. The village anticipates enacting many of the suggested actions over the years to come.

Schaumburg's Bikeways Advisory Committee continues to guide the development of the bicycle program. The Committee is composed of Schaumburg residents, a Hoffman Estates resident, a member from Schaumburg's Zoning

Board of Appeals, Plan Commission, Park District as well as School District 54. It is staffed by Schaumburg's Transportation, Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments.

Schaumburg now has 90 miles of bicycle facilities, 1,000 bike parking rack and locker spaces, bicycle racks on village trolleys, bicycle parking at the Metra Station and the Northwest Transportation Center, a community-based bicycle club and links with bordering municipalities.

Among the accomplishments, Schaumburg was the first community in Illinois to require bicycle parking as part of new developments. Schaumburg was also the first community in Illinois recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a Bicycle Friendly Community, and was recertified with a Bronze level designation by the League in its most recent review of the program.

For more information on bike planning in Schaumburg, please visit the [Schaumburg website](#).



IDOT Seeks Input from Transportation Professionals and Public on State Bike Plan

On Tuesday, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) held two meetings in Chicago to gather input on how to improve bicycling in Illinois through the state's Bike Transportation Plan. The afternoon meeting targeted transportation professionals, while the evening meeting was geared to the public.

In conjunction with the start of the outreach meetings, IDOT launched an

online interactive survey focused on bicycling infrastructure in Illinois. To take the survey, please visit the [bike plan website](#).

If you were unable to attend Tuesday's meeting, IDOT will host an online meeting on July 30 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. To register, please visit [here](#).



CDOT Hosting Complete Streets Symposium

On Thursday, July 25 and Friday, July 26, the Chicago Department of Transportation is hosting a Complete Streets Symposium. The event is being offered by the Intelligent Transportation Society of America and will be held at the headquarters of the Chicago Transit Authority, 567 W. Lake Street in Chicago.

The Symposium will include sessions and panel discussions featuring local and

national experts on the following topics:

- Smart Parking
- True Mobility
- Traffic Lights and Signal Technology
- Automated Enforcement

For more information, please visit <http://www.itsa.org/smartstreets>. Registration for public sector representatives is \$25.

NWMC Kicks Off Planning Process for Des Plaines River Corridor

Late last year, the NWMC received a grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to develop a transportation plan for the Des Plaines River Trail corridor. The NWMC selected the consultant team of Houseal Lavigne, Active Transportation Alliance and Gewalt Hamilton to lead the development of the plan, which will encompass the corridor between Lake-Cook Road and Higgins Road.

On June 25, the NWMC hosted the first Steering Committee meeting for the plan. At the meeting, the committee reviewed the project scope and discussed goals, objectives, involvement of additional stakeholders and online engagement tools. The consultant team is also working on data collection and preparation of the project website, which will be made public this month.

The Steering Committee worked to outline three draft goals of the corridor plan:

- To improve access to the Des Plaines River Trail for people of all ages, all abilities and all modes of transport.
- To improve usability of the Des Plaines River Trail for people of all ages, all abilities and all active modes of transport including, walking, bicycling, equestrian, canoe and kayak.
- To positively exploit the trail as an economic, transportation and recreation asset for the communities surrounding the Des Plaines River Trail.

The planning process will run into the first quarter of 2014 with multiple opportunities for public and community input.



Proposed CMAQ Program Recommended to CMAP
Transportation Committee

On Thursday, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Project Selection Committee recommended a staff proposed slate of projects to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Transportation Committee. The proposed CMAQ program contains fifty projects totaling nearly \$286 million in federal funds. To review the full recommended program, please visit the [CMAP website](#).

The CMAQ Project Selection Committee recommended nearly \$2 million in CMAQ funding for five Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) member projects, which are outlined in the table below.

The *Highland Park* project on the Robert McClory Bike Path and the *Skokie* project for bike lanes on Church Street both address regional corridors identified in the NWMC Bicycle Plan. The Robert McClory Bike Path is part of the lakefront bicycle corridor that connects Evanston to Wisconsin. The Church

Street bike lanes will complete a critically link on the Evanston-Elgin Bikeway, which is identified as Tier One Regional Bicycle Corridor in the NWMC Bicycle Plan. If the project ultimately receives funding, 72 percent of the nearly 38 mile corridor would be either complete or programmed with identified funding.

Additionally, the committee recommended nine projects totaling over \$86 million in projects that affect NWMC municipalities. The three projects highlighted in the table below are linked to the Elgin O'Hare Western Access project.

The programming schedule for the CMAQ funds is summarized to the right.

NWMC Member Projects		
Sponsor	Project	Proposed Funding
Highland Park	Robert McClory Bike Path	\$87,400
Evanston	Dodge Ave. Protected Bike Lane	\$480,000
Skokie	Main St. bike lanes	\$456,000
Skokie	Church St. bike lanes	\$472,000
Skokie	Gross Point Rd. bike lanes	\$478,000
Total NWMC Member Projects		\$1,973,400

Programming Schedule for
CMAQ

The recommended program will be presented to the CMAP Transportation Committee on August 2, at which time the program will be formally released for public comment. The remaining programming schedule is outlined below:

August 2, 2013 - Transportation Committee considers releasing the proposed FY 2014-18 program for public comment.

August 2, 2013 - Public comment period on the proposed FY 2014-18 program begins.

August 25, 2013 - Public comment period on the proposed FY 2014-18 program ends.

September 10, 2013 - CMAQ Project Selection Committee meets to review and respond to comments on the proposed FY 2014-18 program.

September 20, 2013 - Transportation Committee considers the proposed FY 2014-18 program.

October 9, 2013 - Regional Coordinating Committee, CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee consider approval of proposed FY 2014-18 program.

Projects Affecting NWMC Members		
Sponsor	Project	Proposed Funding
Cook County	Touhy Ave. and UPRR Grade Separation	\$23,289,000
Cook County	Elmhurst Rd. and Touhy Ave. Intersection Improvement	\$11,450,000
IDOT	Cumberland Circle Intersection Improvement	\$2,880,000
DuPage County	Elgin O'Hare/Thorndale Ave. and I-290 Interchange	\$34,000,000
Kane County	Randall Rd Adaptive Signal Control from Huntley Rd to Big Timber Rd	\$830,700
Lake County	IL 120/Belvidere Rd from IL 134/Main St to US 45	\$1,837,000
Pace	Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements along Pace Bus Routes 350, 352, 364, 572, 529, 381, 395, 877, 888	\$2,400,000
Lake County	Lake Cook/Braeside Shuttle Bug Service	\$212,000
Pace	Milwaukee Ave. Arterial Rapid Transit Project	\$9,588,033
Total Projects Affecting NWMC Members		\$86,486,733



Funding Available for Transportation Alternatives

Staff encourages members to apply for two sources of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects that will be available this summer. There is a current call for projects for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) \$13 million Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). Projects that are eligible for ITEP funding include: on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility; community improvement activities and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for the planning, design or construction of boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former Interstate System routes or other divided highways. Among the projects that are no longer eligible for ITEP funding with the adoption of the new federal transportation legislation are safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as stand-alone streetscape projects. For more information and the online application, please visit the [IDOT website](#). The deadline for applications is Tuesday, August 20.

In addition, CMAP is planning a call for projects for the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to begin July 19. The \$17.5 million program will be

limited to bicycle and pedestrian projects in the seven-county CMAP region. CMAP will be stressing project readiness, since a final Project Development Report must be submitted to IDOT this fall for a project to be considered for TAP funds. All bicycle and pedestrian projects that applied for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding will automatically be considered for TAP funding without having to file a separate application. As with the CMAQ call for projects, projects applying to TAP will be judged on their proximity to population and employment centers, connections to transit and whether the project is in CMAP's Greenways and Trails Plan or other regional plans (including the NWMC Bike Plan). The deadline for TAP applications will also be Tuesday, August 20.

Local government projects requiring Phase I engineering funds should apply for the ITEP program. CMAP's TAP program will only fund Phase II Engineering and Construction costs. For projects not requiring Phase I engineering, sponsors are encouraged to apply for both programs. Please note that sponsors can apply for both programs, but are only eligible to be funded through one. Please contact NWMC staff for any questions about the IDOT review process and a potential project's eligibility.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

There is currently a vacancy on the Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee for a mayor. Serving on the Technical Committee is a great opportunity to improve the transportation network in your municipality and those around it through locally sponsored transportation projects that benefit the whole region. The Technical Committee will recommend its selection to the full Council at its next meeting. If you are interested, please contact Mike Walczak.

Staff is also seeking volunteers for a Functional Classification working group. The working group will deter-

mine the best criteria to judge functional classification requests (changing how a road is classified which makes it eligible for federal funding) and determine if a request should be forwarded to IDOT. Input from municipalities and other regional councils will be used. The working group will make a recommendation back to the Technical Committee.

The next Technical Committee meeting date will be announced soon.

News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On June 19, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met at the *Skokie* Village Hall and heard about rules for clean construction demolition debris. Chad Riddle from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) reported on the implementation of legislation impacting fill operations in Illinois. He noted that the General Assembly passed clarifying legislation that allowed for more flexibility and better rules for state and municipal roadway projects. The final rule went into effect in August 2012. Mr. Riddle highlighted that preliminary engineering must plan for soil management on construction projects.

In addition, the committee reviewed the North Shore Council's Surface Transportation Program (STP). The Technical Committee will consider scheduling changes to the program at its September meeting to coincide with the end of the federal fiscal year. The committee discussed funding opportunities available through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program (see article on page 3) and the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) (see article on page 4).

The next North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie* Village Hall.



Last Chance: Applications for Local Rail/Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program due July 15

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is requesting applications for the Fiscal Year 2014 Local Rail/Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program. The electronic version of the application is available by visiting the [IDOT website](#) (click on Form BLR 04100 in the table of forms).

Applicants should submit a completed application providing as much information as possible, along with a location map showing the crossing for each location where safety improvements are proposed. Please note that IDOT may

independently select some projects jointly with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) or by review of locations having a documented history of crashes.

IDOT continues to place a stronger emphasis on signal and circuitry related projects as opposed to crossing surface projects. IDOT is placing additional emphasis on locations with increased numbers of trains or vehicles and at locations with a crash history. Signal related projects are eligible for 100 percent federal funding.

Applications are due by **Monday, July 15, 2013**. Following receipt of the applications, IDOT will perform on-site inspections at the candidate locations. For questions about the program, please contact Jason L. Johnson, 217-557-1399 or Jason.Johnson@illinois.gov.



Getting the Most from Pavement Markings Webinar

On Wednesday, July 17, the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) will be holding a webinar on the effectiveness of different pavement markings for bicycle facilities. Most low-cost retrofits for bicycle and pedestrian improvements involve pavement markings, whether striping a crosswalk or a bike lane or colorizing a conflict zone. This presentation will examine the effectiveness of different pavement marking materials including factors like durability, winter maintenance issues, retro-reflectivity, slip resistance and accessibility. The webinar will have a particular

focus on application for innovative markings such as colorized paint and specialized symbols.

The session includes an overview of MUTCD guidance on pavement marking materials, a presentation from Los Angeles that discusses an evaluation and comparison of different materials for green lanes and information from Chicago related to the effect of winter conditions on pavement markings.

The webinar will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17. The fee to purchase a site license is \$50

for APBP members, \$85 for non-APBP members. Continuing Education Credits are available for this webinar. For more information and to register, please visit the [APBP website](#).



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