



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

June 15	Highway Safety Improvement Program Applications Due See article page 2
June 17	Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Application Deadline See article page 2
June 21	NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m. NWMC Offices
June 22	North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m. Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street



Transportation Committee Discusses CMAP Funding, Route 53/120 Extension

The NWMC Transportation Committee met Thursday, May 26 and discussed the planned extension of Illinois Route 53 and the 120 bypass. In May, Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor withdrew his support for the project, which leaves the Illinois Tollway to decide whether or not to move forward with the project's planned Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The project has long been a NWMC transportation priority; therefore, the Committee instructed staff to send a letter to the Tollway reaffirming the Conference's support for the project and recommending the EIS move forward as planned.

The Committee also discussed a proposal from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency

for Planning (CMAP) regarding the collection of local dues. CMAP has recently approved the collection of local dues as a way to reduce reliance on state funds and stay operational since the state stopped providing its local match funding. Under the proposed scenario, councils of government would collect dues from municipalities on behalf of CMAP. In exchange, local dues would be reduced by 10%. While the Committee was in favor of the proposal, concerns raised by some municipalities led the NWMC Executive Board to decide at their June 1 meeting that the Conference will not collect dues on behalf of CMAP this year.

Instead, all municipalities will receive their dues invoice directly from CMAP. NWMC

encourages all municipalities to pay their CMAP dues given the agency's federally required role in administering transportation funding for the region and the local and regional planning work that they perform. Municipalities that do not pay dues will lose access to programs including the Local Technical Assistance program.

Finally, the Committee passed a resolution in support of Dump the Pump Day, an annual event taking place on Thursday, June 16 which encourages the use of public transit. The event is being held nationwide and is coordinated locally by the Regional Transportation Authority.

The committee is not scheduled to meet again until September 22.



Apply Now for Transportation Enhancement Projects

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is accepting applications for the 2016 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) through Friday, June 17. Approximately \$29 million is available to award for selected projects. ITEP provides funding for community based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure.

Eligible categories are: Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities; Landscape/ Streetscape and Other Scenic Beautification; Conversion of Abandoned Railroad Corridors to Trails; Historic Preservation and Rehabilitation of Historic Transportation Facilities; Vegetation Management in Transportation Rights-of-Way; Archaeological Activities Relating to Impacts from Implementation of a Transportation Project; Storm Water Management, Control and Water Pollution Prevention or Abatement Related to Highway Construction or Due to Highway Runoff; Reduce Vehicle-

Caused Wildlife Mortality or Restore and Maintain Connectivity Among Terrestrial or Aquatic Habitats; and, Construction of Turnouts, Overlooks and Viewing Areas.

Any local or state government with taxing authority is eligible to apply. A local match is required for all eligible phases. Preliminary engineering, utility relocations, construction and construction engineering are funded at an 80% federal/20% local match ratio. Right-of-way acquisition is funded at 50% federal/50% local match. The maximum amount of ITEP funds per project is \$2 million. Phase I engineering is not required to be completed before applying, but additional points are given to projects with Phase I and/or land acquisition complete. More information on the program, including an updated 2016 ITEP Guidelines Manual is available by visiting the [ITEP website](#). Selected projects will be announced this fall. The ITEP will be a two-year cycle with the next call for projects anticipated to be in spring 2018.

RTA Seeking Access to Transit Projects

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has released a call for projects for the Access to Transit Improvement Program. The program is open to applicants that have completed (or are in the process of completing) a study through the RTA's Community Planning program or CMAP'S Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. The Access to Transit Improvement Program is intended to leverage RTA and local funds with federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding to help implement small-scale projects that increase pedestrian and bicycle access to the transit system. Applications are due to the RTA on or before Thursday, October 20. The long application period is intended to give applicants adequate time to initiate or complete the Phase I engineering aspect of the project. For more information, visit <https://www.rtachicago.com/plans-programs/grants-projects/access-to-transit>.



Highway Safety Improvement Funds Available

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has issued a call for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) projects for FY 2017. The goal of HSIP is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. Specific site (roadway segment and/or intersection) or system-wide improvements that reduce severe crashes are eligible for funding. Strong consideration will be given to specific safety strategies that offer significant benefit to reduction of severe crashes. These include: adding shoulders and/or rumble strips/stripes; enhancing safety performance of curves (advance warning

and chevron signing, pavement markings, high friction surface treatment); improving or enhancing signing and pavement markings at intersections; improving signal timing at intersections including installation of flashing yellow arrows; removing trees within the clear zone; upgrading guardrail and the associated end terminals; and, installing more visible crosswalks and signing, pedestrian countdown signals, street lighting and pedestrian refuge islands to address pedestrian safety and injury issues.

Approximately \$45 million will be available statewide. Local agencies are re-

sponsible for a ten percent match. All phases of a safety improvement project are eligible for this program, including preliminary engineering, design, construction and construction engineering. The project should be ready to utilize funds in state fiscal year 2017, but multi-year requests will be considered. An electronic copy of your application (either via e-mail or on a CD) is due to your IDOT District Bureau of Local Roads and Streets office by June 15. Please contact your IDOT Local Roads Engineer for further assistance and to coordinate HSIP applications. More information is available by visiting the [HSIP website](#).



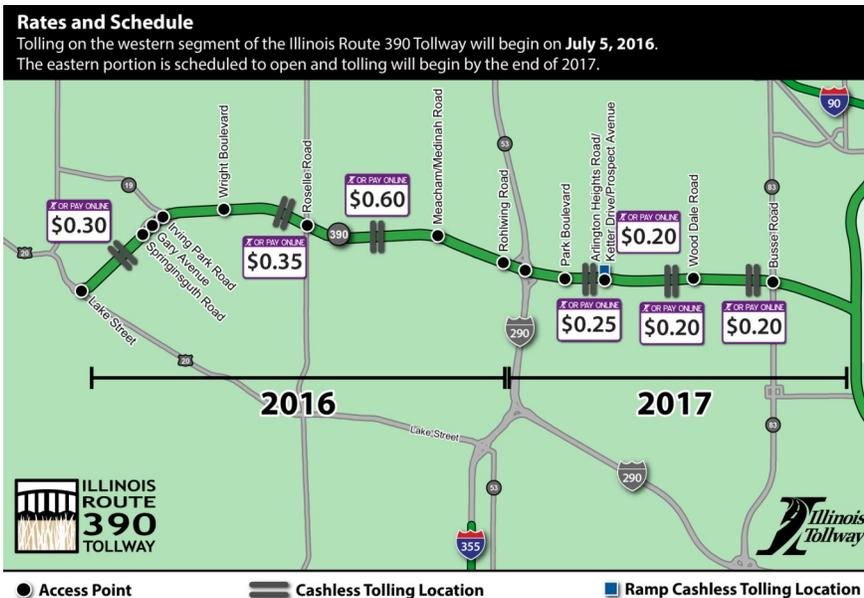
Illinois Route 390 Update, Cashless Tolling To Begin

Beginning July 5, cashless tolling will be coming to the Illinois Route 390 Tollway from Lake Street to I-290. This is the first, all electronic roadway on the Illinois Tollway system, which provides for a safer, more efficient and seamless method of collecting tolls from customers. The Illinois Route 390 Tollway is part of the \$3.4 billion Elgin O’Hare Western Access Project, which includes 17 miles of new roads and 15 new or improved interchanges.

This year, the Tollway is moving forward with roadway construction on the eastern segment of the new Illinois Route 390 Tollway from I-290 to Illinois Route

83, including completion of the frontage roads and construction of new interchanges at Wood Dale Road and Illinois Route 83. In addition, work will continue on the I-290 Interchange at Illinois Route 390.

Please email EOWinfo@getipass.com or visit www.illinoistollway.com should you have any questions.



Alliance for Regional Development to Host June 10 Rail Conversation

On Friday, June 10, the Alliance for Regional Development is hosting the first of its quarterly conversations entitled “How Intercity Rail Ties Our Economies Together.” The Alliance for Regional Development is a “coalition of high-level leaders in business, government, and academia working together to strengthen the economic competitiveness of Chicago’s tri-state region, including northeast Illinois, northwest Indiana, and southeast Wisconsin.” Working with the tri-state region’s Metropolitan Planning Organizations (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission), the Alliance has “identified inter-city passenger rail and freight movement as a focus for its transportation agenda.”

The June 10 conversation will serve to “assist in setting specific goals and objectives for our regional transportation system.” Panel discussions include: How State Governments View Intercity Passenger Rail; Local Economic Value of Intercity Passenger Rail; and, Freight Movement Challenges and Opportunities.

The fee to attend the conference is \$45. Please visit [this link](#) to RSVP for the event. For additional information on the Alliance for Regional Development, please visit <http://alliancerd.org/>.

June Bike/Ped Meeting Preview

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee did not meet in May. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21 at 10:30 a.m. at NWMC offices and will include a walking tour of the new Central Road Bike Shoulders project.



North Shore Council of Mayors Update

The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*. Please have all updates and requests to Brian Pigeon by Friday, June 10.



Northwest Council of Mayors Update

The Northwest Council of Mayors is set for a busy summer schedule. Projects from the April letting include: Hillcrest Avenue and Moon Lake Boulevard resurfacings in *Hoffman Estates*; and Springinsguth Road and Wiley Road resurfacings in *Schaumburg*; and, an intersection improvement at Dundee Road and Community Boulevard in *Wheeling*. Projects ex-

pected to be let in June and July include: Biesterfield Road and Oakton Street resurfacing in *Elk Grove Village*; various arterial lighting upgrades in *Schaumburg*; and, Park Avenue resurfacing in *Streamwood*.

The next Technical Committee meeting will be held at a date to be determined in August or September.



TMA of Lake Cook 2016 Annual Meeting

The Transportation Management Association of Lake Cook (TMA) held its annual meeting on Tuesday, May 24 at the corporate campus of Baxter Healthcare in *Deerfield*. The theme of the meeting was "Illinois' Continuing Transportation Crisis, What's Next?" Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) Senior Fellow Jim Reilly discussed the economic costs of deferred maintenance on the region's infrastructure. He outlined a proposal from MPC that would bring Illinois' infrastructure up to 90% state of good repair by imposing a thirty cent (\$0.30) increase in the motor fuel tax as well as a 50% increase in vehicle registration fees. MPC estimates this would raise \$43 billion over 10 years.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) District 1 Deputy Director John Fortmann discussed the challenges IDOT faces in balancing a limited budget with the region's increased transportation needs. Finally, Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Executive Director Leanne Redden discussed the impact that limited budgets have on the region's public transit agencies, CTA, Metra and Pace. All three speakers underlined the TMA's assertion that the lack of state transportation funding negatively impacts households, businesses and communities while emphasizing the need for immediate action from state lawmakers.



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