



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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## Dates to Remember

- March 16**                    **“Design That Draws” Workshop**  
*See article on page 4*
- March 17**                    **Invest in Cook Applications Due**  
*See article on page 2*
- March 21**                    **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.**  
*NWMC Offices*
- March 22**                    **North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.**  
*Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street*
- March 23**                    **NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m.**  
*NWMC Offices*



## Transportation Committee Discusses Regional Highway and Transit Improvements

The NWMC Transportation Committee met Thursday, February 23 to hear three presentations and discuss several transportation-related bills currently under consideration in the Illinois General Assembly. Legacy Environmental Services President Carl Lisek discussed the competitive grant program Clean Drive Chicago, which is an effort to assist municipalities build infrastructure to support alternative fuel vehicles. For details on the program, please visit <http://drivecleanchicago.com/>.

Illinois Tollway Senior Manager of Strategic Planning Aimee Lee discussed recently completed improvements to the I-90 Jane Addams Tollway. She also previewed SmartRoad improvements to that corridor which will provide traffic information to drivers in real time.

Pace Suburban Bus Community Relations Representative Steven Andrews provided an update on the I-94 Bus-On-Shoulder project. This two-year demonstration project will test the feasibility of allowing Pace busses to use the shoulder for express service between

Foster Avenue and Lake Cook Road. Pace expects this service to begin in Fall 2017.

Finally, the committee reviewed several transportation related bills currently pending before the Illinois General Assembly. The committee’s recommended positions will be forwarded to the NWMC Board for consideration at their meeting on March 8.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 8:30 a.m. at NWMC offices.



## Transportation Funding Opportunities

### **Cook County—Invest in Cook**

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH) is accepting applications for its new competitive transportation grant program, Invest in Cook. The county is seeking applications for transportation-related projects that help build and maintain the regional transportation network. Invest in Cook will provide \$8.5 million in funding to cover planning, engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction associated with transportation projects. The initiative springs from Connecting Cook County, the county's recently adopted long-range transportation plan and aims to expand CCDOH's focus beyond traditional highway building to include pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and freight improvements. Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 17 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit <http://www.cookcountyil.gov/investincook>.

### **CMAP—Local Technical Assistance**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will open a call for projects on May 5 for the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. The LTA program helps communities develop plans that advance the principles of GO TO 2040, the region's comprehensive plan. Past LTA projects have included, but are not limited to: updates of zoning regulations, capital improvement plans, transportation plans, bicycle and pedestrian plans, and downtown plans.

CMAP will host a symposium on the LTA program on Tuesday, May 16 (location TBD) and the application deadline will be Thursday, June 29. For more information on the LTA program and call for projects, please visit <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs-and-resources/lta>.

### **MMC—Alternate Fuel Stations**

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is seeking a community that would consider cost-sharing for a new alternate fueling station as part of a grant proposal to the US Department of Energy to be submitted in mid-March. Candidate communities may receive 50% investment to develop an alternate fuel station and potentially additional funds for alternate fuel vehicles. Technical expertise will be available through the Gas Technology Institute.

Candidate communities will: host a station on municipal land; create sufficient alternate fuel demand to anchor a station through the acquisition of, or conversion to alternate fuel vehicles; collaborate with other public agencies or private industry to use the station; have considered CNG, EV or other alternate fuels but not yet acted; have adopted the Greenest Region Compact 2; and, must provide a letter of support for the collaborative grant application by March 17. Contact Edith Makra ([emakra@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:emakra@mayorscaucus.org) or 312-201-4506) by March 10.

### **RTA— Section 5310**

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is seeking applications for Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310) projects. Section 5310 funds are available for operating expenses, mobility management and capital expenses (excluding rolling stock) to provide transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities.

Applications are due Monday, May 1. For more information and application materials, please visit <http://www.rtachicago.org/index.php/plans-programs/grants-projects/section->

### **Bike/Ped Committee Talks Planning and Grants**

On Tuesday, February 21, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met and heard presentations from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) staff on upcoming regional bicycle planning efforts. CMAP Senior Planner Lindsay Bayley discussed the ON TO 2050: Non-Motorized Transportation Snapshot, one of a series of reports CMAP is developing to identify emerging trends in the region. These reports will help develop priorities for ON TO 2050, the region's next comprehensive plan. Please visit <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050> for more information on the plan's development.

ATA Advocacy Manager Jackie Blair discussed the organization's new Suburban Policy Program, featuring a new report entitled "Suburban Bikeways for All." This report will serve as an outreach and communication tool to promote biking as a form of everyday transportation in Northeast Illinois. The Suburban Policy Program supports goals including: adopting Active Transportation Plans and Complete Streets Policies; dedicated funding; and, implementation and the creation of bicycle and pedestrian advisory committees. ATA will host four advocacy summits in suburban communities and a series of issue-based training webinars. The dates and times of these are to be determined. If you are interested in hosting a summit or webinar, please contact NWMC staff.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.

## Metra Launches Online Customer Survey

Metra has launched an online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MetraFareStudy>) to ask what its customers, former customers and prospective customers think about a variety of potential fare and ticket options, including off-peak and reverse-commute pricing, one-day and seven-day passes, loyalty programs and other ideas. The survey is available now at [metrarail.com](http://metrarail.com) and will be online through March 31.

The survey is part of a study that Metra commissioned in July 2016 to evaluate the agency's distance-based fare structure and fare products and recommend changes that best serve the region's needs.

The survey asks respondents for information about commuting habits before asking for opinions about a variety of potential changes. The survey also asks about the ease of understanding Metra's Ventra App and zone-based fares, and allows respondents to provide additional comments about current fares and how they might be improved to meet their needs.

The survey results will be used to guide Metra's decision-making regarding changes to fares and fare policies. Any proposed changes would be subject to further public comment before being implemented. The study is expected to be completed this summer.



## North Shore Council Update

The North Shore Council of Mayors had two items on the March 3 IDOT construction letting. The *Village of Glenview* is receiving Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding to resurface and complete streetscape improvements on Glenview Road between Harlem Avenue and Waukegan Avenue.

The *Village of Skokie* received Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding for the construction of an off-street, multi-use path along Old Orchard Road from Harms Road to Woods Drive. This path will create a connection between the North Branch Trail and the Skokie Valley Trail.

Additionally, the municipalities in the North Shore Council submitted four applications for federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and

TAP funding. *Evanston* submitted an application for signal interconnects along Emerson Street. *Glenview* submitted an application for a multi-use path along Willow Road. *Skokie* submitted an application to extend the Skokie Valley Trail from Dempster Street north to Golf Road. *Northbrook* and Cook County submitted a joint application that would construct a bridge over Lake Cook Road connecting to the existing Skokie Valley Trail and extend the trail south to the village limits.

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet Wednesday, March 22, 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*. Please submit any agenda items to Brian Pigeon ([bpigeon@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:bpigeon@nwmc-cog.org)) by Friday, March 10.



## Northwest Council Update

With the cancellation of the Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting originally scheduled for February 24, staff and the committee are looking at new meeting dates in April. A revised date will be announced soon.

The agenda will still feature a discussion on projects programmed in 2017 and beyond. With the approved changes from the October Technical Committee meeting plus those projects already targeting lettings next year, the council is projected to spend well above its programming mark in FY

2017. This may result in the council requesting advanced funding against future years from the Council of Mayors Executive Committee.

In order to better accommodate future project schedules and available funding, staff has been evaluating projects programmed in the current program and on the multi-year list.

Please send any project updates or requests to Mike Walczak ([mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org)).

## CMAP Census Workshops

### Census workshop

CMAP will hold a free U.S. Census workshop featuring housing data on Wednesday, April 19, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., at the CMAP office (233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 800, Chicago). A limited number of laptops will be available, but pre-registration is required.

Please contact Jon Hallas ([jhallas@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:jhallas@cmap.illinois.gov)) or 312-386-8764 to RSVP or for more information.

### Boundary and Annexation Survey Workshop

Local government officials can submit boundary corrections, annexations, name changes, and street updates using the Boundary and Annexation Survey. These updates ensure their government can participate in the 2020 Local Update of Census Addresses. To register, please email your name, phone number, workshop location (CMAP - Chicago), and method (hard copy or digital) to [geo.bas@census.gov](mailto:geo.bas@census.gov), with a generic subject of: RSVP to Illinois BAS Workshop, by Tuesday, March 7. Contact the BAS team with questions at [geo.bas@census.gov](mailto:geo.bas@census.gov), or call 301-763-1099.



## Workshop to Teach “Design that Draws”

On Thursday, March 16, the American Planning Association-IL Chicago Metro Section, the Municipal Design Review Network (MDRN), the American Institute of Architects-Chicago and the Congress for New Urbanism Illinois Chapter will host a workshop to “consider how urban design can help aging suburbs attract young professionals and families.” The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the DePaul University Loop Campus, 14 E. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1600 in Chicago. The workshop costs \$15 for non-students and \$5 for students.

According to the program materials, “Demographic trends that indicate millennials will soon be seeking urban-like social and cultural amenities in the suburbs. Architectural and urban design considerations can enhance such opportunities. Panelists will discuss the demands of a younger demographic, while drawing upon regional case studies and current research on demographic change.” The speakers at the workshop are as follows:

- Emi Adachi, Vice President of Investment Research at Heitman,

will provide an overview of demographic change in suburban communities and trends among millennials.

- Ferhat Zerín, Principal at Ginko Planning & Design, will discuss her work on downtown redevelopment projects in communities such as Schaumburg, and how urban design projects can attract new residents.
- A representative from a case study community will share how their community has continued to successfully attract millennials and young families.

The speakers and panelists will also discuss factors such as affordability, access to transit and diversity as factors millennials consider as they look to the suburbs. After a brief presentation from each speaker, there will be a panel discussion with Q&A.” Please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/design-that-draws-tickets-31752942907> to register and for additional information.



## Contacts

Mike Walczak  
NWMC Transportation Director  
Northwest Council Planning Liaison  
1600 East Golf Road – Suite 0700  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
847-296-9200, ext. 134  
[mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org)

Brian Pigeon  
NWMC Program Associate for Transportation  
North Shore Council Planning Liaison  
1600 East Golf Road – Suite 0700  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
847-296-9200, ext. 128  
[bpigeon@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:bpigeon@nwmc-cog.org)