



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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## Dates to Remember

<b>September 17</b>	<b>NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—9:00 a.m.</b> (see article on page 3) NWMC Offices
<b>September 18</b>	<b>North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee—8:30 a.m.</b> Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street
<b>September 20</b>	<b>Truck Access Route Program (TARP) Application Deadline</b> (see article on page 2)
<b>September 26</b>	<b>NWMC Transportation Committee—9:00 a.m.</b> NWMC Offices
<b>October 1</b>	<b>Northwest Council of Mayors Functional Classification Working Group—9:00 a.m.</b> NWMC Offices

## Governor Appoints Transit Reform Task Force

On August 15, Governor Quinn announced the appointment of a fifteen member blue ribbon task force to “restore trust in Northeastern Illinois public transit.” The task force is “charged with developing ways to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse and streamline operations to ensure improved transit service for the millions of users each year” according to the Governor’s press release. The task force is co-chaired by Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Ann Schneider and Metropolis Strategies President and CEO George Ranney.

Over the past year, Metropolis Strategies has been a strong advocate for Senate Bill 1594 (Sen. Terry Link), which calls for folding the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) into the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

(CMAP). This legislation was proposed prior to the current Metra/RTA situation and does little to address the concerns and goals outlined by the governor. In his press release, Governor Quinn states “It’s clear that the mass transit system in northeastern Illinois is not working for taxpayers.” However, in naming the fifteen members of the task force, he fails to include any members that have been directly elected by taxpayers. Instead, the task force will include two union officials, two former or current members of the CTA Board, three community activists and two academics. The only representative from local government is the Chief of Staff for Will County Executive Larry Walsh.

At its first meeting on September 2, the Governor charged the Task Force to find ways to eliminate waste, fraud and

abuse at the RTA and the three service boards and streamline overall system operations. Four working groups covering ethics, system performance, finance and governance will be formed.

The task force is expected to submit initial recommendations to the General Assembly prior to the start of their fall veto session on October 22 and issue final recommendations by January 31, 2014.

Staff is closely monitoring the situation and will update the membership as events warrant. To review materials and submit public comments, please visit the [Task Force website](#).



## News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met on September 6 at *Barrington Village Hall*. The Committee voted to nominate *Arlington Heights Village President Tom Hayes* and *Prospect Heights City Administrator Anne Marrin* as new members of the Technical Committee. Their nominations were confirmed by the full Northwest Council of Mayors at the September 11 NWMC Board meeting.

The Committee also approved a new project application from *Barrington* for an underpass on US 14 at the Canadian National Railway as well as approving additional funding the following projects for the Council's Surface Transportation Program (STP): *Rolling Meadows – Rohlwing Road* and *Industrial Avenue resurfacing*, *Niles – Touhy* at Gross Point Road/Harts Road intersection improvement, *Niles – Howard Street* reconstruction, and *Elk Grove Village – Lively Boulevard* reconstruction.

The Committee also discussed a proposed scoring system to rank new Functional Classification (FC) change requests which has been developed by NWMC staff and a working group of municipal staff. The requests, typically to change the classification from a local street to a collector, will be scored based on average annual daily traffic, how close they are to other similarly classified roads, traffic generators and other criteria. Before the next meeting, staff will score recent requests as well as a sample from the existing FC network to test the new scoring system and prepare a map to show the existing and proposed network.

The Functional Classification Working Group is set to meet on Tuesday, October 1 at 9:00 a.m. at NWMC offices. The next meeting of the Technical Committee is on call.



## News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On September 18, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet at the *Skokie Village Hall* to approve its federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014-2019 Surface Transportation Program (STP). The proposed program includes approximately \$27 million in STP funding over the next six years for locally sponsored projects. The proposed program includes approximately \$10 million in funding for projects that were part of a call for projects in 2012.

In addition to approving a new multiyear program, the Technical Committee will consider advanced funding requests for FFY 2014. While the North Shore Council

will enter FFY 2014 with a positive balance of roughly \$3.35 million, the \$7.1 million programmed in FFY 2014 will require advanced funding. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAQ) Council of Mayors Executive Committee considers advanced funding requests.

Finally, the committee will review North Shore area projects with funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP).

### NWMC Has Moved!

The Conference has moved into its new offices located in Suite 0700 of Oakton College (next door to our previous location). Our new address will be 1600 East Golf Road – Suite 0700, Des Plaines, IL 60016. Please note the phone number will remain the same, 847-296-9200.

### 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. Funds may be used for project construction only.

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.



## Bike/Ped Committee Reviews Bike Safety Quiz

On August 20, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee learned about [www.bikesafetyquiz.com](http://www.bikesafetyquiz.com). Ed Barsotti from the League of Illinois Bicyclists presented the online quiz, which is a free, first-of-its-kind website that teaches users key safety techniques and relevant Illinois state laws. Three interactive quizzes are geared toward the following audiences: "Adult Bicyclists," "Motorists" and "Child Bicyclists." Mr. Barsotti discussed how some municipalities are beginning to use the online quiz as an alternate to citations for traffic violations involving bicyclists.

Additionally, staff provided an update on the Des Plaines River Corridor Plan. The consultant team created an online survey and interactive mapping tool to gather input from Steering Committee members. NWMC staff demonstrated the online mapping tool and encouraged communities along the corridor to provide input before the mapping tool goes public.

Finally, the committee approved a comment letter for the FFY 2014-2018 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. The comment letter encourages the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to consider programming additional projects into the multi-year program. The total proposed program leaves un-programmed funding for anticipated cost increases, deferred projects and future calls for projects. Given the history of delayed CMAQ projects, the region's unobligated balance and unfunded regional priority projects like the Skokie Valley Trail, the NWMC recommends that CMAP consider programming additional projects in the FFY 2014-2018 program. However, at its September 10 meeting, the CMAQ Project Selection Committee did not recommend programming additional projects.



## Route 53/120 Blue Ribbon Advisory Council To Meet

The Blue Ribbon Advisory Council (BRAC) of the Illinois Route 53/120 project will reconvene on Tuesday, September 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lake County Permit Office in Libertyville. This meeting will kickoff the next planning phase for the project as the Illinois Tollway, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), and Lake County will develop a feasibility analysis and corridor land use plan, which were both recommended by the BRAC as next steps for the Illinois Route 53/120 Project.

The Northwest Municipal Conference is represented on the BRAC by Buffalo Grove Village President Jeff Braiman, while the Northwest Council of Mayors is represented by Rolling Meadows Mayor Tom Rooney.

As part of this phase of the project's devolvement, the Tollway will lead a Finance Committee, which will focus on five key study areas: design, environmental, financing, operations and regu-

latory. This Committee will ultimately make a recommendation to the Tollway Board on the feasibility of the project and whether it should be undertaken by the Tollway.

At the same time, CMAP will work with Lake County and the municipalities in the corridor to develop a land use plan that will guide development in the corridor, balancing environmental resources while ensuring the project can be financially feasible.

The feasibility analysis and land use plan are anticipated to be complete in early 2015. More information on the project can be found at the [Illinois Tollway website](http://Illinois Tollway website).

## Des Plaines River Trail Bike Ride—September 17

The September 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting will include a ride of the Des Plaines River Trail. We will meet at NWMC offices for a quick meeting then start riding in order to see firsthand the opportunities and challenges along the Trail and to provide our consultant team with direct input.

To accommodate the extra time needed for the ride, we will be meeting at NWMC offices at 9:00 a.m. We should be back to the college by 12:00 p.m. In case of rain, we will stay at our office and explore via Google Earth and sMap. You can park your bike at a rack to the right of Door 19 or leave them at your car.

## Help Us Plan the Des Plaines River Trail Corridor

The [Des Plaines River Trail Corridor Plan project website](http://Des Plaines River Trail Corridor Plan project website) is now live. It includes background on the plan and links to a project survey and the online mapping tool sMap. We encourage anyone interested in the project to visit the site and provide feedback directly on a project map. It is easy to do and you will be able to compare your priorities and concerns with those of other stakeholders. All of the information collected will be used to build the project's existing conditions report.

News and events will be added as the project continues. If you'd like to add a link to your website, please contact NWMC for the web buttons graphics.





## IDOT Multi-Year Program Public Meetings

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will seek early input into the development of its upcoming Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program for fiscal years 2015-2020. Informational and feedback sessions will be held in communities throughout the state. The public meetings for District 1 area will be held at several locations to give residents and businesses in the area a chance to better understand and weigh in on project priorities over the next five to seven years.

Also called the Multi-Year Program (MYP), this planning and programming guide for transportation is based on current estimates of local, federal and state funding, including funding from Governor Pat Quinn's Illinois Jobs Now! capital program, enacted in 2009. The MYP for the current FY 2014-2019 totals about \$9.5 billion for the state road and bridge systems alone.

Public meetings will be conducted informally, with no formal presentation planned. IDOT staff will be present to answer any questions related to the

multi-modal program, planning and project development process. The public will have an opportunity to comment in writing on the development of the proposed MYP, existing programming procedures and other information.

IDOT also will present the latest developments on the first ever statewide Illinois Bicycle Transportation Plan. This long-range planning document will guide future policy decisions and infrastructure improvements to make cycling a safer, more convenient, and more accessible transportation option for Illinois residents and visitors. For more information on the Illinois State Bike Plan, please visit [www.illinoisbikeplan.com](http://www.illinoisbikeplan.com).

Comment sheets will be provided for those in attendance who wish to provide a written statement on the MYP and the statewide bicycle plan. Comments received at this meeting or sent to the **IDOT District 1 Office at 201 West Center Court, Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096** by November 1, 2014, will be included in the meeting record.

### Kane County

Tuesday, October 1, 2013  
Hilton Garden Inn St. Charles  
4070 E. Main Street (Route 64)  
St. Charles, Illinois 60174  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

### McHenry County

Thursday, October 3, 2013  
Holiday Inn Crystal Lake Conf. Center  
800 South Route 31  
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

### North Cook County

Thursday, October 10, 2013  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

### South Cook County

Thursday, October 17, 2013  
South Suburban Mayors & Managers  
1906 West 174<sup>th</sup> Street  
East Hazel Crest, IL 60429  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

### Lake County

Wednesday, October 2, 2013  
College of Lake County  
19351 W. Washington St, Building "C"  
Grayslake, Illinois 60030  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

### Will County

Tuesday, October 8, 2013  
The Jacob Henry Mansion Estate  
20 South Eastern Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60433  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

### DuPage County

Tuesday, October 15, 2013  
Hilton Lisle/Naperville  
3003 Corporate West Drive  
Lisle, IL 60532  
3:00pm – 6:00pm

### TMA of Lake-Cook Transportation Update Meeting

The Transportation Management Association (TMA) of Lake-Cook will host a Transportation Update on Friday, November 8 with Tollway Executive Director, Kristi Lafleur and Illinois Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Doug Whitley. Kristi Lafleur will provide an update on 2013 Tollway Construction Projects such as I-90 expansion as well as the recent initiatives for the Route 53/120 project. Doug Whitley, who also leads the Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC), will discuss Illinois transportation infrastructure needs and TCIF funding proposals to address this situation. RSVP to [lynn\\_stailey@baxter.com](mailto:lynn_stailey@baxter.com).

Friday November 8, 2013  
9:00 a.m.  
Baxter Healthcare  
1 Baxter Parkway  
Deerfield, IL

### TMA of Lake-Cook Launches New Shuttle Bug Service

Pace and the TMA of Lake-Cook launched a new Shuttle Bug Service for Allstate employees on August 19. Shuttle Bug Route 620 takes Allstate Vandalia/Willow Road campus employees to the CTA Yellow Line Station at Dempster St. in Oak Brook. This new service opens up a new market to access the CTA Yellow, Red and Purple Lines in Chicago and nearby suburbs for employees. Initial ridership looks positive with service averaging about 85 daily trips.

Additionally, a new Shuttle Bug that will provide service for Walgreen's employees in Vandalia to the Braeside station in Oak Brook/UP North Line is included in the proposed CMAQ program. The TMA of Lake-Cook is seeking other companies to participate in the service. The TMA also received RTA Board approval to fund a regional effort to develop, implement and market the Shuttle Bug services to other employers of the region. The TMA will work with RTA, Pace and Metra to identify employer markets, obtain employer support and develop and implement up to four pilot routes in suburban Cook, Lake, and DuPage Counties or other suburban areas.



## Pace Releases New Transit Supportive Guidelines

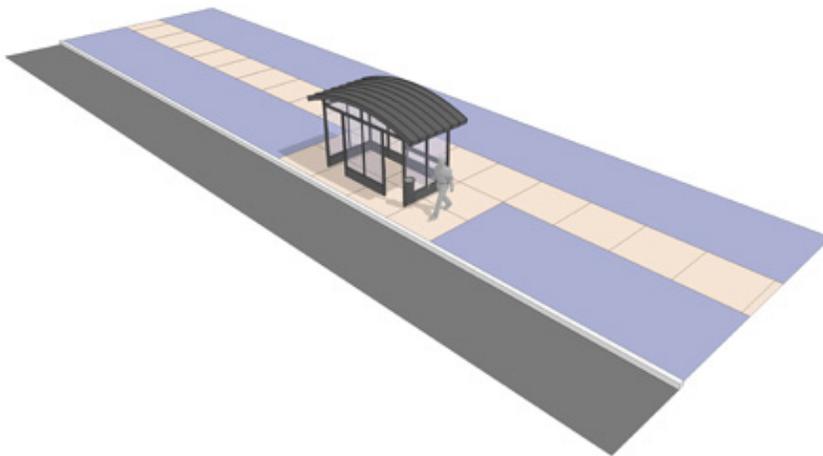
The Pace Board of Directors recently adopted an all-new set of guidelines aimed at helping communities and private developments create environments that better support public transit. These can include the unique characteristics related to operating buses such as the amount of space needed for turns or the dimensions of an area necessary for a bus stop.

The document, titled “Transit Supportive Guidelines for the Chicagoland Region,” offers technical suggestions on easing access to transit throughout the entire journey. Areas covered in the guide include the development lot (either residential or commercial), the public walk (such as sidewalks, crosswalks, signals and signage), the transit

stop and the transit vehicle and infrastructure.

To facilitate the use of the guidelines, Pace offers the Design Review Assistance for Transit (DRAFT) program, in which Pace staff can work with planners, engineers, architect and urban planners to develop a customized plan for a particular development or community. This process develops a custom set of concepts from inner-ring suburbs to rapidly growing exurbs and anything in between.

To download a copy of the document and view additional supporting information, please visit a new section of the Pace website dedicated to the guidelines at [www.pacebus.com/guidelines](http://www.pacebus.com/guidelines).



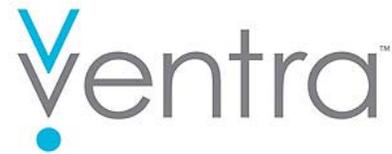
**Examples from the Guidelines website of transit supportive design (above) and practical examples from around the region (below)**



## Pace and CTA Launch Ventra Card

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and Pace are partnering to bring customers Ventra. Ventra is available to all CTA customers and Pace fixed route bus riders as of September 9.

At this time, customers can buy and register Ventra Cards online at [www.VentraChicago.com](http://www.VentraChicago.com) or via phone at (877) NOW-VENTRA. Cards are also available at Ventra Vending Machines or at select retail locations. There will eventually be more than 2,000 places to buy cards and add passes and value throughout the Pace and CTA service area.



New or modified Pace pass products and fare policy changes are proposed as part of the transition to Ventra. Complete details are available at [www.pacebus.com/ventra](http://www.pacebus.com/ventra). Public hearings on the proposals will occur in October in conjunction with Pace’s budget public hearings.

More information, including informational videos and a list of frequently asked questions, is available at [www.VentraChicago.com](http://www.VentraChicago.com).

## Metra Board Opening

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There is currently a vacancy on the Metra Board for a seat which represents Evanston, Leyden, New Trier, Niles, Norwood Park, Maine, Oak Park and Riverside Townships. The appointment is made by Cook County Commissioners who represent these townships using a weighed voting system based on voter turnout in the previous election. The Commissioners and their weighed voting totals are: Larry Suffredin (38.3%), Peter Silvestri (23.7%), Gregg Goslin (15.5%), Liz Doody Gorman (10.24%), Earlean Collins (7.55%) and Jeffrey Tobolski (4.7%).

Interested candidates who live in the above townships should present their names and qualifications by midnight September 25, 2013. Each candidate shall present a detailed statement of their transit experience, work history and a statement of why they want to be on the Metra Board. Names shall be presented to the Secretary to the Cook County Board of Commissioners electronically at [matthew.deleon@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:matthew.deleon@cookcountyil.gov). All submissions shall be available to the General Public for review. After receiving interested candidates information, the candidate will be required to fill out an application that will be sent to them and will be subjected to a background check.



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