



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

- November 14** **Deadline for comments on IDOT Annual Program**
See article on Page 1
- November 20** **NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- December 16** **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—10:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices



Transportation Committee Discusses IDOT Annual Program, Metra Budget

The Transportation Committee met on October 23 and addressed an agenda dominated by transportation funding issues. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Region 1 Area Programmer Marnie Hooghkirk presented a video explaining the development process of IDOT's annual program. She also answered questions from the committee about specific projects around the region and received concerns expressed by members about IDOT maintenance practices.

Comments on the annual program (which can be found by visiting <http://www.dot.state.il.us/index>) will be accepted until Friday, November 14. Additionally, a public meeting on the program will be held on Thursday, October 30 at the DoubleTree – *Arlington Heights* (75 West Algonquin Road) from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Metra Community and Legislative Affairs Administrator Rick Mack summarized the agency's proposed fare increase and

modernization program (see article below).

The Committee also approved an updated transportation funding statement, which calls for sustainable transportation funding at both the state and federal levels. The statement will be considered by the NWMC Legislative Committee for inclusion in the Conference's 2015 Legislative Program. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.



Metra Announces Fare Increases and Modernization Plan

At the October Transportation Committee meeting Metra Community and Legislative Affairs Administrator Rick Mack outlined the agency's proposed fare increase and modernization program. This plan represents the first long-term rolling stock plan in Metra's history as well as the first time the agency will issue its own bonds. The average annual 10.8% fare increase over ten years

would generate approximately \$2.4 billion of the \$10 billion needed to bring the system to a state of good repair. The new revenue would fund expected increases in operating costs and the replacement or rehabilitation of engines and train cars, many of which are well past their useful life expectancy. Also, \$400 million will be used to install Positive Train Control on Metra's fleet, a

federally mandated technology which helps avoid train collisions. The Metra board will annually consider the fare increases while continuing to seek state and federal funds to offset capital costs.

More information on the proposal can be found [here](#):



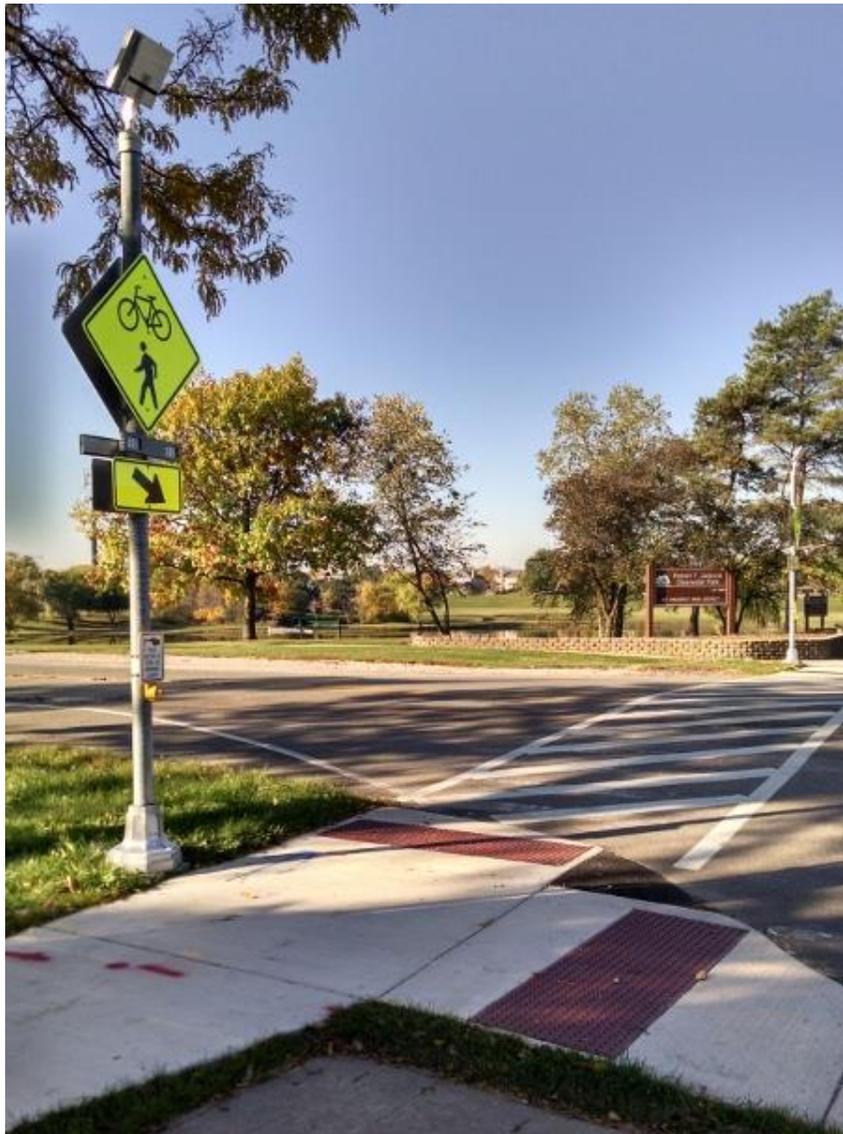
Bike/Ped Committee Plans for the Coming Year, Learns of New Safety Efforts

On October 21, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met and discussed their FY2014-2015 work plan. Topics to be addressed include maintenance of sidewalks and bike paths after snowstorms, bike paths in utility corridors and the annual update on implementation of the Conference's bike plan. The committee was also asked to recommend possible tours of area bicycle facilities.

Village of Mount Prospect Traffic Engineer Matt Lawrie described the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) that the village installed at the intersection of Busse Road and Lonnquist Boulevard. The RRFB provides a safe, high-visibility bike and pedestrian crossing at an unsignalized intersection which is adjacent to a park and near a school. He described the planning, engineering and implementation of the RRFB, which was coordinated with Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways.

Staff also reviewed the new U.S. Department of Transportation action plan called "Safer People, Safer Streets" which will coordinate national efforts to increase walking and bicycling safety while reducing fatalities. A series of reports will highlight infrastructure safety, behavioral safety and education, vehicle safety as well as improved data collection and analysis. The report can be found [here](#).

The next committee meeting is Tuesday, December 16 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.



The new Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at Busse Road and Lonnquist Boulevard provides a high-visibility crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians near a school and park. Photo credit: Matt Lawrie





Route 53/120 Land Use Planning Moving Forward

The Illinois Route 53/120 Corridor Land Use Committee held its fourth meeting on October 23 in North Chicago. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) staff and their consultant team presented an updated version of a “cool spot/hot spot” analysis to show potential areas for future detailed planning efforts. Cool areas included protected and sensitive environmental areas, forest preserves, parks and open space as well as mitigation banks. These areas will be removed from consideration for any more detailed development analysis.

Hot spots were determined by market potential and municipal and policy fac-

tors including zoning, land use plans, and proximity to the transportation network. Areas identified as hot spots will form the basis for Detailed Planning Areas (DPAs) going forward in the land use planning process. Being a DPA does not necessarily mean it should be developed, but rather that it deserves more study since it meets the basic criteria for development. The committee agreed with staff analysis and the Detailed Planning Area analysis will go forward.

The project team also announced a series of public input sessions for the land use planning process. The sessions will be an open house format and pro-

vide an opportunity for residents and businesses in the corridor to provide feedback on the work to date and what is important to them going forward. The two input sessions are:

- Wednesday, November 12
Byron Colby Barn at Prairie Crossing
1561 Jones Point Road, *Grayslake*
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 19
Lake Zurich High School—Cafeteria
300 Church Street, *Lake Zurich*
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The next Corridor Land Use Committee meeting will take place in January.

Western Segment of Jane Addams Tollway Opens

On October 28, the Illinois Tollway announced the opening of newly completed lanes on the Jane Addams Tollway between Rockford and Elgin. The 37-mile segment now has three lanes in each direction and is the first phase of a \$2.5 billion plan to widen and rebuild the 56 year old tollway. The segment east of the Elgin toll plaza to I-294 is scheduled to be completed in 2016.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 18 at 8:30 a.m. at *Barrington Village Hall*. Please send any requests, project updates or new project applications to Mike Walczak by December 9.

Projects from the Northwest Council on IDOT’s upcoming November letting include:

- Raupp Boulevard bridge replacement in *Buffalo Grove* (BRR funded)
- Salem Drive and Bode Road intersection improvement and reconstruction in *Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates*.

Projects scheduled for the January letting include:

- US 14 (Northwest Highway) at Wilke Road intersection improvement in *Arlington Heights* (STP funded)
- Dundee Road lighting in *Wheeling* (STP funded)
- Lively Boulevard reconstruction in *Elk Grove Village* (STP funded)
- US 14 (Northwest Highway) streetscape project in *Mount Prospect* (ITEP funded)
- Milwaukee Avenue streetscape in *Niles* (ITEP funded)

News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On October 17, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) letting included a segment of the *Village of Glenview’s* Techny Trail project between Willow Road and Old Willow Road. The project will consist of two bicycle path segments. The first runs from Old Willow Road along Ravine Road to Claire Street and connecting to the existing Techny Basin paths. The second runs from the north side of the Techny Basin path along West Fork Park to Willow Road.

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 17 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*. The Committee will discuss the upcoming call for projects beginning in January.



DuPage Hosts John Noel Public Transit Discovery Conference

On October 24, DuPage County hosted the John Noel Public Transit Conference at Cantigny Park in Wheaton. RTA Chairman Kirk Dillard discussed the future of transit in the region, emphasizing the need for sustainable transportation funding and transit-oriented development.

Representatives from the three service boards also addressed the conference. Metra Executive Director Don Orseno discussed the agency's upcoming mobile ticketing and modernization plans.

CTA Vice President of Planning and Federal Affairs, Michael McLaughlin stressed that by making downtown Chicago a healthy place for business, CTA makes for healthy suburbs. Pace Executive Director TJ Ross highlighted current successes like keeping stable finances with no fare increases for 2015, and an integrated payment with CTA as well as future plans for cleaner

CNG busses, Arterial Rapid Transit (ART) service and a DuPage/Cook Investment plan.

The second half of the conference, moderated by newly appointed RTA Executive Director Leanne Redden, was entitled "Marketing Suburban Transit." Representatives from RTA and Pace discussed ongoing plans to rebrand public transit as a relaxing alternative to traffic. Choose DuPage President and CEO Greg Bedalov offered suggestions as to how municipalities can help market transit to businesses and assist in bringing in talented employees.

Finally, TMA of Lake Cook President Bill Baltutis discussed how their Shuttle Bug service from Metra stations can connect commuters to corporate campuses.

Green Infrastructure Workshop in Glenview

On Thursday, November 13, American Planning Association (APA) – Chicago Metro Section and DePaul University's Municipal Design Review Network (MDRN) will host a workshop entitled "Design Considerations for Landscape and Hardscape Infrastructure." Participants will explore new and innovative design considerations for landscape and hardscape infrastructure techniques, hear an insider's perspective on the development of the net-zero *Evanston* Walgreens store, and learn about cutting edge techniques that municipalities are incorporating into their local sustainability initiatives. The event is 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Tyner Center, 2400 Compass Road in *Glenview*. Following the program, there will be an optional tour of the Tyner Center, which is the village's community center and is recognized as a LEED Platinum facility. The cost to attend the workshop is \$15 payable at the door, \$5 for students. To RSVP or for more information please email cms@ilapa.org.



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