



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

## Table of Contents:

Transportation Committee Update	1	News from the Northwest Council of Mayors	3
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Update	1-2	Highway Safety Improvement Program Funding	3
Des Plaines River Corridor Steering Committee	2	Transit Task Force Final Report	4
Illinois Bike Summit	2	Route 53/120 Update	4
ArcGIS Training	2	RTA Transit Access Workshop	4
TIGER Grants Available	3	2014 Tollway Construction Highlights	5
News from the North Shore Council of Mayors	3	Contacts	5



## Dates to Remember

- April 9**      **Lake Council of Mayors —9:00 a.m.**  
Lake County DOT, 600 W. Winchester Rd, *Libertyville*
- April 10**      **Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee—8:30 a.m.**  
*Barrington Village Hall*, 200 S. Hough Street
- April 15**      **Illinois Bike Summit—10:00 a.m.** (see article on page 2)  
1900 South 1st Street, Champaign
- April 24**      **NWMC Transportation Committee—8:30 a.m.**  
NWMC Offices
- May 30**      **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Application Deadline** (see article on page 3)



## Transportation Committee Talks Transit Reform, Pace Planning Efforts

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on Thursday and received a staff update on the work of the Northeastern Illinois Public Transit Task Force. The task force's final report was released on March 31 (see article on page 4).

Maggie Daly-Skogsbakken of Pace presented the agency's Transit Supportive Guidelines document, which can help municipal planners and elected officials

work together with Pace and developers to eliminate barriers to transit usage. The guidelines are split into sections for Pace infrastructure and facilities, the public realm and the private realm. In addition, the document provides a host of technical drawings and references. Pace offers complementary in-house technical review under its Design Review Assistance For Transit (D.R.A.F.T.) program. Developers and designers can

participate in the program voluntarily, though municipalities may require Pace review as a part of local development review. These reviews are conducted by Pace's Transportation Engineer and are designed to promote the incorporation of public transportation features in sub-urban developments. For more information, please visit the [Pace website](#).



## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Reviews I-90 Plans

On March 18, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee received a report from Rocco Zucchero of the Illinois Tollway on the bicycle and pedestrian components planned for the I-90 (Jane Addams Tollway) reconstruction and widening project. The roadway has long

been a barrier to north-south bicycle and pedestrian movements; however, the Tollway is using the I-90 project as an opportunity to provide accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians. The agency plans to accommodate bike paths and sidewalks at seventeen major

crossings where significant bridge work will be undertaken.

The committee also discussed winter maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. NWMC staff has collected a

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

number of resources and best practices for communities looking to improve winter maintenance practices. With the greater emphasis on providing bicycle and pedestrian accommodations for transportation purposes, the committee noted that keeping facilities clean and safe in winter conditions is a challenge. The Americans with Disabilities

Act (ADA) requires that facilities be kept in “operable working condition” all year; therefore, the committee focused on best practices for winter maintenance management plans and snow removal ordinances. Finally, the committee discussed the Des Plaines River Corridor Planning Process (see article below).



## Des Plaines River Corridor Steering Committee Reviews Preliminary Recommendations

On Tuesday, the Des Plaines River Corridor Steering Committee reviewed preliminary recommendations from the consultant team on improvements to the Des Plaines River Trail between Lake Cook Road and Higgins Road. The planning process has focused on three main areas; trail quality, trail access and trail crossings.

For trail quality, the consultant team is applying the trail typologies developed by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County in its Trails Master Plan to identify segments of the Des Plaines River Trail that need improvement. The goal is to provide a consistent surface throughout the length of the trail to provide a safe and inviting recreation and transportation option for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The consultant team developed design principles for crossings and roadway segments to guide the type of improvements needed within the corridor. Five strategic crossings, which need more intensive engineering and capital solutions, were discussed in greater detail

by the Steering Committee. The consultant team discussed preliminary recommendations for the crossings of Dundee Road, Milwaukee Avenue, the Union Pacific Railroad, Touhy Avenue and Devon Avenue. Each location has unique challenges, from an unmarked crossing of a five-lane arterial to poorly maintained underpasses.

Bicycle and pedestrian trail access remains a difficult challenge with a lack of access trails, sidewalks and side paths and the Des Plaines River and I-294 serving as barriers. The consultant team is examining potential locations for new access locations and guidelines to help ensure that access is provided at roadway crossings.

Following Tuesday’s meeting, the consultant team will be gathering input from the Steering Committee on the direction of the recommendations, suggestions for assembling the final plan and preparing for a trail ride with a broader stakeholder audience to highlight challenges and recommendations.



## ArcGIS Workshops

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is offering Two-Day ArcGIS Basic 10.1 Workshops on April 30-May 1, May 28-29 and June 28-19. The cost is \$350. To register or for more

information, please contact Jan Drennan at 312-386-8686.

## 3rd Annual Illinois Bike Summit – April 15, Champaign

Registration is open for the third annual Illinois Bike Summit, scheduled for Tuesday, April 15 at the I-Hotel in Champaign. The event is co-sponsored by the League of Illinois Bicyclists and Champaign County Bikes. The event will feature breakout sessions, each with a lineup of panelists sharing a range of experiences from different parts of the state. Other options include a technical training track, field trips, “coffee talks” on niche topics and ample networking time.

The main program of the Summit runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., starting with a session on the Illinois Department of Transportation’s (IDOT) new Bicycle Transportation Plan. IDOT Secretary Ann Schneider will summarize the plan, and the League of Illinois Bicyclists’ Ed Barsotti will describe implementation priorities of the bicycling community.

Breakout session topics throughout the day include:

- Local bike advocacy case studies
- Bicycle-Friendly Universities
- Trail project successes
- The Bronze Age of Champaign-Urbana: The Making of Two Bicycle-Friendly Communities
- Health community/bike advocacy partnership case studies
- Education and enforcement
- Mountain biking facilities
- Enhancing your own bicycling
- Bike sharing programs

A 3-hour “Turning Complete Street Policies into Good Practices” technical training session, concurrent to the afternoon breakout sessions, will be offered for agency staff, consultants and interested advocates.

For more information and to register, please visit [www.illinoisbikesummit.org](http://www.illinoisbikesummit.org).



## USDOT Soliciting Applications for TIGER Grants

On February 26, The United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) announced the latest application cycle for the National Infrastructure Investments program, more commonly referred to as the TIGER Discretionary Grants. US DOT will award \$600 million on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area or a region.

Applicants will be allowed to submit applications April 3, with the deadline for final applications on April 28. Please be aware that you must complete the registration process before submitting an application, and that this process usually takes 2-4 weeks to complete. For further information please visit [here](#), contact the TIGER Discretionary Grant program staff via e-mail at [TIGER-Grants@dot.gov](mailto:TIGER-Grants@dot.gov) or call Howard Hill, 202-366-0301.



## News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On March 21, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met and approved a number of program modifications to the Council's Surface Transportation Program. *The City of Evanston* requested to replace its Asbury Ave. project in the FFY 2018 with the Green Bay Road resurfacing project. During the 2012 programming cycle, the Asbury Avenue project ranked directly above the Green Bay Road project. No higher ranking projects would be "skipped" in order to program the Green Bay Rd. project, and Evanston is not requesting a change to the funding. Due to these factors, the Technical Committee approved this unique program modification. *The Village of Kenilworth* requested to move its Kenilworth Ave. project forward in the North Shore program. The Village requested that Phase II Engineering be moved from FFY 2016 to 2015 and Construction from FFY 2017 to 2016. *Kenilworth* has received Design Approval for Phase I Engineering. The committee considered the impact on the program and approved the request. Finally, *The Village of Winnetka* requested a cost increase for

Phase II Engineering of \$147,657 in STP funding. Due to a lengthy Phase I Engineering process and added costs from drainage and coordination with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the project costs have increase. The village further requested that construction funds be moved to FFY 2016 to reflect a more realistic schedule and allow for consideration of funding and construction phasing approaches. The Technical Committee found the requests within the established cost increase policies and reasonable given the project hurdles that the Village has encountered. The three modifications will be considered by the North Shore Council of Mayors at the April 9 NWMC Board meeting.

In addition to the program modifications, the Technical Committee reviewed the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program and Illinois Transportation Improvement Program (ITEP) projects in the North Shore Council area. The next meeting of the Technical Committee is scheduled for June 18 at the *Skokie Village Hall*.



## News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on Thursday, April 10 at 8:30 a.m. at *Barrington Village Hall*. On the agenda for the meeting are a number of project cost in-

creases and requests to move projects into the active program, the selection of a new manager to the Technical Committee, an update on the Functional Classification revisions, an update

## Highway Safety Improvement Program Seeking Applications

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is requesting candidate projects for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) that will be initiated in state fiscal year 2015. The HSIP is a core federal funding program with the goal of achieving a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads. The anticipated funding level for the local highway system is approximately \$13.3 million. The federal funding level is a maximum of ninety percent of the total improvement cost with the local agency responsible for the ten percent matching funds. Because HSIP funds are limited, low cost safety improvements are encouraged. Funds may be used to address safety issues independently without requiring reconstruction to all the latest policies and standards.

Municipalities must submit electronic copies of HSIP applications to the IDOT District One Bureau of Local Roads and Streets office in *Schaumburg* no later than May 30. To learn more about the program and review submittal requirements, please visit [IDOT's website](#).

On March 13, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) hosted a free webinar on Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding for pedestrian safety. To view a recording of the webinar, please visit [here](#).



## Transit Task Force Issues Final Report

On Monday, the Northeastern Illinois Public Transit Task Force forwarded its final report to Governor Quinn and the Illinois General Assembly. The report asserts that “Business as usual will not lead to a world-class transit system.” The Task Force found that the region lags its peers in system ridership, system expansion, innovation and development around transit. Four out of the five largest employment centers are poorly served by rapid transit including the Jane Addams Corridor northwest of O’Hare. In terms of funding, the Task Force said that the region lacks a strategic financial plan and existing funding sources do not meet the current capital needs of the system. The report also criticizes the current formulas and procedures for the allocation of funding. The most substantive findings came in

the areas of governance and ethics. The Task Force found that the current governance structure with separate boards for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace is inefficient and leads to poor regional decisions and underinvestment in the transit system. Regarding ethics, the report highlights a number of incidents and scandals that damage the public trust in the transit system.

Under system performance and finance, the Task Force’s recommendations are very broad and focus on creating a plan to increase transit ridership, implementing a regional financial planning process, identifying a new funding framework and seeking new revenues. The governance and ethics committees

recommend a higher level of specificity that the Task Force claims would lead to dramatic changes to the status quo. The Task Force recommends consolidating transit governance into a single integrated agency under one board, with three operating divisions. Under ethics, the Task Force recommends changes to board appointment process such as increased screening and background checks. Additionally, the Task Force recommends procedures for the removal of board members and ending their compensation.

The Task Force report outlines implementation steps including immediately setting clear standards for ethics and accountability and establishing a transition steering committee to design an integrated governance system.



## Route 53/120 Finance and Land Use Committees Meet

The Finance Committee and Land Use Committee of the Illinois Route 53/120 Project met on March 18 in *Grayslake*. The Illinois Tollway and its consultants presented updated traffic and toll revenue forecasts which show that the new facility would relieve congestion on many surrounding Lake County roads, while some roads in Lake County and northern Cook County leading to the tollway would see an increase in traffic. Overall travel times within and through the corridor would be improved. The new toll revenue forecast results in a total bonding capacity of \$250-330 million, which would still leave a \$2.23-2.62 billion funding gap. The committee

members shared their opinions on the other top funding and financing options, which will be used to develop a strategy for closing the gap at future meetings.

The Land Use Committee, led by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), met for the first time. CMAP staff and its team of consultants outlined the goals of the committee, including the development of a corridor which protects community assets, economic potential and environmental resources. The process will include: outreach to the municipalities and major stakeholders in the corridor; a de-

tailed existing conditions assessment; a detailed land use, market, transportation and environmental analysis; and, the preparation of a corridor plan to be considered for adoption by Lake County and the municipalities in the study area. Early analysis of the future land use plans currently adopted by municipalities in the corridor indicates that projected development is out of scale with future growth projections. More information on the committee can be found by visiting [the CMAP website](#).

Both committees will next meet on Thursday, May 8 at the Lake County Permit Facility in *Libertyville*.



## RTA, Chaddick Institute to Offer Access to Transit Workshop

On Tuesday, April 8, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and DePaul University’s Chaddick Institute are hosting an Access to Transit Workshop to showcase local examples of the successful implementation of access infrastructure improvements to our transit system. This no-cost event will bring together subject matter experts and practitioners such as municipal and transit agency staffs as well as planners to present the positive impacts that access to transit elements can have in regard to

public transit and highlight how such elements contribute to active and productive communities.

Speakers will include: staff from the RTA, Pace and Metra; representatives from the diverse transit communities of South Elgin, La Grange and *Skokie*; and, the private sector. The workshop will feature discussions on: how access to transit infrastructure improvements can contribute to increased transit ridership and community vitality; local examples

of effective access to transit amenities ranging from sidewalk networks to parking management systems; successful funding and implementation strategies; and, specific approaches to access improvement planning and implementation. The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at the DePaul University Downtown Campus, Dublin Suite, 14 E. Jackson Boulevard in Chicago. Please visit the [RTA website](#) to access the agenda and register by visiting [here](#).



## Illinois Tollway Construction Ramps Up in 2014

On March 21, Governor Quinn held a press conference at the *Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center* to announce a \$1.4 billion investment Illinois Tollway project this year. A vast majority of the construction will affect NWMC members. The 2014 capital program includes \$729.2 million for the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) corridor and \$282.8 million to construct the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project. In the I-90 corridor, projects will include:

- Constructing noise walls and retaining walls on the eastern segment between Elgin and the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) to prepare for roadway rebuilding and widening;
- Rebuilding westbound I-90 between I-294 and the Kennedy Expressway;

- Improving interchanges at Illinois Route 25 in Elgin, Barrington Road in *Hoffman Estates*, Roselle Road and Meacham Road in *Schaumburg* and Lee Street in Rosemont; and,
- Rebuilding 11 local crossroad bridges to accommodate the widening of the roadway, including Pearl Street, Town Hall Road, Johnson Road, Shattuck Road, County Line Road, Harmony-Riley Road, Harmony Road, Hennig Road, Tyrrell Road, Bartlett Road and Higgins Road.

On the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project, the Tollway will:

- Build new interchanges at Rohling Road and I-290 on Illinois Route 390 (Elgin O'Hare Express-

- way) and at Elmhurst Road on I-90;
- Continue new noise wall and advance work between Roselle Road and Meacham Road/Medinah Road along Illinois Route 390; and,
- Rehabilitate and widen Illinois Route 390 from Illinois Route 19 to Meacham Road/Medinah Road, as well as reconstruct and widen the route from Meacham Road/Medinah Road to Illinois Route 53.

For more information, please visit the [Illinois Tollway website](#).



## 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)

Chris Staron  
 NWMC Program Associate for Transportation and Policy  
 North Shore Council Planning Liaison  
 1600 East Golf Road – Suite 0700  
 Des Plaines, IL 60016  
 847-296-9200, ext. 131  
[cstaron@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:cstaron@nwmc-cog.org)

### Follow @NWMCTrans on Twitter

The NWMC Transportation Division has a Twitter feed: [@NWMCTrans](#).

Follow us for meeting announcements, funding opportunities, project updates and other useful information.