



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

- December 16** **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- December 17** **North Shore Council of Mayors - 8:30 a.m.**
Skokie Village Hall
- December 18** **Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.**
Barrington Village Hall

Transportation Committee Hears Cook County Plan Update

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on November 20 and heard an update on the progress of the Cook County Transportation Plan from Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Maria Choca Urban.

The first countywide transportation plan in seventy years will look beyond the traditional county road system and examine all roads, bicycle/pedestrian needs and transit modes in the county, while seeking partnerships with municipalities for projects to benefit all county residents. The plan's focus is to develop a safe, sustainable and efficient trans-

portation system in Cook County that can spur additional economic growth. Currently, the county is seeking input on various growth and investment scenarios.

As part of the plan's outreach efforts, there is currently a kiosk at Winnetka-Northfield Library (768 Oak Street in *Winnetka*) where citizens and interested parties can provide input on the plan. *Northbrook Village President Sandy Frum* represents the NWMC on the planning committee. Please visit www.ConnectingCookCounty.org for more information on the plan.

Staff also reminded the committee of each municipality's requirement to have an up-to-date Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. Developing and maintaining a transition plan will be the topic at a future meeting. Additional resources can be found by visiting <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs-andresources/local-ordinances-toolkits/ada-transition-plans>.

There will be no Transportation Committee meeting in December. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, January 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.

Tollway Director Lafleur Addresses NWMC Board

On November 12, Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur updated the NWMC Board on the progress of local projects in the agency's Move Illinois capital program, including the widening and reconstruction of the Jane Addams Tollway (I-90), the Elgin O'Hare Western

Access project and planning for the Illinois 53/120 project.

She highlighted both the transportation and economic development impacts of the projects and also previewed the Tollway's 2015 program, which will in-

clude the start of planning work for the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

More information on the projects can be found [here](#), while the 2015 program can be found [here](#).



NWMC Legislators, Staff Discuss New Transportation Revenue

On November 7, NWMC staff joined Illinois State Senators Dan Kotowski and Tom Cullerton as well as State Representatives Elaine Nekritz, Laura Fine and David Harris for a presentation by John Lowder of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC) at Oakton Community College in *Des Plaines*. Staff representing State Senator Daniel Biss and Representative Robyn Gabel also attended. TFIC has proposed a new funding plan for transportation in Illinois to improve more roads and bridges, including a larger

share of funding for local roads.

To raise the estimated \$1.8 billion annually, the new plan relies on a menu of items including: ending diversions from the road fund; dedicating sales tax on gas to transportation; revenue tradeoffs (including ending the gasohol tax credit); a four-cent increase to the motor fuel tax; higher vehicle registration fees; and, taxes on auto-related services. The plan would increase pay-as-you-go funding as well as contain a significant bonding com-

ponent.

More details on the plan can be viewed by visiting <http://www.transportation-for-illinois-coalition.com/the-tfic-plan/>.

TFIC is currently seeking local and legislative support. Staff plans to further review the proposal and discuss it at an upcoming NWMC Transportation Committee meeting.



Tollway Announces Pricing for Elgin-O'Hare Western Access

On November 20, the Illinois Tollway announced pricing plans for Illinois Route 390, the East-West portion of the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access (EOWA) project.

For passenger vehicles, the toll rate will be \$0.19 per mile while traveling the length of the 10-mile highway will cost drivers \$1.90. Toll rates for commercial vehicles have not yet been established.

Route 390 will be the Tollway's first all-electronic highway meaning that all tolls

will be paid by I-PASS. Customers without a transponder may pay tolls online.

Current work on the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project includes construction for new interchanges at Rohlwing Road and I-290 on Illinois Route 390 (Elgin O'Hare Expressway) and at Elmhurst Road on I-90. Construction on Illinois Route 390 also includes installation of noisewalls along the Elgin O'Hare Expressway between Irving Park Road and Plum Grove Road,

work to rehabilitate and widen Illinois Route 390 between Irving Park Road and Meacham Road and roadway reconstruction between Meacham Road and Rohlwing Road.

The western segment of the highway from Route 20 to I-290 is scheduled to open and begin collecting tolls in 2016. The eastern segment from I-290 to Busse Road (Route 83) is scheduled to open in 2017.





NWMC Members Receive Safe Routes to School Grants

On November 19, the Illinois Department of Transportation announced its 2014 Safe Routes to School Program. The following NWMC member projects were among the 58 selected:

Village of Skokie – Complete sidewalks along Cleveland Street and Keeney Street (\$60,000)

City of Prospect Heights – Install sidewalks to connect neighborhoods and three schools (\$160,000)

Village of Mount Prospect – Pedestrian crossing improvement project on Central Road at Weller Lane (Melas Park) which will include a refuge island, a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) system, ADA ramps, new signs,

and new pavement (\$92,400)

City of Evanston – Install solar powered vehicle speed feedback signs near designated school crossings (\$88,000)

Village of Morton Grove – Safer Students Walking to School program, including purchasing a speed enforcement mobile trailer, portable speed enforcement display signs, folding signs and safety vests for use by school officials (\$24,000)

A total of \$5.9 million in grants were awarded statewide. For more information on the awards or on the Safe Routes to School Program, please contact staff.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on Thursday, December 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Barrington Village Hall*. All requests for project changes should be submitted to Mike Walczak by December 9 to be included in the agenda.

Agenda items will include project changes and updates, council method-

ology update and an update on functional classification changes.

If you have a question on which roads in your municipality are eligible for federal funds, please refer to [this map](#) on IDOT's website. All highlighted routes are eligible for federal funding.

News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

The next North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for December 17th 8:30am at the *Skokie Village Hall*. Topics will include the upcoming call for projects, Safe Routes to Schools awards and the 2014 Annual Report.



CMAP Proposes New Infrastructure Fund

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has proposed a new regional infrastructure fund, named FUND 2040. CMAP's goal is to create a regional fund for regional projects, since current state and federal funding mechanisms are simply not adequate for the region to meet its infrastructure needs.

FUND 2040 would be funded by a quarter-cent increase of the regional sales tax which would annually generate \$300 million for projects in three categories: transportation, water, and open space. Transportation projects would include roadways, transit, freight, bike and pedestrian projects. Water projects would include stormwater and water supply projects, while open space

projects would include parks and open space conservation.

Projects in the three categories would each be evaluated on their own category-specific criteria, but common criteria for all projects would include economic impacts, environmental impacts, public safety and health, effective planning, improvements to existing infrastructure, equity and geographic balance, cost-effective strategies and leveraging other funds.

CMAP will retain no more than 3 percent of the total revenue for administration and operations, while the remaining 97 percent will be competitively awarded to project sponsors across the region. The collection

mechanism for the fund is proposed to be raised through a quarter-cent sales tax on purchases in the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) service area - Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will. Other counties may be able to opt-in to FUND 2040 by contributing local revenues.

To prevent the program from creating unnecessary paperwork for project sponsors, CMAP will use existing procedures already used by state agencies to administer similar infrastructure grants.

More information is available by visiting www.fund2040.org. CMAP staff will present the proposal to the NWMC Transportation Committee on the proposal at its January 22 meeting.



League of American Bicyclists Announces NWMC Bicycle Friendly Communities

On November 18, the League of American Bicyclists announced its list of new and renewed Bicycle Friendly Communities. NWMC members *Evans-ton* and *Schaumburg* renewed their Silver and Bronze level awards respectively, while *Crystal Lake*, *Highland Park* and *Wilmette* received Honorable Mention.

The Bicycle Friendly Community designation recognizes communities that welcome bikers through the provision of trails, bike lanes, bike to work days, share the road campaigns and organized rides. The deadline to be included in the next review cycle is February 11, 2015. Please visit <http://bikeleague.org/community> for additional information on becoming a bicycle friendly community.



Bikeways Feasibility Study in *Barrington*

On November 24, the Steering Committee for the CMAP Bikeways Feasibility Study met at the *Barrington* Area Library to discuss potential East-West bike routes connecting Crabtree Forest Preserve to the Fox River Trail.

The committee discussed the benefits, drawbacks and existing infrastructure along seven proposed routes and selected five of those seven for further consideration. The proposed routes are a combination of existing and proposed on-street and off-street facilities.

The project coordinators will discuss the proposed routes with IDOT in December and anticipate the first public meeting on the topic to be held in January.

For more information, an interactive map and a community stakeholder survey please visit FoxRiverTrailConnections.org



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