



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

- February 13** **Deadline to submit CMAQ and TAP applications to Planning Liaison**
See article on Page 2
- February 19** **Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee—8:30 a.m.**
Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street
- February 24** **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- February 26** **NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- March 2** **CMAQ and TAP Call for Projects closes**
See article on Page 2

Transportation Committee Discusses Regional Fund, NWMC Priorities

The NWMC Transportation Committee met January 22 and received a presentation from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Principal Planner Erin Aleman on FUND 2040, CMAP's proposed regional infrastructure fund. Financed by a quarter-cent increase of the regional sales tax, FUND 2040 would generate \$300 million annually for projects in transportation, water and open space that contribute to implementation of the GO TO 2040 regional plan. CMAP intends the fund to be part of broader, statewide legislation that might emerge this spring, such as a new capital program or potential tax reform. More information on the proposal can be found by visiting <http://fund2040.org/>. The committee also discussed the develop-

ment of a prioritized list of NWMC transportation priorities (see below for more information). The next Transportation

Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.

Calling All Transportation Projects!

The NWMC is seeking your ideas for transportation priorities for the region. Potential projects will be discussed and prioritized by the Transportation Committee and NWMC Board and demonstrate regional transportation needs to our state legislators. When submitting projects, please include: the total estimated cost of the project; what funding, if any, has been secured; what the current status of the project is; and, a summary of why the project should be a Conference transportation priority. Think of projects which will have impacts beyond your municipal boundaries and will impact our regional transportation system. These can include road and bridge projects, transit infrastructure or service improvements or bicycle and pedestrian projects. Projects can be in a current municipal plan or agency program (i.e. IDOT, Tollway) or have a longer planning horizon.

Projects should be submitted to Mike Walczak (mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org) by Thursday, February 19.



NWMC Hosts Workshop for CMAP and TAP Projects

On January 23, over fifty municipal representatives and consultants attended a workshop at Oakton Community College in *Des Plaines* to hear details on the recently released call for projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Staff from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) walked participants through the revised application and answered questions on potential projects.

Applications and all relevant materials can be found by visiting www.cmap.illinois.gov/mobility/strategic-investment/cmaq/program-development. Eligible projects for the CMAQ program include: transit improvement projects (transit facilities, service, equipment and access to transit facilities); traffic flow improvement projects (bottleneck eliminations, intersection improvements, sig-

nal interconnects); bicycle facility projects; direct emissions reduction projects; and, demonstration projects. Bicycle facility projects will automatically be considered for both CMAQ and TAP funding using the same application. These projects must also be featured in at least one formally adopted or approved bike plan, comprehensive plan, or other plan by a local government, subregional council, CMAP, or the State of Illinois.

All municipal applications must first be submitted to your council's Planning Liaison for review by Friday, February 13. The Planning Liaison will review a sponsor's application and note any missing information. The sponsor will then be responsible for sending the reviewed application to CMAP by the Monday, March 2 deadline. If you are planning to submit an application, please contact NWMC staff to ensure that applications with cross-jurisdictional potential are coordinated.



Cook County Transportation Plan Development Continues

Work on Cook County's first transportation plan in 70 years continued on January 29 with a meeting of the Cook County Transportation Plan Advisory Committee in Chicago. The committee provided feedback to county staff and their consultants on the proposed goals and objectives of the plan as well as the evaluation criteria which will be used to measure the plan's progress. The six overarching goals of the plan are: economic opportunity; accessibility and reliability; safety; land use; environmental stewardship; and, implementation.

A final set of goals and objectives will be distributed for Advisory Committee review. This information along with feedback received from public engagement will be used to develop a draft plan by May. The draft will be available for public

comment over the summer, with final approval anticipated in September. More information on the plan can be found by visiting www.connectingcookcounty.org.

Northbrook Village President Sandy Frum represents NWMC on the Advisory Committee, which is made up of representatives from local government, transportation agencies and civic organizations.

Changes in CMAP Leadership as Randy Blankenhorn Named IDOT Secretary

At the January 14 meeting of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Board, Executive Director Randy Blankenhorn formally announced that he has been nominated for Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). He thanked the board and CMAP staff for their work in developing the GO TO 2040 plan and helping to make CMAP a national leader among metropolitan planning organizations. Blankenhorn's last day at CMAP was January 31.

In executive session, the board voted to retain an executive search committee to hire a permanent executive director. Current Chief of Staff Jill Leary will serve as acting interim director until May 31. The meeting also marked the first day on the job for former Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph C. Szabo. Szabo, who is the former mayor of Riverdale, will serve as Senior Fellow at CMAP to help lead major policy initiatives including infrastructure funding, coordination with local officials and the development of a national transportation policy.





News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On January 1, the North Shore Council of Mayors formally opened a new call for Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects. Eligible projects include: construction; reconstruction; restoration and rehabilitation of roads and bridges; highway and transit safety improvements; traffic signalization projects; intersection improvements; park & ride facilities; bicycle and pedestrian facilities; wetland mitigation; wetland banking; landscaping; and, mitigation of water quality impacts if undertaken with an approved STP project.

Municipalities wishing to submit applications for this call for projects should contact their Planning Liaison to set up an initial scoping meeting with IDOT. Applications are due Tuesday, March 31. Projects will be reviewed according to the North Shore Council's methodology by the Planning Liaison and Technical Committee through the spring. The Technical Committee's program recommendations will be considered at its September meeting.



NWMC Bike/Ped Committee Discusses Regional Planning Initiatives

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met January 20 and reviewed several current and future planning initiatives for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the region. Staff discussed a Metropolitan Mayors Caucus grant proposal for bicycle parking, signage and education in six NWMC municipalities. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) recently awarded a Local Technical Assistance Grant to the DuPage County DOT to study bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the new Elgin-O'Hare Western Access corridor. As that study

progresses, the county will seek input from municipalities, councils of government and other interested stakeholders.

Finally, the committee discussed the ongoing progress of the Bikeway Feasibility Study which seeks to build connections between the Fox River Trail and Crabtree Forest Preserve. The next meeting of the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC Offices in *Des Plaines*.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on February 19 at 8:30 a.m. at *Barrington Village Hall*. On the agenda will be project updates and changes, recommendations on updates to the Council's Methodology from the STP Methodology Working Group and a discussion of Council priority projects. At the last

Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting at CMAP, each council was asked to present a brief summary of their priorities and upcoming projects. To have an item placed on the agenda, please send any project updates or changes to Mike Walczak by February 11.

Stakeholders Discuss Jane Addams Construction

On January 21, representatives from the Illinois Tollway updated local leaders on the progress of the I-90 Jane Addams Tollway reconstruction project at the *Hoffman Estates Village Hall*. Discussion focused on the eastern segment of the project (from the Elgin Toll Plaza to O'Hare Airport), as the western segment from the Elgin Toll Plaza to Rockford was completed in 2014. The presentation included updates on the widening of the Fox River bridge and measures being taken to mitigate the environmental impact of the project.

The reconstructed Jane Addams will feature Pace bus on shoulder service with park and rides to be constructed at Randall Road, Route 25 and Barrington Road. The 19-mile segment from Barrington Road to O'Hare includes the first segment of the Tollway's new Active Traffic Management, providing drivers with real-time traffic, accident and rerouting information. Bridge demolition and reconstruction is set to begin this spring, with final construction of the eastern segment scheduled to be completed in 2016.

The Tollway has created a video explaining Active Transit Management and what it will look like when completed on I-90. The video can be viewed by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CLa0GppwAA>.

More information on the I-90 project is available by visiting <http://www.illinoistollway.com/construction-and-planning/community-outreach/i-90-corridor-planning-council>.



New Transportation Funding Proposal from Washington

As part of his proposed fiscal year 2016 budget, President Obama included a six-year, \$478 billion transportation proposal. The plan includes approximately \$238 billion from a one-time 14 percent tax on companies' foreign earnings plus about \$240 billion from the Highway Trust Fund. Passenger and freight rail programs would be included along with traditional road and transit programs.

There has also been talk from Republican Senators of using repatriation taxes, but at a lower rate and combining it with a new financing tool. The one-time infusion of transportation funding from the foreign earnings tax would produce a larger bill than the gas tax revenues alone could currently support, but would

not solve the longer term issues facing the Highway Trust Fund.

The proposal includes:

- \$317 billion over six years for road and bridge programs, or 29 percent above fiscal 2015 enacted levels. However, core programs to states would only receive a small increase, with the rest of the increase to new discretionary programs including for "critical immediate safety investments", a new multimodal freight program, and a competitive "fixing and accelerating surface transportation" (FAST) program. ."

- \$117 billion for transit, a 79 percent increase over 2015 levels. This includes \$500 million a year for transit-related FAST grants.
- \$28.6 billion for Amtrak and other passenger rail programs, including \$3.05 billion for automated collision-avoidance systems on commuter trains.
- \$1.0 billion in the TIFIA loan program, which could be used to leverages up to 10 times that much in total project financing.
- The TIGER program would be increased from \$500 million to \$1.25 billion a year.



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