



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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## Dates to Remember

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>January 20</b>  | <b>NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.</b><br>NWMC Offices |
| <b>January 22</b>  | <b>NWMC Transportation Committee - 9:00 a.m.</b><br>NWMC Offices          |
| <b>February 16</b> | <b>Deadline to submit CMAQ and TAP applications to Planning Liaison</b>   |
| <b>March 2</b>     | <b>CMAQ and TAP Call for Projects closes</b>                              |



## CMAP Announces Call for CMAQ and TAP Projects

On January 9, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) announced a call for new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects. There is one application for both programs and CMAP staff will determine into which of the programs a project best fits. The matching ratio for both programs is 80% federal and 20% local. Initial estimates have \$16 million in TAP (over two years) and \$260 million in CMAQ funding (over five years) available for programming.

Projects eligible for the CMAQ program include transit improvement projects (transit facilities, transit service and equipment, and access to transit facilities), traffic flow improvement projects

(bottleneck eliminations, intersection improvements, signal interconnects), bicycle facility projects, direct emissions reduction projects as well as demonstration projects. Bicycle facility projects will automatically be considered for both CMAQ and TAP funding using the same application. Bicycle facility projects must 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 February 16. The Planning Liaison will review a sponsor's application and note any missing information to the sponsor. The sponsor will

be responsible for sending the reviewed application to CMAP. Project applications are due to CMAP on March 2.

As with the previous call for projects, Phase I Engineering is the responsibility of the applicant. For projects requiring phase I engineering, one of the following must occur by July 1, 2015: Design approval has been received; IDOT has certified that a final Project Development Report has been submitted for signatures; or IDOT has certified that a preliminary Project Development Report has been received with an accurate cost and clear scope established.

CMAQ projects are ranked above all on the cost-effectiveness of their air emissions reductions. Additionally, projects



## US Congress Passes Omnibus Spending Bill

On December 16, President Obama signed the Omnibus Appropriations Bill funding the federal government through September 30, 2015. The Transportation/Housing and Urban Development (THUD) portion of the bill contains \$53.8 billion in funds, a 6% increase from fiscal year 2014. This bill fully funds highways and transit as outlined in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) Act, the current federal transportation authorization.

The New Starts program will receive a \$204 million increase over last year's levels bringing its total to \$2.1 billion. This program funds major transit projects and is an important funding source for the

Chicago Transit Authority's Red and Purple Line modernization project. Amtrak will receive \$1.14 billion, a \$90 million increase over fiscal year 2014.

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program will receive \$500 million, \$100 million less than the previous year. It will not include funding for dedicated planning grants as it has in previous years. The TIGER program has assisted with freight and transit projects in the Chicago region. While this bill continues to fund transportation at the MAP-21 level, it does not address the structural issues facing federal transportation funding.

### THUD Budget Appropriations—US Department of Transportation

|                    | Fiscal Year 2014 | Fiscal Year 2015 |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Transit New Starts | \$1.691 billion  | \$2.147 billion  |
| TIGER              | \$600 million    | \$500 million    |
| Amtrak Capital     | \$1.05 billion   | \$1.14 billion   |
| High Speed Rail    | \$0              | \$0              |

Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning



## CMAQ/TAP Call for Projects (cont.)

will be given a Transportation Impact Criteria score based on other factors including safety, reliability, connectivity.

TAP projects will be evaluated on a 100-point scale using the following criteria: how well a project completes the regional trail network, the population and employment density in the area served by the facility and improvements in conditions for biking that result from building a facility. Bonus points will be awarded to projects that have no ROW or easements to obtain and for which phase II engineering is already complete.

NWMC is hosting a workshop later in January at Oakton Community College in *Des Plaines* where CMAP staff will discuss the application and evaluation process. More information will follow soon.

Applications and all relevant materials will be posted at [www.cmap.illinois.gov/mobility/strategic-investment/cmaq/program-development](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/mobility/strategic-investment/cmaq/program-development). If you are considering submitting an application, please contact NWMC staff to ensure that applications with cross-jurisdictional potential are coordinated.

## Illinois Tollway Announces New Planning Efforts for Tri-State

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Illinois Tollway announced a major planning effort to rebuild and possibly widen the Tri-State Tollway beginning in 2020. The agency intends to create a master plan for improvements along the 22-mile Tri-State, the busiest road in the Tollway system. Among the options to be considered are a widening of the tollway from O'Hare Airport south to 95th Street and the addition of bus-only lanes, similar to those being used by Pace buses on the Jane Addams. The planning process is expected to take two years and will include input from communities, local groups and Tollway customers. Public outreach is slated to begin in 2015.

## Transportation Corridors and Trees Workshop

On Wednesday, January 21, the Morton Arboretum is holding a workshop in *Schaumburg* entitled : Transportation Corridors and Trees Workshop: Reliable and Green Infrastructure. The workshop, scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., will focus on issues related to tree planting, protection, and care when transportation projects are planned, implemented, and maintained. This workshop is geared to provide important information to transportation contractors, construction workers, planners, utility workers, and vegetation managers. Speakers from ComEd, IDOT, The Morton Arboretum and others will teach participants important skills and resources. Lunch and CEUs will be provided. To register please email Lydia Scott, LScott@mortonarb.org.



## News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On December 17, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met at the *Skokie Village Hall* and received updates on current programs including the Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP).

The committee also reviewed program modifications, road reclassifications and considered the annual report for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014, which will be presented to the NWMC Board at their January 14 meeting.

The North Shore Council of Mayors obligated \$4,125,243 in federal STP funds in FFY 2014. The Council began and ended the year with a positive balance and therefore, it was not necessary to request advanced funding from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Council of Mayors Executive Committee.

The current fiscal situation places the council in a strong position to aggressively pursue significant regional transportation projects. The Council plans to obligate a relatively modest \$2.3 million in FFY 2015 before ramping up to a FFY 2016 total of \$10.6 million.

In FFY 2014, the North Shore Council obligated \$2.4 million in CMAQ funds. The Council currently has \$3.1 million in CMAQ funds programmed for FFY 2015 and will move ahead with several projects that were previously held up by right-of-way negotiations.

In addition, the Council obligated \$1.4 million in Illinois Transportation Enhancement (ITEP) funds in FFY 2014 with \$2.9 million programmed for 2015.

| 2014 STP Projects              | Sponsor            | Phase        | Total Cost          | STP Funding         |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| West Lake Ave                  | <i>Glenview</i>    | Construction | \$ 3,147,057        | \$ 2,202,937        |
| Central and Pratt Intersection | <i>Lincolnwood</i> | Construction | \$ 840,000          | \$ 448,000          |
| Happ Road                      | <i>Northbrook</i>  | Construction | \$ 363,765          | \$ 254,636          |
| Main Street                    | <i>Skokie</i>      | Resurfacing  | \$ 570,000          | \$ 399,000          |
| Church/Crawford Intersection   | <i>Skokie</i>      | Construction | \$ 1,266,804        | \$ 820,670          |
| <b>Total</b>                   |                    |              | <b>\$ 6,187,626</b> | <b>\$ 4,125,243</b> |

| 2014 CMAQ Projects               | Sponsor            | Phase        | Total Cost          | CMAQ Funding        |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Dempster St. Signal Interconnect | <i>Evanston</i>    | ENG II       | \$ 68,123           | \$ 51,000           |
| UP Line / Weber Spur Bike Trail  | <i>Lincolnwood</i> | ROW          | \$ 2,000,000        | \$ 1,600,000        |
| Old Orchard Rd. Sidepath         | <i>Skokie</i>      | ROW          | \$ 66,000           | \$ 33,000           |
| Skokie Valley Trail              | <i>Skokie</i>      | Construction | \$ 994,537          | \$ 795,630          |
| Main St. Bike Lanes              | <i>Skokie</i>      | ENGII        | \$ 40,000           | \$ -                |
| <b>Total CMAQ Funding</b>        |                    |              | <b>\$ 2,479,630</b> | <b>\$ 2,479,630</b> |

| 2014 ITEP Projects            | Sponsor         | Phase        | Total Cost          | ITEP Funding        |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ladd Arboretum Multiuse Trail | <i>Evanston</i> | ENG II       | \$ 45,000           | \$ 36,000           |
| Ladd Arboretum Multiuse Trail | <i>Evanston</i> | ENG II       | \$ 65,000           | \$ 52,000           |
| Techny Trail Segment 4        | <i>Glenview</i> | Construction | \$ 515,000          | \$ 412,000          |
| West Lake Ave                 | <i>Glenview</i> | Construction | \$ 1,219,863        | \$ 975,890          |
| <b>Total ITEP Funding</b>     |                 |              | <b>\$ 1,475,890</b> | <b>\$ 1,475,890</b> |



## Bike/Ped Talks Implementation, Regional Links Study

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met December 16 and discussed progress made by municipalities in implementing the Tier One and Two corridors identified in the NWMC Bike Plan. Staff updated the committee on the existing, programmed and planned infrastructure along the corridors. An updated summary will be available soon on the NWMC website.

The committee also discussed the progress of the Bikeway Feasibility Study which aims to connect the Fox River Trail

with the Crabtree Forest Preserve in *Barrington* either through existing or new infrastructure. A project steering committee has reviewed seven proposed routes and selected five for further consideration. For more information, an interactive map and a community stakeholder survey visit [FoxRiverTrailConnections.org](http://FoxRiverTrailConnections.org)

The next Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices



## Northwest Council of Mayors Update

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met December 18 at the *Barrington Village Hall*. The committee approved additional funding for two projects – the North Commuter Lot entrance drive in *Barrington* and the intersection improvement at Lee Street and Forest Avenue in *Des Plaines*.

The *Barrington* project will increase access to Metra’s North Commuter Lot through a new access road leading directly onto US 14. The project is scheduled to be let in 2018.

The intersection improvement at Lee and Forest in *Des Plaines* will increase safety at a currently unsignalized intersection through the addition of a traffic signal

and lengthened turn lanes. It will also provide safe pedestrian access to a nearby commercial center. It is scheduled for a 2016 letting.

The committee was also briefed on the upcoming call for projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) - see page 1 for details.

The next meeting is anticipated to be held in April.

## Bicycle Friendly Communities — What Does “Honorable Mention” Mean?

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

What exactly does Honorable Mention mean? The League gives the Honorable Mention designation to those communities that are close but fall just short of designation. These communities are promoted on the website for one year. This is not an award simply for participating. The names of applicants who fail to receive any recognition are not published. However, all communities not receiving Bicycle Friendly Community status will get a detailed feedback report on how they might improve their chances in the next review cycle.

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.



## 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)

Brian Pigeon  
NWMC Program Associate for Transportation  
North Shore Council Planning Liaison  
1600 East Golf Road – Suite 0700  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
847-296-9200, ext. 128  
[bpigeon@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:bpigeon@nwmc-cog.org)