



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

## Table of Contents:

New Federal Transportation Bill	1	News from the North Shore Council of Mayors	3
CMAP Municipal Survey	1	News from the Northwest Council of Mayors	3
RTA, CMAP Program Deadline Approaching	2	Metra Strategic Plan Update	3
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Update	2	Contact Information	4
CMAP Bicycle Safety Design Workshop	2		



## Dates to Remember

<b>July 19</b>	<b>McHenry County Council of Mayors - 2:00 p.m.</b> Algonquin Village Hall, 2200 Harnish Drive
<b>July 24</b>	<b>NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting - 10:30 a.m.</b> NWMC Offices
<b>August 16</b>	<b>Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.</b> Arlington Heights Village Hall, 33 S. Arlington Heights Rd.



## President Signs New Transportation Legislation

On July 7, President Obama signed a nearly \$105 billion transportation bill that maintains current highway and transit spending through 2014. The bill, which is the first major transportation legislation in seven years, was approved overwhelmingly by Congress just prior to the June 30 expiration of the ninth extension of the current program, SAFETEA-LU. H.R. 4348 – The Surface Transportation Act of 2012, was modeled after the Senate MAP-21 bill, for which the Conference voiced its support in a June 6 letter to the Illinois congressional delegation.

A congressional conference committee, which included Illinois Senator Dick Durbin and Congressman Jerry Costello, hammered out the bipartisan bill that will increase funding to Illinois. According to a press release issued by Senator Durbin, Illinois will receive \$4.1 billion over the next three years for highways (the highest allocation to the state in fifteen years) and \$1.5 billion for transit (an eleven percent increase). \$500 mil-

lion has also been set aside to fund a competitive grant program for projects of regional and national significance, which could include the Elgin-O'Hare West Bypass project.

The new legislation also features a streamlined environmental review process, significantly expanded TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) program for financing large projects, a requirement for the USDOT to develop performance measures and less dedicated funding for non-motorized but with increased local control.

The Conference will provide updates as more details emerge on how the funding levels for locally programmed funds are impacted.

The Conference thanks Senator Durbin and Congressman Costello for their leadership on the conference committee as well as those members of the Illinois delegation who supported the bill.

## CMAP Extends Municipal Survey Deadline

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has extended the deadline to complete their 2012 Municipal Plans, Programs and Operations Survey to Friday, July 20, 2012. The municipal survey is designed for all governments in the region and will ultimately be used by CMAP to track the progress of GO TO 2040. Please visit [here](#) to complete the survey.

Results of this survey will give the region access to a comprehensive online database that decision makers and policy analysts can use to better understand trends that affect municipalities and the residents they serve. Visit [here](#) to view a summary of the results of the 2010 survey.

Please contact Lori Heringa, [lheringa@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:lheringa@cmap.illinois.gov) or 312-386-8621 if you have any questions or need additional information.



## August Deadline for RTA, CMAP Call for Projects Quickly Approaching

In May, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) launched a joint call for local planning projects. RTA is accepting applications for their Community Planning Program and Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) / New Freedom (NF) programs, while CMAP will be taking applications for their Local Technical Assistance Program (LTA).

The Community Planning Program is available to municipalities to create plans for local station area/transit-oriented development (TOD), local transit improvement, TOD guidelines, local coordinated paratransit plans and detailed implementation studies. The JARC/NF Program is available to local governments, transportation agencies, and the CTA, Metra and Pace for operating and capital projects derived from the RTA Coordinated Public Transportation Hu-

man Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) that enhance mobility for seniors, people with disabilities and low income populations, address reverse commute markets and/or provide access to jobs.

The [RTA Funding Programs webpage](#), provides general background information and downloadable applications. The deadline for submitting applications is Wednesday, August 1, 2012.

The CMAP Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program is designed to support planning activities that advance the implementation of GO TO 2040, the regional comprehensive plan. Overall, local planning projects that address issues of transportation, land use, and housing in some way are eligible for assistance, while those that treat these issues comprehensively and also address the natural environment, economic growth and community development are ideal.

CMAP encourages the submission of ideas from multi-jurisdictional applicants.

Examples of eligible projects are: preparation or updates to a local comprehensive plan – either in whole or in part; revisions to ordinances or other land use regulations; activities that help to implement previously-adopted plans; studies or specific plans related to important local issues; projects that involve multi-jurisdictional coordination; and, assisting with public participation related to challenging local projects.

Additional information on project types, with descriptions of current LTA activities, can be found on [CMAP's LTA web page](#). The deadline for all programs is Wednesday, August 1, 2012. Approved projects will be announced in October 2012.



## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discusses Lake and Cook County Coordination

On June 19, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met with representatives of Lake and Cook Counties to discuss county bicycle initiatives and opportunities for cooperation with municipalities. Valbona Kokoshi from the Lake County Division of Transportation provided an overview of multiple Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) applications for projects that overlap with the NWMC regional bicycle corridors. Stephen Vaughn from the Cook County Highway Department discussed the county's recent adoption of a Complete Streets ordinance and implementation policy. The goal of the policy is to ensure that future transportation projects consider all users of the roadway, including bicyclists and pedestrians. The committee discussed opportunities for municipalities to coordinate with Cook County regarding projects in its multi-year program and in municipal bicycle and pedestrian plans.

In addition, the committee discussed the new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) programming policies. Earlier in June, the CMAP Policy Committee adopted new CMAQ policies to more

efficiently spend CMAQ funds. Moving forward, Phase I Engineering will be the responsibility of the local project sponsor and not eligible for CMAQ funding. Additionally, Phase I Engineering must be complete or nearly complete before a project can receive CMAQ funds. CMAP hopes that these policy changes will ensure thoroughly scoped projects that experience fewer delays and cost increases. For projects currently in the CMAQ program, every phase will be subject to an accomplishment sunset. Each phase will have three years to meet the sunset deadline before being deferred. Deferred projects will have to petition the CMAQ Project Selection Committee in order to be reinserted in the program.

Finally, staff informed the committee about a new [CMAP webpage](#) focused on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plans and pedestrian accessibility. The webpage contains a guide to transition plans and links to various resources and examples.

### CMAP Offering Bicycle Safety Design Workshop, Seeking Planning Case Studies

CMAP will host a Soles and Spokes workshop on Designing for Bicycle Safety on August 24, 2012. The workshop will be taught by John LaPlante, PE, PTOE, and will include a keynote address by Martha Roskowski, director of the Green Lane Project, an initiative of Bikes Belong. PDH credits will be available.

To support the event, CMAP is seeking outstanding bicycle and pedestrian projects and plans to include in their Case Studies Library. One or more of the accepted case studies may be invited to present at the workshop. Please [submit](#) bicycle and pedestrian project case studies by July 20 to be considered for presentation.

More information on the workshop will be available in coming weeks. Visit [here](#) to keep up with the Soles and Spokes Bike-Ped Planning Blog.



## News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On June 20, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met and opened a new call for Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects. Project applicants wishing to apply for STP funds must first contact Chris Staron, [cstaron@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:cstaron@nwmc-cog.org) or 847-296-9200, ext. 31, to schedule a meeting with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Project applicants should get initial concurrence from IDOT regarding the project's scope, federal and state requirements and schedule.

The call for projects schedule is outlined below. The Planning Liaison, with the assistance of the Technical Committee, shall review each project application in accordance with the project prioritization system outlined in the North Shore

Council's methodology.

Staff anticipates that the Technical Committee will review project applications and make programming recommendations at its December meeting. The Technical Committee will recommend projects to add to the North Shore's STP program and may choose to add some of the new projects to the Council's multi-year B list.

In January, the North Shore Council of Mayors will consider the Technical Committee's programming recommendation and approve projects for inclusion in the STP program.

Applications are available on the [North Shore Council's webpage](#).

### North Shore Council of Mayors Call for Projects Schedule

June 20, 2012	Call for North Shore STP projects opened
July through September	Project scoping and application completion
September 30, 2012	Application deadline
October through November	Project review and scoring
December 19, 2012	Technical Committee makes programming recommendations
January 2013	North Shore Council of Mayors approves new projects for inclusion in the STP program



## Metra Seeks Strategic Planning Input at Open Houses

Metra has announced a series of open houses around the region as the agency begins to develop a new strategic plan.

In this initial phase of outreach, Metra is asking its stakeholders the following questions:

- What should Metra's mission be?
- What should Metra's vision for the future be?
- What projects should Metra focus its energies and resources on?

The most convenient open houses for NWMC members are listed in the box to the right.

Metra is also soliciting comments [online](#). Comments will be accepted until August 10.

NWMC will be providing feedback based on our previous conversations with Metra and comment letter sent last year. In that letter, the Conference urged continued investment in the existing rail infrastructure as the top priority. Other priorities were increased coordination between the service boards and support for capital expansions including the STAR Line, UP-Northwest, North Central, and UP-North.

Metra staff have also indicated that they will be presenting at an NWMC Transportation Committee meeting this fall as part of the outreach strategy for the strategic plan development.

## News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The next meeting of the Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will be August 16 at 8:30 a.m. at *Arlington Heights Village Hall*. Please send any project updates or change requests to Mike Walczak by August 3.

Items on the agenda will include a recommended Council pavement preservation program and list of eligible routes, as well as a review of the impact of the new \$4,000,000 STP funding cap and 80/20 matching ratio.

The following project will be on the upcoming August letting: Dundee Road sidewalks in *Buffalo Grove* (CMAQ funded).

Tuesday, July 17, 4PM – 7 PM  
*Libertyville Village Hall*  
Board Room/Council Chambers  
118 W. Cook Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048

Wednesday July 18, 4PM – 7 PM  
*City of Evanston Civic Center*  
2100 Ridge Ave  
Parasol Room – 4th Floor  
Evanston, IL 60201

Wednesday July 25, 4PM – 7PM  
*Crystal Lake City Hall*  
Board Room/Council Chambers  
100 W. Woodstock Street  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014



## Contacts

---

Mike Walczak  
NWMC Program Manager for Transportation  
Northwest Council Planning Liaison  
1616 E. Golf Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
847-296-9200, ext. 34  
[mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org)

Chris Staron  
NWMC Program Associate for Transportation  
North Shore Council Planning Liaison  
1616 E. Golf Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
847-296-9200, ext. 31  
[cstaron@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:cstaron@nwmc-cog.org)

### **Municipal Spotlight**

---

If your municipality is undertaking a transportation plan or project of note, please contact NWMC staff to be featured in an upcoming edition of the NWMC Transportation Newsletter.