



Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

- June 17** **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—10:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- June 18** **North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee**
Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street
- June 26** **Local Technical Assistance and Community Planning Applications Due**
See Article on Page 3
- June 17—July 31** **CMAP Public Hearing on Go To 2040 Update**
See Article on Page 5

Bike/Ped Talks Des Plaines River Corridor Plan, Walk Friendly Community Applications

On May 28, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met and reviewed the draft Des Plaines River Corridor Plan. The consultant team walked the committee through the draft plan, highlighting the recommendations for trail upgrades, access improvements and crossing enhancements. The committee provided comments on the organization of the document and spent a majority of the time focusing on the implementation section. Given the multijurisdictional nature of the planning area, the plan will emphasize the stakeholders responsible for implementing specific recommendations. The consultant team will include cost estimates and an initial project prioritization for the next draft of the plan, which the committee will review in July.

Additionally, the committee discussed potential Community Planning and Local Technical Assistance planning projects

(see related article on page 5). Ideas included conducting a new bicycle corridor plan, conducting a sidewalk study to identify gaps and prioritize improvements, producing a bicycle parking plan and evaluating bike sharing options in the suburbs.

Staff also informed the committee that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) has opened the eighth round of the Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) application process. Communities are able to submit applications to the program by visiting <http://www.walkfriendly.org/assessment>. Applications are due Monday, June 16.

WFC is a national recognition program to encourage towns and cities across the United States to establish or recommit to a high priority for safe walking. Assessing the communities' commitment to improve conditions related to walk-

ing, including safety, mobility, access and comfort, PBIC makes designations based on a Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze level, and all communities receive detailed feedback on where and how they can improve. A list of current Walk Friendly Communities is available by visiting <http://www.walkfriendly.org/communities>. Currently, forty-seven communities nationwide have earned Walk Friendly status. For more information, please visit <http://www.walkfriendly.org> or direct questions to info@walkfriendly.org.



Transportation Committee Hears Bold Transit and Rail Plans

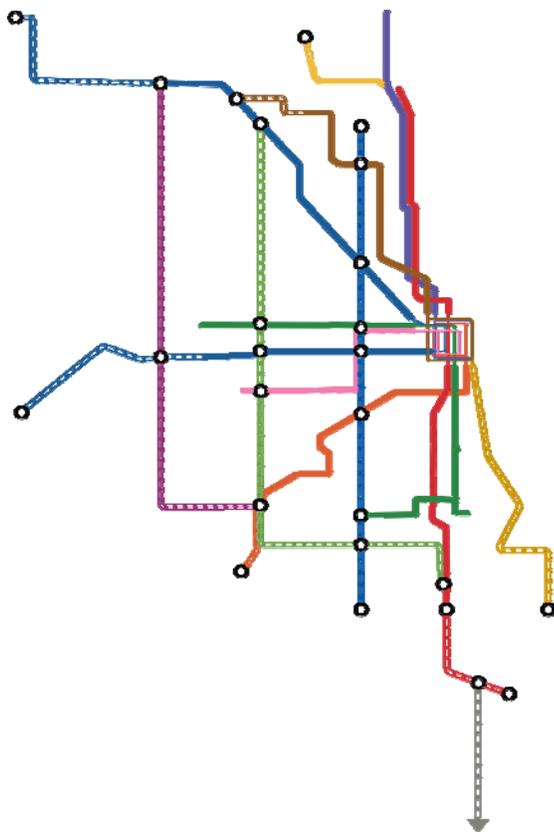
The NWMC Transportation Committee met on May 22 and received presentations regarding visions of the future for the region's mass transit network and high speed rail. Center for Neighborhood Technology Vice President of Policy Jacky Grimshaw discussed the organization's Transit Future campaign. The campaign is aimed at raising bondable capital funding through a menu of increased taxes to finance up to \$20 billion in currently unfunded transit modernization and expansion projects. Their initial proposal only covers Cook County, with a long term goal of raising funds and constructing projects region wide. In northern Cook County, Transit Future proposes expansion of the Yellow Line to Old Orchard Rd., extension of the Blue Line to *Schaumburg*, Purple Line modernization and implementation of proposed Pace Arterial Rapid Transit Routes. The graphic below shows the conceptual expansion of the system to produce a regional network. While recognizing the need for better links between population and jobs centers, the Transportation Committee requested more information on projected

costs and potential sources of revenue before recommending a position on the campaign. The committee and staff also raised concerns with building new projects given the capital needs of the current system. For more information on the campaign, please visit transitfuture.org.

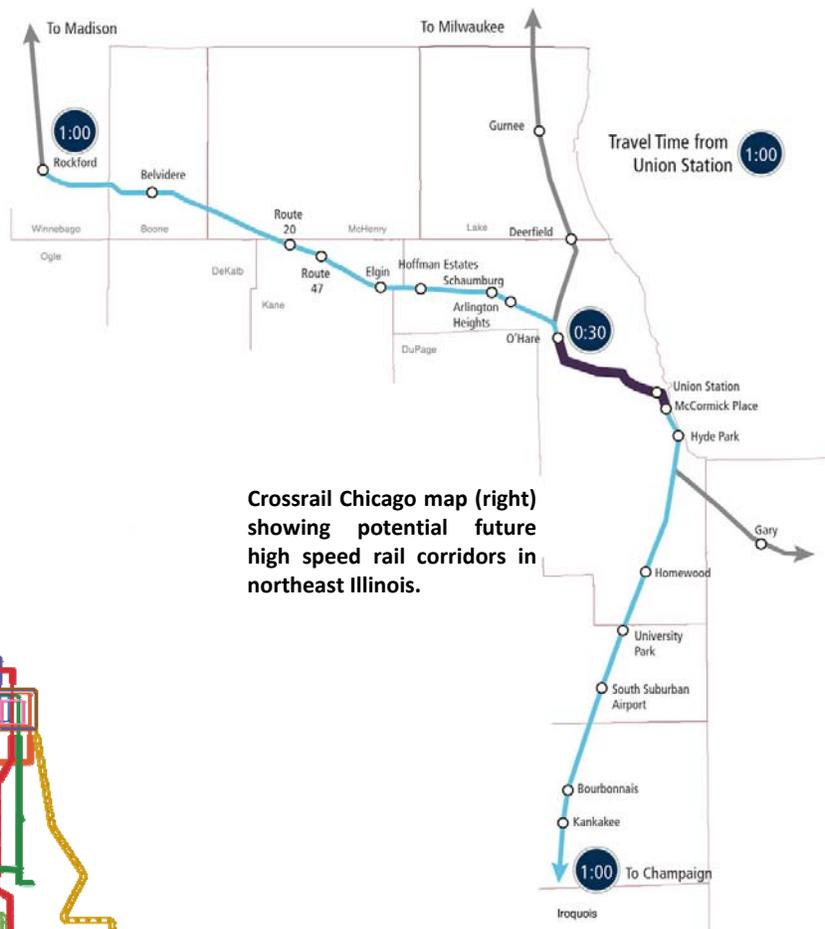
Midwest High Speed Rail Association Executive Director Rick Harnish discussed the proposed Crossrail Chicago project, which would provide a high-speed rail link from McCormick Place, through Union Station to O'Hare airport and connect a network of high-speed

rail lines. The graphic below demonstrates how the links could be an important link in a future high-speed rail network. It would also allow for new cross-town commuter trains linking the south suburbs to the northwest suburbs. More information can be found by visiting <http://www.midwesthsr.org/>. The committee directed staff to further analyze the proposal and develop a recommendation for future committee consideration.

The next Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 25 at the NWMC offices at 8:30 a.m.



Transit Future Map (left) showing proposed extensions of the CTA and Pace networks



Crossrail Chicago map (right) showing potential future high speed rail corridors in northeast Illinois.



Buffalo Grove Adopts Bicycle Plan

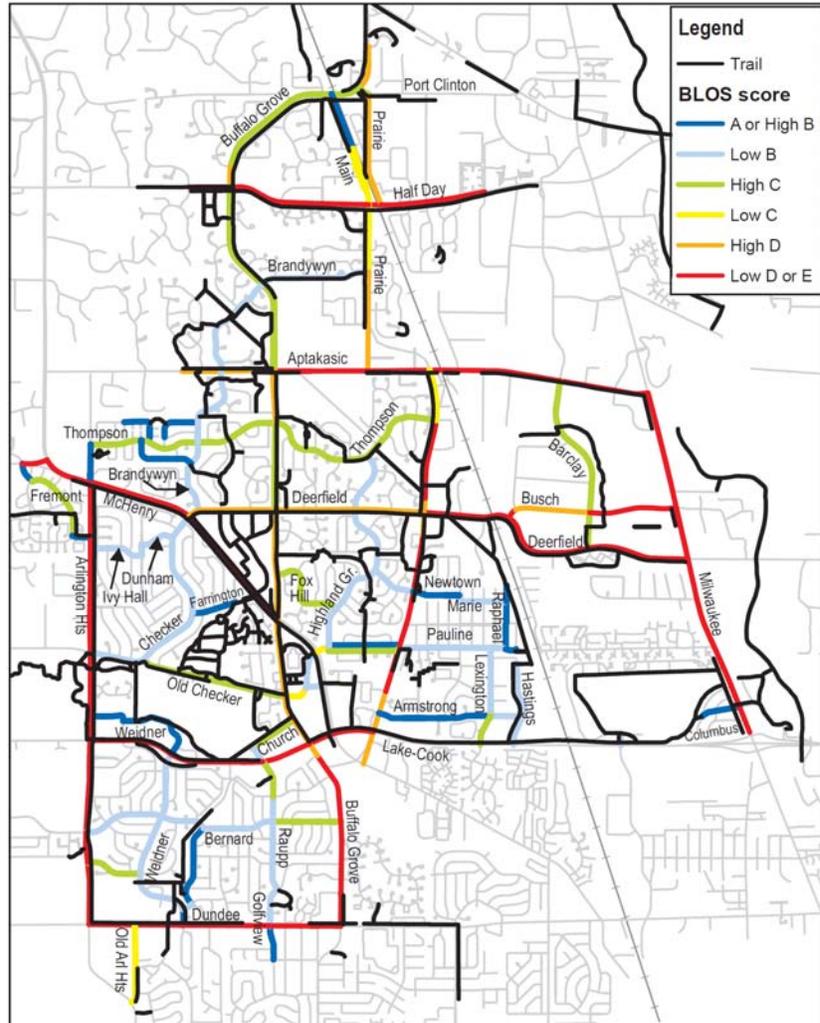
On April 21, the *Village of Buffalo Grove* adopted its comprehensive Bicycle Plan, which aims to build off the village's over fifty miles of trails and sidepaths. Spurred by the desire to become a "Bicycle Friendly Community," the plan prioritizes the steps need to acquire the designation.

The village used a Bicycle Level of Service (BLOS) analysis to quantify the "bike-friendliness" of roadways within the village and identify opportunities for future bicycle improvements. Roadways with more attractive features for cyclists receive a higher grade on an A to E scale.

The Buffalo Grove Bicycle Plan proposes an expanded network of bicycle routes to facilitate travel to all sections of the village in addition to facilitating regional connections. Buffalo Grove's current bikeway system consists primarily of off-road sidepaths along busier and arterial roads, plus several trails on their own rights-of-way. The proposed projects build on the existing sidepath and trail system to help fill gaps, tackle barriers and improve conditions to complete the bicycle network. Most projects require minimal investment, such as striping residential collector roads throughout town. The Village's network of residential collector roads are excellent candidates to add to the bicycle network because of low auto traffic, access to neighborhoods and regular stoplights at major arterials to facilitate crossings. The map to the right shows the existing conditions in Buffalo Grove and the map on page 4 shows the proposed network improvements.

In regards to implementation, the plan recommends including prioritized pro-

Existing Conditions: Trails and On-Road Comfort Level



jects in a five-year work plan and dedicating staff resources to shepherd projects from planning through construction. Additionally, the plan recommends the establishment of an ongoing Buffalo Grove Bicycle and Pedestrian

Advisory Commission (BPAC), reporting to the Plan Commission or directly to the Village Administrator/President's Office.



CMAP/RTA Local Planning Grants Deadline is June 26

The application deadline for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) latest round of planning programs for local governments is June 26. Details for CMAP's Local Technical Assistance Program and the RTA's Community Planning Program are available online at www.rtachicago.com/applications.

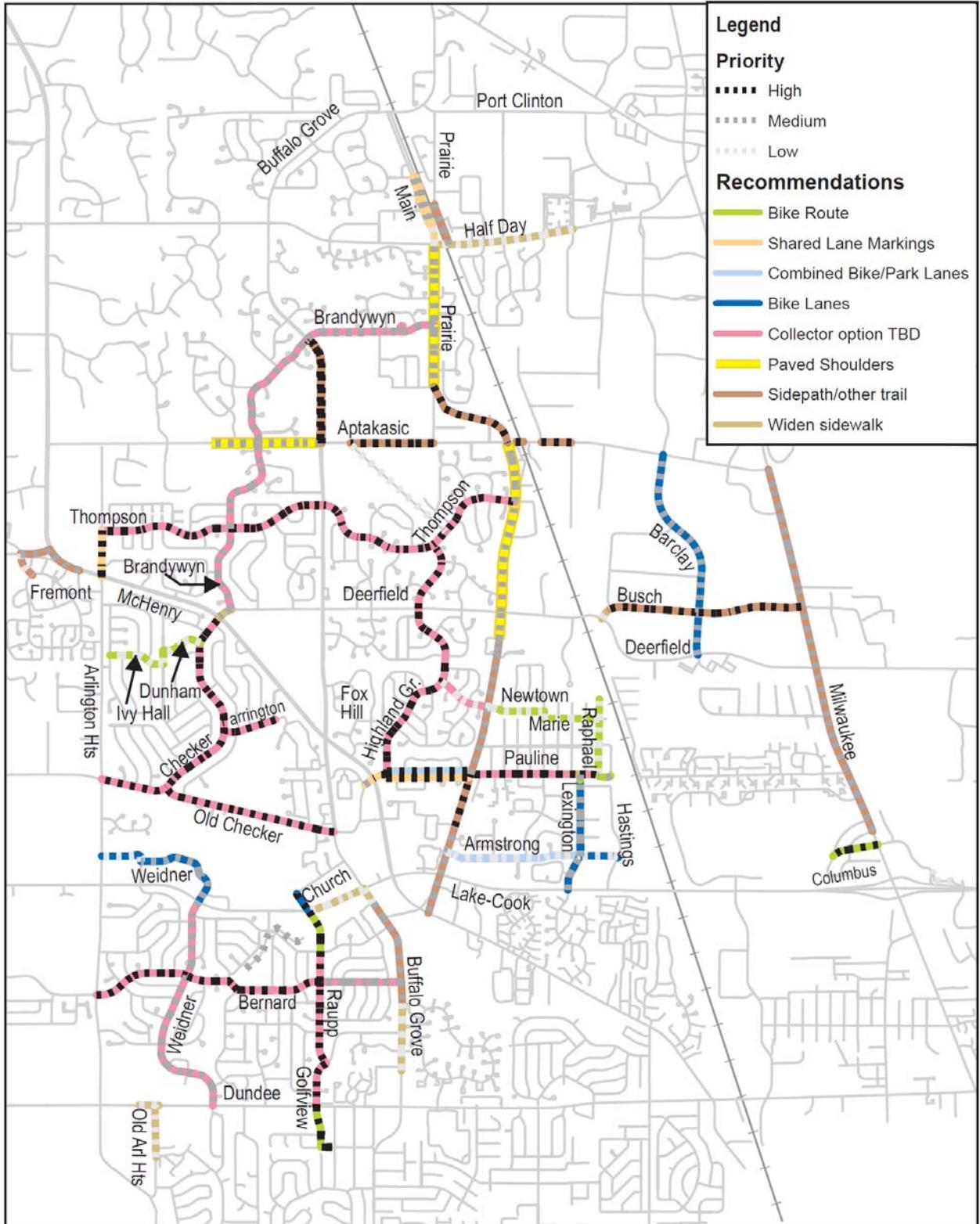
Proposed local planning projects should implement recommendations of the Go To 2040 plan. Applications can be submitted by local governments as well as other units of government or by non-governmental groups. Projects can contain multijurisdictional components. The most common types of projects include transportation plans (bicycle and pedestrian plans), subarea or corridor plans and comprehensive

plans. Examples of applications from the two programs can be found at: [the RTA website](#) and [CMAP website](#).

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee discussed potential applications at its May meeting (see article on page 1). Please feel free to contact NWMC staff if you have an idea of a multijurisdictional project or would like assistance with an application.



Bikeway Recommendations - All, with Priorities





News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet in *Barrington* over the summer, with the date still to be determined. The Council still has Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds available for transportation projects in all upcoming fiscal years. These projects can include road resurfacing or reconstruction, bike and pedestrian projects, transit infrastructure improvements and lighting projects.

Also on the agenda for the Technical Committee will be a review of the progress of the STP Methodology working group. The group has reviewed the existing methodology and discussed its

strengths and weaknesses and given direction to staff to compile a list of possible reforms for presentation to the working group ahead of the next meeting. The goal of the project is develop a methodology which will maximize the Council's ability to spend its annual allotment of STP funds and reflect the priorities of the Council's members, the current regional plan (Go To 2040) and federal legislation.

The Council has one project on the upcoming August letting: reconstruction of Rohlwing Road and Industrial Boulevard in *Rolling Meadows* (STP funded).



News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18 at the *Skokie* Village Hall at 8:30 a.m. With four months left in the federal fiscal year (FFY), the North Shore Council has already obligated over \$4 million in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding in FFY 2014. The committee will consider program modification requests to reprioritize resurfacing projects and increase funding for the Central Avenue at Pratt Avenue intersection improvement project.

In addition to making modifications to the current program, the committee will begin discussions about a future call

for STP projects. The North Shore Council conducted its last call for projects in the summer of 2012 and programmed projects through FFY 2019. The North Shore Council has been aggressive about bringing new projects into the program in order address demands on the region's transportation infrastructure. The committee will discuss the most appropriate time to include new projects in the program.

The committee will also review Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects.



Get Projects Ready Now for CMAQ and TAP

CMAQ is planning to issue a call for new projects for both the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) later in 2014 or early 2015. Under current the rules for both programs, Phase I design approval must be given by IDOT before any project can receive funding.

If your municipality has any potential projects for either program, please contact your Council's Planning Liaison soon to set up a meeting with IDOT to

scope the project and determine how long the design approval process will take. Environmental clearances on projects which involve state right-of way can take between six months to one year, so planning now will put your project in a better position when applications are officially released.

More information on the programs can be found by visiting: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/mobility/strategic-investment/regional-transportation-programs>

CMAQ Seeking Input on Go To 2040 Plan Update

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAQ) has initiated an update of the Go To 2040 comprehensive regional plan, as required by federal law. The draft update will be available for public comment from June 13 to August 1, 2014.

CMAQ will hold a series of public open house meetings throughout the region during the 45-day comment period. Each event will feature posters and plan update materials for review, as well as the draft 2014-19 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), with comment cards available to leave input and CMAQ staff on hand to answer questions. Anyone may review the plan and submit written comments at the [CMAQ website](#) (web page goes live on June 13). The relevant meetings for NWMC members are listed below:

Lake County

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Lake County Division of Transportation

Main Conference Room

600 W. Winchester Road

Libertyville

North Cook County

Thursday, July 10, 2014

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Arlington Heights Village Hall

Community Room

33 S. Arlington Heights Road

Arlington Heights

McHenry County

Thursday, July 17, 2014

3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

McHenry County Administration Building

Conference Room A

667 Ware Road

Woodstock

CMAQ Public Hearing

Thursday, July 31, 2014

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800

Chicago

To learn more and to RSVP for a meeting, please contact Jessica Gershman at jgershman@cmap.illinois.gov or 312-386-8631.

Cook County Transportation Plan Update

On Thursday, the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways held a stakeholder meeting to present an existing conditions report and a preview of multimodal opportunities in Cook County. Additionally participants reviewed the draft vision statement and began brainstorming goals and objectives to guide the planning process.

The existing conditions report or multimodal analysis focused on major roadway corridors within Cook County. The consultant team identified corridors through long, contiguous spans that traverse multiple communities, high traffic volumes, high truck volumes, are close to transit service and serve major activity centers. The graphic highlights the north-south corridors identified. This organizational structure allowed the consultant team to compile a multimodal inventory for each corridor, including such characteristics as the number of jobs, transit service, regional rail miles, number of intermodal facilities and traffic volumes. The consultant team anticipates using the collected data to identify challenges and opportunities for the transportation system. For example, the analysis could lead to recommendations that better connect high unemployment areas to job centers.

The stakeholders reviewed the draft vision statement for the plan, which focuses on Commerce, Communities, Collaboration and Capital. The next

Figure 3-3 | North-South Oriented Analysis Corridors



step in the planning process is to develop goals, objectives, and performance measures. The stakeholders spent time brainstorming goals and objectives under the four vision statement areas. The consultant team will take the input from the meeting and refine the vision statement, establish draft goals and objectives, and begin thinking about

ways to link performance measures to the plan.

Cook County will spend the summer and fall presenting to groups and soliciting input on the planning process. Cook County is planning to present to the NWMC Transportation Committee at one of its fall meetings.

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