



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

March 12	Illinois Route 53/120 Finance Committee - 2:00 p.m. Lake County Central Permit Facility, 2nd Floor 500 West Winchester Road , <i>Libertyville</i>
March 17	NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m. NWMC Offices
March 18	North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m. <i>Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street</i>
March 26	NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m. NWMC Offices
March 27	TMA Highway Construction Meeting 1 Baxter Parkway, <i>Deerfield</i> See article on Page 4
March 31	North Shore Council of Mayors Call for STP Projects closes See article on Page 3



Transportation Committee Recommends Priority List

The NWMC Transportation Committee met on February 26 and considered a list of regionally important projects which address the transportation network and demonstrate the need for increased investment in our region's infrastructure. The list comprises road and highway projects, transit projects and bicycle and pedestrian projects including: the Illinois 53/120 extension in Lake County; the Elgin O'Hare Western Access project; regional corridors such as Lake-Cook Road; Pace's planned Arterial Rapid Transit network and the implementation of the NWMC Bike Plan.

Projects on the list were submitted by NWMC members or recommended by staff from existing plans or programs. The full draft list can be found by visiting <http://www.nwmc-cog.org/Transportation/Transportation-Priorities.aspx>. The list will be considered by the NWMC Board for approval at their March 11 meeting.

The committee was also briefed on ADA transition plans (see article on page 3) and received a summary of applications submitted as part of the call for CMAQ and TAP projects (see article on page 2).

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26 at 8:30 a.m. at NWMC offices. At that meeting, the committee is expected to discuss a variety of transportation related bills being proposed in Springfield, including proposals to increase the state gas tax, as well as receive a presentation by Pace staff on the agency's proposed Arterial Rapid Transit network, branded as "Pulse".



CMAQ/TAP Applications Focus on Bike/Ped, Intersection Improvements

Applications for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Mitigation (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects were due to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning this week. Eighteen projects were submitted by municipalities in the North Shore and Northwest Councils of Mayors. The CMAQ Program will run from 2016-2020, while TAP funds will be programmed for 2016-2017. CMAP staff will analyze the projects and, in consultation with working groups, present a recommended program to the CMAQ Project Selection Committee in June. Following committee review and public comment, final approval by the CMAP Board is scheduled for September. The following projects were submitted:

Village of Barrington – U.S. 14 Underpass and Sidepath – Would create a new underpass at Canadian National tracks on US 14 near downtown *Barrington* which is needed due to increased train volumes. Phase I was funded through federal TIGER grant. Remaining phases have partial STP funding. A separate application is for a new sidepath around the planned underpass. It is part of the NWMC Northwest Highway Regional Corridor.

City of Evanston - Green Bay Road Corridor Improvements - Reducing Green Bay from McCormick to Asbury from 4 lanes to 3 with center two-way turn lane, enhanced transit, bike and pedestrian access. Will include signal interconnects to coordinate with Emerson-Ridge-Green Bay intersection (current STP project).

Village of Glenview—Milwaukee-Lake Multi-Use Path - Multi-use path along Milwaukee Avenue from Lilac Avenue to Sanders Road. Sidewalk on Sanders from Milwaukee to Greenleaf Lane. Constructs a portion of the Centennial Trail as outlined in Village comprehensive plan and connect to the Des Plaines River Trail.

Village of Glenview - Chestnut Avenue Multi-Use Path – Multi-use trail along

Chestnut from Waukegan Road to the existing Techny Trail east of the Metra tracks at Lehigh Avenue. Identified in Village comprehensive plan and NWMC Bike Plan. Will be built in conjunction with a planned STP project.

Village of Hanover Park - MWRD Bike Path – Bike path through Metropolitan Water Reclamation District property would connect Barrington Road to existing municipal bike network.

Village of Hoffman Estates - Central Road Corridor Bicycle Connection – Would connect existing paths from Paul Douglas Forest Preserve to planned Pace Park-and-Ride lot at Barrington Road interchange with Jane Addams Expressway and serve existing business campus.

Village of Niles - Access to Milwaukee/Oakton Transit – First stage of sidewalk improvements recommended by Village's Active Transportation Plan to connect to existing or planned Pace routes.

Village of Schaumburg – Algonquin Road (IL 62) at Meacham Road – Adding right turn lanes from Meacham to Algonquin and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to the intersection in anticipation of Zurich Headquarters opening in 2016. Already has some STP funding.

Village of Schaumburg - Woodfield Road at IL 53 Frontage Roads - In conjunction with a road reconstruction, the project would improve signals and add turn lanes on both sides of IL 53.

Village of Schaumburg - Metra Station Bike Lockers – Adds twenty additional bicycle lockers at *Schaumburg* Metra Station. Current lockers are full and have a waiting list.

Village of Schaumburg - Golf Road Sidepath – Would connect Schaumburg bike paths along Golf under Route 53 to Busse Woods Forest Preserve. Part of NWMC Evanston-Elgin Regional Corridor.

Village of Skokie - Traffic Flow Improvements at Edens (I-94) and Old Orchard Road – Part of a larger project with Cook County involves widening and reconstructing Old Orchard Road and the North and Southbound ramps for I-94. Improvements include signal modernization and a 10-ft wide shared use path on the south side of Old Orchard Road. Part of existing project with CMAQ, MFT and HPP funding.

Village of Skokie - Old Orchard West Multi-Use Path-10ft, bi-directional shared use, off-street path along Old Orchard Road connecting Harms Road and Woods Drive. Part of a larger Old Orchard project, that will connect to the North Branch Trail on the West, and the *City of Evanston* to the East with connections to the Skokie Valley Trail in between.

Village of Streamwood - Lake Street Sidewalks to Hanover Park Metra Station – Would connect residential and industrial areas in *Streamwood* with *Hanover Park* Metra and serve both traditional and reverse commuters.

Village of Streamwood - Irving Park Road (IL 19) at Bartlett Road – In conjunction with a planned road widening (partially STP funded), the project would add turn lanes as well as bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

Village of Streamwood - Irving Park Road (IL 19) Sidepath – In conjunction with a planned road widening (partially STP funded), would create new sidepath through dense commercial area with existing Pace service. Part of NWMC Irving Park Road Regional Corridor.

Village of Wheeling - Milwaukee Avenue Sidewalks – Would connect existing industrial and residential areas with existing Pace service along Milwaukee Avenue near Chicago Executive Airport.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discuss ADA Transition Plans, Grant Applications

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met February 24 to discuss Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plans, new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality/Transportation Alternatives Program (CMAQ/TAP) grant applications and ongoing bicycle planning efforts. Staff briefed the committee on submitted applications from the Northwest and North Shore Council of Mayors for the current CMAQ/TAP call for projects. Many of the proposed projects build upon municipal bike plans or follow corridors identified in the NWMC Bike Plan. Staff also discussed public input on the Bikeway Feasibility Study currently underway in the Fox River Trail area. More details are in the article on page 2.

The committee was joined by John Donovan from the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Donovan discussed the need for municipalities to have up-to-date transition plans in place to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact NWMC staff for additional resources in developing or updating an ADA transition plan

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. at NWMC offices.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met on February 19 at the *Barrington Village Hall*. The committee approved a request from the *Village of Schaumburg* to move a Martingale Road project from the Multi-Year "B" list to Fiscal Year 2015 and change it from a reconstruction to a resurfacing. The committee clarified its support of resurfacing projects and encouraged their use to spend down the council's balance of Surface Transportation Program funds. This policy will be formalized in the new council methodology, which is currently under development.

The committee approved costs increases to two projects from the January letting which received high bids: *Wheeling's* Dundee Road lighting project; and, the *Lively Boulevard* reconstruction in *Elk Grove Village*. The committee also approved a change to *Schaumburg's* Arterial Road lighting project, which moved from

FY 2015 to 2016, and a minor change of funds for *Barrington's* Lake Zurich Road realignment.

Finally, the committee discussed the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) current policy on roundabout funding. Under federal legislation, roundabouts are eligible for 100% federal funding. However, IDOT's policy requires a 20% local match to spread the funds around to more projects and ensure a local commitment to the project. Other regional councils of mayors have discussed encouraging IDOT to change the policy to match the federal policy. The committee discussed the potential impacts of the policy and requested that staff bring back more information to the next meeting, which is on call.



News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On February 19, the CMAQ Project Selection Committee approved a cost increase request from the *Village of Lincolnwood* for the Touhy Avenue Overpass project. This project is a part of the larger regional Skokie Valley Trail and provides a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Touhy Avenue.

In the latest call for projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), the North Shore Council of Mayors submitted five applications. One came from the *City of Evanston*, two from the *Village of Glenview* and two from the *Village of Skokie*. Some applications created new projects and some built upon existing projects. All the applications, however, contained some degree of bicycle and/or pedestrian accommodations.

The North Shore Council also has an open call for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. Applications are due Tuesday, March 31. If your community plans to submit an application, please contact Brian Pigeon bpigeon@nwmc-cog.org or (847) 296-9200 to set up a scoping meeting with IDOT Bureau of Local Roads if you have not already done so.

The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will be Wednesday, March 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*. The committee will discuss the CMAQ and STP calls for projects and Holly Ostidick from CMAP will give a presentation on how the council can use advanced funding to finance large projects.



Mayors Issued Challenges for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

Mayors looking to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety in their communities now have the opportunity to participate in two safety challenges. Through the Mayors Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx is encouraging mayors and elected officials to take action to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages. Participants will be invited to the Mayors' Summit for Safer People, Safer Streets in March at DOT headquarters in Washington. Participating teams will undertake seven actions to improve safety over the next year. The challenge is based on the 2010 USDOT Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation. More information can be found by visiting www.dot.gov/mayors-challenge.

In addition, the League of Illinois Bicyclists has issued its first annual Mayor's Bicycle Safety Challenge. This program

focuses on the League's online bike safety quizzes, which aim to educate both bicyclists and motorists on how to safely share the road in Illinois. Mayors are urged to take the quiz themselves and encourage their constituents to do the same. Promotional materials tailored to driver's education classes, police departments, scout troops, PTA groups and more are also available. For more information, please visit www.bikelib.org/safety-education/online-bike-safety-quizzes/ or email lib@bikelib.org



IL 53/120 Land Use Committee Discusses Future Growth Scenarios

On February 5, the IL Route 53/120 Land Use Committee met at the Lake County Division of Transportation in *Libertyville*. The purpose of the meeting was not to discuss specific routes for the new road but to lay out scenarios for future growth and land use. The consulting team first identified the areas that are most likely to change land use and two scenarios for the preservation of open space. This was followed by a market analysis of potential office, industrial, retail and residential growth.

With this information in mind, the committee discussed four possible scenarios for future land use with varying degrees of open space and residential density. While no formal decision was made, the consulting team and CMAP staff suggested that the scenario allowing for greater open space and higher density development would best balance the committee's three main objectives of maintaining open space, maximizing tax revenue and preserving the character of the affected communities.

On Thursday, March 12, the Finance Committee will meet to discuss of future public involvement opportunities and the revised draft final report and recommendations.

TMA of Lake Cook to Host Annual Construction Preview Meeting

The Transportation Management Association (TMA) of Lake Cook is hosting its Annual Highway Construction Meeting on Friday, March 27, 9:00 a.m. at Baxter Healthcare (One Baxter Parkway) in *Deerfield*. Representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Lake and Cook Counties, the Illinois Tollway and neighboring communities will provide an overview of construction projects planned in Lake County and northern Cook County for 2015. Construction maps will also be distributed at the meeting. Please RSVP to Tim Grzesiakowski, tim_grzesiakowski@baxter.com, by Tuesday, March 24.



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