



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

## Table of Contents:

On To 2050/Transportation Committee Update	1-2	ITEP Call for Projects	4
Bike/Ped Committee Committee Update	2	North Shore Council Update	4
Pace Pulse Dempster Line	3	Northwest Council Update	4
Pace North Shore Coordination Plan	3		

## Dates to Remember

- April 19**      **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.**  
NWMC Offices
- April 28**      **NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m.**  
NWMC Offices
- May 2**          **2016 ITEP Application Cycle Opens**  
See article page 4
- May 6**          **Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.**  
*Barrington Village Hall*

## NWMC Looks "On To 2050"

Over the past two weeks, elected officials and municipal staff from the Northwest Municipal Conference have shared their thoughts on Northeastern Illinois' next regional comprehensive plan. As the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) begins development of the next plan, named "On To 2050", they are soliciting feedback from stakeholders throughout the region on what topics the plan should include.

On March 24, the NWMC Transportation Committee held a lively discussion on a vision of the long term priorities for the region. Topics discussed by the committee included: transportation investment (including eliminating conflicts between freight rail and the road network); developing more bikeable and walkable com-



**Participants discuss their ideas for the region at an On To 2050 Workshop March 30 at Arlington Heights Village Hall.**

*(Continued on page 2)*

# On To 2050 (continued)

munities; housing challenges (including the development of multi-family and senior housing); competition for jobs and resources between the City of Chicago and suburban communities; and, the challenges and opportunities with service consolidation and intergovernmental cooperation. The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 8:30 a.m. at NWMC offices.

A second workshop was held on March 30 at the *Arlington Heights Village Hall*. The discussion included many of the same themes as the Transportation Committee meeting, plus other topics such as water resource planning, stormwater management challenges and increasing access to

transit. Thanks to *Arlington Heights Village Manager Randy Recklaus* and *Administrative Assistant Diane Staggs* for hosting and helping coordinate the event.

Special thanks to CMAP Outreach Principal Jane Grover and Outreach Associates Andres Torres and Berenice Vallecillos for moderating the discussions.

CMAP is looking for communities and organizations to host additional workshops throughout the region. To learn more about the plan development or hosting a workshop, please visit <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050>. The plan is scheduled for adoption in 2018. See below for the full plan development schedule.

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discusses Local Coalitions, Planning Projects

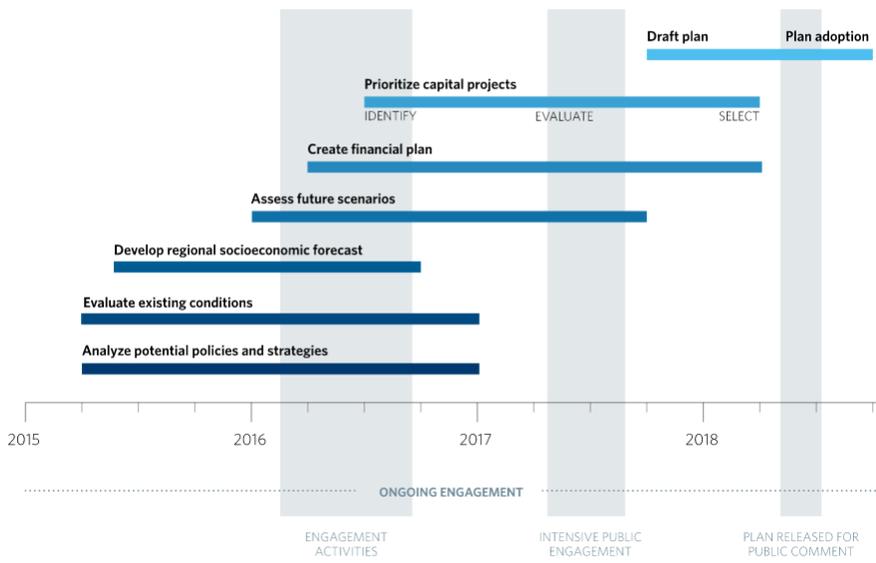
The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met March 15 to discuss the progress of newly formed biking and complete streets advocacy groups as well as local planning initiatives. Staff updated the committee on the ongoing work of the Chicagoland Complete Streets Coalition and the topics of that group's upcoming meetings. Staff also discussed a recently formed group of bike commuters in the *Northbrook* and *Glenview* area who seek to increase and improve bicycle commuting to major employers in area.

The committee also discussed the progress of several projects funded by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. The LTA program provides assistance to municipalities in a variety of planning efforts in areas including zoning, economic development, land use, transportation and housing. Several of these projects are, unfortunately, on hold due to the current state budget impasse. Information on all past and ongoing LTA projects is available by visiting <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs-and-resources/lta>.

The next meeting of the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.



ON TO 2050 development timeline Source: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.





## Pace Pulse Dempster Line Planning Launches

On Wednesday, March 23, transportation stakeholders from across the area met at the *Morton Grove Public Library* for the first steering committee meeting for Pace's Pulse Dempster Line. The Dempster line will be the second route for Pulse, the new arterial rapid transit system being developed by Pace. The first was the Pulse Milwaukee Avenue

Line in *Niles* and Chicago. The Dempster line will begin at the Davis Street CTA and Metra station in *Evanston* and continue through *Skokie*, *Morton Grove*, *Niles*, *Park Ridge* and *Des Plaines* finally terminating at the O'Hare Kiss-and-Fly/O'Hare Metra Transfer station. This arterial rapid transit service will operate with

limited stops, at roughly ½ mile intervals and feature dedicated stations.

At the meeting, Pace staff and project consultants discussed station designs and project timelines. Public involvement will begin later in 2016 with construction slated to begin in 2018 and service expected to begin in 2019.



## Pace/CTA North Shore Study Kicks Off

The first steering committee meeting for the Pace/CTA North Shore Service Coordination Plan met on Thursday, March 31 at *Skokie Village Hall*. The committee includes representatives from *Skokie*, *Evanston*, *Wilmette*, *Lincolnwood*, Northwestern University, Pace, RTA, CTA, Metra, IDOT, Cook County, NWMC, and 50th Ward Alderman Debra Silverstein's office.

The goal of the plan is to better coordinate and align CTA and Pace service in the areas of the North Shore where both

transit agencies operate. The area is well served by both agencies, but a full analysis of the services was last completed in 2004. This new project will conduct a market analysis of population and employment, a service analysis of current transit operations, an analysis of financial resources available to implement any new or modified service, as well as an extensive public outreach component.

The committee received an overview of transit in the region, shared their project goals and discussed how to measure the

success of this plan. The first round of public outreach will begin this spring with the next steering committee meeting to take place in August. The coordination plan is scheduled to be completed by May, 2017. However, Pace officials stressed that interim improvements could still move forward while this plan is being developed.



## IDOT Announces Call for Transportation Enhancement Funding

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will accept applications for the 2016 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Cycle from Monday, May 2 through Friday, June 17. Approximately \$29 million is available to award for selected projects. ITEP provides funding for community based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure.

Any local or state government with taxing authority is eligible to apply. Local match is required for all eligible phases. Preliminary engineering, utility relocations, construction and construction engineering are funded at an 80% federal/20% local match ratio. Right-of-way

acquisition is funded at 50% federal/50% local match. Other federal funds cannot be used for local match. The maximum amount of ITEP funds per project is \$2 million. Phase I engineering is not required to be completed before applying, but additional points are given to projects with Phase I and/or land acquisition complete.

More information on the program, including an updated 2016 ITEP Guidelines Manual is available by visiting [IDOT's website](#). Selected projects will be announced in Fall, 2016. The ITEP will be a two-year cycle with the next call for projects anticipated to be in spring 2018.

Eligible categories for ITEP funding are:

- Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities
- Landscape/Streetscape and Other Scenic Beautification
- Conversion of Abandoned Railroad Corridors to Trails
- Historic Preservation and Rehabilitation of Historic Transportation Facilities
- Vegetation Management in Transportation Rights-of-Way
- Archaeological Activities Relating to Impacts from Implementation of a Transportation Project
- Storm Water Management, Control and Water Pollution Prevention or Abatement Related to Highway
- Construction or Due to Highway Runoff
- Reduce Vehicle-Caused Wildlife Mortality or Restore and Maintain Connectivity Among Terrestrial or Aquatic Habitats
- Construction of Turnouts, Overlooks and Viewing Areas



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## Council of Mayors Updates

### **North Shore Council of Mayors**

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met Wednesday, March 23 to discuss the status of the Council's Surface Transportation Program (STP) and other federally-funded infrastructure projects. The Committee will be holding a special meeting in April to discuss a program modification request from the *City of Evanston*. The time and location of that meeting is still to be determined. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Technical Committee will be Wednesday, June 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*.

### **Northwest Council of Mayors**

The next Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee meeting will take place on Friday, May 6 at 8:30 a.m. at *Barrington Village Hall*. Please submit any project updates or requests to Mike Walczak by April 22.