



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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## Dates to Remember

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>April 13</b> | <b>Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.</b><br><i>Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street</i> |
| <b>April 18</b> | <b>NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.</b><br><i>NWMC Offices</i>  |
| <b>April 27</b> | <b>NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m.</b><br><i>NWMC Offices</i>   |
| <b>May 5</b>    | <b>CMAP/RTA Call for Projects</b><br><i>See article on Page 2</i>   |
| <b>May 16</b>   | <b>CMAP/RTA Planning Grant Symposium</b><br><i>See article on Page 2</i>  |



## Transportation Committee Talks Rand Road, Des Plaines River Trail Funding Request

Future improvements to the Rand Road corridor and the Des Plaines River Trail highlighted the agenda for the March 23 meeting of the Transportation Committee. *Mount Prospect's Deputy Director of Community Development Consuelo Arguilles* presented the village's recently completed Rand Road Corridor Plan. Among the plan's transportation recommendations are: improvements to the major intersections of Rand/Kensington/Route 83 and Rand/Central/Mount Prospect Roads; improved transit service and amenities including shelters; completing the sidewalk network; adding bicycle facilities; and, safer pedestrian

accommodations at major intersections.

The committee also recommended that the Conference Board approve financial participation in the Forest Preserves of Cook County's (FPCC) Invest In Cook grant application for improvements to the Des Plaines River Trail between Central and Golf Roads. If the grant is successful, FPCC will develop an engineering solution for an unmarked crossing on the Union Pacific rail line which effectively divides the trail. This project is one of the top five "Special Improvement Projects" recommended in the Conference's 2014 Des Plaines River

Trail Corridor Plan. The request was approved by the NWMC Executive Board on April 5 and will be considered by the full Board on April 12.

At the April 27 Transportation Committee meeting, staff from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will seek feedback from the committee on various "Alternative Future" scenarios that they are analyzing as CMAP develops the On To 2050 Regional Comprehensive Plan. All interested staff and elected officials are welcome to attend and join the conversation.



## CMAP and RTA to Host Symposium on Planning Grants

On Tuesday, May 16, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) are hosting a symposium to mark the release of the 2017 Call for Projects for the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) and Community Planning programs. The symposium will feature panel discussions on local best practices in transportation planning, climate resilience, shared services, plan implementation and more from communities of many types and sizes. Staff from both agencies will also be present for one-on-one input on the application process. The Call for Projects for both programs will open on Friday, May 5.

The symposium will be held at Roosevelt University's Murray-Green Library Auditorium Building, 430 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Check-in and breakfast is from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and the program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost for attendees is \$30. To register, please visit [cmap.is/TAsymposium](http://cmap.is/TAsymposium).

For more information on these programs, including current and past examples of projects, please visit the [CMAP LTA website](#) or the [RTA Community Planning website](#).



## Transportation Legislation Updates

### *In Washington*

On March 8, S.496, a bill sponsored by Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois which would repeal the US DOT's recently adopted MPO coordination rule, passed by unanimous consent in the Senate. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination and Planning Area Reform rule would require the boundaries of a metropolitan planning area (MPA) to include an entire urbanized area (UZA). If that area contains more than one MPO, the MPOs would be required to significantly coordinate their activities with a unified long-range plan and a unified transportation improvement plan (TIP). In the Chicago region, this would have the effect of either creating a mega-MPO that extends from Wisconsin into Illinois and Indiana or separate MPOs requiring all three MPO boards and three governors to approve TIP changes. Hundreds of elected officials, mu-

nicipalities and COGs, including NWMC, submitted comments opposing this rule.

The repeal effort now moves to the House where Rep. Dan Lipinski (IL-3) has introduced similar legislation, H.R. 1346. The House bill currently enjoys broad bipartisan support with 29 co-sponsors including six from Illinois. Currently there is no firm timeline as to when the bill will be taken for a vote but staff will continue to monitor the bill as it progresses.

### *In Springfield*

HB 625, sponsored by Representative David Harris, was approved by the House 105-3 on April 7. The bill would require a fine of up to \$1,500 or up to 30 days in jail for a driver who does not yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk. The offense would become a felony if the pedestrian is injured or killed. The bill was inspired by a pedestrian death on Central Road in *Mount Prospect*.

## Bike/Ped Committee Talks Planning and Grants

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met Tuesday, March 21 and discussed a proposed update to the NWMC Bicycle Plan. The committee reviewed a draft request for qualifications (RFQ) for updates to the plan, which was adopted in 2010. The updates will expand the scope of the plan to include walking and transit access to create a more comprehensive multi-modal plan. This will include: a review of the current plan; assessment of the existing sidewalk network; identification of challenges to transit access; and, development of an outreach strategy and implementation plan.

The committee also discussed and recommended approval of a request for the Conference to contribute financially to a proposal from the Forest Preserves of Cook County to study improvements to the Des Plaines River Trail between Central and Golf Roads. Please see the article on Page 1 for additional information.



## Safety Improvement Funds Available

Applications are now being accepted for the FY 2019 Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) through Friday, June 2. The HSIP is a core federal-aid funding program with the goal of significantly reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. The selected projects will be announced during the week of July 24, and the anticipated funding level is approximately \$35 million. The maximum federal funding level is 90 percent of the total eligible cost and all phases of safety improvement projects are eligible. For more information, please visit the [HSIP website](#).



## North Shore Council Update

On Wednesday, March 22 the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met at the *Skokie Village Hall* to discuss the status of federally funded transportation projects in the region. Staff provided updates of the Council's current Surface Transportation Program (STP) and projects funded through other federal sources. Staff discussed the five applications submitted by Council members for the recently closed call for Congestion

Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. CMAP staff is currently reviewing CMAQ/TAP applications, with the draft program expected to be announced in June.

The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will be Wednesday, June 29, 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*.



## Northwest Council Update

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on Thursday April 13, 8:30 a.m. at the *Barrington Village Hall* to discuss projects programmed in 2017 and beyond. With the approved changes from the October Technical Committee meeting plus those projects already targeting lettings next year, the council is projected to spend well above its programming mark in FY

2017. This may result in the council requesting advanced funding against future years from the Council of Mayors Executive Committee.

In order to better accommodate future project schedules and available funding, staff has been evaluating projects programmed in the current program and on the multi-year list.



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