



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

December 6	CMAP On To 2050 Big Ideas Forum - 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (See article page 2) <i>Two Brothers Roundhouse, 205 N. Broadway, Aurora</i>
December 20	NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m. <i>NWMC Offices</i>
December 21	North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m. <i>Skokie Village Hall</i>
December 22	NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m. <i>NWMC Offices</i>



Transportation Committee Gears Up for CMAQ/TAP Call for Projects

In anticipation of the call for projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), staff reviewed ongoing CMAQ and TAP projects in the area at the November 17 NWMC Transportation Committee meeting. Various bicycle, pedestrian, bicycle parking, intersection improvement and signal interconnect projects were discussed.

While the call for projects does not begin until Friday, January 6, the draft application is already available by visiting www.cmap.illinois.gov.

Both programs fund Phase II (Design) engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction phases of a project. Projects must have Phase I engineering substantially complete in order to be considered for funding.

If your municipality is considering applying for CMAQ or TAP funds, please contact NWMC staff for assistance.

The committee also received an update on the 2017 Regional Transportation Authority budget from Andy Plummer. He noted that it is slightly down from last year due to lower than expected ridership revenue. While CTA and Pace are keeping their existing fares in place, Mr. Plummer reported that Metra is raising fares by an average of 5.8% to cover capital projects funding. CTA and Metra will operate similar service levels as 2016, while Pace is adding new service in the I-90 corridor and arterial rapid transit (ART) service along Milwaukee Avenue.

Please visit www.rtachicago.org for additional information.

Federal Funds for Freight Projects Available

The U.S. Department of Transportation is now accepting applications for Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grants. Up to \$850 million will be awarded nationally to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country. The program is expected to be highly competitive. In the first call for FASTLANE projects, USDOT received 212 applications totaling nearly \$9.8 billion – with states and localities requesting over 13 times more funding than was available through FASTLANE. The deadline for submitting applications is 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 15.

Please visit www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/FASTLANEgrants for additional information.



President-elect Names Nominee for Transportation Secretary

On November 29th, President-elect Trump announced plans to nominate Elaine L. Chao for Secretary of Transportation. Ms. Chao has served in the administrations of three previous U.S. Presidents.

In 1986 she was named deputy administrator of the US Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, later becoming the chair of the Federal Maritime Commission. In 1989 she was named Deputy Secretary of Transportation by President George H.W. Bush and later in his administration served as Director of the Peace Corps.

She was named Secretary of Labor by President George W. Bush in 2001 and served all eight years of his administration.



CMAP to Host Big Ideas Forum on Regional Growth

On Tuesday, December 6, staff from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will host the agency's fourth Big Ideas forum to discuss important topics that will affect the region's future. This forum, presented in partnership with Kane County and the Chicago chapter of the American Planning Association, is entitled: "Development at the Edge: The Future of Regional Urbanization" and will focus on the effects of residential and commercial developments in rural areas. A panel of elected leaders and development professionals will discuss the economic and environmental impacts of exurban development as well as the rising cost of maintaining infrastructure and providing services.

The forum will be held from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Two Brothers Roundhouse, 205 N. Broadway in Aurora at the terminus of the Metra BNSF line. For more information and registration, please visit www.cmap.illinois.gov.



RTA Community Planning Program Assists NWMC Members with TOD Planning

The *Village of Palatine* recently adopted a downtown TOD (transit-oriented development) plan. The plan amends the village's comprehensive plan and includes recommendations that will enhance the village's downtown area surrounding the *Palatine* Metra station. The plan recommends, among other things, improved bicycle and pedestrian access and additional multi-family residential developments in the blocks surrounding the station.

The *Village of Bartlett* has also adopted a downtown TOD plan. In addition to recommending multi-family residential development and improved bicycle and pedestrian access, the plan calls for new retail development and the revitalization of older retail properties in the blocks surrounding the *Bartlett* Metra station. The plan also calls for reestablishing a street grid south of the railroad tracks and increasing the downtown residential population.

Eighty percent of the funding for these plans was provided by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Community Planning program. This program provides funding for planning and assistance for implementation of projects that benefit the community and the regional transportation system. To date, the RTA Community Planning program has completed over 100 TOD Plans and Implementation plans since the late 1990's.

Following the adoption of these plans, the RTA will continue to aid the municipalities in their implementation. The RTA is currently assisting the *City of Des Plaines* and the *Village of Morton Grove* in implementing recommendations from their previously adopted TOD plans.

For more information on the community Planning Program, please visit www.rtachicago.org/cp.

Voters Approve "Transportation Lockbox" Amendment

On November 8, Illinois voters overwhelmingly approved the so-called "transportation lockbox" amendment to the Illinois constitution. The amendment stipulates that all revenue raised through transportation taxes and fees must be directed towards transportation projects. CMAP's Government Relations staff are currently working with members of the General Assembly to find legislative fixes for portions of the amendment in need of clarification. NWMC staff will continue to monitor this issue and any impacts it may have on municipalities.



Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Begins Plan Update

On November 15, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee discussed the scope of an update to the 2010 NWMC Bike Plan. The committee voiced their preference for a multi-modal transportation plan, including pedestrian and transit components as well as updating the regional bicycle

corridors and best practices from the 2010 plan. The committee also recommended that additional public outreach be included in the plan development. Staff will present a draft RFQ at the next meeting.

North Shore Council Update

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet Wednesday, December 21 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*. Any agenda items should be sent to Brian Pigeon by Friday, December 9.



Public Input Sought on Skokie Valley Bike Path Bridge

On November 29, the Lake County Department of Transportation hosted an open house at the *Highland Park Police Department* for residents to learn about the proposed Skokie Valley Bike Path Bridge.

The bridge, a joint project between Cook and Lake Counties, will extend the Skokie Valley Bike Path over Lake Cook Road south into Cook County.

From there, the trail will ultimately connect to existing segments in *Skokie* and *Lincolnwood*. The open house included preliminary reports, maps and 3D renderings of the proposed bridge and trail. More information is available by visiting

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/3685/Skokie-Valley-Bike-Path-Bridge>

The *Village of Northbrook* will host an open house Wednesday, December 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the *Northbrook Village Hall*, 1225 Cedar Lane. The Village is currently conducting preliminary engineering for the extension of the Skokie Valley Trail from Lake Cook Road to Voltz Road.

For more information, please visit www.northbrook.il.us.



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