



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

February 14	CMAP Census Workshop - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (See article page 2) <i>CMAP Offices, 233 S Wacker Dr. Suite 800, Chicago</i>
February 17	CMAQ/TAP Applications Due to Planning Liaisons <i>See article on Page 2</i>
February 21	NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m. <i>NWMC Offices</i>
February 23	NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m. <i>NWMC Offices</i>
February 24	Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m. <i>Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street</i>
February 28	Invest in Cook Informational Workshop <i>See article below</i>



Cook County Announces Transportation Grant Program

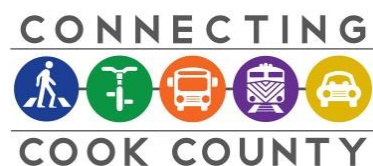
The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH) has announced a new competitive transportation grant program, Invest in Cook. The county is seeking applications for transportation-related projects that help build and maintain the regional transportation network. Invest in Cook will provide \$8.5 million in funding to cover planning, engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction associated with transportation projects. The initiative springs from Connecting Cook County, the county's recently adopted long-range transportation plan and aims to ex-

pand CCDTH's focus beyond traditional highway building to include pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and freight improvements.

The county will host an informational workshop on Invest in Cook to cover the program's purpose, schedule, applicant eligibility, evaluation criteria and a Q&A session. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, February 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the 17th Floor Conference Room of Cook County's George W. Dunne building, located at 69 W. Washington Street in Chicago. To

reserve a place, please RSVP to InvestInCook.CC@cookcountyil.gov.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 17 at 5:00 p.m. For more information on Invest in Cook, projects and application requirements, please visit <http://www.cookcountyil.gov/investincook>.





CMAQ/TAP Call for Projects Reminder

Applications for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and locally programmed Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) call for projects are due for review to your Council of Mayors planning liaison by February 17. Once approved, the final applications are due to CMAP by March 3.

New this year, applications will be filled out and submitted online, using CMAP's eTIP database. More information on the call for projects, including application instructions can be found by visiting: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/mobility/strategic-investment/cmaq/program-development>. Municipalities should direct any questions to their planning liaison.

Both programs require that Phase I design approval be given by IDOT before a project can receive funding. By June 1, 2017, projects must have either received design approval, have IDOT certi-

fy that a final Project Development Report (PDR) has been submitted for signatures, or have IDOT certify that a preliminary PDR has been received with an accurate cost and clear scope established.

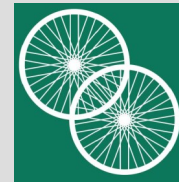
Projects eligible for the CMAQ program include: transit improvement projects (transit facilities, transit service and equipment, and access to transit facilities); traffic flow improvement projects (bottleneck eliminations, intersection improvements, signal interconnects); bicycle facility projects; direct emissions reduction projects; and, demonstration projects.

After staff review and evaluation of applications, draft programs will be proposed by CMAP staff in July. Final CMAP approval will occur in October. The CMAQ program will fund projects from Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2018-2022, while the TAP program will fund projects from FFY 2018-2020.

Bike/Ped Committee Talks Planning and Grants

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met January 17 and continued discussions on plans to update the NWMC Bicycle Plan and develop the draft scope of work to be included in a request for qualifications (RFQ) for the plan update. Staff also discussed CMAP's call for projects for federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds.

February's meeting will feature staff from CMAP discussing their regional bicycle plan and as well as Active Transportation Alliance staff discussing suburban planning and outreach. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.



Transportation Committee Update

On January 26, the NWMC Transportation Committee met and discussed Invest in Cook, a new transportation funding program through Cook County (see article on page 1 for details). The committee also received updates on the implementation of the Safe Roads constitutional amendment and the uncertain outlook for new federal transportation funding.

CMAP Outreach Principal Jane Grover updated the committee on the agency's planning and outreach efforts as they develop the On To 2050 regional comprehensive plan. CMAP staff will

lead a workshop to solicit feedback from the committee at its April meeting.

Metra Director of Community Affairs Rick Mack discussed the agency's upcoming fare increase, the agency's partnership with Uber as a rideshare partner as well as a study which will examine the rate and zone fare structure. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 8:30 a.m. at NWMC offices.

CMAP Offers Census Workshop

On Tuesday, February 14, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will host the second in a series of workshops on the U.S. Census. The title of the workshop is "Introducing Geographic Data and Maps." The workshop will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the CMAP offices in the Willis Tower, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800 in Chicago. The workshop is free of charge but pre-registration is required. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Jon Hallas, 312-386-8764 or jhallas@cmap.illinois.gov.

New Transportation Secretary Sworn In

On January 31st, Elaine L. Chao was sworn in as the 18th United States Secretary of Transportation just hours after being confirmed by the US Senate with a 93 to 6 vote. Secretary Chao previously served as Secretary of Labor during in the administration of President George W. Bush and as Assistant Secretary of Transportation in the administration of President George H.W. Bush.

Secretary Chao will be confronted with several large issues in her first year including the President's \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal, legislation reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration and finalizing DOT rules regarding autonomous vehicles.



North Shore Council Update

The North Shore Council of Mayors had one project on the January IDOT construction letting. The *City of Evanston* received Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funds for the construction of a protected bike lane on Sheridan Road. This project aims to reduce conflicts between automobiles, cyclists and pedestrians in the corridor running through Northwestern University's campus. Improvements

will extend north to the City's limits and south to Church and Davis streets, connecting with the City's existing protected bike lane network.

The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will be Wednesday, March 22, 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*.



Northwest Council Update

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on Friday, February 24 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.

Please send any project updates or requests to Mike Walczak (mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org) by February 15.



Contacts

Mike Walczak
NWMC Transportation Director
Northwest Council Planning Liaison
1600 East Golf Road – Suite 0700
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-296-9200, ext. 134
mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org

Brian Pigeon
NWMC Program Associate for Transportation
North Shore Council Planning Liaison
1600 East Golf Road – Suite 0700
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-296-9200, ext. 128
bpigeon@nwmc-cog.org