



Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

- February 20** **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- February 22** **NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices
- March 2** **Local Pavement Management Plan pilot program applications due**
See article on Page 2
- March 16** **Invest in Cook Applications Due**
See article below



Transportation Committee Hears Long Range Expressway Vision, STP Programming Update

The NWMC Transportation Committee met January 25 and received a presentation from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Senior Planner Tom Murtha on the Expressway Vision for Northeastern Illinois project. CMAP is developing the project with the Illinois Tollway and Illinois Department of Transportation to guide long-term investment in the expressway system, address challenging areas of congestion and provide new mass transit options. The project will recommend specific corridor improvements, develop strategies to handle traffic incident management and estimate potential revenue from tolling and value capture. Additional information can be found by visiting

<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/mobility/roads/expressway-vision>. In discussing the vision and potential outcomes of the project, the committee cautioned that any proposed changes must not negatively impact the local road network.

Staff also updated the committee on the January 24 meeting of the Surface Transportation Program (STP) Project Selection Committee. At the meeting, the group discussed potential active program management tools designed to more efficiently spend STP funds and streamline project timelines. The NWMC will work with our members and other regional councils to provide input to CMAP staff and the committee as the

first draft of recommendations are being developed for the committee's March meeting.

Finally, staff reported on topics from the January 16 NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee meeting, including the anticipated May start of the NWMC Multimodal Plan, the Federal Highway Administration's recent decision concerning Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons and recent Illinois court cases regarding municipal liability for off-street bike paths. For more information, see the story on page 3.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.



Invest in Cook Applications Now Being Accepted

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways has announced a second round of Invest in Cook, an \$8.5 million program to cover the cost of planning and feasibility studies, engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction associated with transportation improvements sponsored by local and regional governments and private partners. Projects for consideration should be consistent with the five priorities of the Connecting Cook County long range transportation plan:

- Prioritize Transit and Other Transportation Alternatives
- Support the Region’s Role as North America’s Freight Capital
- Promote Equal Access to Opportunities
- Maintain and Modernize What Already Exists
- Increase Investments in Transportation

Eligible applicants include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies and any other local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for transportation or recreational trails within Cook County. Private for-profit or non-profit organizations can submit project proposals, but they are required to partner with a public sponsor that meets the above criteria. Lead applicants are limited to a single project application. Staff salaries are not an eligible expense under this program.

All phases of project development, from planning and feasibility studies to construction are eligible. The call for projects will close on Friday, March 16. For more information, including a list of projects that were funded in the 2017 call, please visit <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/investincook>.



CMAP Issues Local Pavement Management Call for Projects

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has released a call for projects under a Local Pavement Management Plan pilot program. The program will provide engineering support for selected municipalities, townships, councils of government/municipal associations, and groups of two or more municipalities to either initiate or update their respective systems for managing pavement.

An informational webinar will be held on Monday, February 5, with applications due at noon on Friday, March 2.

Please visit <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/mobility/roads/pavement-management/cfp> for more information and/or to register for the webinar.

Metra Seeks Feedback on Fare Proposals

Metra will hold a series of public open houses this month to gather customer feedback about several potential changes to its fare structure and ticket options. Open houses in the NWMC area are as follows:

Monday, February 5
Crystal Lake City Hall
100 W. Woodstock St.

Thursday, February 8
Arlington Heights Village Hall
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd.

Tuesday, February 13
Libertyville Village Hall
118 W. Cook Ave.

All open houses are from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Potential changes include: introducing a day pass for travel between any two zones on the Ventra app; discounting fares for non-rush hour trips; changing all Zone A stations except those in downtown Chicago to Zone B; consolidating Zones K, L and M into Zone J; capping fares for trips over 45 miles; changing the zones for some stations where nearby stations on a different line are in a different zone; and, gradually correcting inconsistent charges for each additional zone of travel.

Additional study information can be found by visiting <https://metrarail.com/about-metra/newsroom/metra-seeking-feedback-fare-ideas>. The full list of recommendations and comment forms can be found by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/MetraFares. Comments can also be filed at metrafaresstudy@metrarr.com.



Planning for Pulse Dempster Line Rolls On

The Pace Pulse Dempster Line Corridor Advisory Group met January 11 at the *Des Plaines Public Library*. The Pulse Dempster Line corridor is approximately fifteen miles in length and runs east-west between *Evanston* and *Des Plaines* via Dempster Street, then north-south on Lee Street and Mannheim Road to the O'Hare International Airport Kiss-n-Fly station. The line will run through the communities of *Evanston, Skokie, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge, Des Plaines, Rosemont, and Chicago*. Pace was awarded \$10 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the project in October and the target date for service to begin is 2019.

The advisory group, which consists of municipalities and stakeholders in the project corridor, reviewed the conceptual plans for station areas. Pace staff and

its consultants also updated the group on the soon-to-be completed environmental review process. Finally, the group discussed the following public open houses being held to review station locations and conceptual plans:

Tuesday, February 6
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Des Plaines Public Library
1501 Ellinwood Street
Des Plaines

Wednesday, February 7
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Temple Beth Israel
3601 W. Dempster Street
Skokie

Please visit www.pacebus.com/pulse for more information on the project.



Illinois Bike Summit Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2018 Illinois Bike Summit. The Summit, hosted by Ride Illinois will be held Monday, May 7 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Bicycle advocates, planners, civil engineers, elected official and others are invited to join for a day of learning and networking.

Session topics will range from bikeway design to advocacy and community engagement. Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn and Chicago Department of Transportation Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld will participate as keynote speakers.

Please visit <http://rideillinois.org/events/2018-illinois-bike-summit/> for a full schedule and registration information. Please note that discounted early bird registration is available through Thursday, February 15.

Bike/Ped Committee Talks Multimodal Plan, Policy Changes

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met Tuesday and received an update from staff on the status of the Multimodal Plan grant that the Conference was awarded in 2017. The plan will update the 2010 NWMC Bike Plan as well as incorporate pedestrian and transit access to create a more comprehensive multi-modal plan. Work is expected to commence this spring following the execution of agreements between the Conference and CMAP.

Staff also briefed the committee on the Federal Highway Administration's recent decision to terminate interim approval for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at pedestrian crossings. The change is due to patent issues and not the performance or safety of the devices. Existing RRFBs can remain in place but cannot be replaced nor can additional beacons be installed.

The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20 at 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.





Council of Mayors Update

Northwest Council

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met February 2 at the *Barrington Village Hall*. Staff updated the committee on the status of projects in the current Surface Transportation Program (STP), including those projects which have moved phases from FY 2018 to FY 2019. The committee discussed options for advancing projects outside of the active program as well as handling cost increase requests. Staff will present recommendations at the next meeting.

Staff provided an update on CMAP's newly created STP Project Selection Committee, which will develop and select projects for a new regional STP fund and recommend Active Program Management (APM) rules for all STP projects. The committee held a discussion on potential aspects of Active Program Management rules, including factors which contribute to project delays. The

Technical Committee directed staff to submit a letter with their comments and concerns to the Council of Mayors representatives on the STP Project Selection Committee.

The Technical Committee also recommended reforming a subcommittee to begin discussions on updates to the council's methodology. The changes, which will reflect the new STP rules, must be finalized by September, 2019.

The next meeting of the Technical Committee is Friday, April 6 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Barrington Village Hall*.

North Shore Council

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 21 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*.

Register for RTA Planning Workshops

The 2018 Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Planning Workshop is a free, half-day event, held in partnership with DePaul University's Chaddick Institute, that brings together planning and development professionals involved with transit-oriented development (TOD) for presentations and discussions on current trends and best practices. This year's theme, Connected Communities, focuses on TOD housing and the recent growth in residential development near transit stations in the region. Speakers include members of the public, private and non-profit sectors who will present on a variety of topics related to the benefits, challenges and opportunities of planning and developing housing around the regional transit system.

The event will be held:
Wednesday, March 7
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
DePaul Center - Room 8005
1 East Jackson Boulevard
Chicago

To register, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-rta-planning-workshop-connected-communities-tickets-42278204247>.

CMAP Census Workshops

CMAP is hosting [free workshops](#) about how to use the U.S. Census Bureau website. Space is limited, so please contact Jon Hallas (jhallas@cmmap.illinois.gov or 312-386-8764) to RSVP. The program will be offered at CMAP (233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 800, Chicago) from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., on February 21 (focus on housing), March 21 (focus on poverty), April 18 (focus on health), and May 16 (detailed data for variety of topics)



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