



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

January 13	CMAQ/TAP Application Webinar <i>See article below</i>
January 17	NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m. <i>NWMC Offices</i>
January 17	CMAQ Census Workshop - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (See article page 2) <i>CMAQ Offices, 233 S Wacker Dr. Suite 800, Chicago</i>
January 26	NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m. <i>NWMC Offices</i>



CMAQ Announces Call for CMAQ and TAP Projects

On January 6, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) released a new call for projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and locally programmed Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L). Applications are due by March 3, and local sponsors must have their applications submitted for review by their Council of Mayors planning liaison by February 17. New this year, applications will be filled out and submitted online, using CMAP's eTIP database.

To assist potential applicants, CMAP staff will host an Application Webinar on Friday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Participation for the webinar will be limited to the first 100 registrants and registration is required. To register, please visit [here](#). To attend in person at CMAP's Offices, email dferguson@cmapp.illinois.gov with your contact information.

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 certify 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

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CMAP Opens CMAQ/TAP Call for Projects

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reduction projects as well as demonstration projects.

Bicycle facility projects will automatically be considered for both CMAQ and TAP funding using the same application. Bicycle facility projects must be featured in at least one formally adopted or approved bike plan, comprehensive plan, or other plan by a local government, subregional council, CMAP, or the State of Illinois.

CMAQ projects are ranked primarily on the cost-effectiveness of their air emissions reductions. Additionally, projects will be given a Transportation Impact Criteria score based on other factors including safety, reliability, connectivity.

TAP projects will be evaluated on a 100-point scale using the following criteria: how well a project completes the regional trail network; the population and employment density in the area served by the facility; and, improvements in conditions for biking that result from building a facility. Bonus points will be awarded to projects that have no ROW or easements to obtain and for which phase II engineering is already complete.

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.



Transportation Committee Talks Transit Oriented Development Implementation

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) staff highlighted recent transit related planning and implementation success stories at the December 22 NWMC Transportation Committee meeting. Senior Planners Brian Hacker and Chris Szmerlo discussed the RTA's popular Community Planning program, which funds downtown studies, corridor plans and other transit studies for municipalities, as well as the Access to Transit program, which funds construction for projects previously recommended in Community Planning program plans. More information on both programs can be found by visiting <http://www.rtachicago.org/cp>.

Staff updated the committee on the recently adopted 2017 Illinois Tollway

budget which includes funding for: engineering and construction for the Elgin O'Hare Western Access project; Jane Addams (I-90) SmartRoad Technology and interchange improvements; and, planning funds for the Illinois 53/120 extension. Tollway staff will give a full presentation on the budget at the January 26 NWMC Transportation Committee meeting.

Staff also reminded the committee that the call for projects for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) will begin on January 6. (see article on Page 1).

The next meeting is scheduled for January 26 at 8:30 a.m. at NWMC offices.

CMAP Dues Reminder

CMAP recently sent dues reminders to municipalities to accommodate those who operate on a calendar year budget cycle. CMAP changed its dues structure last year to respond to the uncertain financial situation in Springfield and broader its local matching funds. Municipalities who do not pay dues will not have access to certain CMAP programs, including the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program.

CMAP Offers Census Workshops

Early this year, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will host two U.S. Census workshops. The January 17 workshop will feature On-TheMap, a census program for selecting characteristics of workers who live and/or work in municipalities in the region. The title of the February 14 workshop is "Introducing Geographic Data and Maps." Both workshops 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. Workshops are free of charge but pre-registration is required. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Jon Hallas, 312-386-8764 or jhallas@cmapp.illinois.gov.

Metra Announces Official Partnership with Uber

On December 14, Metra announced it would be entering into a three-year agreement with Uber which will serve as the agency's official rideshare partner. Metra will identify Uber as its preferred rideshare service for connections to and from Metra stations. The agreement will generate non-fare revenue for Metra and help drive ridership by addressing the "first mile/last mile" challenge, that is, getting between a station and a final destination.

Uber's name will be featured on a wide range of promotional materials, both in stations and on trains, as well as Metra's website, social media and newsletters. Uber will also be able to distribute promotional materials at Metra stations. The partnership is scheduled to begin in February.



North Shore Council Update

On December 21, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met at the *Skokie Village Hall*. The Committee approved a draft annual report detailing the North Shore Council's activities for federal fiscal year 2016 which ran from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. The Committee also heard updates on the current status of the Council's Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects and other federally funded projects in the region.

Staff reminded the Committee that the next call for federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects would open on January 6. Please see the article on Page 1 for more information on the call for projects. The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will next meet on Wednesday, March 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*.



Northwest Council Preps for Busy 2017

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet in February (date still to be determined) 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.



Pace Launches Phase 2 of I-90 Market Expansion Program

On December 19, in coordination with the Illinois Tollway's rebuilding and widening of the I-90 Jane Addams Memorial Tollway, Pace launched new transit service and facilities along the corridor. The expansion includes three new express routes and three new local routes. Service will also be improved on five existing routes.

In addition to the new routes, Pace will be bringing 25 new 40' express buses

into service. The new buses will be equipped with free Wi-Fi, USB charging ports, high-back seating and interior overhead storage bins. Starting in the summer of 2017, SmartRoad technology along I-90 will allow Pace buses to travel in new transit-only Flex Lanes when congestion is present.

As part of the expansion, a new Park-n-Ride station opened at I-90 and Randall Road. Parking at the new station is free

and can accommodate 150 cars. Later in 2017, two additional Park-n-Ride stations will be completed along I-90 at Barrington Road and IL-25.

For schedules and more information on the I-90 market expansion please visit www.PaceBus.com.



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