



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

- July 13** **Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.**
Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street
- August 15** **ON TO 2050 Forum “Doing More with Less in 2050”**
Libertyville Civic Center, 135 W. Church St

Councils Discuss STP Allocation Proposal

On June 29, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning released a draft proposal for changing the allocation of the region’s Surface Transportation Planning (STP) funds to a working group made up of representatives from the Council of Mayors, the City of Chicago, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The goal of the proposal is to meet new federal transportation planning rules, which require regions to program funds based on performance measures and prevent population-based suballocations, a practice which the region has followed for over 30 years. The changes offered by highlights of the draft proposal are as follows:

- It would create a new shared regional fund of approximately \$43 million annually to replace Chicago’s 5% set-

aside for larger projects that council allotments cannot readily fund. The regional funds be comprised of that set-aside, the projected growth in federal STP funding, and the balance of funds that CMAP says IDOT owes the region from accounting differences over the past 30 years. All councils and the city would be eligible to apply for these funds.

- Each Council’s sub-allocation would be based on the following performance measures: lane miles in poor condition; square feet of bridges in poor condition; congested miles; annual serious and fatal crashes; and, total SOV commuters. The estimated initial distribution has most councils seeing modest increases, with three (Central, South and Northwest), plus Chicago, having lower marks. This split would be recalculated every 5 years based on ob-

served condition and improvement in conditions. The Northwest Council would see the largest drop, projected to lose more than 25% percent of its yearly allocation.

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North Shore Council Update

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met on June 28 at the *Skokie Village Hall* to hear updates to the Council’s federally funded transportation projects. The committee approved a cost increase request from the *Villages of Morton Grove and Skokie* for improvements along Austin Avenue. The Committee also heard a preview of the STP allocation proposal (see article to the left for additional information).



NWMC Co-Hosting ON TO 2050 Forum

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is co-hosting a forum with the Northwest Municipal Conference and the McHenry County Council of Governments to explore how communities and the region will adapt in an era of constrained state and federal resources. Titled “Doing More with Less in 2050”, the event will be held on Tuesday, August 15, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Libertyville Civic Center, 135 W. Church St., in *Libertyville*.

The panel discussion will be moderated by Kerry Lester, Daily Herald Columnist and Senior Writer, and include the following panelists: John S. Gates Jr., Chairman and CEO, PortaeCo, LLC; the Honorable Leon Rockingham, Mayor, North Chicago; Megan McKenna, Executive Director, Mano a Mano Resource Cen-

ter; and, Paula Wolff, Director, Illinois Justice Project.

Registration for this event and details on all of the ON TO 2050 forums are available by visiting: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050/forums>. The Libertyville Civic Center is a short walk from the Libertyville Station of the Milwaukee District North Metra line, and is accessible via the #574 Pace bus. Free parking is available at the Church Street Garage. The Libertyville Civic Center is ADA accessible. If you require a reasonable accommodation to attend, please contact Cindy Cambray at ccambray@cmap.illinois.gov or 312-386-8748. The event is approved for 1.5 CM credits through the American Planning Association-Chicago Metro Section.



STP Allocation (Continued)

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- Each Council’s methodology should incorporate principles from the On To 2050 plan into their scoring, of at least 25% of the total score. It would be up to the council to determine which criteria to use and how to weigh them. Pavement management systems would be used to determine resurfacing and reconstruction projects (about half of all towns use them now and CMAP would work with the councils to make it fully regional). Also, to address equity concerns, toll development credits would be used for disadvantaged communities for local match.
- Active program management, similar to that used for the CMAQ program, would be used to ensure projects are moving forward
- Upon adoption, current council programs would be frozen, but all projects

in the system would be honored. The new sub-allocation would begin in FY 2020. All advanced funding at that point would be forgiven. Also, between now and 2020, CMAP would collect data to fine-tune the performance measures, the councils would revise their methodologies accordingly and there would be a call for projects for the new regional fund.

The Northwest Council Technical Committee will meet on Thursday, June 13 at noon at the *Barrington Village Hall* to best position the councils’ program for the next few years to use the maximum amount of STP funding and to determine a response to mitigate the council’s potential funding decrease. Also, the regional Council of Mayors Executive Committee will meet on June 18 to receive the same presentation and provide feedback.

CMAP Releases Draft Preview Report for ON TO 2050

CMAP has released a draft report previewing ON TO 2050 recommendations. The report is organized by three overarching principles:

Resilience. A strong region requires communities, infrastructure, and systems that are able to thrive in the face of uncertain future economic, fiscal, and environmental shifts.

Inclusive growth. Long-term regional economic prosperity requires increased economic opportunity and improved quality of life for all residents.

Prioritized investment. Achieving regional goals in an era of limited resources requires coordinated prioritization of investments across sectors, including infrastructure, land use, and our economy.

To view the report, please visit <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050>. Comments may be submitted to ONTO2050@cmap.illinois.gov by Thursday, August 3. CMAP will incorporate feedback and release the final version of this preview report in October 2017. A draft of the full ON TO 2050 plan will be released for comment in June 2018, with adoption scheduled for October 2018.





Pace Continues Planning Work on Pulse Dempster Line

The Corridor Advisory Group (CAG) for the Pulse Dempster Line project met on Wednesday in *Morton Grove*. Pace staff and consultants announced that work has begun on the next steps in the project development process, including a detailed environmental review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The CAG also asked to provide input on the more detailed station locations

identified in the project’s previous planning phase.

The Pulse Dempster Line will run from the Davis Street CTA/Metra Station in *Evanston* to the *Des Plaines* Metra Station, then south to O’Hare International Airport and provide more frequent and reliable service in the corridor along with stations featuring raised boarding platforms, heated shelters, real-time bus arrival infor-

mation and other amenities. Public involvement activities on the project will begin later this year. Construction is anticipated to take place next year with service launching in 2019, but is dependent on securing funding for the project. Pace currently has an application under review for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. For more information, please visit <http://pulse.pacebus.com/index.php>.



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