



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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## Dates to Remember

<b>November 10</b>	<b>Complete Streets Coalition Quarterly Meeting - 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</b> <i>CMAP Offices, 233 S Wacker Dr. Suite 800, Chicago</i>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m.</b> <i>NWMC Offices</i>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m.</b> <i>NWMC Offices</i>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>CMAP Census Workshop - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (See article page 2)</b> <i>CMAP Offices, 233 S Wacker Dr. Suite 800, Chicago</i>



## Transportation Committee Learns About Cook County's Plans

The NWMC Transportation Committee received a presentation on Cook County's first long range transportation plan in more than 70 years during our meeting on October 27. Maria Choca Urban, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy for the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, presented Connecting Cook County – 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan, which was approved by the county board in August. She highlighted three factors which guided the plan's development: supporting the economy; creating more livable communities; and, developing an integrated multi-modal and multi-purpose system. Ms. Urban also stressed the need for in-

creased cooperation with local governments since the road network under the county's jurisdiction is fragmented.

Cook County is currently developing an implementation plan, based on the transportation plan, which will guide projects for the next five years. Municipalities should stay tuned in 2017 for a call for transportation projects which would benefit both municipalities and the county. Please visit <http://www.connectingcookcounty.org/> to review the plan and for additional information.

Following the plan presentation, NWMC staff updated the committee on the U.S.

Department of Transportation's release of their first comprehensive guidelines on the development and regulation of automated vehicles (AVs). The committee discussed the potential impacts of automated vehicles on municipalities, including updated infrastructure as well as land use and site plan design impacts, and expressed interest in discussing the topic further at future meetings. The guidelines are available by visiting: [https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/DOT\\_AV\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/DOT_AV_Policy.pdf).

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17 at 8:30 a.m. at NWMC offices.



## Metra, Pace, Tollway Propose 2017 Budgets

**The region's transportation agencies have released their draft budgets for 2017 and announced public hearings on those budgets:**

- Metra has proposed a \$1.06 billion budget that provides \$781.2 million for operating costs and \$279.5 million for capital improvements. The budget includes a 5.8 percent fare increase, with the resulting \$16.1 million to be spent on the agency's capital needs. More information is available by visiting <https://metrarail.com/node/4206>.
- Pace is proposing a \$228.6 million balanced budget with no fare increases or service cuts. Additional service in the NWMC area includes express and feeder bus service on the reconstructed Jane Addams Tollway and Pulse Service on Milwaukee Avenue. More information is available by visiting: [http://www.pacebus.com/sub/about/annual\\_budget\\_proposed.asp](http://www.pacebus.com/sub/about/annual_budget_proposed.asp)

- The Illinois Tollway has introduced a balanced budget which includes \$336 million in maintenance and operations and nearly \$1 billion in capital spending including funding for the agency's 12-year Move Illinois program. The budget proposes \$915 million in funding for projects including: IL Route 390, and planning for I-490 as part of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project, implementing SmartRoad technology on the I-90 Jane Addams Memorial Tollway, and planning and design on the reconstruction of the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

The Tollway will host a public hearing on this budget Monday, November 14 at 6 p.m. at the *Elk Grove Village Hall*. More information is available by visiting <https://www.illinoistollway.com/about/finance#Tentative>



## Park Ridge, Niles Receive ITEP Grants

On October 14, the Illinois Department of Transportation announced the latest round of grant recipients for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP).

NWMC members *Park Ridge* and *Niles* were among the 33 projects from around the state which received more than \$30 million in awards. Both grants will help implement ongoing streetscape projects. *Park Ridge* received a \$1.2 million grant for streetscape improvements to Northwest Highway in its Uptown area. *Niles* will use its \$700,000 grant for continued streetscape improvements in the Milwaukee Avenue corridor.

ITEP funds can be used on projects designed to promote and develop alternative transportation options, including bike and pedestrian travel, along with streetscape beautification. During this application cycle, 241 project applications were received, requesting a total of \$261.3 million. The ITEP will be a two-year cycle with the next call for projects anticipated to be in the spring 2018.

For more information on the program, please visit: <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/local-transportation-partners/county-engineers-and-local-public-agencies/funding-opportunities/ITEP>.

## Federal FASTLANE Funding

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 December 15. For more information, please visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/FASTLANEgrants>.

## CMAP Offers Census Workshops

CMAP will host a free, hands-on workshop about U.S. Census products for urban planning from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7, at its office (233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 800, Chicago). Municipal planning staff and private sector planners are invited to attend. The workshop will feature the U.S. Census website, searches for municipal data, and On-TheMap, a Census program for selecting characteristics of workers who live and/or work in municipalities in the region. RSVP to Jon Hallas ([jhallas@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:jhallas@cmap.illinois.gov)).

## Shared Mobility Conference Recap

Staff from NWMC joined hundreds of attendees at the 2016 National Shared Mobility Summit in Chicago on October 18 and 19. The summit features speakers and panels on a wide-variety of shared mobility topics, including ride-sharing services, bike-sharing networks and autonomous vehicle technology. Sessions offered an overview of current practices as well as a view into the future of shared mobility and its potential impact for our transportation system, land use choices and the economy as a whole.

A recap of the conference and other shared mobility resources and research can be found by visiting: <http://sharedusemobilitycenter.org/>.

NWMC staff plans to address relevant topics in this emerging aspect of transportation at future Transportation Committee meetings.



## North Shore Council Update

The North Shore Council of Mayors had one project on the November 4 state transportation letting. The *Village of Glenview* received Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for resurfacing and signal improvements along Harlem Avenue from Glenview Road to Golf Road.

The next meeting of the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*.



## Northwest Council Set for Busy 2017

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met October 21 at the *Barrington Village Hall* and approved a substantial amount of funding for projects in the upcoming year.

The Lake Zurich Road realignment in *Barrington*, right-of-way funding for the US 14 underpass project in *Barrington* and a Cook County-led project of intersection improvements on Lake-Cook Road in *Buffalo Grove* and *Wheeling* were all moved into the active program in FY 2017. Additional right-of-way funding was approved for the Lee Street at Forest Avenue intersection improvement in *Des Plaines* and a scope change, cost increase and move into FY 2018 was approved for John F. Kennedy Boulevard and Elk

Grove Boulevard resurfacing in *Elk Grove Village*.

With the approved changes 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, the committee tabled project requests for additional funding outside of FY 2017 as well as new project applications. The committee also asked staff to conduct a full review of projects currently in the program and on the multi-year list.



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