



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

October 4	Pace North Shore Coordination Plan Open Houses <i>See Article on Page 2</i>
October 7	TMA of Lake Cook - 8:30 a.m. (See article Page 2) <i>Baxter Healthcare, 1 Baxter Parkway, Deerfield</i>
October 18	NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 10:30 a.m. <i>NWMC Offices</i>
October 21	Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.. <i>Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street</i>
October 27	NWMC Transportation Committee - 8:30 a.m. <i>NWMC Offices</i>



Transportation Committee Kicks Off New Year

The NWMC Transportation Committee met September 22 for the first time this fiscal year under its new co-chairs, *Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod* and *Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry*. Pace Community Relations Representative Steve Andrews discussed the agency's I-90 Market Expansion Program, which includes: new and expanded express bus service on I-90; new and expanded connector routes to the I-90 corridor; three new Park and Ride stations at Randall Road, Illinois 25 and Barrington Road; upgraded transfer facilities at the Pace Northwest Transportation Center in *Schaumburg*; and, the Pace/CTA Rosemont Transportation Center. The new

and expanded routes will begin in late 2016 as the Jane Addams rebuild and widening nears its completion, while the Park and Ride stations will be completed in 2017. For more information on the project, please visit http://www.pacebus.com/sub/initiatives/I-90_expansion_project.asp

Staff and the committee also discussed topics and projects which are likely to come before the committee this year including the proposed Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) reform rules, CMAP's On To 2050 regional comprehensive plan development process; the proposed Route 53/120 extension

in Lake County; and, a proposed update of the NWMC bike plan.

Finally, the committee discussed the pros and cons of the proposed constitutional amendment to create a lockbox for transportation funding for the state and all local governments. The committee did not take a position on the amendment, supporting the concept of secure transportation funds while voicing concern over the ambiguities of the amendment language and the practical manner of administering the funds.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 8:30 at the NWMC offices.



Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discusses Plan Updates, Bike Share

On September 20, the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met and reviewed options for funding to update the Conference's 2010 Bicycle Plan. The plan update would build upon the existing document, reflect progress in the implementation of identified corridors, provide guidance on intersection improvements and include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations that were not available at the time the previous plan was adopted.

Staff also led the first in a series of conversations related to bike share systems. Discussion focused on different modes of distributing shared bikes with an emphasis on kiosk-based systems, like Chicago-based Divvy, and

systems in which technology is integrated into the bike itself, like Aurora's new Zagster system. Finally, staff outlined updates to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Regional Greenways and Trails Plan. This plan identifies key corridors of primarily off-street bike facilities across the region. CMAP staff will prioritize routes in this plan as well as municipal and sub-regional plans when programming Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds early next year.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC offices.



Metra Offers Community Enhancement Program

Metra is inviting community groups to participate in its Community Enhancement Program. The program provides aesthetic enhancements to Metra stations and surrounding areas. Eligible projects include art projects (murals, sculptures, mosaics and photographs), painting viaducts, columns and bridge walls as well as landscaping and gardening projects. Applications from community groups

and individuals representing community groups are accepted year-round. Applicants must be willing and able to fund the project. In some cases, Metra can supply some materials and workforce. All applications are judged on a case-by-case basis and require approval from local elected officials. For more information please visit <https://metrarail.com/about-metra/community-enhancement-program>.



TMA To Host Annual Fall Meeting

The Transportation Management Association of Lake Cook will hold their annual Fall Meeting on Friday, October 7 at Baxter Healthcare, located at One Baxter Parkway in *Deerfield*.

The theme of this year's meeting will be: Moving Forward on State and Federal Transportation Funding and Programs. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Secretary

Randy Blankenhorn will discuss current and future capital needs and how IDOT is addressing shortfalls.

Congressman Robert Dold (IL-10) will discuss the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and its impact on Illinois communities.

To RSVP please contact Tim Grzesiakowski at tim_grzesiakowski@baxter.com or 224-948-4024.

Pace and CTA North Shore Coordination Plan Moves Forward

On September 8, the *Village of Skokie* hosted transportation stakeholders from across the region for the second Steering Committee meeting for Pace Suburban Bus and the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) North Shore Coordination Plan and Market Analysis. The plan will study existing Pace and CTA routes in Chicago, *Evanston*, *Lincolnwood*, *Skokie* and *Wilmette* to improve coordination between the services.

The Steering Committee heard an overview of completed project activities and were given an in-depth analysis of on-bus and online surveys of Pace and CTA riders. The group discussed the trends identified in the survey results and possible service improvements. The Steering Committee will meet again in early January.

To support the Coordination Plan, Pace and CTA will host two public open houses to provide an overview of the project, market analysis and survey results, as well as allow for public input. The first open house will be held Tuesday, October 4 and take place from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Chicago Public Library, Rogers Park Branch located at 6907 N. Clark St. in Chicago. The second will be held on Wednesday, October 5 at the Lincolnwood Community Center located at 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue in *Lincolnwood* from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information on the North Shore Coordination Plan, please visit http://www.pacebus.com/sub/initiatives/north_shore_2016.asp.

News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

On September 28, the North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met at the *Skokie Village Hall*. Staff briefed the Committee on the status of the Council's Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the committee approved recommended modifications to the STP. Staff discussed the upcoming call for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects set to open in January 2017. CMAQ and TAP can fund phase II engineering, right-of-way acquisition and construction. Phase I engineering is the responsibility of the local agency and must be substantially complete by June 1, 2017 to qualify for CMAQ or TAP. Please contact Brian Pigeon for any questions or to schedule a kick off meeting with IDOT. The North Shore Council of Mayors will meet next on Wednesday December 21, at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*.

Reminder: Northwest Council of Mayors Call for Projects

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet on October 21 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Barrington Village Hall*. Project changes or updates are due to Mike Walczak by October 11. The committee will also be reviewing applications for new projects, which are due today, September 30.

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O'Hare Truck Routing Plan Kicks-Off

Representatives from municipalities, counties and other affected agencies met on August 31 at the offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for the first O'Hare Subregion Truck Routing Plan Policy Committee meeting. The plan, led by Cambridge Systematics, Sam Schwartz Consulting and CMAP staff seeks to identify ways to improve the flow of truck traffic and reduce the negative effects of that traffic in the communities surrounding O'Hare airport. The study area will include: Bellwood; Bensenville; *Des Plaines*; *Elk Grove Village*; Franklin Park; Itasca; Maywood; Melrose Park; Northlake; Schiller Park; and, Wood Dale. Communities adjacent to the study area are welcome to submit comments as well.

The committee identified key origin points, destinations, freight corridors, areas with noise concerns, geometric challenges, regulatory and operational issues and general areas of concern. The plan process is expected to take approximately one year with the Policy Committee to meet in the fall to discuss existing conditions in the study area, in the winter to discuss desired future conditions and in the spring to discuss needed actions. A Technical Committee will separately discuss logistical issues related to the trucking industry. The Policy Committee will be the venue for municipal comments to be heard. NWMC staff plans to bring the project consultants to a future Transportation Committee meeting.



RTA Seeking Access to Transit Projects

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has released a call for projects for the Access to Transit Improvement Program. The program is open to applicants that have completed (or are in the process of completing) a study through the RTA's Community Planning program or CMAP'S Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program.

The Access to Transit Improvement Program is intended to leverage RTA and local funds with Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding to help im-

plement small-scale projects that increase pedestrian and bicycle access to the transit system.

Applications are due to the RTA by Thursday, October 20.

For more information, please visit <https://www.rtachicago.com/plans-programs/grants-projects/access-to-transit>.