



NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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Dates to Remember

- August 14** **ON TO 2050 Plan Comments Due**
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- August 16** **Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.**
Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street, Barrington
- August 22** **Surface Transportation Program (STP) Project Selection Committee - 9:30 a.m.**
CMAP Offices - Willis Tower, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, 60606



Welcome Josh and Cole!

As of August 1, Josh Klingenstein and Cole Jackson have officially begun their careers with the Northwest Municipal Conference. Josh is a 2016 graduate of Northwestern University in *Evanston* and recently completed a university Public Interest Program fellowship with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). Josh's duties include staffing the Northwest Council of Mayors as well as the NWMC Transportation and Bicycle/Pedestrian Committees.

Cole holds a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Ball State University in Muncie, IN and a Bachelors in Anthropology from Loyola University Chicago. He was most recently a planner with the City of Danville and the Danville Area Transportation Study. Cole will be staffing the North Shore Council of Mayors and, along with Josh, the NWMC Transportation and Bicycle/Pedestrian Committees.

Please join us in welcoming Josh and Cole to the Conference family!

Thank You Mike!

On November 8, 2004, Mike Walczak began his career with the Northwest Municipal Conference, a tenure that resulted in numerous accomplishments of which he can be very proud and for which we are grateful. From the planning and programming of millions of Surface Transportation Program funds for the Northwest Council of Mayors to development and implementation of the organization's first bicycle and pedestrian plan to coordinating the establishment of new railroad "quiet zones". Mike has had a very positive impact on the organization and the membership we serve.

Mike leaves the Conference today to become the new Executive Director of the Transportation Management Association of Lake-Cook, <https://www.tmalakecook.org/>, effective Monday, August 6. We wish Mike, his wife Heidi and sons Ben and Alex all the best. Congratulations!



ON TO 2050 Plan Calls for Tax Policy Changes – Comments Due August 14

As previously reported, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has issued its draft ON TO 2050 plan for public comment. NWMC members are encouraged to review the document, especially pages 50-56 which discusses the concepts of “tax base sharing” and changes to the distribution of state collected, local revenues. Please visit <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/2050/draft/community/tax-policy> for a direct link to the section. A number of NWMC members either submitted, or plan to submit comments and the Conference

will submit comments from the organization next week.

Please visit www.cmap.illinois.gov/ONTO2050 to explore the draft plan online, download a full PDF, and view technical appendices. There are many ways to comment on the draft ON TO 2050 comprehensive plan. Please note that comments are due Tuesday, August 14. Submit feedback via [web form](#), [email](#), phone (312-454-0400), or U.S. mail to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), 233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606.



RTA Seeking Access To Transit Projects

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is holding a call for projects for its Access to Transit program. The program helps municipalities receive capital funding for small-scale projects to improve transit access. To qualify, projects must be directly related to improving access to existing transit services and may include improvements such as: sidewalks; crosswalks; bus and rail shelters; ADA accessibility improvements; covered bicycle parking; and, wayfinding signage. The RTA bundles the selected Access to Transit projects for submittal to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for funding under the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. Submittal by the RTA of approved projects will occur in the fall of 2019.

Eligible applicants must have completed, or be in the process of completing, a planning or implementation project through the RTA’s Community Planning or Interagency Signage programs or CMAP’s Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program. Communities with projects selected by the RTA must pay for and

have completed Phase I engineering (if needed) prior to the project being submitted for CMAQ funding. The maximum project budget is being increased from \$500,000 to \$1 million, with a minimum budget of \$150,000 now required. Most projects require a 20% local match, which will be equally shared between the RTA and the applicant. The RTA may provide the full 20% match rate for smaller communities and those with lower tax bases or median incomes based on the economic and demographic characteristics of the area served. Eligible applicants may contact the RTA to determine if they qualify for this exemption. Applications are due via e-mail by the close of business on August 31.

More information, including application materials and examples of past projects can be found by visiting <http://www.rtachicago.org/index.php/plans-programs/grants-projects/access-to-transit.html>. Please contact staff or RTA Senior Planner Brian Hacker, 312-913-3211 or hackerb@rtachicago.org for additional information.

Cook County Announces Invest in Cook Grant Awards

On Wednesday, the Cook County Board announced the recipients of the 2018 Invest in Cook grants. A total of 34 awards totaling almost \$7 million will be distributed countywide. All projects in the program align with goals of the Connecting Cook County Long Range Transportation Plan and include transit improvements, cycling and pedestrian enhancements, traditional roadway repair and freight enhancements.

In the NWMC area, awards included:

- \$40,000 for a South Deerfield Commuting Study in *Deerfield*
- \$380,000 for construction of a Howard Street Streetscape project in Chicago and *Evanston*
- \$60,000 for preliminary engineering for the Beverly Road Bicycle Tollway Crossing and Road Resurfacing in *Hoffman Estates*
- \$90,000 for design engineering for the Oakton Street/Caldwell Avenue Sidewalk Connectivity project in *Morton Grove*
- \$30,000 for design engineering for the North Branch Trail Connection in *Niles*

Please visit <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/investincook> for more information on the projects and the Invest In Cook program.



Bike/Ped Committee Discusses Des Plaines River Trail Crossing, Multimodal Plan

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on July 17 and reviewed various options under consideration by the Forest Preserve of Cook County to improve a railroad crossing on the Des Plaines River Trail. Currently, trail users must find their own detour around the crossing to avoid trespassing on railroad property. Options being considered include: a bridge over the tracks; a tunnel under the tracks; upgrading the crossing to meet standards; and, detouring the trail around the crossing on nearby roads.

The Committee also discussed a draft scope of the Request for Proposals (RFP)

for the NWMC Multimodal Plan. The plan, which will update the Conference's 2010 Bike Plan while also incorporating pedestrian and access to transit recommendations, is being funded with a grant the NWMC secured through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). Staff will share committee feedback with CMAP, who will produce the final Request for Proposals (RFP). Work on the plan is expected to begin later this year.

Note: The Bike/Ped Committee meeting originally scheduled for August 21 has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 18 at 10:30 AM.



Chicagoland Complete Streets Coalition and City of Evanston Host Bike Tour

On July 27, the Chicagoland Complete Streets Coalition of the Active Transportation Alliance and the *City of Evanston* hosted a tour of the city's newest protected bike lanes and placemaking projects. Participants toured the Chicago Avenue/Sheridan Road cycle track, as well as protected bike lanes along Church Street, Dodge Avenue, and Davis Street. City staff spoke to participants

about each project, providing details on design, funding, and public engagement. Participants also had the chance to explore the nearly-complete Fountain Square redevelopment, a significant placemaking project in downtown Evanston. A huge thanks to the Complete Streets Coalition, the *City of Evanston*, and Christopher B. Burke Engineering for helping to put this event together!



City of Evanston Engineer Sat Nagar discusses local bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Safe Routes to School Funding Opportunity Announced

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has announced a new round of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding for Illinois. Between \$5 to \$6 million in funds is available statewide, with awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$200,000. For this year's round, there will be no local match required. Eligible infrastructure projects include: sidewalk improvements; traffic calming/speed reduction improvements; traffic control devices; pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements; on-street and off-street bicycle facilities; and, secure bicycle parking facilities. Eligible non-infrastructure projects include: events; equipment; and, supplies that help to address areas of education, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation.

Eligible sponsors include: schools or school district's political subdivisions (municipalities, cities, towns, etc.); metropolitan planning organizations/regional planning commissions; councils of government; local and regional agencies (law enforcement agencies, health departments, etc.); and, non-profit organizations. Every applicant must be registered through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) grantee portal, and all pre-award requirements must be fulfilled prior to submitting an SRTS application. The grantee portal link can be found by visiting <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>. While many municipalities have already registered through GATA, you may want to confirm with any school districts which are interested in applying that they are registered.

Applications will be accepted from September 24 to November 19. For more information, visit <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/local-transportation-partners/county-engineers-and-local-public-agencies/safe-routes-to-school/index>.



Save The Date for the DuPage Railroad Safety Council's 2018 Symposium

The DuPage Railroad Safety Council will hold its annual symposium on Thursday, September 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Drake Hotel in Oak Brook. The event, titled "Prevent Tragedy on the Tracks 2018: The Trespasser/Suicide Reduction Goal – We're Just Getting Started" will feature Federal Railroad Administrator Ronald Batory. Participants will discuss how to achieve the Council's goal of reducing railroad related deaths by 50% by 2025. Speakers from the rail industry, law enforcement and the mental health community will also share their latest efforts.

The event is co-sponsored by the Illinois Commerce Commission, Illinois Operation Lifesaver, Metra, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police – Traffic Safety Committee, and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen – Illinois State Legislative Board. For more information, please visit the DRSC website, <http://www.dupagerailsafety.org/index.html> or contact Steve Laffey, Stephen.Laffey@illinois.gov or (217) 785-9026.

RTA Releases Strategic Plan Video

On Tuesday, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) released a [video](#) supporting their [Invest in Transit](#) strategic plan and highlighting the benefits of increased transit investment for the region. The RTA encourages municipalities and other partners to share the video and strategic plan information on websites, at meetings and presentations as well as via email and social media networks.

For additional information, please contact RTA Director of Marketing and Communications Susan Massel, 312-913-3256 or massels@rtachicago.org.



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