



# NWMC Transportation Newsletter

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## Dates to Remember

- June 28**                      **North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.**  
*Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street*
- June 29**                      **CMAP/RTA Call for Projects Applications Due**  
*See article on Page 2*
- June 30**                      **Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee - 8:30 a.m.**  
*Barrington Village Hall, 200 S. Hough Street*



## CMAP Continues On To 2050 Issues Discussions

As part of the development of the Chicago region's next comprehensive plan – On To 2050 – CMAP is hosting a series of future-focused forums designed to engender debate around a wide range of issues that will affect the region. The forums are all centered around one of five possible Alternative Futures: Changed Climate; Walkable Communities; Innovative Transportation; Constrained Resources; and, Transformed Economy.

NWMC and CMAP will host an event to explore on how communities and the region will adapt in an era of con-

strained state and federal resources, titled "Doing More with Less in 2050". The event will be held at the Libertyville Civic Center, 135 W. Church St., in Libertyville on Tuesday, August 15, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Full details, including a list of speakers, are available by visiting: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050/forums>.

Participants will discuss a number of topics, including what the region and its communities can do to prepare for stagnant federal and state resources. NWMC's Transportation Com-

mittee held an interactive discussion of Alternative Futures at their May meeting (see article on Page 2). To learn more about On To 2050 plan development or about other future events, please visit <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050>.

Other upcoming On To 2050 events include:

"Harnessing Technology for Future Mobility" - Thursday, June 22, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), 3201 S. State St., McCormick Tribune Campus Center, Chicago.

"The Future of Economic Opportunity" - Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Homewood-Flossmoor Auditorium, 2010 N. Chestnut Rd., Homewood.

CMAP

ON TO 2050 ALTERNATIVE FUTURES



## Transportation Committee Discusses On TO 2050, O'Hare Truck Planning

On May 25, the NWMC Transportation Committee approved the draft request for qualifications (RFQ) for updates to the 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan. In addition to the plan update, the RFQ seeks to expand the plan's scope to include a review of transit access in the region. Staff will seek funding for the plan update through CMAP's Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program and, pending NWMC Executive Board and funding approval, anticipates releasing the RFQ in late summer or early fall.

Representatives from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) held an interactive discussion of Alternative Futures. Used in developing the ON TO 2050 regional comprehensive plan, Alternative Futures envisions scenarios based on emerging trends and their potential impact on the region. The committee discussed the five scenarios, including: a changed climate;

walkable communities; innovative transportation; a transformed economy; and, constrained resources. Over the coming months, CMAP will hold a series of regional forums on Alternative Futures. For more information, please visit [www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/onto2050).

Finally, the Committee heard a presentation on the ongoing O'Hare Sub Region Truck Routing and Infrastructure Plan. This plan involves fifteen municipalities surrounding O'Hare airport and aims to help municipalities deal with the increased freight traffic the airport and surrounding developments will produce. The project team analyzed freight traffic in the study area and has proposed a truck routing network as well as policy recommendations. The project is in its last phase and the final plan document is expected later this summer.



## Metra UP-North Bridge Work To Move Forward

On May 24, the Metra Board of Directors approved three contracts totaling \$48.2 million to replace or repair several bridges along the Union Pacific North Line on the North Side of Chicago and build the new inbound half of the Ravenswood Station.

Contracts were approved to: replace the bridges that carry the inbound UP North Line tracks over 11 streets from Grace to Balmoral; rehabilitate the bridges that carry the UP North Line over Webster Avenue and the North Branch of the Chicago River just north of Webster (known as the Deering Bridge); and, build the new inbound half of the Ravenswood Station.

The station will have longer, covered platforms, warming shelters, new lighting, ramps, stairs, new landscaping and a vendor space and be fully ADA compliant. Inbound work over the same 11 streets from Grace to Balmoral and at the Ravenswood station was completed in 2015.

Work on all three projects is expected to begin in July. The work on the Deering and Roscoe bridges will take about a year, while the work on the other bridges and Ravenswood Station will take about 30 months. Construction could result in minor delays to off-peak trains.

## Snow Removal and LTA Grants Lead Bike/Ped Committee Agenda

Even with temperatures in the 80's this week, winter is never far from our minds here in the Chicago region. That was true on May 18, when the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met and discussed snow removal and bike path maintenance. Staff presented the results of a recent NWMC survey on the topic and the committee discussed how the issue is addressed in their communities. At a future meeting, staff will present case studies on how municipalities in other parts of the country deal with winter weather.

The committee approved a revised draft of a request for qualifications (RFQ) for updates to the NWMC Bicycle Plan and recommended it be sent to the other relevant NWMC committees for approval. Staff discussed possible funding opportunities for the plan update, notably the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. The LTA program provides assistance to municipalities conducting planning projects that advance the goals of GOTO 2040, the region's current long-term plan. A call for LTA applications is currently underway and applications are due by Thursday, June 29. Please visit <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs-and-resources/lt> for more information on the LTA program and to access the application materials.





## Surface Transportation Program (STP) Allocation Update

Representatives from the Council of Mayors, CDOT, CMAP, IDOT and FHWA met on May 2 for the second meeting to discuss STP allocation in the region. Most of the meeting was spent discussing two possible scenarios for programming STP funds in the future. These scenarios were presented for discussion and not as specific policy proposals.

The first would distribute funds to Chicago and the Councils based on a set of to-be-determined performance measures. Examples included: congested road mileage; serious and fatal crashes; and, pavement and bridge condition. These funding levels could be adjusted on a regular basis as updated data is collected. There were other variables discussed including more funds for lower-capacity communities and a bonus pool for councils who exceed performance targets. There was also discussion of reserving a pot of regional funds (similar to the city's current set aside) that the city and councils could apply to annually or semi-annually. This first scenario would most closely match the current council set-up, without the distribution based on population.

The second scenario would eliminate all suballocation and program STP funds through a region-wide process. A committee with representation from the city and councils would make the programming recommendations using agreed upon evaluation methods and policies, similar to how CMAQ and TAP are done now. This suggestion was criticized by members of the subcommittee as being too fraught with political pressure for the members of the new committee.

All were in agreement that any new scenario would need to ensure that currently programmed funds remain in place. Also, a transition plan should be put in place to avoid large year-to-year variations in funding.

At the May 23 Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting, the mayors largely agreed that the first scenario would be preferable, but the key to any agreement is keeping subregional programming in place and ensuring year-to-year consistency of funding.

The subcommittee will next meet on June 29 and CMAP staff will present a recommended framework for allocation. Feedback and discussions will continue over the summer. Final approval is targeted for the October joint CMAP Board/MPO Policy Committee meeting.

If you have feedback on the scenarios or other questions, feel free to contact NWMC staff.

## Council of Mayors Updates

### North Shore Council

The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet Wednesday, June 28 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Skokie Village Hall*. Please submit any agenda items to Brian Pigeon by Friday, June 16.

### Northwest Council

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee will meet Wednesday, June 30 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Barrington Village Hall*. Please submit any agenda items to Mike Walczak by Friday, June 16.



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