

**NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE**  
1616 East Golf Road  
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[www.nwmc-cog.org](http://www.nwmc-cog.org)



*A Regional Association of Illinois  
Municipalities and Townships  
Representing a Population of Over One Million*

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**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, March 22, 2012**

**9:00 a.m.**

**NWMC Offices**

**1616 East Golf Road  
Des Plaines, IL 60016**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of the February 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)**  
*Action requested: Approval of minutes*
- III. Pace I-90 Corridor Planning**  
Mike Bolton, Deputy Executive Director of Strategic Services at Pace, will present the agency's latest planning efforts in the I-90 corridor including improvements before construction starts on the Jane Addams widening project and the express bus network which is planned post-construction.  
*Action requested: Informational*
- IV. Illinois Route 53/120 Blue Ribbon Advisory Council Update**  
At the March 12th Mobility and Finance Working Group meeting, Tollway staff identified a \$1.5 - \$2.0 billion funding gap for the roadway proposals that the Council has reviewed to date. Staff will review the possible funding strategies identified to close the gap, cost saving measures to reduce the overall project cost, and other Council news.  
*Action requested: Informational*
- V. Federal Transportation Bill Update**  
The Senate has passed a two year, \$109 billion transportation bill which keeps funding at current levels adjusted for inflation. The bill now moves to the House, which had been pushing a five-year bill. Time is short for the House to act, with the current SAFETEA-LU extension expiring on March 31. Staff will present an update.  
*Action requested: Informational*
- VI. RTA Interagency Fare Collection**  
NWMC staff has been asked to participate in an Interagency Fare Policy focus group to help the RTA as they model the impacts of a universal fare card. Staff will provide an update and solicit input from the Committee.  
*Action requested: Discussion*

**VII. Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Update**

Staff will update the Committee on all implementation efforts from the 2010 Bike Plan as well as provide an update on funding opportunities.

**Action requested:** *Discussion*

**VIII. CMAP Report**

An update on relevant activities from CMAP's committees will be provided.

**Action requested:** *Informational*

**IX. Other Business**

**X. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled committee meeting is April 26, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the NWMC offices.

**Action requested:** *Informational*

**XI. Adjournment**

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Thursday, February 23, 2012**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**NWMC Offices**  
**1616 East Golf Road**  
**Des Plaines, IL 60016**

**Members Present:**

Sandy Frum, President, Village of Northbrook, Chair  
Jeff Berman, Trustee, Village of Buffalo Grove  
Tim Frenzer, Manager, Village of Wilmette  
Mike Janonis, Manager, Village of Mount Prospect  
Jane Grover, Alderman, City of Evanston  
Darren Monico, Assistant Director of Engineering and Building, Village of Barrington  
Arlene J. Mulder, Mayor, Village of Arlington Heights  
Louella Preston, Trustee, Village of Niles  
Tom Rooney, Mayor, City of Rolling Meadows

**Others Present:**

Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway  
Steve Andrews, Pace  
Mike Hankey, Village of Hoffman Estates  
Marnie Hooghkirk, IDOT  
Rick Mack, Metra  
Josh McClusky, IDOT  
Mike Pagones, Village of Arlington Heights  
Brian Plum, Traffic Control Corp.  
Andy Plummer, RTA  
Chris Staron, NWMC  
Mike Walczak, NWMC  
Larry Widmer, NWMC

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Frum called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and asked those present to introduce themselves.

**II. Approval of the January 26, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

*The November January 26, 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Mr. Frenzer, seconded by Trustee Berman.*

**III. Illinois Route 53/120 Blue Ribbon Advisory Council Update**

Mr. Walczak reported that the Route 53/120 design workshop on February 9 was well attended. He said that the meeting focused on discussing preferences and evaluating different scenarios. He delivered a summary of the day's activities and outlined the five scenarios that the Advisory Council examined. He noted that the scenarios ranged from a 4-lane arterial to a 6-lane highway. Mr. Walczak reported that the initial results of the design workshop point to a 45 mph 4-lane parkway facility. He explained that a number of environmental concerns were brought up at the meeting. He said that the advisory committee discussed transit provisions at

the meeting; however, he noted that the land use and traffic projections suggest that express bus service could exist within the existing ROW. Trustee Berman said that the parkway concept appears to be a concept that can be sold. Mr. Janonis asked if the right-of-way is available for transit. Mr. Walczak responded that the right-of-way is definitely wide enough if Pace or Metra wanted to install a dedicated facility.

**IV. Federal Transportation Bill Update**

Mr. Staron reported that there are a lot of moving parts right now on the federal transportation bill. He noted that the House Republican proposal was split into three different bills. He explained that the provisions in the funding portion of the proposal would remove dedicated transit funding from the Highway Trust Fund. He said that this provision has drawn a lot of criticism, including urban and suburban Republican representatives. He reported that experts are skeptical that there is enough support to pass the House proposal as it currently exists. Mr. Staron further reported that the Senate is moving forward in a more bipartisan manner on its two year bill. He said that an effort to limit debate failed so full debate will resume on February 27. He informed the committee that it is uncertain how quickly the Senate can decide on which amendments to debate and proceed to a vote on the full bill. He reported that the current extension of SAFETEA-LU expires at the end of March. He outlined scenarios for what could happen in the next month. He said that it seems unlikely that the House and Senate can come together on an authorization in month before SAFETEA-LU expires. He also noted that this issue will likely be more difficult to tackle as the election approaches.

Mr. Walczak suggested that the committee send a letter supporting transit funding. The committee discussed this and agreed that the committee should send a letter encouraging Congress to ensure dedicated transit funding.

**V. Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Update**

Mr. Staron reported that the NWMC Board approved the two bicycle plans discussed and approved by the committee last month. He said that the final plans are on the website and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is ready to turn its attention toward implementation. He said that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee discussed ITEP funding and future agenda items to discuss. Mr. Walczak noted that the NWMC will continue to track progress on implementation of the plans.

**VI. CMAP Report**

Mr. Walczak reported that the EPA has ruled the Chicago region in non-attainment for air quality standards, which means that the region is no longer in danger of losing CMAQ funding. He provided information about GIS workshops and funding opportunities. He said that CMAP is starting have discussions on performance based programming for transportation. He informed the committee that this is linked to the 45/55 transportation funding split issue. He said that CMAP is advocating for a move away from the arbitrary split. Mayor Mulder asked about the unspent funding in the CMAQ program. Mr. Walczak responded that CMAP is working on policies to improve the obligation rate for those funds.

**VII. Other Business**

Ms. Anderson said that the Tollway has a new 2012 map available. She also reviewed the 2012 construction map Trustee Preston asked if the diamond grinding work will produce lane closures. Ms. Anderson responded that there will likely be nighttime closures during the work.

Mr. Mack reported that Metra saw a one percent increase in ridership in 2011, which was the third highest ridership level in Metra's history. He said that Metra is watching the federal legislation very closely and noted that Metra cannot afford any cuts to its funding. He explained that the Metra has \$7.4 billion in capital needs over the next ten years and only \$2 to 2.5 billion is identified. He said that Metra is going to conduct a strategic planning process this year to set priorities. He said that safety, then state of good repair, and then expansion are traditionally how Metra thinks about its priorities. Trustee Preston asked if Metra has a current strategic plan. Mr. Mack responded that Metra has never done anything this comprehensive. Alderman Grover said that the viaducts in Evanston are 100 years old structures and will need repair. Trustee Preston asked about the timeframe for the strategic plan. Mr. Mack said that the schedule has not been completely laid out, but Metra hopes to complete the plan by the end of this year.

Mr. Plummer reported that RTA's lawsuit against Kankakee and Channahon is in the discovery phase. He reminded the committee that the lawsuit is just to get information on the agreements. He said that Schaumburg and Evanston have joined the suit against the consultants with Chicago. He told the committee that RTA is seeking renewed authority for short-term bonding because the state continues to be slow in payments to the RTA. He echoed Mr. Mack's point about the large capital infrastructure needs facing the region's transit system.

Mr. Andrews reported that Pace will be at next month's meeting to discuss the new I-90 service plan.

Mr. McClusky said that IDOT is working on a state rail plan, which will be incorporated into the larger state transportation plan. He said that the goal is to make IDOT more intermodal in its planning efforts. He said that the plan looks at the passenger and freight networks. Chair Frum said this is something the committee and NWMC need to follow and engage with.

Alderman Grover informed the committee that there is a bill in Springfield to ban cell phone use in cars. She reported Evanston's statistics on enforcement and incidents since prohibiting handheld devices.

#### **VIII. Next Meeting**

Chair Frum reported that the next NWMC Transportation Committee is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on March 22.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

*On a motion from Mayor Mulder, seconded by Trustee Berman, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn.*