



**Volume 1, Issue 3,
April 3, 2009**

NWMC Transportation Committee Focuses on Legislation

On March 26, the Transportation Committee met and discussed a number of pending legislative issues. The committee reviewed House Bill 2359 – the Transportation Investment Accountability Act (Ryg), which proposes the establishment of a statewide Transportation Policy Committee. This committee would be composed of representatives from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) throughout the state, a rural representative, the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and non-voting members representing leaders in the General Assembly and Illinois Tollway.

The Transportation Policy Committee would work with IDOT to establish goals, objectives, performance measures and criteria that determine funding and project prioritization. The committee expressed concern about proper representation on the policy committee, adding another layer of bureaucracy to existing processes, the interaction with CMAP and the impact on federal funding allocations. The committee requested that staff continue to monitor this bill and provide additional information.

In addition, the Transportation Committee reviewed Governor Quinn’s proposed capital budget. The Governor’s capital proposal provides approximately \$19 billion in transportation funding; however, this includes the existing state multi-year road program, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding and other federal funding. The Transportation for Illinois Coalition estimates that the net increase in state highway funding is approximately \$2.3 billion, and the increase in state funding for public transportation is \$1.5 billion.

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has reported that it needs approximately \$7.3 billion in new state funding over the next five years to bring the current system into a state of good repair. Staff informed the committee that State Representative John Bradley is holding hearings throughout the state to gather input on the development of a capital plan. Staff plans to present testimony at

the April 6, 2009 hearing at the Northbrook Public Library.

Finally, the Transportation Committee discussed CMAP’s draft Developments of Regional Importance (DRI) process and House Bill 270 – CMAP Board Expansion (Hoffman). In regard to the DRI proposal, staff informed the committee that they received no additional comments from the membership regarding the draft. Consequently, the committee decided to send a letter to CMAP expressing general support for the draft DRI process. In relation to House Bill 270, the Transportation Committee approved sending a letter in opposition to the expansion of the CMAP Board with two appointees from the Governor. NWMC has already taken a position in opposition to House Bill 270 because it would upset the existing balance on the CMAP Board between Chicago, suburban Cook County and the collar counties.

On the April Transportation Agenda

The next NWMC Transportation Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 30 at 9:00 a.m. at the NWMC offices. The Committee will likely discuss developments on a state capital bill and the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Yellow Line Extension.

Table of Contents:

NWMC Transportation Committee	1	CMAP Guidance on ARRA for Local Officials	6
Dates to Remember	2	Department of Energy Transportation Grants	6
NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee	2	CMAP Seeking Workshop Locations	7
News from the Northwest Council of Mayors	3	CMAP Offers Transportation Data Collection Services	7
News from the North Shore Council of Mayors	4	RTA Board Approves Funding Programs	7
ARRA Funds Timeline	5	HSIP Call for Projects	7
Lake County Council of Mayors Call for ARRA Projects	6	Funding Available for LED Traffic Signal Upgrades	7



Dates to Remember

- April 6** **Illinois Capital Program Hearing—6:00 p.m.**
Northbrook Public Library (1201 Cedar Lane)

- April 8** **RTA begins accepting funding applications for Community and Subregional Planning, JARC/New Freedom and ICE** (see article on page 7)

- April 10** **Deadline to submit HSIP Applications to IDOT** (see article on page 7)

- April 13** **Deadline to submit application for Northwest Council of Mayors STP Call for Projects**

- April 14** **CTA Yellow Line Extension Local Government Meeting—1:30 p.m.**
Morton Grove Village Hall (6101 Capulina Avenue, Morton Grove)

- April 15** **Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors Meeting (part of NWMC Board Meeting) - 7:00 p.m.**
Crowne Plaza Northbrook (2875 N. Milwaukee Avenue)

- April 22** **Deadline to Submit Lake County Council of Mayors LAPP Project Applications for ARRA Funding**
(see article on page 6)

- April 30** **NWMC Transportation Committee Meeting—9:00 a.m. (Please Note Date Change)**
NWMC Offices

- April 30** **CTA Yellow Line Extension Community Open House—6:00 p.m.**
Niles North High School (9800 North Lawler Avenue , Skokie)

- May 28** **NWMC Transportation Committee Meeting—9:00 a.m.**
NWMC Offices

- May 28** **NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee—10:30 a.m.**
NWMC Offices

NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on March 24 at the NWMC offices. Lina Hoffman, the new North Suburban Coordinator for the Active Transportation Alliance (formerly the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation) introduced herself and discussed ATA’s main goals in the NWMC region, including: helping towns with Complete Streets initiatives, advancing the Skokie Valley Trail, analyzing the impact of Barrington Hills’ new bicycle riding ordinances and improving trail conditions through area forest preserves. Wayne Mikes, chairman of *Palatine’s* Bicycle Commission discussed a potential Northwest Highway Bike Ride from *Palatine* to *Des Plaines*, which is still very early in the planning stages. The ride would likely take place in 2010. The committee also discussed a potential study on pedestrian accommodations along area arterials, and decided the next steps should be examining existing municipal data, and reaching out to Pace, since sidewalks are important for their ridership. Funding opportunities, including RTA’s subregional planning grants, will also be explored.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, at 10:30 a.m. at NWMC offices, immediately following the NWMC Transportation Committee.



News from the Northwest Council of Mayors

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met on Friday, March 20 at Arlington Heights Village Hall to discuss programming funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Under ARRA, the Northwest Council received \$13,025,780 in funds, which must be obligated by March, 2010. Previously, the Technical Committee had agreed to accept applications for new projects as well as existing projects seeking additional funds. Twenty-five projects from eight municipalities were considered.

The committee approved the following staff recommended program for approval by the full Northwest Council:

- Barrington – Dundee Ave resurfacing - \$350,000
- Bartlett – Oak Avenue resurfacing – \$1,435,000
- Des Plaines – Algonquin Rd sidewalks - \$167,000
- Des Plaines – Ballard Rd sidewalks - \$200,000
- Palatine – Palatine Rd at Plum Grove Rd intersection improvement – \$5,500,000

Rolling Meadows – East and West Route 53 Frontage Roads resurfacing - \$3,780,000

Schaumburg – Wright Blvd reconstruction – \$798,980

Streamwood – Irving Park Rd resurfacing - \$465,000

Wheeling – Hawthorne School bridge - \$349,800

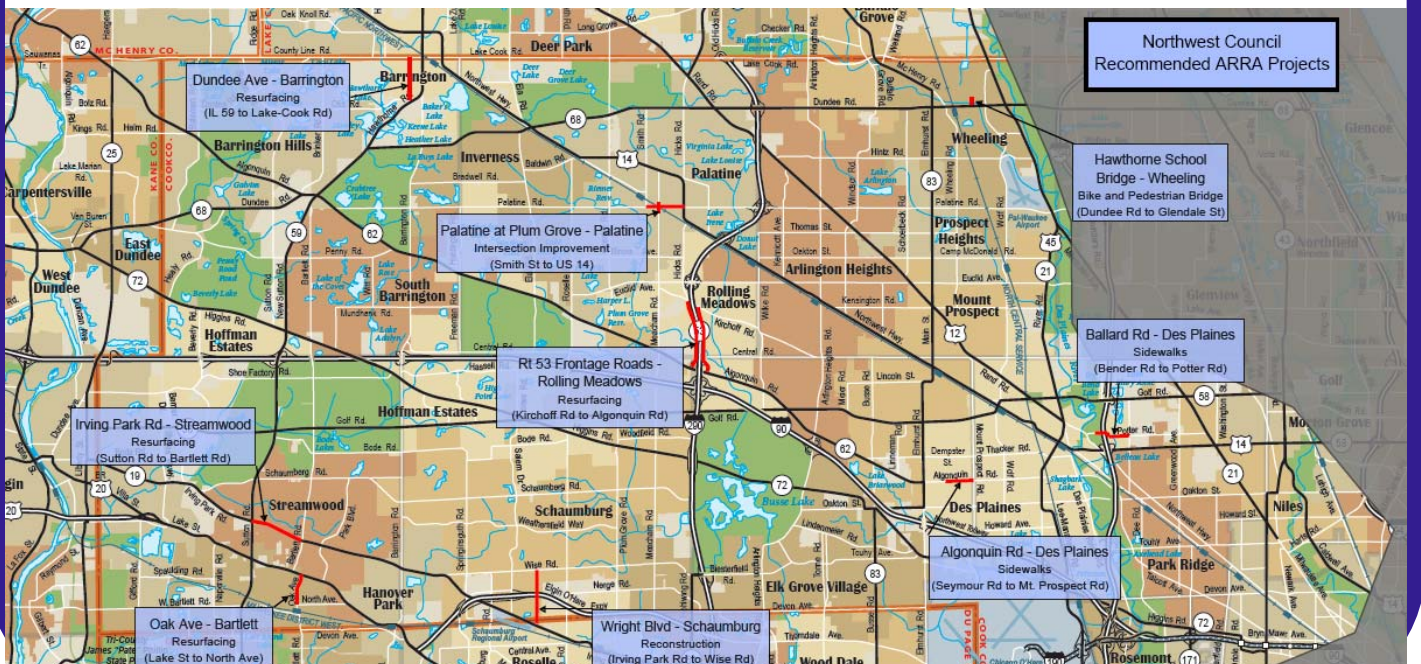
The Palatine and Schaumburg projects are existing projects in the Northwest Council’s Surface Transportation Program (STP) which were seeking additional funds. Sponsors of projects that were not selected for ARRA funds were encouraged to continue working on their projects, to ensure that the Council has projects available should one be delayed, or other councils are unable to use all of their funds.

The recommended program will be voted on by the Northwest Council of Mayors at the Northwest Municipal Conference’s April 15 meeting. All Council members are encouraged to attend. If approved by the full Council, the projects will be submitted to

the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning for inclusion in the region’s Transportation Improvement Program.

The group also discussed strategies for spending down the Council’s STP balance, including programming more lighting and bike projects which can be accomplished quickly, and exploring options for decreasing the required local match and allowing Northwest STP funds to be used for phase II engineering. A call for new STP projects will also help provide additional options for programming in upcoming fiscal years. Applications for STP projects are due to Mike Walczak by Monday, April 13.

The next meeting of the Technical Committee is scheduled for Friday, May 8 at 8:30 a.m. at Arlington Heights Village Hall, at which point the committee will consider adding new projects to the Council’s Surface Transportation Program and the proposed changes to the project selection methodology.



Northwest Council Recommended ARRA Projects

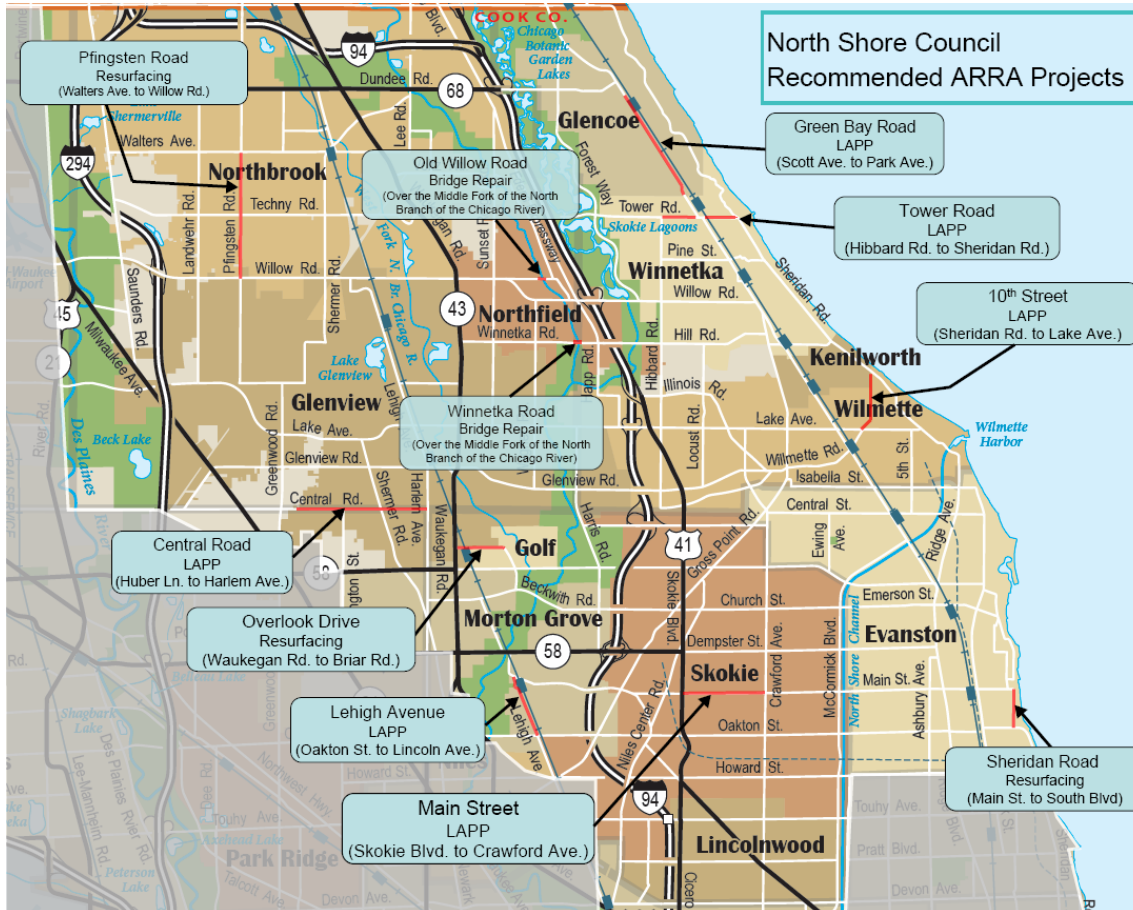
News from the North Shore Council of Mayors

As part of the ARRA, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee for Northeastern Illinois allocated \$5,713,277 to the North Shore Council of Mayors. This funding must be obligated on Surface Transportation Program (STP) eligible projects by March 2010. The North Shore Council of Mayors issued a call for projects on February 25, 2009, which ended on March 11, 2009. The North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee met multiple times

to discuss an effective and geographically equitable method to select projects for funding. Based on project rankings, readiness and jurisdiction, the Technical Committee recommended eleven projects for ARRA funding at its March 18 meeting. The Technical Committee recommended a 20 percent local match for the federal funds in order to include more projects in the program. The Technical Committee recommended no local match for one project because of its

small funding request and a roughly 50 percent local match for one project because it is within Cook County's jurisdiction. The North Shore Council of Mayors will act on the Technical Committee recommendation at the NWMC Board meeting on April 15. If approved, staff will submit the projects for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Transportation Committee on April 24.

Sponsor	Project Location	Scope	Total Cost	ARRA Funding	Federal %	Local Funding
Evanston	Sheridan Rd.	Resurfacing	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 1,320,000	80%	\$ 330,000
Glencoe	Green Bay Rd.	LAPP	\$ 760,000	\$ 608,000	80%	\$ 152,000
Glenview	Central Rd.	LAPP	\$ 900,000	\$ 720,000	80%	\$ 180,000
Golf	Overlook Dr.	Resurfacing	\$ 315,000	\$ 252,000	80%	\$ 63,000
Morton Grove	Lehigh Ave.	LAPP	\$ 410,000	\$ 328,000	80%	\$ 82,000
Northbrook	Pfingsten Rd.	Resurfacing	\$ 790,000	\$ 632,000	80%	\$ 158,000
Northfield	Old Willow Rd. Bridge	Bridge Repair	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	100%	\$ -
Northfield (CCHD)	Winnetka Rd. Bridge	Bridge Repair	\$ 420,000	\$ 213,277	51%	\$ 206,723
Skokie	Main St.	LAPP	\$ 950,000	\$ 760,000	80%	\$ 190,000
Wilmette	10th St.	LAPP	\$ 450,000	\$ 360,000	80%	\$ 90,000
Winnetka	Tower Rd.	LAPP	\$ 525,000	\$ 420,000	80%	\$ 105,000
Total			\$ 5,713,277	\$ 4,566,623		\$ 1,146,654





Northwest and North Shore Council of Mayors ARRA Funding Timeline

Activity	Northwest Council	North Shore Council
Conference call and/or Meeting with Council Technical Committee to set out timeline and strategy for ARRA funding	February 27	March 6 & 13
Call for projects opened	March 2	February 25
Call for projects closed	March 12	March 11
Met with potential project sponsors at IDOT	March 16	March 16
Council Technical Committee meeting	March 20	March 18
Kickoff meetings for ARRA recommended projects	March 31, April 6	March 25 & 31
Projects submitted to CMAP for inclusion in the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	April 1	April 1
Program to be voted on by full Council (at NWMC Board meeting)	April 15	April 15
TIP Changes voted on by CMAP Transportation Committee	April 24	April 24
Council Technical Committee to discuss status of ARRA projects	May 8	TBD
CMAP Council of Mayors to discuss status of region's ARRA projects	Early June	Early June
IDOT lettings with possible Council ARRA funded projects	July 31 September 18 November 6 January 15, 2010 March 5, 2010	July 31 September 18 November 6 January 15, 2010 March 5, 2010
All ARRA funds must be obligated	March, 2010	March, 2010



Lake County Council of Mayors Call for ARRA Projects

The Lake County Council of Mayors is issuing a one time call for Local Agency Pavement Preservation (LAPP) projects. The council approved a resolution authorizing the use of ARRA funds to fund 70% of the costs of the next regular projects in the Council's 5-Year Program: the Wilmot Road project in Deerfield and the Cemetery Road project in Gurnee. The remaining ARRA funds will be applied on a 70/30 funding basis to LAPP projects submitted to the Lake County Council of Mayors. LAPP projects must conform to the same rules established by the council for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funded projects:

- Roads under State of Illinois jurisdiction (marked and unmarked routes) are ineligible for council funding.
- Construction and construction engineering supervision (Phase III) are the only project phases eligible for council funding.
- Candidate LAPP projects must be for roads that are currently in the system of federally eligible routes.
- Submitted LAPP projects are to be

evaluated and prioritized according to the council's existing project selection methodology for resurfacing projects.

- The list of prioritized LAPP projects is to be submitted to the council's Transportation Committee for endorsement prior to council approval.

LAPP projects will be funded in their order of priority based on the availability of ARRA funds as determined by the Lake County Council's Transportation Committee. The committee will consider a consolidated joint construction contract for implementation of LAPP projects. LAPP projects are to be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 22, 2009.

To submit projects or for more information on the specific guidelines, please contact:

Bruce Christensen
 Transportation Coordinator
 Lake County DOT
 600 Winchester Road
 Libertyville, IL 60048
 (847) 377-7400
 (847) 362-5290

bchristensen@lakecountyil.gov

CMAP Guidance on ARRA for Local Officials

CMAP staff posted a significant update of the guidance to local officials seeking stimulus funds on March 31, 2009. This constitutes CMAP's best-available information about how and where to apply for ARRA-funded projects in Housing, Transportation, Environment, Energy, Economic and Workforce Development, and other issue areas. Please note that the document describes CMAP staff interpretations of the legislation, and is meant to be used by local governments for informational purposes only. CMAP continues to do a commendable job providing information for local governments seeking ARRA funding.

Web link:

<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov>

(Follow links to Regional Response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act)



Department of Energy Transportation Grants

As reported in the Energy section of the CMAP guidance, grant opportunities authorized in the last Energy Bill have been funded under the ARRA. See:

<http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/>

Note that significant preparation time is involved in getting a grant request into grants.gov. Even if the information is not ready to submit for the grant, it is important to get started in the grants.gov process early, or deadlines will be missed.

Local entities may apply for grants to fund the following transportation-related activities:

1. Development and Implementation of Transportation Programs: Entities may develop and implement programs to conserve energy used in transportation, including but not limited to:

- Employee flex time programs;
- Promoting use of satellite work centers;
- Development and promotion of zoning guidelines or requirements that promote energy efficient development;
- Development of infrastructure such as bike lanes and pathways and pedestrian walkways;
- Synchronization of traffic signals;
- State/locals/regional integrated planning activities (i.e. transportation, housing, environmental, energy, land use) with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled;
- Incentive programs to reduce commutes by single occupancy vehicles;
- Improvements in operational and sys-

tem efficiency of the transportation system such as implementation of intelligent transportation system (ITS) strategies;

- Idle-reduction technologies and/or facilities to conserve energy, reduce harmful air pollutants, and greenhouse gas emissions from freight movement; and
 - Installation of solar panels on interstate rights-of-way to conserve energy in highway operations and maintenance activities.
2. Traffic Signals and Street Lighting: Entities may use grant funds to replace traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient lighting technologies, including light emitting diodes; and any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency.



IDOT Funds Available for LED Traffic Signal Upgrades

The Illinois Department of Transportation is offering a Light Emitting Diode (LED) Upgrade Program, which will allow municipalities to replace incandescent traffic signals with LED versions, including a battery backup for the traffic signal, on approaches to an intersection that are on State routes within municipal boundaries. IDOT is working through existing intergovernmental agreements with municipalities to conduct the proposed upgrades. Upgrades made on state routes are reimbursed at 100% of the cost, while intersections with multiple jurisdictions are proportionally split. IDOT has previously sent letters to municipalities informing them of this program, which is expected to expire in June 2010. The benefits of the upgrade include energy conservation, brighter signals, longer lasting modules and the protection of an emergency power supply. Please contact Bob Nanna IDOT, Bureau of Traffic Operations at 847-705-4423 for more information.



RTA Board Approves Funding Program

The Board of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has approved funding programs for which applications may be submitted beginning on April 8, 2009. By responding to the Call for Projects, applicants may seek funds for planning, operating, and capital transit projects. Proposals should take innovative approaches to increasing transit usage, improving efficiency and effectiveness of the region's current transit system, providing better mobility for seniors and people with disabilities, or improving job access. See the RTA funding programs webpage at:

<http://programs.rtachicago.com>.



HSIP Call for Projects

IDOT is requesting candidate projects for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) that will be initiated in FY 2010.

Highway Safety Improvement Program funds are provided to address severe injuries and fatalities on all public roads. Specific site or system-wide improvements that reduce severe crashes are eligible for funding. Funds may be used to address safety issues independently without completely reconstructing entire roadway segments or intersections to all of the latest policies and standards. If enabling legislation is passed and signed, IDOT anticipates HSIP funding for the local highway system of approximately \$8 million for the HSIP will be available in July 2009.

Detailed guidelines for the Highway Safety Improvement Program can be found in the Program Planning and Selection of HSIP Candidate Projects section of the IDOT HSIP policy (effective November 1, 2006). This online policy, along with all applicable appendices, describes the process and requirements for local HSIP candidates.

Proposed projects should be submitted to the IDOT District Bureau of Local Roads and Streets office no later than April 10, 2009. Local agencies will be notified of their selection by the department. Any questions regarding the benefit/cost methodology should be directed to Dave Piper at (217) 785-0720. Other program questions may be directed to Leigh Ann Lareau at (217) 785-5178 or Jim Allen at (217) 558-1793.

Web link:

<http://www.dot.il.gov/illinoisCHSP/>



CMAP Offers Free Transportation Data Collection Services

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is offering the services of Field Data Collection interns to local governments. This annual program can be used to collect: vehicle traffic counts at intersections and railroad crossings; visual inventory of pavement, physical roadway and traffic signalization features; and, commuter parking lot occupancy/resident counts. Project re-

quests are due no later than Thursday, April 30, 2009 to CMAP Associate Planner:

Jose Rodriguez
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606 or
jrodriguez@cmmap.illinois.gov

For further information, please call 312-386-8806.



CMAP Seeking Workshop Locations for Go To 2040 Public Process

As part of the development of the region's first comprehensive plan, known as Go To 2040, CMAP is planning to hold 50 workshops at 25 locations around the region in June, July and August and is looking for meeting space to hold the workshops. These scenario workshops, entitled Invent

2040, will solicit input on the plan from community groups and the general public. The space has to be handicap accessible, can accommodate 50 or more people, and must be available free of charge. In the NWMC area, a workshop has been tentatively scheduled in Crystal Lake. CMAP is also seek-

ing summer festivals where they can set up a table to promote the kiosk version of the Invent 2040 tool. If you are willing to host a workshop or have CMAP attend a summer festival, please contact Janet Bright at CMAP, jbright@cmmap.illinois.gov or 312-386-8748.



Contacts

Mike Walczak
NWMC Program Manager for Transportation and Environment
Northwest Council Planning Liaison
1616 E. Golf Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-296-9200, ext. 34
mwalczak@nwmc-cog.org

Chris Staron
NWMC Program Associate for Transportation
North Shore Council Planning Liaison
1616 E. Golf Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-296-9200, ext. 31
cstaron@nwmc-cog.org