North Shore Council of Mayors Releases Updated STP Methodology for Public Comment

The North Shore Technical Committee has drafted an updated methodology for distribution of federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding. As part of this process, the draft document became available July 17 for public review and comment. The comment period will close on Friday, August 16. Comments will be considered when finalizing the STP methodology. The final STP methodology will be considered by the Technical Committee on August 29, after which it will go to the full North Shore Council of Mayors for their approval on September 11. More information is available on the North Shore Council’s webpage.
The Surface Transportation Program (STP) Project Selection Committee met on July 18 to discuss the draft FY 2020-2024 STP Shared Fund program as recommended by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) staff. The recommended program includes two projects from the Northwest Council of Mayors: a grade separation project in the Village of Barrington and an intersection improvement project in the Village of Streamwood. Committee discussion focused on the decision by CMAP staff to not partially fund projects for which full funding was not available. The committee ultimately voted to release the draft recommended program for public comment, with an explicit request for CMAP staff to investigate the possibility of partially funding higher-ranked projects.

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) project selection committee also met on July 18 to discuss the draft recommended programs for both CMAQ and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L). The committee voted to release the draft recommended programs for comment without any changes. Both programs will be out for comment until August 16. CMAP staff will then review the comments received and make any necessary adjustments to the programs, which will be presented to each project selection committee for final approval on September 5. The draft recommended programs can be found on CMAP’s Call for Transportation Projects page. Comments may be submitted to transportation@cmap.illinois.gov.

Pace Launches Pulse Milwaukee Line Service

The Pulse Milwaukee line, Pace’s first arterial rapid transit line, began operating on Sunday, August 11. The line runs between the CTA Jefferson Park Transit Center in Chicago and Golf Mill shopping center in Niles. The Pulse Milwaukee Line will utilize improved route design and new Transit Signal Priority (TSP) technology to offer faster, more frequent service. In addition, all-new stations are being constructed along the route, featuring raised platforms for faster boarding, real-time bus arrival information, heated shelters with seating and bike racks. For more information, please visit the Pulse website.
2019 Invest in Cook Grant Awards Announced

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways has announced 34 projects selected as part of the County’s 2019 Invest in Cook grant program. $8.5 million was awarded to projects including transit improvements, cycling and pedestrian enhancements, traditional roadway repair and freight enhancements. NWMC communities which had projects selected include: Arlington Heights; Des Plaines; Elk Grove Village; Mount Prospect; and Wilmette. The Forest Preserve of Cook County also received an award for design engineering for a new bridge on the Des Plaines River Trail over the Union Pacific Railroad. For more information, please visit the Invest in Cook website.

Illinois EPA Accepting Applications for Green Fleets Funding

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting applications for $860,329 in funding for the purchase of new natural gas or propane fleet vehicles as well as for retrofitting conventional vehicles to run on natural gas or propane. Eligible vehicles must be owned by applicants and operate at least 70 percent of the time in the Chicago ozone nonattainment area. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on September 17. Please visit Driving a Cleaner Illinois NOFO or contact Darwin Burkhart, epa.cmaggrants@illinois.gov for further information.
CMAP to Hold ON TO 2050 Fall Event Series

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has announced a series of events designed to connect local leaders and provide guidance on how municipalities can effectively use ON TO 2050 – the region’s new comprehensive plan. Each event will allow communities to connect and collaborate on some of the region’s toughest issues. A resource fair with opportunities and educational materials from CMAP’s local and regional partners will also be featured at each event. Please visit [https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/2050/forums](https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/2050/forums) for more information on specific events or contact onto2050@cmap.illinois.gov or 312-386-8802.