

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
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Cover Photo: Village of Grayslake



Northwest Municipal Conference

City of Lake Forest



North Shore and Northwest Technical Committees Approve STP Programs

Both the Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors Technical Committees met in July, following public comment periods held in May, to consider final programming of Local Surface Transportation Program (STP-L) funds for FY 2023-2027. Both technical Committees voted to approve the recommended programs, which will receive final consideration by their full respective councils during the NWMC Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 14. Council approval is necessary before final approval and incorporation into the region's Transportation Improvement Program by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) in October.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Braves Heat to Visit Niles Bike-Ped Improvements

On July 21, members and friends of the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee rolled out and braved the heat along the North Branch Trail to see several Village of Niles bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Their first stop was at the trail's intersection with Howard Street, where the Village installed an improved crossing, protected bike lanes and an off-street sidepath. The group then stopped at the Niles Public Works facility for lunch and a presentation from Mike Kerr with Christopher Burke Engineering on the specifics of the projects being visited. Finally, the group ventured back out to visit the future site of a trail extension at Bunker Hill Forest Preserve and made their way back to Miami Woods to round out the trip. Thank you to the Village of Niles for their hospitality and for everyone who participated in a great field trip!



Metra Launches New Schedule Survey to Collect Rider Feedback

Metra is reimagining its service model following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and is seeking rider feedback to develop new schedules. Riders of all Metra lines are encouraged to take a [brief survey](#) that will be used to guide future schedule changes and upgrades. The survey includes questions about customers' riding habits including their origin and destination stations, their usual trains, preferred arrival times in the morning, preferred departure times in the evening and their use of any connecting service. This survey will guide future scheduling decisions as Metra adapts to post-pandemic travel patterns. For more information, please see [Metra's press release](#).

Village of Wheeling



ITEP Open for Applications, Two Remaining Webinars

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has officially opened the application period for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). This year, the ITEP 2022 grant cycle will provide \$125 million in state and federal funding for walking, biking, and trail projects around the state. Applications are due September 30. Active Transportation Alliance and Illinois Public Health Institute are working in partnership with IDOT to host the following webinar series this summer to help communities apply for funding:

- Wednesday, August 24, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)

Content: Scoring, application walk through, Q&A with IDOT staff

- Wednesday, September 14, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. [Register here](#)

Content: Q&A with IDOT staff

For more information, please visit [Active Transportation Alliance's Website](#) or contact Maggie Czerwinski, maggie@activetrans.org.

CMAP Introduces IIJA Resources for Communities

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) recently launched a new [online resource](#) for communities and partners, providing them with essential information about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). It provides the latest information and resources to better understand the financial opportunities of the infrastructure law and the types of projects it will fund. For more information on the IIJA and connecting with CMAP, please contact Tim McMahon, tmcmahon@cmapp.illinois.gov.

CMAP Hosting In-Person Public Hearing for ON TO 2050 Plan Update

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has opened the public comment period for the [draft ON TO 2050 regional plan update](#). CMAP is federally required to update the long range plan every four years to reaffirm the plan's vision, update data projects, review accomplishments and reassess transportation needs. Documents are available to review on [CMAP's website](#), which includes an updated summary, past presentations to CMAP's various committees throughout the process and new data, and analyses relevant to the plan update.

On Thursday, August 11 at 4:00 p.m., CMAP will also host an in-person event for members of the public to learn more about the plan and submit comments. The event will be held at CMAP's offices at the Old Post Office, 433 W. Van Buren Street, Suite 450 in Chicago. The hearing will also be broadcast via [Zoom](#). Those attending in person will need to register with security upon entering the building with a valid photo ID. Comments should be submitted via email to onto2050@cmap.illinois.gov by Saturday, August 13. After public comments are compiled and presented to the Transportation Committee in September, the plan update will be presented to the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee for adoption in October.

FRA Announces Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is soliciting project applications for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Discretionary Grant Program. The purpose of the grant is to fund highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods. Eligible projects include: grade separation; track relocation; improvement or installation of protective devices, signals, signs or other related systems; and the planning, environmental review and design of an eligible project type. Further information on this program can be found [online](#). Applications must be submitted through [grants.gov](#) by Tuesday, October 4. For more information, please contact Douglas Gascon in FRA's Office of Policy and Planning, douglas.gascon@dot.gov or 202-493-0239.

Technical Amendment to Safe Streets for All NOFO Released

The Federal Highway Administration has released an amendment to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program. The amendment makes some technical modifications, including clarification of the instructions for making data calculations necessary for applications as well as other minor updates. More information is available on the [SS4A website](#) and on [grants.gov](#). The due date for applications remains unchanged as Thursday, September 15.

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