

Transportation Newsletter

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Northwest Municipal Conference
1600 E. Golf Rd. Suite 0700 Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: 847-296-9200 | www.nwmc-cog.org
Cover Photo: Village of Elk Grove Village



Northwest Municipal Conference

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, June 30 – Public comment period for STP-L programs ends

Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors' STP-L Programs Available for Public Comment

At their May meetings, both of the Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors Technical Committees met virtually and unanimously approved staff recommendations to issue their proposed FFY 2021-2025 local Surface Transportation Programs (STP-L) for public comment. Beginning June 1, the programs were made available on the [Northwest Council of Mayors](#) and the [North Shore Council of Mayors](#) web pages, NWMC social media, and various online locations to elicit feedback from the public. Comments can be emailed to northwestpl@nwmc-cog.org for the Northwest Council's program, and northshorepl@nwmc-cog.org for the North Shore Council's program. The public comment period will close on June 30.



Village of Glencoe

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Discusses Field Trip Options

At the NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee's May meeting, Committee members discussed options for their annual field trip, given ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Several field trip ideas were presented and the Committee agreed to revisit the topic at their August meeting. The Committee also revisited the NWMC Multimodal Transportation Plan and noted opportunities for promoting the plan amid the increased need for safe active transportation options during the pandemic.

NACTO Releases Streets for Pandemic Response and Recovery Guide

The COVID-19 global pandemic altered every aspect of urban life in recent months. In response, city transportation officials around the world have quickly implemented new street design and management tools to keep essential workers and goods moving, provide safe access to grocery stores and other essential businesses, and ensure that people have safe space for social/physical distancing while getting outside.

The National Association for City Transportation Officials (NACTO) has released a [guide](#) that compiles emerging practices from around the world and includes implementation resources for cities and their partners. For more information, please visit [NACTO's website](#).

Metra to Receive Federal Grant for Milwaukee District North Line Upgrades

Metra has been awarded a \$12.5 million federal grant for service improvements on the Milwaukee District North Line, which serves eight NWMC communities. Improvements include upgrades to three out-of-date switching complexes and associated signals, including one at the Willow Road junction in *Glenview*.

The interlockings, which are used by Metra, Amtrak, and two freight railroads, are among the most congested in Metra's system. Metra riders will benefit from enhanced safety, improved reliability and fewer delays. For more information, please see Metra's latest [press release](#).



Village of Lincolnshire

IDOT Disbursing Rebuild Illinois Bond Funds to Local Agencies

Beginning in May, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) began disbursing \$250 million in bond funds authorized in the Rebuild Illinois capital program to local public agencies (LPA's) for use in capital projects. This is the first of six biannual disbursements to local agencies over the next three years, with future disbursement dates varying depending on the timing of bond sales and needs of local public agencies.

Individual municipalities and other agencies can view their approximate disbursements by visiting [IDOT's website](#). These funds should be deposited into the LPA's Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) accounts, but they are to be treated separately from local MFT revenues and should be accounted for as such. The funds can only be applied toward bondable capital improvements, unless the LPA's disbursement is less than \$45,000. For more information, please see [IDOT's circular letter](#) or contact Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, Babilbile.Seck@illinois.gov.



Village of Elk Grove Village

Metra to Debut New All-Day Passes

To give customers additional options for touchless payment and increase affordability for riders, Metra has launched a \$10 All-Day Pass option. Customers can purchase the passes on the Ventra app, which are good for unlimited rides on any and all Metra lines for the whole date of purchase until 3:00 a.m. the following morning. For many travelers, the pass costs less than two one-way fares and offers greater flexibility. Metra continues to offer free rides to medical personnel for the duration of the stay-at-home order and has developed new cleaning procedures to keep customers as safe as possible. For more information, please see Metra's latest [press release](#) as well as their [All-Day Pass Q&A](#).

DCEO Pauses Review of New Fast Track Applications

The State of Illinois has allocated \$25 million in Rebuild Illinois funding to the Fast Track Public Infrastructure Program, administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic and Opportunity (DCEO). The objective of this program is to stimulate the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 health crisis. Due to the number of applications already submitted, DCEO has paused the program while the current pool of applications are reviewed.

Applicants may continue to apply in the event that the program is unpaused. Multiple projects can be submitted, with a \$5 million ceiling per applicant and \$500,000 minimum request per project. Interested applicants can also apply for three other Rebuild Illinois infrastructure programs being administered by DCEO. For additional information, please visit the [DCEO website](#) or contact Agnes Masnik, agnes.masnik@illinois.gov.

Pace Announces Temporary Service Changes

Due to low ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic, Pace has temporarily suspended service on 15 routes and modified service on another 21 routes. Route modifications in the NWMC service territory are as follows:

- Suspension of all service on Routes 241, 320, 327, 355, 372, 566, 573, 608, 610, 611, 616, 696, 757, 877 and 888.
- Reduction/modification of service on Routes 302, 311, 314, 319, 332, 356, 357, 379, 383, 384, 386, 504, 507, 561, 564, 569, 604, 850, 851, 855 and Pulse Milwaukee Line.

As of May 18, COVID-19 will have affected service on 100 Pace fixed routes. To stay informed on additional service changes, please subscribe to text or email alerts for specific routes by visiting PaceBus.com. Pace has also developed a [COVID-19 Response web page](#) dedicated to keeping riders informed on the topic.

RTA Launches New Transit Dashboard

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has launched a new [online dashboard](#) with information about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region's transit network. The dashboard includes ridership data, service changes and financial information including farebox revenue and sales tax receipts for recent months. All data is shown in comparison to pre-pandemic dates in 2019 to demonstrate the relative significance of the impacts. Each dataset will be updated as the RTA receives new information throughout the ongoing crisis and recovery. The dashboard can also be found on the agency's website at RTAChicago.org.



Village of Streamwood

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Phone: 847-296-9200 | www.nwmccog.org

Kendra Johnson: 847-296-9200 ext. 131
KJohnson@nwmc-cog.org

Matthew Pasquini: 847-296-9200 ext. 128
MPasquini@nwmc-cog.org