

# 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](http://www.nwmc-cog.org)  
Cover Photo: Village of Mount Prospect



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

**NWMC Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee:**  
Tuesday, November 12, 10:30 a.m. — NWMC offices and virtually

**NWMC Transportation Committee:**  
Thursday, November 21, 8:30 a.m. — NWMC offices and virtually

## Morton Grove Breaks Ground on New Metra Station

On October 23, the *Village of Morton Grove* held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new Metra station. *Mayor Dan DiMaria*, *NWMC President and Hanover Park Mayor Rod Craig*, State Senator Ram Villivalam, Cook County Commissioner Josina Morita, and Metra Chief Operating Officer Kevin McCann thanked the numerous stakeholders who worked to fund and begin project construction.

The project is scheduled for completion in summer 2025. To learn more, please visit the [construction project website](#).

NWMC Staff



## Mount Prospect Hosts Second Open House for Arterial Bike network Study

On October 17, NWMC staffers Eric Czarnota and Brian Larson hit the road to attend the latest *Mount Prospect* open house for its Arterial Bike Network Study. Mount Prospect staff and consultants shared exhibit boards with initial feedback and detailed studies for the corridors under consideration. Mount Prospect intends to complete the Arterial Bike Network Study report by December. To learn more, please [visit the project website](#).



## CMAP Opens CRP, STP-SF and TAP-L Call for Projects

On October 21, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) opened funding applications for the Climate Reduction Program (CRP), Surface Transportation Program - Shared Fund (STP-SF), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L). Over \$385 million is available through this call for projects for FFY2026-2030.

To assist communities with understanding options and identifying the best fund for their project, CMAP has developed fact sheets for each funding source, [CRP](#), [TAP-L](#) and [STP-SF](#). To learn more about the programs, as well as read answers to frequently-asked questions, please visit the [CMAP Call for Projects website](#). Applications are due by December 20.

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## RTA Hosts Suburban Transit Summit in Arlington Heights

On October 24, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) hosted a Suburban Transit Summit in *Arlington Heights* in partnership with Metra, Pace and CTA. The program included remarks from *Arlington Heights Mayor Thomas Hayes*, State Representative Mary Beth Canty and State Senator Ram Villivalam.

An opening panel discussion on the future of public transportation and innovations in suburban transit featured RTA Executive Director Leanne Redden, Metra CEO Jim Derwinski, Pace Executive Director Melinda Metzger and New Jersey Transit Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel Brian Wilton.

Next was a panel of suburban mayors who discussed the critical role public transit plays in their communities, featuring Maywood Mayor Nathaniel Booker, Harvey Mayor Christopher Clark, *Libertyville Mayor Donna Johnson* and *Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen*. The summit culminated in small group interactive sessions on Metra, Pace, CTA, and RTA initiatives. To read more, visit the [RTA Connections blog](#).



NWMC Staff

## CMAP Launches New Regional ADA Coordinators Group

To assist the Chicagoland region in reaching accessibility compliance, CMAP has launched a new Regional ADA Coordinators Group. This group will connect local Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinators with resources, a shared discussion space, and actionable knowledge. The group plans to meet twelve times over the next two years and is seeking ADA coordinators from municipalities and local districts. The first meeting of the group will be held on Tuesday, November 19, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in a hybrid format either virtually or at CMAP's offices. Register for the event and learn more by visiting the [Regional ADA Coordinators Group website](#).

## Chicago Region Begins the Safe Travel for All Safety Action Plan Process

As part of a regionwide initiative called [Safe Travel for All](#), CMAP has partnered with Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties to develop and implement a Safety Action Plan for each county. The goal of these plans is to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries in the region. Utilizing a nearly [\\$4 million federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant](#), the counties will develop individualized safety action plans that will operate in a regional framework for future coordination. To participate in each county's safety survey, and to sign up to receive updates, please visit each county's corresponding Safe Travel for All page:

[Cook County](#), [DuPage County](#), [Kane County](#),  
[Lake County](#), [McHenry County](#), [Will County](#)



Village of Glenview

## UTC Seeking Employer Perspectives of Hybrid Work

The Urban Transportation Center (UTC) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is conducting research on employer perspectives regarding hybrid work. Research results will assist the UTC in identifying future office work and its travel need trends, as well as how land-use and multimodal transportation needs will change. UTC has developed an [online survey](#) and requests the viewpoints of “human resources managers, corporate executives, and project leaders from all public and private sectors.” Additional information is available in the [project flyer](#).

## Looking to Brighten Your Crosswalks? Tap a Grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies!

Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Asphalt Art Initiative is offering up to \$100,000 each in grants available to communities looking to create “asphalt art” projects on city streets. Cities with populations greater than 50,000 are eligible to submit a single application. Up to ten cities will be selected. To learn more, visit the [Asphalt Art Initiative webpage](#), with additional information in this [Smart Cities Dive article](#). The deadline to apply is January 31, 2025.

## Complete the “My Daily Travel Survey” This Fall

CMAP is launching a major survey called [My Daily Travel](#) this fall to better understand the travel needs of residents in northeastern Illinois. As travel behaviors change and technologies evolve over the next few years, transportation planners will use this survey data to guide future transportation investments and prioritize improvements.

Through Spring 2025, at least 4,000 households in northeastern Illinois are expected to participate in the survey either online, over the phone, or through a smartphone app (rMove™). Households will receive an invitation by U.S. mail and are strongly encouraged to complete the survey and help plan a transportation system that meets their needs. Participants who complete the survey will receive a gift card for their time.

## Evanston Wins \$100,000 Love Your Block Grant

Congratulations to the *City of Evanston* for its selection as one of 16 cities across the United States for the 2024-2026 [Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University Love Your Block grant](#). The grant program enables resident-led neighborhood revitalization projects. “I am excited for Evanston to partner with the Center of Public Innovation to deepen the resident-led component of our reparations work,” said *Evanston Mayor Daniel Biss*. “This effort has always rested on a foundation of community activism and voice, and the Love Your Block grant will build on and strengthen that commitment.” For more information, [please see the City of Evanston’s announcement](#).

## Project Sidewalk Stipend Programs and Trainings

The Active Transportation Alliance is partnering with the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Project Sidewalk to host virtual training sessions in December and January. These sessions will teach you how to use the Project Sidewalk tool to map the conditions of local sidewalks and bikeways. Staff will forward the training dates when received. Additionally, \$300 stipends will be offered to up to 10 volunteer groups or individuals who commit to virtually mapping their local sidewalks and bikeways. If you’re interested in the stipend program, you can learn more on the [Active Transportation Alliance’s blog](#). A flyer about the program is available [here](#), and [applications](#) are due by Monday, November 25.

## Next Round of Public Engagement for IDOT’S Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has begun the next phase of Move Illinois: the 2024 Long-Range Transportation Plan. The plan will strategically outline goals, objectives and strategies for Illinois’ diverse transportation network for the next 20 to 30 years. This is a multi-phase effort that will take place into 2025. The first phase of the plan was focused on transportation studies and public engagement to determine preferences for transportation goal areas. During this second phase, IDOT is focusing on potential actions and strategies to include in the plan. Residents are invited to provide feedback for the plan by filling out a [survey](#) and staying informed via the online meeting that can be found [here](#). The project team works with residents, business owners and transportation professionals from across the state in an advisory group. This group combines the transportation expertise and information gathered from the community in each phase to help form the goals, objectives and strategies of the Long-Range Transportation Plan.



## Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

PeopleforBikes: [Tackle E-Bike Regulations With PeopleForBikes' New Toolkit](#) — November 4, 1 p.m.

Rails to Trails Conservancy: [Working With Railroads Part 1: Productive Partnerships for Successful Projects](#)—November 13, 12 p.m.

APBP: [2024 U.S. Federal Policy Webinar - 4th Quarter](#)—November 13, 2 p.m.

Rails to Trails Conservancy: [Working with Railroads Part 2: RTC Expert Q&A](#)—November 21, 12 p.m.

## Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

Chicago Tribune: [Construction to start on new Morton Grove Metra station that will 'change the entrance to the village'](#)

Railfan Magazine: [Metra considers more service to O'Hare](#)

Route Fifty: [Time to reset the transportation funding equation](#)

WTTW: [State Lawmakers on Efforts to Merge CTA, Metra and Pace: 'We Need a Central Agency'](#)

WTTW: [Future of Chicago-Area Public Transit Hangs in Balance as State Lawmakers Wrap Up Hearings on Agency Funding, Oversight](#)

Capitol News Illinois: [In final public transit hearing, downstate operators join chorus for more state funding](#)

## Briefs, Continued

Chicago Tribune: [Supermarket kiosks installed for DMV business in Illinois](#)

Daily Herald: [How much of your county's transit sales tax dollars are going to transportation? It ranges from 3% to 100%](#)

Capitol News Illinois: [In final public transit hearing, downstate operators join chorus for more state funding](#)

WTTW: [Chicago-Area Transit Leaders Urge for More Funding, See Consolidation as the Wrong Move](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Public supports merging Chicago area's transit agencies by 2-to-1 ratio, poll shows](#)

Illinois Public Media: [Uptick in accidents prompts conversation on cycling infrastructure in Illinois](#)

Daily Herald: [From safety to silence: More people of all ages are engaging with biking](#)

CBC: [Studies from around the world show bike lanes ease congestion, reduce emissions and are a boon to businesses](#)

US DOT: [Department of Transportation Empowers Small and Disadvantaged Businesses to Enter Emerging Transportation Markets](#)

Route Fifty: [TSA to allow mobile driver's licenses after REAL ID goes into effect](#)

Daily Herald: ['Urgent, complex challenge': Pedestrian deaths on train tracks are escalating](#)

Clean Technica: [In 2023, Shared Micromobility Ridership Was Equally Divided Between Scooters & Bicycles in USA](#)

Progressive Railroading: [FRA seeks to amend PTC regs](#)

CBC: [Studies from around the world show bike lanes ease congestion, reduce emissions and are a boon to businesses](#)

Northwest Municipal Conference  
1600 E. Golf Rd Suite 0700  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
Phone: 847-296-9200 | [www.nwmc-cog.org](http://www.nwmc-cog.org)

Eric Czarnota: 847-296-9200 ext. 128  
[ECzarnota@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:ECzarnota@nwmc-cog.org)

Brian Larson: 847-296-9200 ext. 131  
[BLarson@nwmc-cog.org](mailto:BLarson@nwmc-cog.org)