

# Transportation Newsletter

June 2026  
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Northwest Municipal Conference  
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Cover Photo: City of Park Ridge, NWMC Staff



Northwest Municipal Conference

## Dates to Remember:

**NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Field Trip:**  
Tuesday, June 9, 10:30 a.m.—*Rolling Meadows City Hall*

**68th NWMC Gala:** Wednesday, June 10, 6:00 p.m.—*Independence Grove in Libertyville*

## Join the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee in Rolling Meadows at the Annual Field Trip!

The NWMC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee will be taking the show on the road again this summer when it visits *Rolling Meadows* for the annual Field Trip.

On Tuesday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m., participants will meet at the city hall and tour the heart of Rolling Meadows' bicycle network. The leisurely roundtrip ride of about 9 miles will include stops along the way to learn about local development and future connections. Lunch will be provided at city hall while hearing about the ongoing [Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan](#).

All NWMC members are invited to attend. Interested attendees may [register for the Field Trip here](#).

## Illinois General Assembly Transportation-Related Legislation Roundup

The state legislative session has now wrapped up, with several transportation related bills coming before the legislature.

Following the legislative efforts led by the NWMC E-Mobility Working Group and introduction of [HB 4840](#) by Representatives Mary Beth Canty and Daniel Didech, the General Assembly ultimately passed [SB 3484 \(House Amendment 1\)](#), the Secretary of State's e-mobility bill that corrects discrepancies in existing regulated devices while addressing the increased usage of e-moto devices. Age minimums have been established and/or updated for e-bikes and e-scooters, while e-motos are now provided a path towards registration and licensing. Municipalities are also empowered to restrict devices based on location.

The passage of the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) bill last fall required cleanup, resulting in the passage of [HB 2335](#) as a trailer bill this spring. The bill revised the public transportation hub definitions in the People Over Parking Act, prohibits municipal staff and paid elected officials, except for mayors, from serving on NITA, CTA, Metra, and Pace boards, along with other revisions. [Read more about the transition to NITA at the RTA website.](#) Further, the SFY 2027 budget has reallocated increased gas tax revenue that would have gone toward transit to the general fund instead.

Finally, the General Assembly passed [HB 4948](#), the Intelligent Speed Assistance Program. This bill addresses extreme speeding by allowing offenders to apply for installation of Intelligent Speed Assistance devices in lieu of license suspensions. Such devices would prevent enrolled drivers from exceeding the posted speed limit. The bills now go to the Governor's desk for signature.

## BRIC Grant Program Accepting Applications

[Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) is a Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant program that makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized Tribal Nations, and local governments for hazard mitigation activities. It does so by recognizing the need to upgrade and modernize the nation's infrastructure against the growing risks to communities and the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote resilience with respect to natural hazards.

FEMA has published the Fiscal Years 2024/2025 funding opportunity for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program. The deadline to submit applications is Thursday, July 23. Eligible applicants and subapplicants must apply through [FEMA Grants Outcomes \(FEMA GO\)](#). The full notice of funding opportunity is published on [Grants.gov](#).

## US DOT Grants Available for Railroad Crossing Safety Projects

The US Department of Transportation (US DOT) is now accepting applications for its [Crossing Safety Program and Railroad Crossing Elimination \(RCE\) Grant Program](#). RCE will award over \$1.1 billion in funds to projects that provide 1) grade separation, 2) track relocation, 3) installation of protective devices, signals, and signs, 4) other measures to improve safety, or planning, review, or 5) design of the above improvements. Minimum awards, except for planning projects, are \$1,000,000, with no predetermined maximum award. Applications are due by Monday June 8 at 10:59 p.m. To learn more, including how to apply, [read the Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

## IDOT Issues Truck Access Route Program NOFO

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has announced the FY 2026–2028 Truck Access Route Program (TARP) funding opportunity, with \$21 million available statewide over the next three fiscal years. The program will continue at a funding level of \$7 million annually and is intended to support roadway improvements necessary to establish or enhance designated truck routes serving industrial areas, freight corridors and major truck generators. Eligible projects must involve roadway sections that can be upgraded to designated truck routes and connect to an existing truck route, truck generator, or jurisdictional boundary.

Roadway sections improved with TARP funding prior to 2016 remain eligible, however, projects funded between 2016 and 2025 are not eligible. IDOT noted the program is not intended for pavement preservation or routine maintenance activities. Funding is available at up to \$100,000 per lane mile and \$50,000 per eligible intersection, with awards limited to 50 percent of total project costs and capped at \$2 million per project. Projects must be ready for advertisement within two years of award. Applications are due Monday, June 29, with award announcements anticipated in the Fall. NWMC staff can help review potential candidate corridors and evaluate whether any eligible truck access improvements align with current transportation, freight mobility, or economic development priorities. A link to IDOT Circular Letter 2026-05 containing the full program details and application requirements can be found [here](#).

## Four NWMC Members Awarded Safe Routes to Schools Grants

IDOT recently announced \$11.9 million in Safe Routes to Schools grants to boost the health and safety of children by making walking and biking to school safe and more accessible. Congratulations to the four NWMC member projects that were selected out of 166 proposals.

*Buffalo Grove* received \$89,960 for development of community travel plans around nine elementary and middle schools. *Evanston* received \$100,000 for creation of a bike safety curriculum and access program at two elementary schools. *Fox Lake* received \$250,000 to replace a deteriorated sidewalk with a 10-foot-wide multimodal path extending 2,500 feet along Hawthorne Lane. *Schaumburg* received \$100,000 to develop community travel plans around six elementary and junior high schools. See the [full list of recipients here](#). To read more about the Safe Routes to Schools program, visit the [IDOT website](#).

## Be a Bicycle Friendly Community!

The League of American Bicyclists is currently accepting Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) applications through Wednesday, \*June 17 for the 2027-2030 cohort. The League of American Bicyclists provides a roadmap, hands-on assistance and recognition for communities seeking to build places more welcoming to people who bike. Past and present NWMC member communities with BFC status include Silver-ranked *Evanston* and Bronze-ranked *Glenview*, *Highland Park*, *Niles*, *Schaumburg*, and *Wilmette*. To learn more about the BFC program, [visit the League of American Bicyclists website](#).



## Pace Rolls Out Service Upgrades and Adjustments

As part of its spring and summer service upgrades due to NITA funding last year, Pace has adjusted the schedules and enhanced service along two routes serving NWMC member areas, [Route 213 Green Bay Road](#) and [Route 554 Elgin-Northwest Transportation Center](#). See [Pace's website for details](#).

## I-PASS On Demand Team Available for Your Events

*From the Illinois Tollway:*

Our I-PASS On Demand team is continuing to provide more customer service at events held across the 12 counties served by the Illinois Tollway than ever. We go where our customers are to provide in-person assistance and help with I-PASS, Pay By Plate and toll invoice questions. See the [I-PASS On Demand Event Calendar](#) to find an event near you!

Illinois Tollway customers can also stop by an I-PASS On Demand event to learn more about the Official Illinois Tollway App to help manage their accounts or pick up I-PASS Sticker Tags to add new vehicles or replace old transponders.

In addition, customers can find out if they qualify for [I-PASS Assist](#), the Illinois Tollway's program helping income-eligible individuals and families realize the benefits of I-PASS.

Are you interested in hosting an event that you'd like our I-PASS On Demand team to attend? Fill out an [I-PASS On Demand Request Form](#). Our I-PASS On Demand team is ready to help you plan and promote an event to serve your residents. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kelsey Passi at [kpassi@getipass.com](mailto:kpassi@getipass.com).

## 2026 Cook County Construction Projects Map

*From the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH):*

The interactive map includes all construction projects underway or scheduled to begin this year.

Projects that preserve, modernize and expand the County's transportation system are featured on the map. There are 53 projects on the mobile-friendly map. Thirteen new projects will break ground this year, while 40 projects are continuing work from previous years. Information shown for each construction project includes an expected start date, overview, benefits, scope and updates. DoTH will add projects as construction begins. The public is encouraged to visit the site regularly throughout construction season for updates. The map can be found at <https://maps.cookcountyil.gov/hwyproject/>

## Cook County Bike Plan Web App

*From the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH):*

The Cook County Bike Routes and Trail Map online web app, first launched in 2024, consolidates and displays existing, funded, and recommended bicycle routes, along with proposed study areas across the County. DoTH continuously updates the data as it becomes available. Municipalities are encouraged to reach out to DoTH to update any planned or newly completed bike facilities in their community. The app can be viewed here: <https://maps.cookcountyil.gov/bikeplan/>

## Land Use Inventory Provides Updated Look at Northeastern Illinois

*From our partners at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP):*

CMAP's Land Use Inventory, a survey of northeastern Illinois' land use, has been updated. This data is a resource for planners, transportation agencies, university researchers, non-governmental organizations, consulting firms and more. The 2026 inventory features 2023 data, following refinement by CMAP, including a review of 60,000 parcels. The data can be viewed on an [interactive web map](#) and is also available for [download](#).

## Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Chicago Released

*From our partners at CMAP:*

CMAP, in partnership with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, developed the [Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Greater Chicago](#).

As the first regional framework to address all major sources of greenhouse gas emissions across a 13-county area spanning Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, the plan charts a clean and ambitious path forward. Grounded in rigorous data and shaped by community and partner voices, it offers a coordinated roadmap to reduce emissions, improve public health, and strengthen the economy.

## 2026 Regional Transportation Plan

*From our partners at CMAP:*

CMAP continues to advance the [2026 Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#) through extensive research, data analysis, and public engagement. Building on the goals and objectives identified in the [Emerging Priorities report](#), CMAP has prepared a draft list of [strategies](#) for inclusion in the RTP. Also, through coordination with partner agencies and committees, CMAP has identified and recommended 101 regional capital projects (RCPs) for inclusion in the fiscally constrained RTP. The benefits of each proposed project can be reviewed in the [draft RCP Benefits Report](#). The draft 2026 RTP will be available for public comment beginning in June 2026.



*Village of Niles*

## Upcoming Transportation-Related Webinars

**Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals:** Wednesday, June 3, 2:00 p.m.—[Q2 2026 APBP US Federal Policy Webinar](#)

**PeopleForBikes:** Wednesday, June 3, 12:00 p.m.—[E-Bikes vs. E-Motos: Legal Distinctions, Legislative Strategies, and Regulatory Actions](#)

**PeopleForBikes:** Monday, June 8, 1:00 p.m.—[2026 City Ratings: Behind Your City's Score](#)

**Great Lakes ADA Center:** Thursday, June 4, 1:30 p.m.—[Designing Streets for Everyone: Requirements, Research, and Guidance on the Use of Tactile Walking Surface Indicators for Pedestrians with Vision Disabilities](#)

**AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety:** Tuesday, June 16, 1:00 p.m.—[Micromobility and Traffic Safety](#)

## Did You Miss It? News Items in Brief

*Chicago Tribune:* [Landmark transit funding legislation takes effect today. Here's what commuters can expect.](#)

*Governing:* [As E-Bikes Proliferate, Regulations \(and Misunderstandings\) Abound](#)

*NPR Illinois:* [How well can EVs handle the heat — and the cold? AAA put them to the test](#)

*Pioneer Press:* [Skokie mayor floats 'preliminary talks' of CTA Yellow Line extension](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Convenience or concern? Projections of thousands of flying packages worry some suburbs as Amazon pitches drone deliveries](#)

*Suburban Bicycling Chicago:* [Bike infrastructure work in 2026: 3 bridges; Cook, Lake, O'Hare-area roads](#)

*Daily Herald:* [\\$7 million grant to help ease gridlock at major Mount Prospect intersection](#)

*Daily Herald:* [Five things to know about NITA — Illinois' new transit agency](#)

*Chicago Tribune:* [Here's how officials want to spend new transit funding this year](#)

*Vision Zero Network:* [Right-Sizing the Role of Traffic Enforcement: Prioritizing Effective, Cost-Efficient and Equitable Improvements to Road Safety](#)

*Governors Highway Safety Association:* [As States Consider New Legislation, Guide Shares Steps to Advance High-Tech Solution to America's Deadly Speeding Epidemic](#)

*America WALKS:* [Who Gets to Live in Walkable Places — and Who Doesn't?](#)

*Momentum Mag:* [Bloomberg Philanthropies Commits \\$350M to Cycling Infrastructure Across 30+ Cities](#)

*Evanston RoundTable:* [City awarded \\$100,000 grant to support safe and sustainable youth transportation](#)

*Journal & Topics:* [A Look At Where Glenview Riders Take Amtrak](#)

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# CONTRACTING *with* GOVERNMENT

Learn ■ Connect ■ Grow

## REGISTER NOW

*Providing businesses with resources and opportunities.  
Registration is free.*

**Wednesday, June 3, 2026**  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Governors State University**  
1 University Parkway  
University Park, IL 60484

**SCAN TO REGISTER**



# Rideshare Access Program (RAP)

## Pace's convenient transit option for ADA-certified riders

Pace's Rideshare Access Program (RAP) offers a subsidy on Uber or UZURV rides to eligible riders. With RAP, your fare is \$3.25.

Pace ADA-eligible riders now have access to subsidized rideshare services within the ADA service area. You can now choose this more convenient option to get around your community.



- ➔ RAP is a great option for last-minute trips because you can schedule a ride at a moment's notice, instead of booking rides a day in advance.
- ➔ RAP is an added option available to you. Pace will subsidize an ADA-eligible rider's rideshare trip cost up to \$30, after a \$3.25 fare, at a maximum of 30 trips (or 40, if you have been approved for the increase) per month.



## How to enroll in RAP, Pace's rideshare subsidy

- ✔ First, make sure you have an active Uber or UZURV account. You can then enroll in RAP by completing the required form available on the Pace website at [PaceBus.com/RAP](https://PaceBus.com/RAP). If you have questions on how to enroll, please contact us at [RAP@PaceBus.com](mailto:RAP@PaceBus.com). Uber and UZURV will not be able to help you enroll in RAP.
- ✔ You can only get the Pace RAP subsidy for trips on a single service, either Uber or UZURV.
- ✔ Schedule trips directly with your chosen rideshare provider by using that company's mobile app.
- ✔ Once you are enrolled, you'll see RAP as an option within your app to take advantage of the Pace subsidy for eligible trips. Only trips within Pace's designated ADA Paratransit service area are eligible for the \$3.25 fare.
- ✔ Enrollees can apply for an increase to 40 rides per month at <https://fares.RTAChicago.org>.



**Visit [PaceBus.com/RAP](https://PaceBus.com/RAP) to get started!**

# Rideshare Access Program (RAP)

## Opción de transporte económica para pasajeros de ADA Paratransito

¡El Programa de acceso a viajes compartidos (RAP) de Pace ofrece un subsidio para viajes en Uber o UZURV a los pasajeros elegibles. ¡Con RAP, tu tarifa es de solo \$3.25!

Los pasajeros elegibles para el servicio de ADA Paratransito ahora tienen acceso a servicios de viajes compartidos subsidiados dentro del área de servicio de la ADA. Ahora puede elegir esta opción más conveniente y menos costosa para viajar por su comunidad.



- ➔ RAP es una buena opción para viajes de último momento porque puedes programar un viaje a cualquier hora, en lugar de reservarlo con un día de anticipación.
- ➔ RAP es otra opción disponible para usted. Pace subsidiará el costo del viaje compartido de los pasajeros elegibles para la ADA hasta \$30, después de una tarifa de \$3.25, con un máximo de 30 viajes (o 40, si ha sido aprobado para el aumento de viajes por mes).



### Cómo inscribirse en el programa RAP, subsidio para viajes compartidos de Pace

- ✔ Primero, asegurese que tenga una cuenta activa de Uber o UZURV. Después puede inscribirse en RAP completando el formulario requerido disponible en el sitio web de Pace en **PaceBus.com/RAP**. Si tiene preguntas de como inscribirse, contactenos en **RAP@PaceBus.com**. Uber y UZURV no podrán ayudarle a inscribirse.
- ✔ Solo puede obtener el subsidio Pace RAP para viajar con un solo servicio, ya sea con Uber o UZURV, elija uno.
- ✔ Programe viajes directamente con el proveedor de viajes elegido Uber o UZURV mediante la aplicación móvil.
- ✔ Una vez que estés inscrito, verás RAP como una opción dentro de tu aplicación para aprovechar el subsidio de Pace para viajes elegibles. Solo los viajes dentro del área de servicio ADA Paratransito designada por Pace son elegibles para la tarifa de \$3.25.
- ✔ Los participantes pueden aplicar para un aumento de 40 viajes por mes en: <https://fares.RTACHicago.org>.



**¡Visita PaceBus.com/RAP para inscribirte!**



REGION WIDE

# Transit Signal Priority

## Ensuring service reliability through technology

Support from several lawmakers has empowered Pace to play a key role in the national movement to invest in Transit Signal Priority (TSP) technology. TSP improves traffic signal timing for buses by extending green lights or shortening reds, keeping buses on schedule, improving safety, and reducing travel times with minimal impact on overall traffic flow.

Pace is working closely with IDOT, CDOT, and local municipalities to bring TSP to more areas. So far, TSP has been added at **220** traffic lights along Milwaukee Avenue, Dempster Street, 95th Street, 147th Street, Grand Avenue, Roosevelt Road, and Cicero Avenue. Pace has completed signal timing optimization at **400** intersections, with **100** more currently under construction for TSP. Additionally, **420** Pace buses have TSP routers installed, and another 500 will be upgraded in 2027.

Testing shows that TSP works. At 20 intersections, bus travel times dropped by up to **15%** (between 25 seconds and 3.3 minutes), and daily delays fell by **27** minutes.

### IMPACTS



Improved bus service reliability



Improved bus efficiency



Reduced travel times



### PROJECT MILESTONES

- **2026 Q3**  
Cermak Road TSP installation
- **2026 Q3**  
159th Street TSP installation
- **2026 Q4**  
Halsted Street and 95th Street expansion design
- **2027 Q2**  
Queue jump design; equipping 150 buses with routers
- **2027 Q3**  
Harlem Avenue, Washington Street, and Western Avenue design and implementation
- **2028 Q4**  
North Avenue and Golf Road design and implementation

### PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL PROJECT COST

**\$35 million**

*This work is part of Pace’s Capital Program, a set of projects designed to meet the mobility needs of the people of northeastern Illinois now and into the future.*

Find more information at [pacebus.com/projects-studies](https://pacebus.com/projects-studies)

Last updated April 2026