



Memorandum

To: Mayor Biss and Members of the City Council
From: Luke Stowe, City Manager
Subject: Weekly City Manager's Update
Date: January 9, 2026

STAFF REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT

Weekly Report for January 5, 2025 – January 9, 2026

City Manager's Office

No Known Federal Activity

Community Development

Weekly Zoning Report

Weekly Field Inspection Report

Monthly CV/Permit Fee Report

Health Department

Weekly Health Department Report

Law Department

Weekly Liquor License Application Report

Clerk's Office

No Report

Legislative Reading

NWMC Weekly Report

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL &
MAYORAL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Monday, January 12, 2026

4:45 PM: [Referrals Committee](#)

5:00 PM: [Administration & Public Works Committee](#)

5:15 PM: [Planning & Development Committee](#)

5:30 PM: [City Council](#)

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

7:00 PM: [Preservation Commission – Special Meeting](#)

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

7:00 PM: [Land Use Commission](#)

Thursday, January 15, 2026

6:00 PM: [Equity and Empowerment Commission](#)

Friday, January 16, 2026

7:15 AM: [Utilities Commission](#)

Check the City's Calendar for updates

[City of Evanston - Calendar](#)

City of Evanston Committee Webpage:

[City of Evanston – Boards, Commissions and Committees](#)



To: Luke Stowe, City Manager
From: Commander Ryan Glew, Executive Officer
Subject: Weekly Federal Activity Update
Date: January 9, 2026

There were no federal immigration enforcement operations reported this week.



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Liz Williams, Planning & Zoning Manager
Subject: Weekly Zoning Report
Date: 01/09/2026

Enclosed is the weekly report of zoning applications received and pending. The report, organized by ward, includes the property address, zoning district, the type of application submitted, a description of the project, date received, and current status.

Please contact me at (224) 296-4489 or lwilliams@cityofevanston.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Cases Received and Pending, December 27, 2025 to January 7, 2025

Zoning Reviews (Larger Projects and Permits)

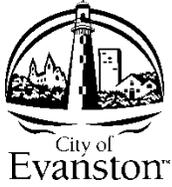
Ward	Property Address	Zoning	Type	Project Description	Received	Status
1	1716 Sherman Avenue	D2	Zoning Analysis	New jazz club/lounge within an existing building	12/16/25	pending staff review
1	1323 Judson Street	R1	Building Permit	Addition	01/05/25	pending staff review
2	1578 Florence Avenue	R3	Building Permit	New 2-story single-family home	07/14/25	pending additional information from the applicant
2	2308 Main Street	C1	Zoning Analysis	Tenant Improvement of an existing 9,042sf space in an existing single-level multi-tenant building to be used as a mini-fulfillment center. The store will have a small front-of-house area where customer selected products are available for customer representatives (Amazon Flex Drivers) to come in to pick up the purchased products. With the transaction being completed with check out by an Amazon employee.	01/07/25	pending staff review
3	551 Michigan Avenue	R5	Building Permit	Addition and interior remodel	10/14/25	pending staff review
4	910 Custer Avenue	MXE	Building Permit	New 5-story residential building with 230 units	07/19/25	pending additional information from the applicant
4	1021 Ashland Avenue	R3	Building Permit	1st floor Addition	09/10/25	pending staff review
4	1028 Greenleaf Street	R1	Zoning Analysis	2nd Story Addition	09/25/25	pending additional information/revisions from the applicant
4	1118 Sherman Avenue	R3	Building Permit	2nd Story Addition	12/16/25	pending additional information/revisions from the applicant
4	1009 Wesley Avenue #4	R3	Building Permit	New Carport	01/02/26	pending staff review
5	1112 Garnett Place	R4a	Building Permit	1-story Addition	10/31/25	pending additional information from applicant
6	2500 Marcy Avenue	R1	Building Permit	2nd Story Addition & New Garage	08/07/25	non-compliant; pending revisions from the applicant
6	2301 Ridgeway Avenue	R1	Zoning Analysis	New Garage and ADU	09/10/25	pending additional information from the applicant
6	2309 Thayer Street	R1	Building Permit	Replace detached garage	10/27/25	pending additional information from the applicant
6	2757 Central Park Avenue	R1	Building Permit	2nd Story Addition	12/15/25	pending additional information/revisions from the applicant
6	2620 Reese Avenue	R1	Building Permit	New Detached Garage	12/29/25	pending staff review
7	1900 Central Street	B1a/oCSC	Zoning Analysis	Demolition of the existing Chase Bank and construction of a new Chase Bank	09/22/25	non-compliant, pending revisions/additional information from the applicant
7	1916 Grant Street	R1	Building Permit	Addition to existing 2-flat	10/16/25	non-compliant; pending revisions from applicant
7	2026 Harrison Street	R3	Building Permit	2.5-Story Addition	11/04/25	non-compliant; pending additional information from the applicant
7	2404 Ridge Avenue	R1	Zoning Analysis	3 Lot Subdivision	09/17/25	non-compliant; pending revisions from applicant
9	1720 Oakton Street	R2	Zoning Analysis	Addition	01/05/26	pending staff review

Pending building permit and zoning analysis reviews older than 6 months where there has not been activity are periodically removed from the zoning report.

Miscellaneous Zoning Cases

Ward	Property Address	Zoning	Type	Project Description	Received	Status
1	1716 Sherman Avenue	D2	Special Use	New jazz club/lounge within an existing building	12/16/25	pending staff review
2	900 Clark Street	RP	Planned Development	New 27-story mixed-use building with ground floor retail and 383 dwelling units	01/28/25	pending additional information from the applicant

2	1710 Maple Avenue	RP	Special Use	New indoor kennel facility (Dogtopia)	11/11/25	Land Use Commission hearing scheduled for 01/14/26
2	1611 Church Street	R4	Amendment to a Previously Approved Major Variation	Modifications to the approved development plan, including the construction of an ADU above a garage, conversion of a rooming unit to a dwelling unit, and various site and building modifications.	11/10/25	pending additional information from the applicant
5	2112 Foster Street	R3	Minor Variation	Detached accessory building (ADU) located in an interior side yard and less than 10' from principal building	07/14/25	pending application fee payment
5	824 Gaffield Place	R4a	Special Use and Zoning Text Amendment	A new Child Residential Care Home. Previously approved in 2020 but a building permit was not approved within the time frame allowed and the approval expired.	10/15/25	Pending Planning & Development Committee meeting and City Council on January 12th
5	1103 Emerson Street	R6	Major Variations	Demolition of existing structures (2-flat & 4-flat) and construction of a 5-story building with 6 rooming units (including 18 bedrooms), 24 dwelling units, and 5 on-site parking stalls.	12/03/25	pending additional information from the applicant
6	3434 Central Street	R2	Planned Development	New 2-story 19,952 sf and 38 parking spaces for a Daycare Center - Child	05/13/25	Land Use Commission hearing scheduled for 01/14/26
6	2737 Highland Avenue	R1	Major Variations	Major variations to allow an open off-street parking space in a front yard when alley access is available	07/29/25	Land Use Commission hearing continued to 01/14/26
7	831 Ingleside Place	R1	Major Variation	Major variation to allow a reduced rear yard setback for an addition	12/03/25	pending revisions from applicant
8	707 W Howard Street	B3	Text Amendment & Special Use	Zoning text amendment to allow performance entertainment venues as a special use within the B3 zone district	07/02/25	pending staff review



To: Luke Stowe, City Manager
From: David Wilson, HVAC Building Inspector
Subject: Weekly Field Inspection Report
Date: January, 9 2026

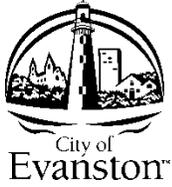
Enclosed is the weekly summary report of field inspections for construction projects under special monitoring. The report includes the ward, property address, type of construction, inspector notes, and date received.

Please contact me at [davidwilson@cityofevanston.org](mailto: davidwilson@cityofevanston.org) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Weekly Field Inspection Report

Friday, January 9, 2026

Ward	Property Address	Construction Type	Inspector Notes	Received
1	2169 Campus Drive	New Construction	MEP inspections have begun. Proper signage, construction fence and safety in place.	1/8/2026
4	1012 Church Street Northlight Theater	Assembly	No changes. MEP inspections continue. Temporary bike lane is in place. The alleyway has been closed with offsite parking provided for residents	1/8/2026
1	1631 Chicago Avenue	Demolition	Construction fence to be installed. Demolition permit pending.	1/8/2026
*	Truck Route	*	No changes. Street sweeping continues. Truck route continues to be monitored for speed and debris.	1/8/2026
7	1501 Central Street	New Construction	No changes. Framing inspections continue at stadium. Street sweepers continue to address roadway dust and debris. All trucks continue to pass through truck washing station with manual washing of trucks and street. Construction fence is in place and in good condition.	1/8/2026
3	504 South Boulevard	New Construction	Continuous footings and foundation walls have been poured along north side of project. Vibration monitoring continues.	1/8/2026
*	*	*	*	*



To: Luke Stowe, City Manager
From: Angela Butler, Permit Services Supervisor
Subject: Monthly Construction Valuation and Permit Fee Report
Date: January 9, 2026

Enclosed is the monthly construction valuation and permit fee report. The report compares current month and year-to-date totals with those from 2024.

Please contact me at abutler@cityofevanston.org if you have any questions or need additional information.



DATE: January 9, 2026
 TO: Luke Stowe, City Manager
 FROM: Angela Butler, Permit Services Supervisor
 SUBJECT: **December 2025** Construction Valuation and Permit Fee Report

BUILDING PERMIT FEES

Total Permit Fees Collected for the Month of December 2025	\$569,329.80
Total Permit Fees Collected Fiscal Year 2025	\$12,223,395.73
Total Permit fees Collected for the Month of December 2024	\$400,091.83
Total Permit Fees Collected Fiscal Year 2024	\$16,379,287.15

CONSTRUCTION VALUES

Total Construction Value for December 2025	\$40,579,191.00
Total Construction Value Fiscal Year 2025	\$1,191,985,054.00
Total Construction Value for December 2024	\$11,305,562
Total Construction Value Fiscal Year 2024	\$ 855,118,596.00



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Ike Ogbo, Director, Department of Health & Human

Services Subject: Food Establishment License Application Weekly Report

Date: Jan 9th, 2026

Ward	Property Address	Business Name	Date Received	Current Status
7	2545 Prairie	Burl	2/27/25	Pending Inspections
8	751 Howard St	Sabrosura Coffee Bar	1/09/2025	Pending Reviews and Inspections
8	1717 Howard St	Showkey African Cuisine	8/26/2024	Pending Building Permit Application
8	565 Howard St	T.E & Company	8/22/2024	Pending Building Permit Issuance
4	1310 ½ Chicago Ave	Peeled Juice Bar	5/9/2024	Pending Building Permit Issuance and Inspections
1	817 Noyes	Fred's Bread	4/9/25	Pending Final Inspections
8	743 Howard	Zion African Market	6/12/25	Pending Health Review and Inspections
5	1600 Simpson	Foster School	5/12/25	Pending Health Review and Inspections
7	1921 Central	Tallgrass	4/17/25	Pending Reviews and Inspections
4	1571 Sherman Ave	New York	09/11/25	Pending Plan Reviews and Inspections
7	1030 Central St	Canal Shores Outdoor Patio	9/11/25	Pending Inspections
1	809 Church St.	Crave Cookies	9/17/25	Pending FCO
2	2400 Main St.	Snowfruit 558 – within Food4Less	9/18/25	Pending Plumbing Re-Insp and FCO
4	517 Dempster St.	Windfree Solar Cafe	10/09/25	Active
7	1810 Central	No Longer Human	9/29/25	Pending Inspections and FCO
4	1563 Sherman Ave	Giordano's	11/20/25	Pending Reviews, Inspections, FCO
5	1601 Simpson St.	Beit Shawarna	11/26/25	Pending Reviews and Inspections
1	1716 Sherman Ave	Night Owl Productions	12/9/25	Pending Reviews and Inspections
4	630 Church St	Everest Indian Cuisine	12/16/25	Pending Elec Reinspection and FCO
5	1608 Emerson St	Asli Fried Chicken Corp	1/7/26	Pending Reviews, Inspections, FCO
7	2001 Sheridan Rd	Jacobs Cafe	1/8/26	Pending Building Permit, Reviews, Inspections



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Brian George, Assistant City Attorney

Subject: Weekly Liquor License Application Report

Date: January 9, 2026

Enclosed is the weekly report of liquor applications received and pending. The report, organized by ward, includes the business address, the type and description of license requested, and current status.

Liquor Licensing Weekly Report

Liquor Applications Received and Pending for week of January 9, 2026

WARD	BUSINESS NAME	BUSINESS ADDRESS	LIQUOR CLASS	CLASS DESCRIPTION	PROCESSED HOURS for LIQUOR SALES	STATUS
5	Northlight Theatre	1012 Church St. Evanston, IL 60201	E-2	Entertainment Venue (medium)	4 p.m.—2 a.m.(MonThurs); 4 p.m.—3 a.m. (Fri-Sun)	Application pending



DIRECTOR'S WEEKLY BRIEFING

By NWMC Executive Director Mark L. Fowler



WEEK ENDING JANUARY 9, 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Executive Board Sets January Membership Meeting Agenda

The NWMC Executive Board met on Wednesday to finalize the agenda for the first Board meeting of the New Year. The Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. via hybrid format – at the NWMC office or via videoconference.

Highlighting the agenda will be consideration of the 2026 NWMC Legislative Program, discussion of preparations for Legislative Days in Springfield (see article below), a preview of the spring legislative session of the General Assembly and consideration of the NWMC financial policies and controls in preparation of the annual budget. We look forward to seeing you all next Wednesday! *Staff contacts: Mark Fowler, Larry Bury*

RSVP Today for the NWMC-DMMC Legislative Dinner

On Wednesday, January 28, the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) and the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) will co-host a Legislative Reception and Dinner. This first-ever joint event will bring together municipal leaders, partners and legislators from across the region. The evening will feature presentations of the NWMC and DMMC legislative priorities for 2026 and provide legislators with an opportunity to share their feedback and initiatives for the spring session.

The event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Chicago Marriott *Schaumburg*, 50 N. Martingale Road. The cost to attend is \$100 for DMMC/NWMC member governments. The deadline to register is Tuesday, January 20. For more information and to RSVP, please visit the [DMMC/NWMC Legislative Reception and Dinner](#) registration page. *Staff contacts: Mark Fowler, Larry Bury, Chris Staron, Marina Durso*

Registration Open for NWMC Legislative Days in Springfield

The Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) Legislative Days in Springfield will be held from Tuesday, February 17 to Thursday, February 19. This week coincides with the Governor's Budget and State of the State Address. With Governor Pritzker laying out the administration's priorities, the Conference will engage with lawmakers to share municipal issues and perspectives.

Staff is working on scheduling meetings and events for the week, which will begin on Tuesday mid-afternoon with a briefing for attendees at the offices of Anderson Legislative Consulting, followed by legislator meetings and committee hearings. On Tuesday evening, the Conference will co-host a legislator reception with members of the McHenry County Council of Governments. Wednesday will focus on meetings with caucus leaders and key legislators combined with reaction to the Governor's budget address. For those not attending the Governor's address, lunch will be provided at the offices of Anderson Legislative Consulting. For members staying through Thursday, we expect additional meetings.

Staff will provide additional details of the schedule as they become available. In the interim, please RSVP by completing the [NWMC Legislative Days Registration Form](#) by Friday, February 6. We strongly encourage attendees to reserve hotel accommodations as soon as possible. Members wishing to stay in downtown Springfield are recommended to contact the [Abraham Lincoln Hotel](#). Please note that there are a variety of hotel options along Dirksen Parkway, approximately three miles from the capitol complex. For additional hotel options, please contact staff or consult the [Visit Springfield Illinois](#) website. *Staff contacts: Mark Fowler, Larry Bury, Chris Staron*

SPC Participates in the Build Up Cook Celebration & Vendor Fair

On Wednesday, the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) was proud to participate in and sponsor breakfast for

the [Build Up Cook](#) (BUC) Celebration and Vendor Fair at the George W. Dunne Cook County Administration Building in Chicago. Build Up Cook is a “transformational program aimed at addressing critical infrastructure needs in municipalities in Cook County. By working directly with and understanding the needs of communities, Build Up Cook provides resources and expertise to improve the quality of life across Cook County.” Wednesday’s event focused on the benefits of utilizing cooperative purchasing for Build Up Cook’s twenty-six priority municipalities.

Following remarks from Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Commissioner Tara Stamps, Village of Phoenix Mayor Terry Wells, BUC Director Drew Williams-Clark and Cook County Chief Procurement Officer Raffi Sarrafian, *NWMC Purchasing Director Ellen Dayan* addressed attendees on the benefits of using purchasing cooperatives. She emphasized the advantages of collaboration, collective buying power, cost savings and community value offered by local and national cooperatives and highlighted the SPC and strategic partner Sourcewell’s purchasing contracts.

Thank you to SPC partners and vendors for supporting the event. Sourcewell’s Aaron Peterson and Nicole Allen flew in from Minnesota for the event. In addition, thank you to P.J. Foster of Foster Coach (Ambulance Contract #214); Jeff Peskuski of Graybar (Electrical Lighting & Services Contract #192), Alex Weber & Rick Lannert of Warehouse Direct (Office Supplies & Janitorial Supplies Contract #189), Eric Lasage of EJ Equipment (Sewer Cleaning Truck Contracts # 215 & 216), Frank Ventrella of Granite Government Solutions (Telecommunications Contract #205), and Scott Ourednik of Sutton Ford (Ford F-Series Trucks Contracts #221, 222, 225, 226 & 227). Thank you also to South Suburban Mayors and Managers (SSMMA) Environmental Justice Policy and Government Affairs Specialist David Clay who was at the SPC table to engage with BUC members on the value of utilizing the SPC for their procurement needs.

Special thanks to BUC Director Williams-Clark and BUC Bureau of Asset Management Relationship Manager Cindy Cambray for inviting the SPC and organizing the event. *Staff contact: Ellen Dayan*

Act Today! SPC 2026 Ford Utility Interceptor Order Cutoff Date is Next Week

Currie Motors has provided the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) with a new [SPC 2026 Ford Utility \(Contract #204\) Updated Price List/Order Form](#) to reflect the production cut-off date of January 13 on the upgraded 3.0L Eco Boost Motor. The final cutoff date for the rest of the 2026 Ford Utility Interceptors will be announced soon, so members are encouraged to order immediately in anticipation of budget approvals. If necessary, Currie Motors can provide a Government Intent Form in lieu of a purchase order to meet Ford’s production deadlines. For questions or additional information, please contact staff or Tom Sullivan, 815-464-9200 or tsullivan@curriemotors.com. *Staff contact: Ellen Dayan*

Granite Has Solutions to Replace Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) and Analog Lines

As previously reported and as part of its efforts to transition customers away from analog voice POTS lines, AT&T is moving forward with plans to “grandfather” POTS services across most of its territory by March 1.

SPC Telecommunications provider [Granite Government Solutions](#) (Contract #205) has received numerous notices from AT&T indicating that their wire centers will begin grandfathering services which means that rates for analog phone lines will increase and service issues will not be corrected. Over the coming weeks, Granite Senior Regional Account Manager Frank Ventrella will contact municipalities to discuss cost-effective solutions to this problem. If you have analog phone lines with any carrier, please request a free consultation from Granite. For questions or additional information, please contact staff or Frank Ventrella, 630-649-0823 or fventrella@granitenet.com. *Staff contact: Ellen Dayan*

RSVP Today for ICDHR’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Celebration

On Saturday, January 17, the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations (ICDHR) will hold its 56th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance & Commemoration Dinner and Concert. As noted in the invitation, this year’s theme is “Reawakening Creative Maladjustment,” meaning that “there are certain aspects of society to which no person of goodwill should ever become adjusted.” The Keynote Speaker for this year’s celebration is Illinois Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth M. Rochford.

The event will begin with a reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. at Cotillion Banquets in *Palatine*. Please visit <https://www.icdhr.org/king-dinner-tickets> for additional information, including tickets and sponsorship

information. *Staff contact: Mark Fowler*

IDOT Announces Two Rail-Highway Safety Funding Opportunities

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has opened applications for two rail-highway safety funding programs, the FY2027-2031 Crossing Safety Improvement Program (CSIP) and the FFY2027-2028 Local Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Safety Program (Section 130). Both programs cover safety improvements such as warning device upgrades, grade separation, interconnects, road connections, and much more. However, the programs use separate application processes. The CSIP will use the [Illinois Commerce Commission's electronic application portal](#), with applications due Thursday, January 15. Section 130 [application forms](#) must be emailed to IDOT at DOT.LRSRail@illinois.gov and are due next Friday, January 16. For more information about both programs, please see [IDOT Circular Letter 2025-16](#). *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Kickstart Mobility Project Implementation with an Accelerated Mobility Playbook Grant!

Communities seeking to accelerate the development of safe and connected mobility networks can amplify efforts with technical assistance from City Thread's [Accelerated Mobility Playbook \(AMP\) Grant](#). City Thread will assess existing practices and develop an action plan that strengthens partnerships with local organizations to support faster project delivery. To apply, communities will need a local-based organization partner. [Learn more about the application process here](#). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis year-round. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Illinois Climate Bank Opens NOFO for Community Geothermal Planning and Pilot Projects

The Community Geothermal Planning + Pilots Program, a U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funded program created by the state Illinois Climate Bank, is now accepting applications that will “support the planning, development, and deployment of community-scale geothermal projects.” Funding is available for planning and design of projects that have already begun community engagement or are nearly ready to begin construction.

Sixteen million in funding is available through the program, with planning awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per project, and pilot and deployment projects ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 per project. Last month, the Illinois Finance Authority hosted an [informational webinar](#) on the program and additional resources. Applications are due Friday, February 13 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit the [Community Geothermal Planning + Pilots website](#) and read the [Community Geothermal Planning + Pilots Plan](#). *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Apply Today for IDOT EV Charging Infrastructure Grants

As previously reported, IDOT has opened round 3 of funding for the [Illinois National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\) program](#). Access over \$65 million in reimbursable grant funding to build and operate light-duty and medium/heavy-duty charging stations. Eligible projects include publicly available EV charging stations, including upgrades to existing or new stations within three miles of eligible roadways. Applications are due by Friday, February 13. For more information, including how to apply and access to recorded informational webinars, please visit the [Illinois NEVI website](#) or read the [NOFO](#). *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Apply Today for US DOT BUILD Grants

As previously reported, the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program is accepting applications. BUILD is a competitive grant program that provides funding for “planning or constructing surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration, and innovation.” Eligible projects include Title 23 federal-aid highways and bridges, where \$1.5 billion in funding will be available, with awards ranging from \$5 million to \$25 million for urban capital projects. Read more by visiting the [BUILD NOFO](#). Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 24. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Last Call to Apply for RTA Access to Transit Grants

From our partners at the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA):

The call for projects is now open through Friday, January 16 for RTA's [Access to Transit program](#), which improves access to the regional transit system for people walking and biking, implementing recommendations from planning studies completed through the RTA's [Community Planning program](#). To date, Access to Transit has funded fifty-one

projects in municipalities throughout the region for a total investment of \$23.8 million.

Eligible projects include ADA accessibility improvements, bicycle infrastructure, intersection improvements, sidewalk gap connections, wayfinding, and more. Newly eligible this year from [Senate Bill 2111](#) are Trail-Supportive Development infrastructure improvements that are located within one-quarter mile of a public trail and are designed to facilitate access to and use of public transit.

RTA staff are offering a virtual Open House session during which applicants can ask questions about the application process, about specific project ideas, and anything else related to the call for projects. Potential applicants can participate at any time during the Open House session on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 – 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. [Register here](#).

Applicants can email questions to applications@rtachicago.org or contact RTA Government Affairs staff to be connected to the Local Planning team. *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

Newsy Items of the Week

Daily Herald: [Robotaxis, O'Hare boom and Red Line scrutiny: Transportation seers forecast 2026](#)

Daily Herald: [‘It’s the unknown:’ Union Pacific, Norfolk Southern seek mega merger as suburbs consider consequences](#)

Chicago Tribune: [\\$350M Illinois Capitol renovation nears completion following weather delays](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Cook County distributing \\$2.3 billion in property tax revenue amid long delay due to computer issues](#)

Daily Herald: [Tolls on cars haven’t been raised in years — is a hike coming in 2026?](#)

Crain’s Chicago Business: [Chicago Stars FC plans 10-acre training center, HQ in Bannockburn](#)

Daily Herald: [How a planned bike path will close a key gap in central Lake County](#)

Meetings and Events

NWMC Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the NWMC office and via videoconference.

NWMC Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Office or via videoconference.

NWMC Staff

Mark Fowler	Executive Director	mfowler@nwmc-cog.org
Larry Bury	Deputy Director	lbury@nwmc-cog.org
Eric Czarnota	Program Manager for Transportation	eczarnota@nwmc-cog.org
Ellen Dayan, CPPB	Purchasing Director	edayan@nwmc-cog.org
Marina Durso	Executive Assistant	mdurso@nwmc-cog.org
Brian Larson	Program Associate for Transportation	blarson@nwmc-cog.org
Chris Staron	Policy Director	cstaron@nwmc-cog.org

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