



# Memorandum

To: Mayor Biss and Members of the City Council  
From: Luke Stowe, City Manager  
Subject: Weekly City Manager's Update  
Date: January 16, 2026

## **STAFF REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT**

Weekly Report for January 12, 2025 – January 16, 2026

### **City Manager's Office**

No Known Federal Activity  
Weekly Bids Advertised

### **Community Development**

Weekly Zoning Report  
Weekly Field Inspection 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 19, 2026**

No Meetings

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

6:30 PM: [Housing & Community Development Committee](#)

6:30 PM: [Evanston Arts Council Meeting](#)

7:00 PM: [Preservation Commission](#)

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

8:30 AM: [Healthy Buildings Technical Committee](#)

6:00 PM: [MWDEBE Development Committee](#)

**Thursday, January 22, 2026**

6:30 PM: [Environment Board](#)

7:00 PM: [Special Social Services Committee Meeting](#)

**Friday, January 23, 2026**

No Meetings

**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 16, 2026

There were no federal immigration enforcement operations reported this week.



# Memorandum

To: Luke Stowe, City Manager

From: Hitesh Desai, CFO/ City Treasurer  
Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager

Subject: Bids/RFPs/RFQs Advertised during the Week of January 12, 2026

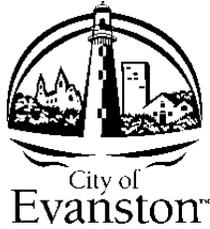
Date: January 16, 2026

The following is a list of advertised projects, and the anticipated date each will be presented to the Council or Library Board.

## Bids/RFPs/RFQs sent during the Week of January 12, 2026

| Bid/RFP/RFQ Name                                       | Requesting Dept. | Description of Project  | Budget Amount | Bid/RFP/RFQ Opening Date | Anticipated Council/ Library Board Date |
|--|------------------|---|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| National Bridge Inspection (NBIS) Engineering Services | PWA              | The City of Evanston's Capital Planning & Engineering/ Public Works Agency of the Evanston Department is seeking proposals from experienced firms for: a Cost proposal to conduct National Bridge Inspection (NBIS) for engineering services for the City-owned bridges. Also, the consulting firm selected will be the Structural Program Manager for the City, required by IDOT & FHWA. | \$100,000.00  | 2/25                     | 4/13                                    |
| Material Testing Services                              | PWA              | The City of Evanston's Bureau of Capital Planning and Engineering of the Public Works Agency is seeking proposals from experienced firms for professional services to include construction material testing, geotechnical services, and environmental engineering services for various City infrastructure improvement projects.  | \$400,000     | 2/17                     | 3/9                                     |

|  |            |   |                                     |             |             |
|--|------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <p>Construction Engineering, Design, Surveying Svcs, Various Municipal Civil Eng Svcs.</p> | <p>PWA</p> | <p>The City of Evanston's Bureau of Capital Planning &amp; Engineering of the Evanston Department is seeking proposals from experienced firms for: Various Design, Construction Engineering, and Land Survey Professional Services related to municipal infrastructure capital improvements. The purpose of this RFQ is to prequalify a group of highly proficient multifaceted civil engineering consulting firms. The successful firms will be prequalified to submit proposals requested by City staff for various professional services on an as-needed basis over a period of three (3) years, with the potential for a two (2) year additional extension.</p>   | <p>TBD</p>                          | <p>2/24</p> | <p>6/22</p> |
| <p>2026 Church Street Water Main Improvements</p>  | <p>PWA</p> | <p>The City of Evanston's Bureau of Public Works Agency Streets &amp; ROW is requesting bids for work on this project that includes the installation of ductile iron water main pipe ranging from 6-inch to 10-inch diameter in size, installation of combined and storm sewer pipe ranging from 8-inch to 24-inch diameter in size, public, full, and private lead water service pipe replacements, partial water service replacements (not lead) to accommodate work, related appurtenances, concrete curb and sidewalk repairs, pavement patching, parkway restoration, private side restoration (full &amp; private lead water service pipe replacements only), large diameter valve replacement, all materials, labor, equipt., and incidental work.</p> | <p>\$1,000,000/<br/>\$2,800,000</p> | <p>2/17</p> | <p>3/9</p>  |



## Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Liz Williams, Planning & Zoning Manager  
Subject: Weekly Zoning Report  
Date: 01/16/2026

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](mailto:lwilliams@cityofevanston.org) if you have any questions or need additional information.

**Cases Received and Pending, December 28, 2025 to January 14, 2025**

**Zoning Reviews (Larger Projects and Permits)**

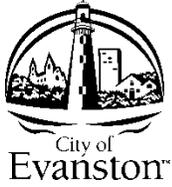
| Ward | Property Address         | Zoning   | Type            | Project Description  | Received | Status   |
|------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------|--|----------|--|
| 2    | 1578 Florence Avenue     | R3       | Building Permit | New 2-story single-family home   | 07/14/25 | pending additional information from the applicant                          |
| 2    | 2308 Main Street         | C1       | Zoning Analysis | Tenant Improvement of an existing 9,042 sf 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    | 827-831 Chicago Avenue   | C1a      | Zoning Analysis | Tenant improvement and conversion of an existing building at 831 Chicago Ave. to a child daycare facility with an outdoor playground in the rear of the property. The application also includes the building and parking lot at 827-829 Chicago Ave.   | 01/12/26 | 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    | 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 additional information from the applicant                          |
| 4    | 1423 Elmwood Avenue      | R5       | Building Permit | Garage Addition  | 01/12/26 | 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 approval of major variations                        |
| 6    | 2301 Ridgeway Avenue     | R1       | Zoning Analysis | New Garage and ADU   | 09/10/25 | pending additional information from the applicant                          |
| 6    | 2757 Central Park Avenue | R1       | Building Permit | 2nd Story Addition   | 12/15/25 | 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 | pending staff review   |
| 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         | Special Use for a Performance entertainment venue, a jazz club/lounge within an existing building | 12/16/25 | Land Use Commission hearing scheduled for 02/11/26                                  |
| 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 | Pending Future Planning & Development Committee and City Council Meeting. Date TBD. |

|   |                         |     |  |   |          |   |
|---|-------------------------|-----|--|---|----------|---|
| 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 | 1103 Emmerson 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                                   |
| 5 | 1006-1006 Garnett Place | R4a | Minor Variation                                    | Detached ADU with proposed floor area of 1363 sf where 1000 sf is the maximum permitted   | 01/08/26 | pending revised application and additional details                                  |
| 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 | Pending Future Planning & Development Committee and City Council Meeting. Date TBD. |
| 6 | 2500 Marcy Avenue       | R1  | Major Variations                                   | Major variations to allow an addition with proposed front yard setback of 39.9' where 41.4' is required and for a altering an existing driveway (street access) where driveway does not lead to a zoning compliant off-street parking space | 01/12/26 | pending staff review  |
| 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  |
| 7 | 1501 Central Street     | U2  | Unique Use   | A Unique Use application to allow the Chicago Stars to host up to 17 soccer matches per season/year starting in 2027 through 2031 at Ryan Field.  | 01/09/26 | pending staff review  |
| 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: Ciprian Radoescu, HVAC/Mechanical Inspector  
Subject: Weekly Field Inspection Report  
Date: January, 15 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 [cradoescu@cityofevanston.org](mailto:cradoescu@cityofevanston.org) if you have any questions or need additional information.

## Weekly Field Inspection Report

Friday, January 16, 2026

| Ward | Property Address  | Construction Type | Inspector Notes   | Received  |
|------|---|-------------------|---|-----------|
| 1    | 2169 Campus Drive<br>24BLDC-0005                        | New Construction  | MEP inspections have begun. Proper signage, construction fence and safety in place.   | 1/15/2026 |
| 4    | 1012 Church Street<br>Northlight Theater<br>24BLDC-0004 | Assembly          | No changes. MEP inspections continue. Temporary bike lane is in place. The alleyway has been closed with offsite parking provided for residents   | 1/15/2026 |
| 1    | 1631 Chicago Avenue<br>25DEMO-0063                      | Demolition        | Construction fence installed. Demolition permit pending.  | 1/15/2026 |
| *    | Truck Route   | *                 | No changes. Street sweeping continues. Truck route continues to monitored for speed and debris.   | 1/15/2026 |
| 7    | 1501 Central Street<br>24BLDC-0001                      | 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. | 1/15/2026 |
| 3    | 504 South Boulevard<br>23BLDC-0002                      | New Construction  | Continous footings and foundation walls have been poured along north side of project. South, East, West foundation walls formwork and rebars in progress. Vibration monitoring continues.   | 1/15/2026 |
| 2    | 1611 Church Street<br>24EXTR-0298                       | New Construction  | MEP inspections continue.   | 1/15/2026 |



# 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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                 |
| 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    |
| 2    | 2312 Main St.      | Amazon-ZCG7-Main St              | 1/13/26       | Pending Reviews, Inspections, FCO                |
| 2    | 2000 Dempster St.  | Saint Errant Brewing             | 1/15/26       | Pending Reviews, Inspections, FCO                |



## Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Brian George, Assistant City Attorney

Subject: Weekly Liquor License Application Report

Date: January 16, 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 16, 2026

| WARD | BUSINESS NAME        | BUSINESS ADDRESS                           | LIQUOR CLASS | CLASS DESCRIPTION            | PROCESSED HOURS for LIQUORSALES                                 | STATUS              |
|------|----------------------|--|--------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 5    | Northlight Theatre   | 1012 Church St.<br>Evanston,<br>IL 60201   | E-2          | Entertainment Venue (medium) | 4 p.m.—2 a.m.(MonThurs);<br>4 p.m.—3 a.m. (Fri-Sun)             | Application pending |
| 4    | Ti'an Bistro         | 810 Grove St.<br>Evanston,<br>IL 60201     | C            | Restaurant                   | 7 a.m. — 1 a.m.<br>(Mon-Wed);<br>7 a.m. — 2a.m.<br>(Thur-Sun)   | Application pending |
| 2    | Saint Errant Brewing | 2000 Dempster St.<br>Evanston,<br>IL 60202 | I            | Brewery                      | 10 a.m. — 1 a.m.<br>(Sun-Thu);<br>10 a.m. — 2 a.m.<br>(Fri-Sat) | Application pending |
| 4    | Gigio's Pizza        | 1001 Davis St.<br>Evanston, IL<br>60201    | C            | Restaurant                   | 7 a.m. — 1 a.m.<br>(Mon-Wed);<br>7 a.m. — 2a.m. (Thur-Sun)      | Application pending |



# DIRECTOR'S WEEKLY BRIEFING

By NWMC Executive Director Mark L. Fowler



**WEEK ENDING JANUARY 16, 2026**

## ***Editor's Note:***

The NWMC office will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## ***NWMC Board Approves 2026 Legislative Program, Financial Policies***

Thank you to the twenty-six NWMC members represented at Wednesday's Board meeting. The membership unanimously approved the 2026 Legislative Program and Action Plan, which focuses on three primary areas: preserving municipal pensions; securing local government services; and, defending housing controls and tenant protection. The program will be presented to NWMC area legislators at the January 28 joint legislative dinner with the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and during the annual NWMC Legislative Days in Springfield, scheduled for February 17-19 (see articles below).

Board members also received updates on development of the Strategic Plan, NWMC e-Mobility Working Group and FY2025-2026 NWMC Work Plan, highlighting accomplishments from the second quarter. The Board unanimously approved an update to the NWMC website and the 2026 legislative priorities of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Finally, the Board unanimously approved the NWMC Financial and Investment policies as well as amendments to the Financial Procedures and Controls document. These documents will help guide development of the FY2026-2027 NWMC Budget. *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 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 2026 Ford Expedition Factory Order Cut-Off Date is Today!***

The Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) has been notified, without advance notice, that Ford's factory order cut-off date for the 2026 Ford Expedition (Contract #233) is today, and they will not accept new orders until the 2027 models are available. To order or for additional information, please contact Currie Motors Commercial Accounts Sales Manager Nic Cortellini, [ncortellini@curriemotors.com](mailto:ncortellini@curriemotors.com), 815-464-9200 (direct) or 224-388-0824 (mobile). *Staff contact: Ellen Dayan*

### ***Granite Debuts Multi-Carrier SIM for Seamless Cell Phone Connectivity***

Granite Government Solutions, the SPC's Telecommunications vendor (Contract #205), has announced the debut of Multi-Carrier SIM card technology that ensures access to the strongest signal and guaranteed, always-on connectivity worldwide, regardless of carrier. Available as both a physical and embedded SIM, backed by Granite's intuitive web-based portal, customers can remotely monitor and manage all mobile services through a single pane of glass, streamlining operations and enhancing overall performance.

A Multi-Carrier SIM is a mobile phone SIM card that can use AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon services, all on the same device. Today, customers with a mobile phone from a certain carrier can only use that wireless service. If that area has poor service, the mobile phone cannot be used. With Granite, the mobile phone will automatically search for the strongest signal available in that area for seamless service. This is a unique feature to Granite.

Granite's Senior Regional Account Manager Frank Ventrella will host a session on Multi-Carrier SIM service in February, and staff will provide that information as soon as it becomes available. The service will be billed per line as a monthly recurring charge that includes unlimited talk, text and data. In the meantime, for questions or additional information, please contact staff or Frank Ventrella, 630-874-0660 (office), 630-649-0823 (mobile) or [fventrella@granitenet.com](mailto:fventrella@granitenet.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](mailto:fventrella@granitenet.com). *Staff contact: Ellen Dayan*

### ***Invest in Cook Now Accepting Applications, Hosting Virtual Workshop Soon***

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOH) is now accepting applications for the tenth round of [Invest in Cook](#). Over \$8.5 million is available to cover planning studies, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction for transportation projects. Prioritized projects are those which "support transit and other transportation alternatives, support the region's role as North America's freight capital, promote equal access to opportunities, maintain and modernize what already exists and increase investments in transportation." Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20.

CCDOH will host a joint virtual workshop with the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development on Wednesday, February 4 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist communities with their applications for Invest in Cook (12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.) and Community Development Block Grants (1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.). [RSVP online](#) for the workshop. Please visit the [Invest in Cook website](#) for more information and how to apply. To see current and past Invest in Cook recipients, please visit the [CMAP eTIP portal](#). *Staff contacts: Eric Czarnota, Brian Larson*

### ***IDOT Announces Two Rail-Highway Safety Funding Opportunities***

As previously reported, 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](mailto: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!***

As previously reported, 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***

As previously reported, 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 [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*

### ***Newsy Items of the Week***

*Daily Herald:* [Transforming Touhy: Gridlocked and hazardous, major suburban thoroughfare is getting a redo](#)

*Chicago Tribune:* [Illinois lawmakers return to Capitol facing \\$2.2B budget gap while pushing election-year affordability message](#)

*Chicago Tribune:* [New Morton Grove Metra station opens but more work on the \\$4M project still to be done: 'It](#)

[was a big deal for us'](#)

*Crain's Chicago Business*: [Northern Illinois just a few years away from electricity shortage, report warns](#)

### ***Meetings and Events***

*NWMC Legislative Committee* will meet on Wednesday, January 21 at 8:30 a.m. via videoconference.

*NWMC Finance Committee* will meet on Wednesday, January 21 at noon via videoconference.

*NWMC Transportation Committee* will meet on Thursday, January 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the NWMC office and via videoconference.

*NWMC/DMMC Legislative Dinner* will be held on Wednesday, January 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Chicago Marriott Schaumburg, 50 N. Martingale Road (see article on p. 1).

*Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee* will meet on Friday, January 30 at 8:30 a.m. at the *Palatine Village Hall*.

### ***NWMC Staff***

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