

Environment and Energy Committee Meeting Invitation
E-Mobility: Opportunities and Challenges
Jan. 20, 2026, 9:30-11 a.m., virtual

Using e-mobility devices instead of driving a gas-powered vehicle can significantly reduce emissions and promote transportation equity. The devices cost much less than owning a vehicle and give residents an affordable option for getting to work or bridging the last-mile gap to public transit. Our [Priority Climate Action Plan \(PCAP\) for the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area \(MSA\)](#) noted that 0.22 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent could be reduced annually if 35% of low-mileage single-occupancy vehicle trips in our region were replaced with either a micromobility device or an electric vehicle.

However, the recent increased popularity of e-mobility devices, especially among youth, has created safety and liability challenges for local governments. Communities must quickly get up to speed on the differences in these devices ([e-scooters](#) and [e-bikes](#)) and how they may be regulated, according to the Illinois Vehicle Code. Local governments must decide whether to enact regulations and how to address the variety of issues that have arisen, such as enforcement and signage. Some have begun to regulate e-mobility devices, while others are waiting to see what the Illinois General Assembly or neighboring communities will do. The Northwest Municipal Conference recently held a [summit on the issue](#), has been tracking local regulations, and created a legislative task force on e-mobility.

At this meeting, [Ride Illinois](#) Executive Director Dave Simmons will discuss the positive aspects of e-mobility devices and what regulations can improve safety, while still allowing residents access to the devices. The Environment Committee members will also learn about the legal and regulatory framework for e-bikes and e-scooters from attorneys at [Ancel Glink law firm](#), Eugene Bolotnikov and Tyler Smith. In addition, Northwest Municipal Conference Program Manager for Transportation Eric Czarnota will go over how municipalities have collaborated to address this issue and what is on the horizon in Springfield.

Related [GRC](#) goals: Support safe and effective active transportation. Maintain a diverse, safe and efficient transportation network. Promote sustainable transportation choices.

[Climate Action Plan](#) objectives: Reduce vehicle miles traveled. Decarbonize transportation.