



Community Planning Program



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Local Technical Assistance Program

Application form: Community Planning program and Local Technical Assistance program

DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesday, June 26, 2013

This application form is online at www.rtachicago.com/applications. You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.com.

Upon receipt of application, you will receive an e-mail verifying that your application has been received.

1. Name of Applicant:

The City of Crystal Lake

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email):

Elizabeth Maxwell, Planner

Ph: 815-356-3738

Email: emaxwell@crystallake.org

3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply):

Local government

Multijurisdictional group* →

Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

Nongovernmental organization* →

Name of local government partner(s):

*Applications submitted by multijurisdictional groups and nongovernmental organizations must include a letter indicating support from each relevant local government. See the FAQs for more information. Nongovernmental applicants are strongly encouraged to contact CMAP or the RTA prior to submitting their application to discuss their project and the demonstration of local support.

4. Project Type (please check any that apply):

Please check all statements below that describe characteristics of your project. (This will help us determine whether your project is best handled by CMAP or RTA.)

- My project involves preparation of a plan.
- My project helps to implement a past plan.
- My project links land use, transportation, and housing.
- My project has direct relevance to public transit and supports the use of the existing transit system.
- My project is not directly related to transportation or land use, but implements GO TO 2040 in other ways.

5. Project Location:

Please provide a brief description of the location of your project. You may include a map if that helps to describe location, but this is not required. If your project helps to implement a past plan, please include a link to that plan.

The project would be for the City of Crystal Lake. Crystal Lake is approximately 19 square miles located 45 miles northwest from the heart of Chicago, in McHenry County. The requested assistance would be to create a master transportation plan that prioritizes facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists and relates to the adjacent land use.

6. Project Description:

Please tell us what you would like to do in your community, and what assistance is needed. If you have more than one idea, please submit a separate application for each project. Please be specific, but also brief (less than two pages per project idea)—we simply want to have a basic understanding of what you want to do. CMAP and RTA staff will follow-up with you if we need any additional information to fully understand your proposed project.

(Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)

Crystal Lake has a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, roadway standards and the start of a bicycle and pedestrian facility master plan, but these plans and standards are not coordinated and even written by different departments. Staff would like assistance in creating a plan that uses the Land Use as the guiding template for the area's transportation needs.

Being located in McHenry County means a great deal of people need to rely on their cars to get around. We understand that roadways are an important aspect to suburban living, but there is also a need to have safe and adequate sidewalks and bike paths in neighborhoods, links to service and recreation areas and alternatives to access the two Metra Rail stations.

In order to plan for continued liveability of the area, we need to look at residents from all ends of the spectrum from youngsters to older residents that do not have the ability to utilize a car to get around. Sidewalks, multi-use paths, bike routes and transit are their only options. Crystal Lake has embraced the Safe Routes to School program. In 2011, the City was awarded \$250,000 to install off-street multi-use paths in partnership with South Elementary School as part of the Safe Routes to School program. We need to expand this vision to provide additional safe routes to schools and other activities.

We are looking for assistance to:

- Evaluate our land use map and transportation standards to ensure appropriate roadway cross-sections are planned. Road diets, conservation design cross-sections, sharrows or other alternatives to the standard cross-sections should be evaluated.
- Conduct community outreach. We want to set up 1-2 public meetings where we can get feedback from the residents. Also we will be placing information and a possible survey on our website to get additional feedback. The plan should reflect the community's needs for each area.
- Draft a plan that evaluates areas (neighborhoods, subdivision clusters, commercial corridors, manufacturing or business parks) and assigns appropriate transportation options and roadway cross-sections. Look for locations where land uses may need to be amended, such as adding a commercial corner near residences so useful services can be provided within walking or biking distances.
- Have goals and objectives in the plan which provides the framework for the City's vision.

Having a master plan of this nature will allow us to better assess our land use and transportation needs. As we make amendments to our Comprehensive Land Use Plan we can incorporate these goals and objectives. In the short term, this plan will be used to coordinate improvements during the City's road construction projects and as a part of new development. Staff will also be able to add larger projects into our 5-year CIP plan.

June 20, 2013

Ms. Erin Aleman
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Principal Outreach Planner

Reference: 2014 Local Technical Assistance Program, City of Crystal Lake

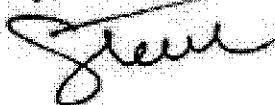
Dear Ms. Aleman:

On behalf of the Crystal Lake Clean Air Counts Committee, I would like to offer our support of City's application to the 2014 Local Technical Assistance Program by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

The primary goals of our organization are to increase awareness of and participation in the regional biking infrastructure, to help with its expansion and development, and to improve the overall environmental health of our community. The creation of a bicycle and pedestrian facility master plan is an important step towards reaching these goals. The master plan would not only provide a tool to implement a well-planned network of connections between this area's diverse recreational, commercial, and educational destinations, but also aid in the design of new development consistent with the long range planning goals of the City and the region.

The Clean Air Counts Committee looks forward to future bicycle-friendly initiatives from the City of Crystal Lake and hopes that their request for technical assistance in your 2014 program is strongly considered. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Fuller
Chairman
Clean Air Counts Committee

cc: Erik Morimoto, Director of Engineering & Building – City of Crystal Lake
Elizabeth Maxwell, Planner – City of Crystal Lake