



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:

Village of Glen Ellyn

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

Bob Minix, Professional Engineer

Phone No. 630-547-5514

Email: bobm@glenellyn.org

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

Local government

Multijurisdictional group* \longrightarrow Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

(Potential Partners include the Glen Ellyn Park District and Elementary School Districts 41 and 89)

Nongovernmental organization* \longrightarrow 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.

Village of Glen Ellyn

See below for links to Village Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Strategic Plan

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.)

Village of Glen Ellyn Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan

The Village of Glen Ellyn requests assistance with the development of a Village-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan, with such a plan acting as a springboard for not only implementation of projects but also as an established and approved foundation for funding applications. We have taken a few initial steps toward plan development in the past four years, but the effort lacks traction and firm direction toward achieving the desired plan due primarily to staff limitations. There is general community interest for a formalized plan but this support must be consolidated and focused and we seek a facilitator to achieve a viable collaboration between Village government, Park District, School Districts, special interest groups and the general populace.

Both the Village Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Strategic Plan endorse improvements and express support for pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Links to these plans are shown below. In the Comprehensive Plan, Page 9 deals with Transportation Goals and Page 33 with Transportation Policies. In the Downtown Strategic Plan, Page 7.7 of 12 in the Findings and Analysis Chapter (Chapter 7) covers Multimodal Transportation Analysis and Page 8.7 of 8 in the Recommendations Chapter (Chapter 8) contains recommendations to Accommodate Different Modes of Transportation.

Link to Comprehensive Plan http://www.glenellyn.org/Planning/Comprehensive_Plan.html

Link to Downtown Plan <http://www.glenellyn.org/Planning/Downtown%20Strategic%20Plan.html>

The plan development steps taken to date have included presentations from DuPage County and Active Transportation Alliance; discussions with the Village Capital Improvements Commission on plan development steps and review of other community bicycle plans, including the recently developed City of Wheaton plan; and review of the work product of a student project done in May 2011 by UIC students enrolled in an Introduction to Bicycle Planning course (“2016 Glen Ellyn Bike Plan”). All these items have been helpful in understanding many of the possible elements and scope of a bicycle facilities plan. The next step requires assistance and guidance to make Glen Ellyn-specific decisions on what the plan elements should be, team makeup, public involvement, developing the actual plan and finally implementing it.

Within the Glen Ellyn area, major trails such as the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail are already present. Many desirable destinations exist in the Village, a large number related to parks and various recreational facilities. Adjacent communities such as Wheaton and local agencies such as DuPage County and DuPage County Forest Preserve District have new or updated bike facility plans and improvements that could be conveniently accessed by Glen Ellyn residents, and these agencies should be consulted with and involved in the development of a Glen Ellyn - specific bicycle facility plan to insure that residents have safe and logical connectivity to both present and future trails in the Glen Ellyn area.

Also, an ongoing initiative in the Village is to improve pedestrian accommodation throughout the community, with elementary schools an obvious focal point. It is envisioned that the proposed Glen Ellyn plan should include pedestrian specific components as well as focus on access to schools. The “Safe Routes to School” initiatives are laudable, but require inter-agency cooperation with formal coordination to implement, something that has not yet been accomplished. In addition, the “Complete Streets” concept should be explored as thoroughly as possible as a guide to future roadway improvements and the process to arrive at full consensus as to appropriate street designs.

Village staff and team members from the Glen Ellyn Park District and Glen Ellyn elementary school districts Nos. 41 and 89 are currently taxed with a work load that is not conducive to leading a major planning effort. Speaking on behalf of the Village of Glen Ellyn in particular, we do not have sufficient quality time to efficiently develop a bicycle and pedestrian facility plan, and lack specific facility planning experience in those areas. To vitalize school district related improvements would require experience in the Safe Route to Schools process as well. Consultant help would be an appropriate alternative (such as is available through ATA), but Village funds for such assistance (estimated to be in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 range) are very limited at this time.

CMAAP assistance in the form of bicycle plan- and Safe Routes to School-savvy staff help would be most appreciated and would jump-start the effort, provide effective leadership and coordination, and promote steady progress toward plan development.

Thank you for offering the Local Technical Assistance Program and your consideration of this request for planning help. I look forward to further discussing CMAAP’s possible assistance in the development of the Glen Ellyn Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan.

Bob Minix, Professional Engineer
Glen Ellyn Public Works Department