



**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 Oak Park, IL

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

Craig Failor, Village Planner
708/358-5418
Failor@oak-park.us

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):

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:

This project will implement our comprehensive plan, once adopted, and will encompass the entire community. Currently the Village of Oak Park is in the process of rewriting our 1990 Comprehensive Plan which we anticipate will be adopted in late 2013 or very early 2014. You can find the process thus far at www.envisionoakpark.com.

6. Project Description:

The current Zoning Ordinance was last comprehensively updated in February 2002. One of our goals for updating the current Zoning Ordinance is to ensure it is aligned with the newly adopted comprehensive plan. In doing this it is also important to ensure that the Zoning Ordinance is user friendly and incorporates best practices including sustainable development practices and smart growth principles. The current Zoning Ordinance contains one overlay district that integrates form-based code principles. This would be an opportunity to determine if more areas in the community could benefit from these widely used values. The Go To 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan encourages communities to improve livability in areas such as transit, walking, bicycling, housing, environmental, green spaces, design and historic character. Our community has been proactive in integrating these and other concepts into the Comprehensive Plan currently being developed which we expect will be carried forward to our renewed zoning ordinance.

The current Zoning Ordinance is inefficient due to being amended numerous times resulting in inconsistencies that often make it difficult to interpret for residents, business owners, developers and staff. The Zoning Ordinance needs to be user friendly with clear and concise language that affords its reader clear expectations with regard to any type of local development or planning activity. The end result should provide for a more streamlined and improved document where unnecessary and contradictory standards have been removed and more opportunities for creative development consistent with Regional Plan goals and policies will be facilitated.

Other goals for the Zoning Ordinance are to make sure proper zoning districts are in place or created to ensure development is appropriate in context to the district and surrounding districts. It is important to incorporate sustainability concepts/regulations throughout the code for rain gardens, solar panels, green roofs, bicycle parking, urban agriculture, etc. Whether mandatory or optional these and other innovative solutions should be assimilated into the text of the Zoning Ordinance in a holistic and thoughtful manner.