

**Application form:**

**Community Planning Program and**

**Local Technical Assistance Program**

**DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 26, 2014**

This application form is online at [www.rtachicago.com/applications](http://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:**

**North River Commission; 3403 W. Lawrence Ave, Suite 201; Chicago IL 60625**

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

**John Friedmann,**

**Interim Executive Director**

**312-719-1960 (direct)**

**jf33@johnfriedmann.com**

**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):

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\_\_X\_\_ Nongovernmental organization\* Name of local government partner(s):

\_\_City of Chicago – 33rd Ward, Deborah Mell, Alderman

\_\_City of Chicago – 39th Ward, Marge Laurino, Alderman \_\_City of Chicago – 35th Ward, Ray Colon, Alderman

\*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.)

\_\_X\_ My project involves preparation of a plan.

\_\_\_\_ My project helps to implement a past plan.

\_\_X\_ My project links land use, transportation, and housing.

\_\_X\_ 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:**

The project is located in the North River Commission (NRC) service area on the northwest side of Chicago and stretches from Addison Street on the south, Devon Avenue on the north, the Chicago River on the east and Cicero Avenue on the west. This area includes the neighborhoods of Albany Park, Irving Park, Old Irving Park, Mayfair, North Mayfair, Hollywood Park, North Park, Peterson Park and Ravenswood Manor and is home to approximately 200,000 city residents.

**6. Project Description:**

Integrated Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Chicago's North River Community.

We seek assistance to develop a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan for the nine communities on the northwest side of Chicago that comprise the North River Commission (NRC) service area. This area is served by multiple Metra lines, several CTA rapid transit routes and numerous bus lines.

The proposed plan would integrate existing bicycle routes, public transportation (bus routes, L stations and local Metra lines), pedestrian paths, area amenities, cultural highlights, local businesses and shopping districts, and explore new opportunities for improving the integration of various transportation options. The plan would be used to develop the technical components of the deliverables outlined below.

The overall goal is to draw more people to the North River area and give them a reason to stay and revisit. Local businesses and neighborhood shopping districts would be promoted and self-guided tours would be developed for both cyclists and pedestrians to explore the community and experience its unique multicultural heritage. The existing RTA transportation network would provide the primary entrance and exit points.

The Albany park community at the center of the NRC service area is a mini United Nations with over 40 languages spoken and over 125 nationalities represented. Its 60625 zip code is ranked the second-most culturally diverse in the nation. Albany Park and the surrounding communities are the entry point for many new immigrants and a favorite destination of many international travelers because of its offering of multicultural cuisine and cultural institutions. These visitors rely heavily on public transportation as few have the ability to drive. Language differences create additional challenges.

Area residents would also reap the benefits of a comprehensive plan to assist them in moving around the community and exploring area amenities. The improved dissemination of information from this plan would also help them in their commutes to and from work and in accessing local supportive resources.

The lead partner is the North River Commission. Supporting partners include Chicago's 33rd Ward Transportation Committee, the 39th Ward, the 35th Ward, the Albany Park and other Chambers of Commerce, The Lawrence Avenue Development Corporation, Special Service Area #60, North Park University and Northeastern University.

Project deliverables include new bicycle route and pedestrian signage, a collateral piece, dedicated web site, integrated smart phone apps, and interactive informational kiosks at the Kimball Ave. Brown Line terminal and select other transportation portals.

The collateral piece is a pocket-size fold out map of the community detailing formal bike routes; suggested neighborhood bike and walking tour routes (architectural, historical, gardens, etc); existing RTA transportation links, area parks; cultural institutions; Divvy stations; bicycle racks; and cyclist specific amenities such as bathrooms, water bottle filling stations, cycle repair shops, etc.

The back of the map will include a condensed version of the greater Chicago bike map; bicycle rules of the road and emergency information; advertising from supporting local businesses, and contact information for the various RTA transportation resources. The map is to be updated and re-printed each spring for free distribution at all transportation hubs.

The web site, kiosk and smart phone apps are to be updated weekly. They will provide the same content as the collateral piece and much more. The apps will be integrated with existing apps and customized with a much greater focus on the local NRC communities. Additional local content will include RTA schedules, weather conditions, construction alerts, street closures, festivals, and an interactive directory of parks, area amenities, schools, cultural institutions, restaurants and other local businesses.

An extensive series of self-guided graphic and/or audio tours will be developed for both cyclists and walkers. Safety concerns for cyclists and their use will be addressed.

NRC will tap its network of local multicultural institutions to assist in developing multiple-language versions of all digital content.

The North River Commission is a community‐based organization founded in 1962 by concerned

residents and neighborhood institutions. NRC unites over 100 civic associations, businesses, schools,

institutions and places of worship on the northwest side of Chicago to improve the quality of life for

all constituents in our community by creating affordable housing, quality education, arts & cultural

endeavors, open spaces, and stable neighborhood businesses