



**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. 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:

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association

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

Thomas Vander Woude

708-922-4677

Thomas.vanderwoude@ssmma.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):
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
City of Chicago Heights
Village of South Chicago Heights
Village of Steger

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.

The Chicago Road Corridor Plan will examine the Chicago Road corridor in the City of Chicago Heights, the Village of South Chicago Heights and the Village of Steger. This corridor follows Chicago Road for approximately 3.15 miles, from US 30 (Lincoln Highway) in Chicago Heights on the north through South Chicago Heights to its southern terminus south of Richton Road in Steger. Between US 30 and 34th St./Steger Rd. this highway is designated IL Route 1.

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.)

Title: Chicago Road Corridor Plan

Background

The Chicago Road Corridor is the physical and symbolic center of Chicago Heights, South Chicago Heights and Steger. Once a traditional main street, Chicago Road hosts municipal buildings, post offices, churches and schools. Because this corridor was developed early in the communities' history, along with civic uses, it contains a mixture of other land uses including single- and multi-family residential dwelling units, small and large scale commercial buildings, cemeteries and industrial uses. The St. James Hospital occupies the southeast corner of US 30 and Chicago Road and anchors the north end of the corridor.

A UP/CSX rail line parallels Chicago Road less than a quarter mile to the east. This heavily trafficked freight line has been identified as the location of the proposed Southeast Service commuter line. In expectation of passenger rail, transit-oriented development plans have been adopted in Chicago Heights and South Chicago Heights.

In addition to serving these three communities, Chicago Road is the main thoroughfare linking South Cook County communities to the north and Will County communities to the South and is used extensively for North-South regional travel. According to IDOT, AADT for Chicago Road is between 16,000 and 20,000 vehicles per day. The CN-owned EJ&E rail line bisects the corridor between 21st and 23rd streets and directly to the east is a fairly large rail-served, heavy industrial corridor, which runs almost the entire length of the corridor and employs workers from throughout the surrounding area. Truck traffic volumes reach as high as 1,325 trucks per day.

Although the road is primarily auto-oriented, observed pedestrian traffic is high. Marked and signalized pedestrian crossings are few and insufficient for safe crossing. The lack of crossings and other pedestrian infrastructure has become a problem especially during rush hour when children mix with high-speed vehicular traffic as they attempt to cross Chicago Road to school. Anecdotal evidence suggests that vehicles regularly exceed the posted speed limit on Chicago Road. While there is a Pace Terminal near St. James Hospital, the corridor is not served by a Pace route. The Old Plank Road Trail is planned to cross this corridor at US 30.

Concept

The goal of the Chicago Road Corridor Plan is to improve the safety, attractiveness and economic potential of the Chicago Road Corridor in a coordinated manner across Chicago Height, South Chicago Heights and Steger. Existing and projected traffic mix, patterns and volumes, existing and planned land use patterns, vehicular crash data and overall corridor character will be analyzed to identify strengths, deficiencies and opportunities. It is hoped that the plan will include recommendations to balance pedestrian and vehicular travel, improve pedestrian comfort and safety, expand public transit, coordinate land uses, to implement “complete streets” and to develop attractive aesthetic features, such as gateway treatments. In particular, it is hoped that the plan will identify strategies to slow traffic and allow safe passage along and across Chicago Road. This plan would provide an excellent opportunity to reach out to young people and transit-dependent populations.

Previous Plans

South Chicago Heights Station Area Plan

<http://www.rtams.org/reportLibrary/857.pdf>

Chicago Heights Downtown Transit-Oriented Development Study

<http://www.rtams.org/reportLibrary/938.pdf>

Chicago Heights Comprehensive Plan (in progress)

<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs-and-resources/ita/chicago-heights>