



**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:
City of Woodstock

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email):
Terry Willcockson, Grant Writer
815/338-4300
twillcockson@woodstockil.gov

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:

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 City of Woodstock requests funding assistance for an Economic Impact Study that would study all aspects of IL Route 47 as the main north-south arterial highway through McHenry County, and through Woodstock's commercial and industrial corridor, from Cobblestone Way on the south side to Ware Road and the McHenry County Government Center on the north side, per the map view included.

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.)

The City of Woodstock is very grateful for the opportunity to propose the **IL Route 47 Economic Impact Study** project outlined below for consideration of 2015 LTA funding support. This proposal is being submitted at the encouragement of CMAP, following inquiries to your office requesting an economic impact model or best practices study that could aid Woodstock's strategic efforts to fundamentally impact the entire region's mobility through planned improvements to IL Route 47. As no such model currently exists, this study could serve CMAP, and other communities' needs, as a template useful for future transportation planning.

Woodstock is the thriving county seat of McHenry County and has historically served as the focal point for residents from throughout the county. The community's Metra & Union Pacific rail access serves increasing numbers of both passengers and freight customers, while our numerous county, state and federal offices draw throngs of visitors daily. In addition, our solid commercial/manufacturing base offers employment for countless individuals commuting to Woodstock from surrounding communities. The renowned Woodstock Opera House, and our beautiful Woodstock Square, attract an increasing number of tourists as well. Woodstock residents fight a steady stream of summertime traffic, coming from Chicago and suburbs and heading to the neighboring Lake Geneva WI resort area. The new IL Route 47 full east/west interchange, at I-90's Huntley exit just south of Woodstock, will only continue to facilitate more business and recreational traffic, needing to use our sole north/south arterial route.

It is common knowledge that IL Route 47 through Woodstock is in dire need of major physical improvements. This aging thoroughfare is primarily a 3-lane cross-section that often exceeds 20,000 vehicles per day at many intersections. The abysmal drive-time through the east side of Woodstock—including access to McHenry County Government Center for both employees and those seeking services—deters many individuals from making unessential trips to a part of town that also includes the bulk of our retail shopping (and resulting sales tax) opportunities. Planned improvements will include pedestrian and bicycle lanes, to decrease auto dependency somewhat. But certainly our residents' health and safety is put at increasing risk, due to continually higher auto emissions, and compromised access to hospital services at Memorial Medical Center, also located on the east side of town. **Aside from limited resources in our historic downtown area, and the quaint shops found there, the ability to meet every person's essential needs in Woodstock is predicated on traversing IL Route 47, often not once, but several times per day.**

FHWA and IDOT have been identifying and planning for much-needed improvements for the past several years, as can be seen from the project website: www.IL47woodstockstudy.com (CMAP's Don Kopec is listed as one of the pending names on this project's Citizen Advisory Group.) However, such pivotal changes, desperately needed today, are still years away from becoming reality. The City of Woodstock therefore wishes to prepare for these eventual dramatic changes by obtaining as much supporting data about this critical part of our community as possible.

Such a study would provide insights into current limitations, and potential opportunities, that impact Woodstock's retail sales, industrial/manufacturing productivity, tourism attraction, business retention/expansion and property redevelopment efforts, income and sales tax revenues, and resulting employment factors. This information is vital to our ability to advocate successfully for IL Route 47 improvements to attain priority status in the echelon of IDOT projects. Such data is further critically needed to demonstrate to affected residents, businesses and employers how the changes ultimately anticipated will benefit them, regardless of the resulting frustration and inconvenience factors that are sure to accompany such a lengthy and multi-phased road improvement project.

CMAP's GOTO2040 plan highlights Regional Mobility as a key target for communities' planning efforts and financial investments:

A modern transportation system is indispensable for our region's future prosperity. Residents must be able to travel quickly and easily around our region to sustain our economy and quality of life. Businesses must be able to count on the timely delivery of their goods.

Historically, our region's transportation system has been a foundation of our success. But the system's infrastructure was built decades ago, with inadequate ongoing investment to keep it up to date. At the same time, congestion is increasing along with growth in population and jobs.

Woodstock's project reflects the above criteria, and addresses CMAP's specified outcomes, such as:

- *Invest Strategically in Transportation*—our project can become a model that can assist other communities/agencies when they are prioritizing decisions relating to future mobility needs.
- *Transportation projects, especially expansions, must be judged against their long-term economic impacts*— our project will help Woodstock determine what the long-term economic impacts of Route 47 road expansion will be, and again, the methodology used in our study can hopefully be transferrable to other communities' road expansion projects.
- *The Plan recognizes that reducing congestion (costs estimated at \$7.3 billion annually) can have positive impacts on economic development, including:*

- 1) *Improved attraction and retention of businesses and skilled, innovative workers, who value a well-functioning transportation system.*
- 2) *Greater efficiency of freight movement which can enhance just-in-time inventory management.*
- 3) *Increased worker productivity due to fewer hours spent stuck in congestion.*
- 4) *Other positive effects on quality of life such as environmental benefits and enhanced access to jobs, education and medical care, and cultural and social interactions.*

Woodstock's proposed IL Route 47 study will attempt to quantify these positive impacts.

- *The Plan acknowledges that evaluation criteria and quantitative models for predicting the impact of varying investment scenarios currently exist, but indicates that these decision-making tools should be improved—completing Woodstock's project is a way to accomplish that goal.*

In the spirit of intergovernmental and stakeholder partnership, we offer the enclosed letters of support for this project from entities whose daily lives are impacted by the current "albatross around our neck" that is experienced driving IL Route 47 through Woodstock. This includes the McHenry County Board, McHenry County Council of Governments, McHenry County EDC, and the City's Transportation Commission. We look forward to working with CMAP to innovatively and successfully tackle this transportation planning challenge.



McHENRY COUNTY BOARD

TINA R. HILL, CHAIRWOMAN

McHENRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
2200 N. SEMINARY AVENUE
WOODSTOCK, IL 60098
815/334-4221
Fax 815/338-3991
Email: TRHill@co.mchenry.il.us

June 20, 2014

Randy Blankenhorn
CMAP
233 S Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Support for the Technical Assistance Request from the City of Woodstock

Mr. Blankenhorn:

City of Woodstock is applying for a CMAP-Local Technical Assistance Grant to conduct an IL Rt. 47 Improvement Economic Impact Study. The City would like to demonstrate the economic benefits to an improved Rt. 47. Ideally, the model in this study could become a regional model and be applied to other urban road improvement projects. Please accept this letter as an enthusiastic endorsement of the City's application.

Ironically, the application for this CMAP-LTA grant comes after the City of Woodstock inquired with CMAP as to whether or not such a study existed. CMAP did not have such report, but clearly there is a need. Rt. 47 has been, and will continue to be, the economic spine of central McHenry County.

CMAP's planning and technical expertise will help ensure the City of Woodstock's completion of this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina R. Hill".

Tina R. Hill, Chairwoman
McHenry County Board

C: Roscoe Stelford, City Manager, City of Woodstock
Cort Carlson, Director of Community and Economic Development,
City of Woodstock



McHenry County Council of Governments

Executive Committee

President Rick Mack
Village of Ringwood
MCCG President

Mayor Susan Low
City of McHenry
MCCG Vice-President

Mayor Charles Sass
Village of Huntley
MCCG Treasurer

Mayor Jay Nolan
City of Harvard
MCCG Secretary

Supervisor Donna Schaefer
McHenry Township
Chairwoman of the Finance
and Management Committee

President Erin Smith
Village of Lakewood
Chairwoman of the
Legislative Committee

President John Schmitt
Village of Algonquin
Chairman of the
Transportation Committee

President Terry Counley
Village of McCullom Lake
Chairman of the Water Policy
Task Force

Mayor Brian Sager
City of Woodstock
Chairman of the
Mayors Caucus

Chairwoman Tina Hill
McHenry County Board

Ex-Officio Member

Chalen Daigle
Executive Director
44 N. Virginia
Suite 2-A
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-477-2090 (p)
815-459-9057 (f)
cdaigle@mchenrycountycog.org
www.mchenrycountycog.org

June 25, 2014

Randy Blankenhorn
CMAP
233 S Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

The McHenry County Council of Governments fully supports the City of Woodstock's CMAP-LTA grant for the **IL Route 47 Economic Impact Study**.

Traffic congestion is an ongoing issue for the Route 47 corridor, particularly from Route 14 to Charles Road, north of the City. This corridor is the primary commercial/business district through Woodstock as well as a major North/South artery through McHenry County. Ongoing residential development on the North side of town and the McHenry County Government Center generates enormous amounts of traffic. While improvements to Route 47 are greatly needed and favorably anticipated, the economic impact of the improvement project is unknown. Having a long range understanding of the economic benefits of the road enhancements will allow the City, McHenry County and its advocates to better utilize the impact study for economic forecasting and a marketing tool to insure the project is funded and moves up the project priority list.

We understand there are many worthwhile grant applications, however, this one in particular, can produce long-lasting data trends and benefits beyond City or County borders.

Sincerely,

Rick Mack
President, McHenry County Council of Governments

June 23, 2014

Randy Blankenhorn
CMAP
233 S Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: Support for City of Woodstock's CMAP-LTA grant for the IL Route 47 Economic Impact Study.

As the regional economic development entity, we understand the value and impact of transportation and infrastructure improvements on our economy. A solid, functional transportation system is critical to our continued strength and to the growth of our industry sectors. As a county with limited north /south access, we strongly support improvements to the Rte. 47 corridor in Woodstock, IL since it is a vital transportation corridor affecting all aspects of economic development.

Specifically, this corridor is the primary commercial/business district through the City of Woodstock. Additionally, ongoing residential development on the North side of town and the McHenry County Government Center has generated significant amounts of traffic and increased congestion. While improvements to Rte. 47 are greatly needed and favorably anticipated, the economic impact of the improvement project is unknown.

Therefore, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation strongly supports the City of Woodstock CMAP-LTA grant application for the Economic Impact Study and urges your consideration. Having a long range understanding of the economic benefits of the road enhancements will allow the City of Woodstock, McHenry County and its advocates to better utilize the impact study for economic forecasting and as a marketing tool to insure projects are funded and move up on the project priority list.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can provide any additional information or assistance regarding our support of the CMAP LTA Grant for the IL Route 47 Economic Impact Study.

Cordially,



Pam Cumpata, President



City of
WOODSTOCK

Transportation Commission
326 Washington Street
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

phone 815.338.6118
fax 815.334.2263
www.woodstockil.gov

June 18, 2014

Re: Letter of Support – City of Woodstock’s CMAP-LTA Grant Submittal

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter is being submitted in support of the City of Woodstock’s CMAP-LTA grant application to aid in funding an **Economic Impact Study for the IL Route 47 Corridor**.

Traffic congestion is an ongoing issue for the IL Route 47 corridor bordered by U.S. Route 14 to the south and Charles Road to the north. This corridor is the primary commercial/business district through Woodstock with vehicular traffic counts exceeding 20,000 units per day. Employees and visitors of the McHenry County Government Center (which is located closer to the northern end of this corridor) along with occupants of newly constructed residential neighborhoods, account for a large portion of this vehicular traffic. While improvements to IL Route 47 are greatly needed and favorably anticipated, the economic impact for business customers after proposed improvements are completed is unknown.

An Impact Study will provide the City with an analysis of the economic benefits resulting from improvements to this IL Route 47 corridor. Once completed, the Impact Study could then be utilized as a marketing and economic forecasting tool that can be shared with stakeholders, lawmakers, and transportation leaders who make decisions with regard to how and when this all important road project gets funded.

We understand there are many worthwhile grant applications, however; this application in particular can produce trending data that could have benefits beyond Woodstock’s and/ or McHenry County’s borders. Thanks in advance for your serious consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Celentano,
Transportation Commission Chairman

Susan Hudson
Transportation Commission Member

Mark Indyke
Transportation Commission Member

Caron R. Wenzel
Transportation Commission Member



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DOZEN DISTINCTIVE
DESTINATIONS 2007

*Woodstock is proud to have been recognized as a 2007 Distinctive Destination
by the National Trust for Historic Preservation*



**Study
Limits**

Area Map
City of Woodstock
CMAP LTA Application, June 2014

