

**Application form:**

**Community Planning Program and**

**Local Technical Assistance Program**

**DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 25, 2015**

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](mailto: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 New Lenox**

**2. Main Contact for Application:**

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| --- |
| Name: Robin Ellis, AICP |
| Title: Assistant Village Administrator / Community Development Director |
| Phone number: (815) 462-6413 |
| Email: rellis@newlenox.net |

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

\_ X\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_ Multijurisdictional group\* Please list the members of the group (including

government and nongovernmental organizations):

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

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\*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, RTA, or CCDPH 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, RTA, or CCDPH.)

\_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.

\_\_\_\_ My project has direct relevance to public transit and supports the use of the existing transit system.

\_\_\_\_ My project is a bicycle, pedestrian, or active transportation plan in suburban Cook County.

\_\_\_\_ My project is not directly related to transportation or land use, but implements GO TO 2040 in other ways.

**5. Local Match Requirement (please initial to indicate you are aware of the local match requirements):**

I am aware that a local match will be required for most projects, and understand that if my project is selected it is up to the project applicant to contribute a local match. (See the program guide for further details on local match requirements.)

\_\_RE\_\_ Yes, I understand that applicants will be required to contribute a local match.

**6. 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 Village of New Lenox is located approximately 35 miles southwest of Chicago in Will County. The Village currently encompasses approximately 14 square miles, but has a planning jurisdiction of nearly 40 square miles extending into three townships.

**7. 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. Program 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 Village of New Lenox adopted the 2004 Comprehensive Plan Update on October 26, 2004 following a two-year planning process. The Village had been experiencing significant growth over the preceding ten years, and the primary focus of the Plan Update was future land use, with some attention paid to transportation and open space. A revised Future Land Use Map was adopted in 2009, but the Plan document including the recommended policies and supporting information was not updated at that time.

The Great Recession that began a few years following the adoption of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan Update slowed growth in New Lenox. Coming out of the housing crisis, the Village has taken some steps to be responsive to the changing housing demands in the Chicago metropolitan area. The recession also affected commercial development expectations.

Since the Comprehensive Plan Update was adopted in 2004, New Lenox has experienced several significant changes. For example, the I-355 extension from I-55 to I-80 was completed, with an interchange at U.S. Route 6 in New Lenox. Silver Cross Hospital completed construction of a new hospital campus near the U.S. Route 6 and I-355 interchange, including approximately 300,000 square feet of associated medical office buildings. These two projects bring thousands of people to New Lenox each day, creating additional transportation, housing, and service needs. Finally, Metra opened its Southwest Service line extending to Manhattan in 2005, with a new train station along Laraway Road in New Lenox, expanding transportation options in the southern portion of the Village.

The Village of New Lenox is seeking assistance from CMAP to complete a thorough evaluation and update to the Village’s Comprehensive Plan, taking into account current and projected demographic trends, housing demands, realistic economic development opportunities, transportation, and environmental considerations. Current budget constraints do not allow for a full plan review and update at this time without assistance. Due to the changes that have occurred in New Lenox and in the housing and commercial markets, it is necessary to analyze current trends, identify future needs, and ensure that the policies are in place to enable the Village to implement the plan once it is completed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.