

**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 Willow Springs*

**2. Main Contact for Application:**

|  |
| --- |
| Name: *William Murray* |
| Title: *Village Administrator* |
| Phone number: *(708) 467-3700* |
| Email: *wpm@willowsprings-il.gov* |

**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.

\_\_X\_ 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):**

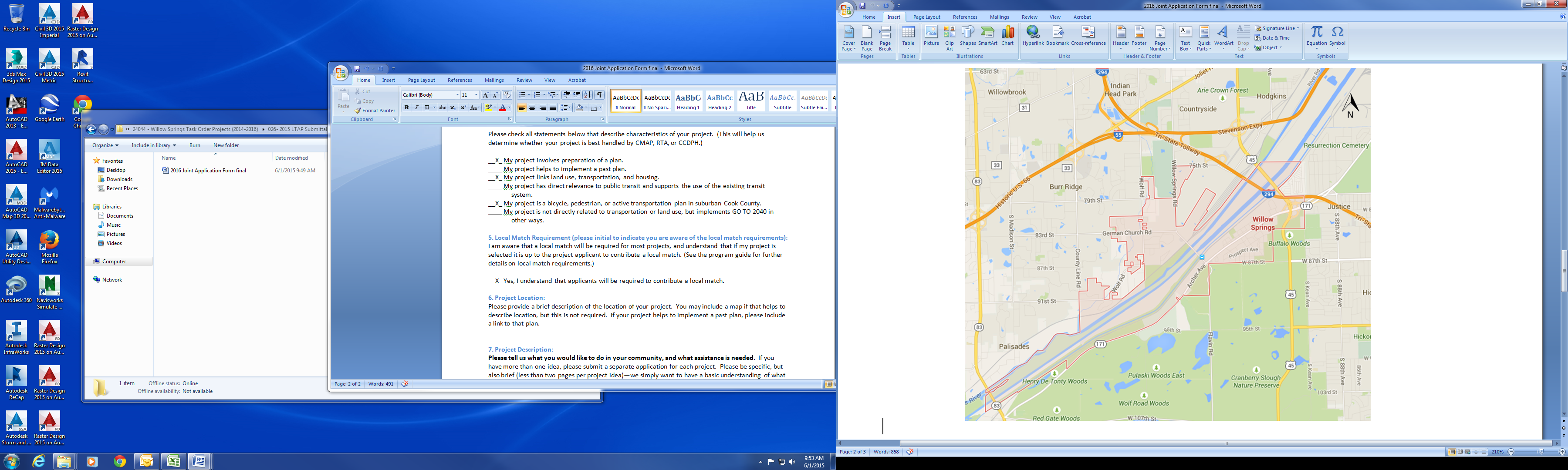
I am aware that a local match will be required for most projects, and understand that if my project is selected it is up to the project applicant to contribute a local match. (See the program guide for further details on local match requirements.)

\_\_X\_ 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 project will be located in the Village of Willow Springs, which is shown in the area highlighted red below.*



**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.)

***Village of Willow Springs – Comprehensive Complete Streets and Bicycle Plan***

*Home to the 2015 Illinois State Road Race Championships, past sponsor of the Prairie State Cycling Series and the International Cycling Classic SuperWeek, the Village of Willow Springs is a community with deep bicycling roots. Multiple trails are accessible throughout the community, including the Centennial Trail which spans over thirteen miles and runs parallel to the John Husar Illinois & Michigan Trail. Passing through hundreds of acres of forest preserves, the trails connect the community to nearby nature, where bird and wildlife watching are ideal.*

*The Village of Willow Springs proposes the creation of a Comprehensive Complete Streets and Bicycle Plan. Such a Plan would provide safe access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicular motorists alike, creating a synergy for the different modes of travel. The challenge for such a plan is to provide an efficient layout for the large amount of bicyclists to safely navigate multi-faceted bike trails. Connecting these trails would increase the safety of current biking conditions as cyclists would avoid having to cross busy roadways to join trails. Additionally, cyclists wouldn’t have to drive to another location to keep biking. The Program’s newly created bicycle lanes/or trails will entice citizens of the community to bike to work, saving money and reducing carbon emissions. The interconnected paths would allow easy access for residents to businesses and other residential neighborhoods, as well as to public transit options such as Pace Bus Stops and the Willow Springs Metra Station.*

*In addition to the resulting safety benefits of the project, aesthetics will improve. Increased vegetation in medians or near intersections will improve the overall attractiveness. Vegetation in ditches and other green infrastructure (i.e. bio swales, storm water planters, curb extensions) would also reduce water runoff and increase the area of pervious surfaces. One of the current paths that are proposed to be connected is divided by undeveloped land and connection of the two bike paths would lead to the beautification of the surrounding area. The objective is to implement the Complete Streets Program for major Willow Springs roadways and connection for bike paths. A Comprehensive Complete Streets and Bicycle Plan will provide the Village of Willow Springs with safety improvements, aesthetic improvements and transportation improvements.*

*The Cook County Forest Preserve District is where a majority of the bike trails exist; follow this* [*link*](http://bit.ly/1Rqx9Pf) *to a map of the surrounding area and existing bike trails.* [*http://bit.ly/1Rqx9Pf*](http://bit.ly/1Rqx9Pf)