

2019/2020 Local Technical Assistance and Community Planning Programs

Application Number: 13

Project Title: CDOT Livable Streets Implementation Plan

Applicant: City of Chicago - Chicago Department of Transportation



Project Description:

Streets play a vital role in the livability, vitality, and character of Chicago's neighborhoods and commercial areas. Through its Livable Streets Section, the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) seeks to create streets that support community identity, promote walkability, sustainability, safety, and connectivity for all users, while fostering vibrant neighborhoods and economically prosperous commercial corridors. CDOT is seeking to analyze existing Livable Streets assets, identify resources that can help support their development, and assess gaps potentially hindering the implementation of livable streets. CDOT will evaluate the economic impacts of already implemented Livable Streets projects in the City's commercial corridors. By having a clear understanding of the economic impacts of livable streets, CDOT will be able to make recommendations for future equitable investments that can help stimulate the economy of the City's neighborhood commercial corridors.

The proposed planning study will result in a Livable Streets Master Plan (in digital and printed formats) that will serve as a tool to identify existing Livable Streets projects, highlight opportunities and challenges for future improvements, analyze the case for Livable Streets as an economic stimulus, and provide recommendations for future investments. CDOT will utilize GIS data to overlay existing and programmed Livable Streets projects, potential projects, Vision Zero high crash corridors, planned bikeways, funding resources, and community assets (such as Special Service Areas), in order to assess challenges and opportunities for future efforts. The study will also evaluate the catalytic economic development impacts that livable streets have in the City's commercial corridors. CDOT will examine pre- and post-construction data along recently revitalized commercial corridors (10 years or less) to quantify economic benefits gained as a result of investments. The data analysis will include, but is not limited to, changes in property values, sales data, and retail space vacancy rates.

CDOT is requesting a combination of CMAP staff and consultant-led assistance for this effort. CDOT has commenced gathering GIS information to get an understanding of existing assets and available resources, but needs assistance from CMAP staff to analyze and assess the findings. CMAP staff could also assist in gathering initial market data to be compiled into a consultant-led market analysis report.

The study will support the development of livable streets as a strategy for reinvesting in the City's neighborhoods. The analysis and assessment of existing Chicago Livable Streets assets and available resources can serve as a regional model on tools available and parameters that are key to supporting livable streets. Highlighting the benefits of transportation investments for all users, and their effect on local economies, will also further support implementation of Complete Streets policies in the region. The study findings will help public officials get a better understanding on the economic impacts of livable streets, provide stakeholders with key information to advocate for the implementation of these projects in their communities, leverage additional transportation funding for these efforts, and prioritize areas of necessary investment to promote future growth.

Project Location: City of Chicago