Project Description:
The Village is requesting monetary and technical assistance to aid in the completion of a Fox River Corridor Sub-Area Plan. The proposed plan seeks to accomplish three objectives for redeveloping the East Dundee riverfront. The first and primary objective is to increase walkability within the Village. Second, is to create sustainable infrastructure that encourages a higher utilization and preservation of the Fox River. The last objective will lead to greater connectivity to assets such as the Fox River Bike Trail and the riverfront downtowns of East Dundee, West Dundee, and Carpentersville. The proposed project would become, in conjunction with a proposed redevelopment plan for the southern portion of the project area, the stimulus for the successful redevelopment of the waterfront and completion of the key objectives.

The primary objective of the proposed project is to increase the walkability of the Village. Currently, a small portion of the project area contains a temporary gravel pathway that ends abruptly without appropriate pedestrian safeguards. In addition, the gravel pathway allows only for foot traffic and is unsuitable for bikes, strollers, and is inaccessible to those with disabilities. This aligns with CMAP’s principles in On to 2050 by demonstrating the need for inclusive growth. Currently, the riverfront is disconnected from the Village’s downtown, Route 72 corridor, and the neighboring communities. By clearly identifying all needed improvements, it has the potential to integrate and encourage a higher level of health and vitality within East Dundee and the surrounding municipalities.

The second objective of the proposed project seeks to create sustainable infrastructure that promotes the utilization and preservation of the riverfront. The stabilization of the entire riverbank needs to be considered as part of the overall river corridor plan. The most environmentally friendly ways to do so are considered priority. Ideally, the final river corridor plan should also identify clear actionable items for public engagement along the riverfront creating greater awareness of sustainable such as pollution and waste reduction, green landscaping, and water conservation.

The third objective is to increase connectivity both within the Village of East Dundee and to its neighbors. The northwest Fox River Valley is renowned for its bike paths, natural open space, and improved waterway. As the Village has transitioned from a community with an industrial core to a largely residential, connections to these resources have been left undeveloped. Development of the intersection of Water Street and Route 72 may act as a possible stimulus for this river corridor. Connecting the riverfront to recent pathway development in Carpentersville, Algonquin, and West Dundee allows the riverfront to not only act as a regional trail way, but also as a natural, sustainable catalyst of economic activity between communities.

A study of East Dundee’s section of the Fox River is needed to activate the resources at hand. With the support of the LTA program, a completed corridor plan may be the needed push for the redevelopment of the riverfront that promotes healthy sustainable living, walkability, connectivity, and full utilization of the waterfront.

Project Location: The proposed project is located along the eastern bank of the Fox River in East Dundee, IL north of Route 72 on Water street and includes over a half mile of riverfront parcels. These properties are currently under a mix of private and public ownership and have long been identified as an asset to the community and the surrounding areas in the Village's past Comprehensive Plans, 2007 and 2014 Downtown Redevelopment Plans, and within the recently completed Strategic Plan. The riverfront boasts pedestrian and highway bridges, nearby access to the Fox River Bike Trail, and direct access to the downtowns of neighboring communities.