2019/2020 Local Technical Assistance and Community Planning Programs

Application Number: 61

Project Title: Morton Grove Comprehensive Plan Update

Applicant: Village of Morton Grove

CALL FOR PROJECTS

CMAP

Project Description:

The Village of Morton Grove is requesting assistance from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) in preparation of an update to the Morton Grove Comprehensive Plan, which was last updated in October of 1999 (http://www.mortongroveil.org/assets/1/6/Pages_from_Village_of_Morton_Grove_Comprehensive_Plan_Update_P1.pdf). Over the past two decades, major shifts have occurred in demographics, the environment, and the economy. An updated Plan will help Morton Grove respond to those shifts and address emerging issues head-on.

Morton Grove is a mature inner-ring suburb with immediate access to interstate, commuter rail, and recreational trail networks. Residents enjoy the comforts of suburban living, access to 400 acres of Cook County Forest Preserves, a mix of small businesses and national retailers, a short commute to Chicago's Loop, and a community rich in diversity. Today, over 40% of residents were born outside of the United States, an increase of over 7% since 2000.

Morton Grove also faces challenges common to many inner-ring suburbs: an indistinct downtown, vehicle-oriented development patterns, a shifting retail base, poor multimodal connectivity, a homogeneous housing market, aging infrastructure, and limited public dollars. The Village is actively seeking the redevelopment of multiple opportunity sites, many of which are within walking distance from the Morton Grove Metra station. With assistance from the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), the Village recently adopted a zoning ordinance to encourage transit-oriented development and promote greater density in an effort to build up a traditional downtown.

The Comprehensive Plan will help the Village prioritize reinvestment in a manner that leverages existing public transit networks, encourages active transportation, promotes inclusive growth, provides a diversity in housing choice, preserves open space and natural resources, and improves overall quality of life. The Plan should provide guidance to expand Village partnerships with neighboring communities to leverage resources and maximize the benefits of investment. Action-oriented recommendations should build upon and align with local, multi-jurisdictional, and regional plans and projects, including: ON TO 2050, Invest in Transit Regional Transit Strategic Plan, Connecting Cook County Long Range Transportation Plan, Our Great Rivers Plan, Morton Grove Strategic Plan (2015), Morton Grove Industrial Areas Plan (2014), and the Oakton Street/Caldwell Avenue Sidewalk Connectivity Project currently underway.

An award of technical assistance to update the Morton Grove Comprehensive Plan will not only strengthen the local community, but help attract and maintain the diverse population and workforce that allows the Chicagoland region to compete and thrive. The creation of this Plan will help ensure the resilience of our community and our region as we prepare for the future.

Project Location: The proposed Morton Grove Comprehensive Plan will address the area within the Village's municipal boundary. However, the Comprehensive Plan should also incorporate and build on the plans, projects, and initiatives of surrounding communities and the region.