Application Number: 69

Project Title: Richton Park Sustainability Master Plan

Applicant: Village of Richton Park

Project Description:

The Village of Richton Park, Illinois, requests Local Technical Assistance from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to develop a Sustainability Master Plan that is consistent with the principles and recommendations in the Environment chapter of ON TO 2050.

Richton Park completed its present Comprehensive Plan in 2014, with assistance from CMAP’s LTA Program. A key feature of the Plan was the development of the area surrounding the Richton Park Metra station as the Village’s Town Center, in part to emphasize transit use in the community. Also, the Plan identified floodplain and floodway challenges throughout the community, presenting flooding hazards for residents and limiting future development opportunities. A Sustainability Master Plan would be a key implementation component of the Comprehensive Plan.

Since the approval of the Plan, Richton Park has taken a leadership role on residential solar panel installation in the south suburbs. The Village has revised its Zoning Ordinance to accommodate solar panels and provided information to all residents to reduce energy consumption and increase energy cost savings. This effort would bring attention to the types of residential energy audits necessary for reducing carbon emissions, and provide a blueprint for residential upgrades.

In addition to implementing the transit, environmental and energy elements of the Plan, the Village would also like to build on its efforts to expand its pedestrian and biking network, connecting it to adjacent communities and assets. Recent efforts to do so include sidewalk studies and trail improvements undertaken by the Village’s departments of Parks and Recreation and Public Works. Furthermore, a new capital improvements plan, with the goal of achieving sustainability at its core, could have the benefits of reducing the Village’s annual costs for infrastructure and energy, demonstrating to other public entities the viability of incorporating sustainability standards into capital improvements planning, and enhancing the Village’s relationship with the natural environment.

Richton Park has witnessed the success that the adjacent community of Park Forest has had since the implementation of its Sustainability Master Plan, and wishes to emulate it. Sustainability has become a key component in Park Forest’s revitalization, and has built momentum.

In order for the Village to further the implementation of its Comprehensive Plan, it is important to move forward with a Sustainability Master Plan. This Plan will overlay all of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan that are currently in place. It will incorporate the demonstration projects that have already been implemented. It will create the tools that enable Richton Park residents and businesses to make choices that increase the efficiency of their energy use. It will reduce their dependence on the automobile for everyday tasks. It will bring their lives into closer harmony with the natural environment.

We want to thank CMAP for the opportunity to request Local Technical Assistance to develop this important element of our Comprehensive Plan.

Project Location: Village of Richton Park