Application Number: 70

Project Title: Robbins Stormwater Management Plan

Applicant: Village of Robbins

Project Description:

We would like to work with CMAP to develop a Village wide stormwater management plan. Like many communities in our region, Robbins is challenged with urban and overbank flooding. While a partnership with MWRD to build a stormwater park will greatly alleviate flooding from Midlothian Creek that has long challenged the southeastern part of Robbins, Village wide urban flooding will continue to harm current residents and thwart redevelopment unless we take substantial action. Getting a fuller understanding of our urban flooding, developing a plan to address it, and then implementing that plan will benefit existing Robbins residents and will also make redevelopment both in the TOD and Village wide more possible.

Requested work includes preliminary technical studies to more completely understand urban flooding in the Village. Studies about topography, soils, and drainage, as well as an assessment of the state of the current gray infrastructure are requested. Investigation of how abandoned, forested land in the Village currently manages stormwater is also critical. The completed plan would ideally include a strategy with target areas, timeline, potential funding sources, and ongoing maintenance plan for completing/ updating the current storm sewer system and for augmenting that system with green infrastructure, including urban agriculture.

This LTA project compliments the existing CMAP LTA TOD plan for redevelopment. It would set a course for updating out-of-date storm sewers near the Metra station that will continue to impede redevelopment even after overbank flooding is managed in that area. It will also address areas west of Kedzie that are included in the TOD plan that have no storm sewers and have had disinvestment associated with chronic urban flooding.

This LTA project would also compliment Kinship funded work the Village is just starting in which we are exploring the feasibility of an urban agriculture and horticulture district that would leverage the presence of the stormwater park and would provide multiple community benefits including managing stormwater. This kind of land use is signaled in the current CMAP LTA TOD planning. Better understanding where large scale green infrastructure is the best land use and will make more traditional redevelopment of adjacent land more feasible will be critical information for identifying the boundaries of the agriculture and horticulture district.

In addition to the above articulated benefits, this LTA project would also make subsequent comprehensive planning in the Village more possible. This is sorely needed as our last plan is more than ten years old and more than half of all parcels in Robbins are Village owned. However, until we have a solid understanding of stormwater and a plan to manage it, we cannot realistically plan for land use and redevelopment.

Project Location: The requested project is Village wide.