Application Number: 72

Project Title: Shorewood Comprehensive Plan Update

Applicant: Village of Shorewood

Project Description:

Village of Shorewood Comprehensive Plan

Shorewood is a bedroom community that has been dubbed “Joliet’s move-up market”. There was a great deal of growth in the 1990s and early 2000s, primarily large lot single family residential and retail/food service, which perpetuated that characterization of the community and resulted in lack of diversity in population, housing and employment. The last Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2007, which continued a predominately residential growth mindset and focused on design quality and character identity.

Within the last year, the Village Board has established a TIF District, revised the plan for a Towne Center to include multi-family and mixed use commercial and began a Strategic Planning process. As part of the Strategic Plan, the Village has engaged National Research Center to conduct a resident survey and staff is conducting focus group meetings to discuss the residential, commercial and industrial markets. We hope to continue these discussions with not only residents but also the business community and other stakeholders as part of the Comprehensive Plan. As such, the Village is looking for extensive public outreach in order to learn about community needs but also as a way to educate about market realities and creating a more sustainable community. We are looking at unique ways to present information to the community such as visual preference surveys, interactive planning sessions and using various forms of media that are graphically based.

In order to determine the best direction for future development, the Village recognizes the need to discuss topics that include: providing a diverse housing stock (such as denser, more affordable housing); attracting younger residents due to an older and aging population; balancing land uses and revenue sources to minimize impacts from shifts in the economy; providing a variety of employment opportunities, including manufacturing, distribution and logistics, where appropriate; and addressing transportation issues throughout town.

The Village is looking to complete the Comprehensive Planning process within the next 18 months in order to not only ensure that the momentum from current outreach efforts continues but to also address capital bill funding for transportation projects that could significantly affect the community. Additionally, the impending recession requires more urgent action in order to capitalize on opportunities to diversify the economy and minimize potential impact. As such, we would request that this project, if selected, be completed by a consultant in the event that CMAP staff is not available for an immediate start.

Project Location: Village of Shorewood planning jurisdiction, including areas within boundary agreements