Application form: Community Planning program and Local Technical Assistance program

DEADLINE: Noon on Wednesday, June 26, 2013

This application form is online at www.rtachicago.com/applications. You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.com. Upon receipt of application, you will receive an e-mail verifying that your application has been received.

1. Name of Applicant:
   - Village of Algonquin & Village of Carpentersville

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email):
   - Ben Mason, AICP
     Village of Algonquin
     Senior Planner
     (847) 658-4184
     bmason@algonquin.org

3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply):
   - X Local government
   - X Multijurisdictional group*

   Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):
   - Village of Algonquin
   - Village of Carpentersville
   - McHenry County Conservation District
   - Forest Preserve District of Kane County

   Nongovernmental organization*

   Name of local government partner(s):

*Applications submitted by multijurisdictional groups and nongovernmental organizations must include a letter indicating support from each relevant local government. See the FAQs for more information. Nongovernmental applicants are strongly encouraged to contact CMAP or the RTA prior to submitting their application to discuss their project and the demonstration of local support.
4. Project Type (please check any that apply):

Please check all statements below that describe characteristics of your project. (This will help us determine whether your project is best handled by CMAP or RTA.)

X My project involves preparation of a plan.
X My project helps to implement a past plan.
   My project links land use, transportation, and housing.
   My project has direct relevance to public transit and supports the use of the existing transit system.
   My project is not directly related to transportation or land use, but implements GO TO 2040 in other ways.

5. Project Location:
Please provide a brief description of the location of your project. You may include a map if that helps to describe location, but this is not required. If your project helps to implement a past plan, please include a link to that plan.

➢ The project area is generally located along the Fox River, from Klasen Road to the north down to Main Street in Carpentersville on the south end. Attached please find an illustrative map of the proposed study area.

➢ 2012/2013 Downtown Algonquin Planning Study link
   http://www.algonquin.org/egov/docs/1369423606_197174.pdf

➢ 2012 Village of Carpentersville Old Town Plan link
   http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=d869c75a-1bda-4322-98c9-efc5210215d1&groupId=20583

6. Project Description:
Please tell us what you would like to do in your community, and what assistance is needed. If you have more than one idea, please submit a separate application for each project. Please be specific, but also brief (less than two pages per project idea)—we simply want to have a basic understanding of what you want to do. CMAP and RTA staff will follow-up with you if we need any additional information to fully understand your proposed project.

➢ Attached please find a project summary.
June 25, 2013

Local Technical Assistance Program
CMAP (Attn: Erin Aleman)
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: GO TO 2040 Local Technical Assistance Program—Village of Algonquin Request

To Whom it May Concern:

The village of Algonquin and village of Carpentersville request assistance through the GO TO 2040 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program to help implement a common recommendation – enhanced recreational use and access to the Fox River – that was highlighted in recent studies of both “Old Town” districts. Through prior LTA grants from CMAP, recent plans performed for both villages suggested enhancements to recreation along the Fox River as an opportunity for attracting visitors to our respective “Old Town” areas.

In an effort to coordinate planning and attract a broader regional demographic to the Fox River waterfront area, Algonquin and Carpentersville would like to study the waterway in a more regional context with a goal of exploring improved access to and promoting more use of the river corridor (attached please find letter from the village of Carpentersville). In addition to our two municipalities, the McHenry County Conservation District and Forest Preserve District of Kane County own open space lands directly adjacent to the Fox River within our communities’ respective planning boundaries. Both agencies have expressed their interest in participating in a joint Fox River corridor study with Algonquin and Carpentersville and attached please find their letters of support ("Kane County Forest Preserve’s “letter” is in the form of an email from their Director of Planning and Development, since their Board was not scheduled to meet to approve an official letter of support prior to the grant application deadline.)

There are multiple locations along the Fox River that would benefit from further study, either through CMAP staff assistance or a private consultant. Attached is a map of the proposed study area with four locations along the river highlighted as examples:

- Fox Bluff/Camp Algonquin – this property consists of more than 200 acres and was recently acquired by the McHenry County Conservation District and provides direct access to the Fox River. Analysis of potential recreational opportunities and programming is required.
• IL Route 62/Algonquin Dam – this location features powerboats north of the dam, and a calm pool of water south of the dam. The village of Algonquin has parks both north and south of the dam on the west side of the river and recently acquired 1,000 feet of river frontage south of the dam on the east side of the river. Analysis of recreational opportunities south of the dam, and a possible portage around Route 62 is needed; a whitewater park concept was also suggested south of the dam by a group of vocal and enthusiastic canoe/kayakers from a local paddling club.

• Kane County Forest Preserve – this property consisting largely of the Brunner Family Forest Preserve on the west side of the Fox River, provides several miles of direct access to the Fox River. The “Brunner” forest preserve site was recently acquired by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. Two additional forest preserve properties – Buffalo Park and Fox River Shores – are contiguous to the Brunner Family site and also include some open space land on the east side of the river. Evaluation is needed of how these forest preserve lands could contribute to a network of recreational infrastructure from north of the Algonquin dam down to the Carpentersville dam.

• Main Street/Carpentersville Dam – this location features a calm pool of water extending north to the Algonquin dam. Analysis of ways to coordinate planning and recreational amenities between Algonquin and Carpentersville of this stretch of the Fox River would be mutually beneficial.

In addition to examining the potential for increased access to the Fox River and developing strategies for increasing waterway recreation, the regional Prairie Trail/Fox River Trail bike path runs parallel to the river and presents possible opportunities for expanding the appeal of visitors to the waterfront by incorporating bicycling as well into new recreational plans. McHenry County Conservation District and the Forest Preserve of Kane County have jurisdiction over the Prairie Trail/Fox River Trail path and both entities support working with Algonquin and Carpentersville toward identifying shared goals and objectives.

Overall, with assistance through the GO TO 2040 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program, all four agencies listed on this application would benefit from either CMAP staff assistance or a private consultant that could facilitate a joint planning effort aimed at achieving greater recreational benefits than any one agency could accomplish working alone. It is envisioned that through a coordinated undertaking, a vibrant recreational corridor can be established within the study area, increasing opportunities for exercise and a connection to nature for our region’s residents.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call me at (847) 658-4184, if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Benjamin A. Mason, AICP
Senior Planner

Community Development • 2200 Harnish Drive • Algonquin, Illinois 60102-5995
847/658-4184 • Fax 847/658-2631
www.algonquin.org
Local Technical Assistance Program

CMAP (Attn: Erin Aleman)

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800

Chicago, IL 60606

Re: GO TO 2040 Local Technical Assistance Program-Village of Carpentersville

To Whom It May Concern:

The Village of Carpentersville respectfully submits application for the Local Technical Assistance Program to participate in a planning study, along with intergovernmental partners, Village of Algonquin, Forest Preserve District of Kane County and McHenry County Conservation District, for the purpose of enhancing recreational opportunities along the Fox River.

Carpentersville’s recent CMAP-sponsored Old Town Plan highlighted the recreational opportunities afforded by the Fox River, Fox River Trail, and area forest preserves. The Village has identified the linkage of the forest preserves and enhanced trail and river opportunities as municipal goals. A collaborative planning study with other area stakeholders is anticipated to identify possible means to further river and trail usage and goals.

Carpentersville is appreciative of the opportunity to work with our partners in enhancing the area’s active and passive recreational opportunities. The Local Technical Assistance Program would be very beneficial in assisting this effort.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at 224-293-1640 if you wish to discuss this application further.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Wade
Assistant Village Manager/Economic Development Director
June 24, 2013

Local Technical Assistance Program
CMAP (Attn: Erin Aleman)
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear CMAP LTA Review Committee Members:

Please accept this letter in strong support of the joint grant application submitted by the Village of Algonquin and Village of Carpentersville for their proposed Fox River Study under the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTA). The proposed study to identify opportunities for enhancing access to and recreational use of the Fox River would benefit both communities and help further a regional public interest in seeing this waterway become a more dynamic destination.

In general, the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) is interested in developing bike trails and canoe/kayak trails that serve the Fox Valley region and McHenry County. We would support having one of our staff members on the project team as we believe there would be great value in developing a coordinated recreational plan for the future. In particular, MCCD recently acquired a significant open space property ("Camp Algonquin") that is located directly adjacent to the Fox River, just north of Algonquin’s corporate boundary. Overall, the proposed Fox River Study would help facilitate a broad multi-jurisdictional analysis of how to increase public use and enjoyment of an outstanding natural resource.

Thank you for considering the Village of Algonquin’s and Village of Carpentersville’s joint LTA application and please contact me at (815) 338-6223 if I could provide any additional information.

Sincerely,
McHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Elizabeth S. Kessler, MBA, CPRP
Executive Director
Hi Ben

Thanks for including us in your planning study, we would be happy to review and send a letter of support.

Let me know if there is anything else we can do to help

Sincerely,

Jerry Culp
Forest Preserve District of Kane County
Director of Planning and Development
(630) 444-3095
culpgerald@co.kane.il.us

Dear Mr. Culp,

Hello, my name is Ben Mason and I am a Planner with the village of Algonquin. Our community recently conducted a planning study for our downtown area, through a grant from CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning). One of the recommendations in the plan was to enhance recreational use and access to the Fox River, and we had several paddling and canoe groups attend our public workshops as well. For a PDF copy of our final study, click on http://www.algonquin.org/egov/docs/1369423606_197174.pdf

Our village is interested in submitting a follow-up proposal to CMAP as part of their current Call for Projects, to explore in greater depth improving access and promoting use of the river. We recently spoke with Carpentersville and they are interested in joining with us to prepare a joint application to CMAP, that would study the waterway in a more regional context. We also wanted the study to include analysis of some of the surrounding open space areas and trails, to determine how we might expand the focus on the riverfront to some of the surrounding open spaces and trails under the jurisdiction of the McHenry County Conservation District and Kane Co. Forest Preserve District. For example, we were thinking it might be neat to promote canoeing on the river from the Algonquin dam down to Carpentersville dam, then encourage people to bike back to where they started along the Prairie Trail.

Over the next week, we will be putting together a general description of a proposed project and map of the study area. Grant applications are due June 26th and I was wondering if we were to send the Forest Preserve District a copy of the grant application some time this week, if you would consider writing us a letter of support? Algonquin and Carpentersville would be the lead applicants, but we would like to have the Kane Co. Forest Preserve and other jurisdictions with access to the riverfront attend possible project meetings (should we receive the grant award) and share their own future plans and ideas so we can see where opportunities might arise for recreational improvements that are mutually beneficial.
Thank you in advance for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions or if there is someone else at the district I should contact.

Sincerely,

Ben Mason, AICP
Senior Planner
Village of Algonquin
2200 Harnish Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 658-4184