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.

Name of Applicant:
West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email):
Stephen Erickson
708.387.7550
steve@wscci.org

3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply):

___ Local government

___X Multijurisdictional group*  Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):
West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Countryside
Hodgkins
Indian Head Park
LaGrange
LaGrange Park
McCook
Western Springs
Willow Springs
Center for Neighborhood Technology
West Cook Municipal Conference
Cook County Bureau of Economic Development

___ 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.)

- My project involves preparation of a plan.
- 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.

WSCII represents eight member communities in southwestern Cook County:
Countryside
Hodgkins
Indian Head Park
LaGrange
LaGrange Park
McCook
Western Springs
Willow Springs

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.

(Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)

The West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry represents eight member communities in southwestern Cook County. These membership communities are rich with transportation and land use assets that include three Metra stations, two bicycle trails, five bus routes, two rail-to-truck intermodal facilities, 5 transload facilities, and extensive industrial areas. Individual communities in the WSCCI area have succeeded in growing around these building blocks through transit-oriented development and through industrial areas planning. However, “last mile” infrastructure gaps prevent the subregion as a
whole from fully capturing economic development around them. As one example, heavy truck traffic and a lack of sidewalks along 55th Avenue discourage workers from taking the Pace 330 bus to Countryside then walking to industrial jobs in McCook. As another, while a TOD in Western Springs serves as a trailhead of the popular I&M Canal trail, weekday-only Metra service and a difficult crossing over the Sanitary and Ship Canal discourages cyclists from coming through town on the weekend.

WSCII’s eight communities and the Center for Neighborhood Technology have identified these transportation barriers to redevelopment, both in written plans and over the course of regular economic development activities. LaGrange and Western Springs have completed RTA-funded TOD plans and Willow Springs has brought TOD online in the last decade. McCook, Hodgkins, Willow Springs, and the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development identified optimal COD sites for a USEPA Brownfield planning grant last year. CNT and the West Central Municipal Conference tied these concepts together with its West Cook County COD+TOD Report that prioritized the strongest TOD and COD areas using key performance metrics and recommended policies to realize TOD and COD at a subregional level.

It is time to integrate these plans and implement them in tandem. This consortium requests Local Technical Assistance from CMAP for a Multijurisdictional TOD/COD Implementation Plan that identifies “last mile” transportation barriers to encourage TOD and COD, prioritizes them across town boundaries, and positions them for targeted infrastructure funding with regional and state commitments. The timing of this project coincides with CMAP’s recent announcement that it will design a regional framework for prioritized transportation investments based on models in the San Francisco Bay Area, Atlanta, and other regions. This project sets the WSCCI member communities up to pursue the catalytic infrastructure improvements that these case studies have funded in other places. WSCII, eight member communities, CNT, WCMC, and the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development will all participate in and advise the plan.

This project has three objectives:

- Align existing TOD, COD, and bicycle/pedestrian mobility plans across towns;
- Identify key infrastructure improvements across all plans that reconnect housing, transit, and jobs to catalyze economic development;
- Ready these catalytic improvements for funding by linking them to regional transportation funds and CMAP’s potential prioritization framework.

With much planning already in hand, WSCII and its consortium sees CMAP LTA planners in helping find commonalities between plans and developing a multijurisdictional list of projects all towns can pursue. Tasks and deliverables could include:

- A review of existing TOD, COD, and mobility plans in all eight member communities. These include TOD plans produced for the RTA Community Planning program, the recent CNT/WCMC report, and other relevant documents. CMAP would identify commonalities among these plans.
- Identify key redevelopment parcels and sites across all plans. The towns began this process on June 6 by marking up key parcels on a WSCII map and identifying the freight, transit, and trail connections needed to make development more viable. CNT will contribute significantly to this task by supplying and analyzing the data for its COD/TOD report.
- Interview stakeholders in development community to identify transportation improvements. CMAP would seek input from the towns but also the development community to understand the needed improvements to make development happen in specific places.
- Prioritize transportation investments that will realize TOD/COD. This list should include their economic development justification. WSCII towns can use this list to pursue a bundle of projects.
• *Link them to funding sources and ready them as prioritization opportunities.* CMAP staff would help towns understand whether these projects should be pursued with STP, CMAQ, TA, or other pots of regional money. This project should also position them for eligibility with the prioritization framework CMAP will research this year and implement in subsequent years. Given its leadership in resource prioritization, CNT envisions a role on this task.
June 13, 2013

Erin Aleman
Principal Outreach Planner
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Aleman:

This letter indicates the participation of the City of Countryside in the Multijurisdictional COD/TOD Implementation Plan application to the Local Technical Assistance program managed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

Countryside is looking forward to participating in this plan and prioritizing needed transportation improvements with our fellow members in the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The City is making strides to connect non-motorized transportation to jobs, shopping, and leisurely activities. Both CODs and TODs are closely tied together and is an important factor in making a community a livable and viable place to work, reside, shop, and play.

Through the Active Transportation Alliance and the Cook County Department of Public Health, the City of Countryside created a non-motorized transportation plan to accomplish the aforementioned goals. The City is excited to utilize this plan in conjunction with the efforts of the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Center for Neighborhood Technology. There is much work to be done to implement TOD/COD in our area but we look forward to your assistance with this program to make that happen.

Sincerely,

Bryan T. Swanson
Economic Development Coordinator
June 18, 2013

Erin Aleman
Principal Outreach Planner
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Aleman:

This letter indicates the participation of Village of Indian Head Park the Multijurisdictional COD/TOD Implementation Plan application to the Local Technical Assistance program managed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

The Village of Indian Head Park is looking forward to participating in this plan and prioritizing needed transportation improvements with our fellow members in the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. There is much work to be done to implement TOD/COD in our area but we look forward to your assistance with this program to make that happen.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Richard S. Andrews
Mayor
June 21, 2013

Erin Aleman  
Principal Outreach Planner  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Aleman:

This letter indicates the participation of the Village of La Grange Park in the Multijurisdictional COD/TOD Implementation Plan application to the Local Technical Assistance program managed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

The Village of La Grange Park is looking forward to participating in this plan and prioritizing needed transportation improvements with our fellow members in the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. There is much work to be done to implement TOD/COD in our area but we look forward to your assistance with this program to make that happen.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Emily Rodman, AICP  
Assistant Village Manager  
Village of La Grange Park
June 13, 2013

Erin Aleman
Principal Outreach Planner
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Aleman:

This letter indicates the participation of the Village of La Grange in the Multijurisdictional COD/TOD Implementation Plan application to the Local Technical Assistance program managed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

The Village of La Grange is looking forward to participating in this plan and prioritizing needed transportation improvements with our fellow members in the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Village of La Grange completed a transit oriented plan for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corridor with the assistance of RTA in 2005. There is much work to be done to implement TOD/COD in our area but we look forward to your assistance with this program to make that happen.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

Patrick D. Benjamin
Community Development Director
June 19, 2013

Erin Aleman
Principal Outreach Planner
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Aleman:

This letter indicates the participation of the Village of McCook in the Multijurisdictional COD/TOD Implementation Plan application to the Local Technical Assistance program managed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

The Village of McCook is looking forward to participating in this plan and prioritizing needed transportation improvements with our fellow members in the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. There is much work to be done to implement TOD/COD in our area but we look forward to your assistance with this program to make that happen.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Tobolski
Mayor
June 19, 2013

Erin Aleman
Principal Outreach Planner
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Aleman:

I am writing to you today to support the application of the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their Multijurisdictional COD/TOD Implementation Plan application to the Local Technical Assistance program managed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

The West Central Municipal Conference (WCWC) serves as the Council of Government representing 49 entities in West Cook County and nearby DuPage. The WCWC region is characterized as the mature "inner ring" of suburbs uniquely situated between the City of Chicago and collar counties surrounding Cook. The Conference, through its membership, seeks to improve the quality of life for our residents, through the cooperation of local governments and foster a sense of regionalism. Through our various committees such as Public Works, Transportation, and Legislative, the Conference actively serves its membership and proves itself as a valuable asset. Within our mission statement, we seek to serve our members by fostering municipal cooperation and communication; developing solutions on matters of mutual concern; advocating common interests at the county, state, and federal levels of government; supporting cost-effective means of providing public service; and offering training, technical assistance, and resource information that contribute to the efficient management of local government.

The WCWC is looking forward to participating in this plan and prioritizing needed transportation improvements with our fellow members in the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The WCWC has already worked intensely with CNT over the past few years on our region wide COD/TOD study and this application represents one of many steps to make this vision a reality. There is much work to be done to implement TOD/COD in our area but we look forward to your assistance with this program to make that happen.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Richard F. Pellegrino
Executive Director
West Central Municipal Conference
June 20, 2013

Erin Aleman
Principal Outreach Planner
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: Multijurisdictional COD/TOD Implementation Plan application

Dear Ms. Aleman:

This letter indicates the participation of the Village of Western Springs in the Multijurisdictional COD/TOD Implementation Plan application to the Local Technical Assistance program managed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

The Village of Western Springs is looking forward to participating in this plan and prioritizing needed transportation improvements with our fellow members in the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In 2011 the Western Springs was fortunate enough to benefit from the RTA’s Regional Technical Assistance Program (RTAP). Funding through RTAP allowed the Village to create the Downtown Redevelopment Plan which is now being implemented.

There is much work to be done to implement TOD/COD in our area but we look forward to your assistance with this program to make that happen. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William T. Rodeghier
Village President
Village of Western Springs
June 19, 2013

Erin Aleman
Principal Outreach Planner
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Ms. Aleman:

The Village of Willow Springs appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Multijurisdictional COD/TOD Implementation Plan application to the Local Technical Assistance program managed by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

Transportation improvements are vital to the collective financial health of our partner communities in the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce, as well as to the entire Chicagoland region. Pooling our knowledge of challenges specific to our area, the Chamber’s Economic Development Council continues to prioritize needs and propose planned solutions. The Village of Willow Springs looks forward to working with CMAP and offers its complete support and cooperation to implement the objectives of TOD/COD.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alan Nowaczyk
Mayor
Willow Springs