

**Application form:**

**Community Planning Program and**

**Local Technical Assistance Program**

**DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 26, 2014**

This application form is online at [www.rtachicago.com/applications](http://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: City of Chicago Department of Transportation**

**2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email): Susan Mea, 312-744-1983, susan.mea@cityofchicago.org**

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

\_\_X\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_ Multijurisdictional group\* Please list the members of the group (including

 government and nongovernmental organizations):

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\_\_\_\_ Nongovernmental organization\* Name of local government partner(s):

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\*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.

\_\_X\_ My project helps to implement a past plan.

\_\_\_\_ My project links land use, transportation, and housing.

\_\_X\_ 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.

Location: City of Chicago

Previous plans that support this project can be found at the following:

<http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/cdot/Complete%20Streets/CompleteStreetsGuidelines.pdf>

<http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/cdot/ChicagoForward/ChicagoForwardUpdate2013_web-lo.pdf>

**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.)

Sidewalk space on many of Chicago's streets is at a premium.  Newspaper boxes, planters, advertising signs, street lights, sidewalk cafes, and other obstructions impede free pedestrian flow.  Pedestrians sometimes walk in traffic lanes to move more quickly around slower pedestrians or obstructions, thus endangering themselves and those trying to avoid them. The City of Chicago should make every effort to provide a reasonable and safe level of service for pedestrians, especially since our Complete Streets policy states that CDOT has adopted a pedestrian-first policy.

The purpose of this project is to find ways to increase pedestrian level-of-service at peak times on high-demand sidewalks in downtown (based on City of Chicago pedestrian counts). The team would document current City policy on space allocation for public sidewalks; review best practices in North America and other countries; and recommend methods to improve pedestrian flow by limiting non-essential obstructions.  CDOT will suggest a number of representative block faces with demonstrated pedestrian queuing, particularly those high-volume sidewalks leading to transit stations, where the recommendations could be tested after the study. Findings will assist CDOT in making decisions where and when to prohibit obstructions on City-owned sidewalks.

CDOT requests CMAP staff assistance for this project. A CDOT project manager will be assigned to work with CMAP staff and provide other needed staff resources at CDOT.