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. 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: Cook County Bureau of Economic Development on behalf of the seven county Chicago Regional Truck Permitting Working Group

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email): Elaine Romas, Special Assistant – Legal Affairs, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, 312-603-1016, elaine.romas@cookcountyil.gov.

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):
The Chicago Regional Truck Permitting Working Group includes the following members:
City of Chicago Department of Transportation;
Cook County Bureau of Economic Development;
Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways;
DuPage County Division of Transportation;
Kane County Division of Transportation;
Kendall County;
Lake County Division of Transportation;
McHenry County Division of Transportation;
Will County Department of Highways; and
Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago

___ 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.
_____ 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 will encompass CMAP’s seven county jurisdiction. This will include the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will as well as the city of Chicago.**

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.)

**Chicago Regional Truck Permitting Plan**

**Regional Context and Plans:**

In December 2013, the Board Chairs of the seven-counties in the Chicago metro region convened with their economic development leadership to examine opportunities to collaborate around economic growth initiatives. The group convened for this “Regional Economic Development Summit” identified the lack of a centralized and uniform system for Over Weight/Over Sized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration.

The Cook County **Partnering for Prosperity Plan** calls for actions to increase the productivity and efficiency of the transportation and logistics cluster. World Business Chicago’s Plan for Economic Growth and Jobs calls for becoming “more competitive as a leading transportation and logistics hub” as one of ten transformative strategies for the region. [http://www.worldbusinesschicago.com/plan](http://www.worldbusinesschicago.com/plan). The GO TO 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan recommends an improved the truck system.
More recently, CMAP’s recent Regional Freight Leadership Task Force and the O’Hare Drill Down reports have identified the truck permitting process as a critical issue in the region. (See http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/21431/Freight_chapter.pdf/6804d3a9-cd94-4f49-b23b-e1d70f9fb8aa and http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/285034/RFLTF+Meeting+8_Final+Report_clean.pdf/f4cadede75-4687-45c7-aa8b-febfce12a4e4) In addition, Boston Consulting Group also identified it as a problem when they did a report on Freight and Logistics for Cook County.

In March 2014, Cook County convened the Chicago Regional Truck Permitting Working Group (“Working Group”) with representatives from each county and the City of Chicago to learn about Winnebago County’s unified system and Kane County’s system which was launched in April of this year. Cook County with Metropolis Strategies has subsequently surveyed and interviewed all the counties regarding their existing systems and needs. With the exception of Kane County which has recently, launched its own new system, all of the Counties recognize the limitations and negative impact of the existing situation. Cook County, in collaboration with the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) is submitting this application on behalf of the 7 counties in the region and the City of Chicago.

Project Description:

The Chicago Regional Truck Permitting Plan (“Plan”) will investigate the establishment of ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements. CMAP has documented 223 municipal size and weight ordinances. While truckers report that they are willing to pay, the inconvenience of securing multiple permits is time consuming. Some truckers have been known to take their chances and ignore the permit system. This practice risks damaging roads and bridges and endangering public safety. The current fragmented system results in lack of compliance, increases enforcement costs, and adds a burden to the logistics industry.

The preliminary research indicates that it is not realistic to consider establishing a single, unified system for the entire region given the numerous governmental jurisdictions involved. Instead, we have identified some potential options (described below) to address this problem.

The Working Group requests technical assistance to evaluate these options, and any others that might make sense. The Working Group would like a set of recommendations regarding how the region can streamline the truck permitting process. In addition, it would be helpful if the consultant could identify the next steps and resources and the most logical responsible entity to implement these recommendations.

Some of the options and questions include:
1. Develop a template that serves as a model permit approval process for a County based on best practices. This would create a baseline that all counties and their municipal and township governments could aspire to. It would be similar to the International Building Code, but for truck permitting.

2. Examine the potential for integrating local permits with the State’s ITAP (Illinois Transportation Automated Permit) system. The State Department of Transportation reportedly has much of the data needed and has just launched a new online system. Several people have suggested that the Working Group ask the State to handle the process. There are questions of liability, data collection, data integration, and upkeep. Currently the State DOT is in the process of integrating their system with the system in place at the Illinois Toll Highway Authority. Several of the counties indicated that this option represented the most obvious and expedient solution.

3. An issue related to permits for overweight and oversize trucks is the issue of a clear system for identifying routes within local governments that are accessible to trucks. Truckers often do not know which local routes are acceptable causing confusion, misdirected routing, and fines for violations. More accessible information on acceptable routes would have enormous benefit to the logistics industry.

4. Truck routing is inextricably linked to truck permitting. Consequently, we would like to explore mechanisms to coordinate the designation of truck routes among and between jurisdictions to ensure the development of a continuous and connected system for moving goods efficiently. The current lack of coordination by governmental entities results in circuitous routes that add to the cost and time associated with goods delivery within the region.

Partners:

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Supply Chain Innovation Network of Chicago (SINC)

Other Stakeholders:

Illinois Department of Transportation (Bureau of Information Processing; Division of Highways; ITS Program Office);
Illinois Truckers Enforcement Association
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Private Trucking Companies

Project Structure: A steering committee with representatives from the Working Group, partners and stakeholders will further refine the scope and work with consultants on this project.
June 16 2014

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60608

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative
Letter of Support - Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) supports Cook County’s application on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois.

As you know, the leadership of the seven counties and the city of Chicago have identified the lack of a uniform and possibly centralized system for Over Weight/Over Sized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration. Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which currently has its own permitting process and requirements.

We are delighted to support this LTA application and look forward to being part of this project. This proposal represents an important first step in addressing a challenging situation. Please feel free to contact Luann Hamilton, Deputy Commissioner at (312) 744-1987 or Luann.Hamilton@cityofchicago.org with any questions regarding CDOT’s support of this application.
Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Scheinfeld
Commissioner

RS:LH:JS:JA
June 23, 2014

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 S. Wacker  
Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60608

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative  
Letter of Support  
Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

I am writing this letter in support of Cook County’s application, submitted on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC), requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) from CMAP to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. At a regional forum Cook County convened last December, the leadership of the seven counties and the city of Chicago identified the lack of a uniform system for Over Weight/Over Sized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration. Since then the counties have been working together and believe that technical assistance is needed to move ahead on this project.

As you know, trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements. County and municipal governments also recognize that the existing systems have a negative impact on the region’s economy.

I am delighted to support this LTA application. This proposal represents an important first step in addressing a challenging situation. Please feel free to contact Elaine Romas, Special Assistant, Bureau of Economic Development at 312-603-1016 or Elaine.Romas@cookcountyil.gov with any questions regarding this application.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Herman Brewer  
Bureau Chief
June 18, 2014

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 S. Wacker  
Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60608

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative Letter of Support  
Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways in support of Cook County’s application on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. As you know the leadership of the seven counties and the city of Chicago have identified the lack of a uniform, and possibly centralized system for Over Weight/Over Sized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration.

Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements. County and municipal governments also recognize that the existing systems have a negative impact on the region’s economy.

We are delighted to support this LTA application and look forward to being part of this project. This proposal represents an important first step in addressing a challenging situation. Please feel free to contact Michael D. Stern, Permits Division Head at 312-603-1670 with any questions regarding Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways support of this application.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

John Yonan, P.E.  
Superintendent of Transportation and Highways  
Cook County, IL
June 20, 2014

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative
   Letter of Support
   Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

I am writing this letter to express support of Cook County’s application on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. As you know the leadership of the seven counties and the city of Chicago have identified the lack of a uniform, and possibly centralized system for Over Weight/Over Sized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration.

Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements.

We are delighted to support this LTA application and look forward to being part of this project. This proposal represents an important first step in addressing a challenging situation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Cronin
Chairman
DuPage County Board
June 19, 2014

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 S. Wacker  
Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60608

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative  
Letter of Support  
Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Choose DuPage in support of Cook County’s application on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. As you know the leadership of the seven counties and the city of Chicago have identified the lack of a uniform, and possibly centralized system for Over Weight/Over Sized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration.

Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements. County and municipal governments also recognize that the existing systems have a negative impact on the region’s economy.

We are delighted to support this LTA application and look forward to being part of this project. This proposal represents an important first step in addressing a challenging situation. Please feel free to contact Greg Bedalov at 630-955-2089 or gbedalov@choosedupage.com with any questions regarding Choose DuPage’s support of this application.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Greg Bedalov  
President and CEO
June 16, 2014

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60608

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative
Letter of Support
Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Kane County Division of Transportation in support of Cook County’s application on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. We feel that studying a centralized system for Over Weight/Over Sized truck permits is an opportunity for regional collaboration, which may lead to a more efficient practice in the region’s permitting procedures.

Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements.

We support this study and the accompanying LTA application and look forward to being part of this project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding Kane County Division of Transportation’s support of this application.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Rickert, AICP
Deputy Director of Transportation
Kane County Division of Transportation
Mr. Randy Blankenhorn  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 S. Wacker  
Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative  
Letter of Support  
Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Lake County Division of Transportation in support of Cook County’s application on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois and minimize the volume of overweight/oversized truck movements. As you know, the leadership of the seven counties and the City of Chicago have identified the lack of a uniform system for overweight/oversized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration.

Trucking industry leaders have suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may drive upon state, county, township and several municipal roadway jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements.

We are delighted to support this LTA application, and look forward to being part of this project. This proposal represents an important first step in addressing a challenging situation. Please feel free to contact Betsy Duckert, P.E., Lake County Division of Transportation Manager of Permitting, at (847)377-7400 or bduckert@lakecountyil.gov with any questions regarding Lake County Division of Transportation’s support of this application.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Paula J. Trigg, P.E.  
County Engineer/Director of Transportation

Cc: Betsy Duckert, P.E., Manager of Permitting
June 25, 2014

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60608

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative
Letter of Support
Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

McHenry County Economic Development Corporation is in support of Cook County’s application on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. As you know the leadership of the seven counties and the city of Chicago have identified the lack of a uniform, and possibly centralized system for Over Weight/Over Sized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration.

Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements. County and municipal governments also recognize that the existing systems have a negative impact on the region’s economy.

We are pleased to support this LTA application and look forward to being part of this project. This proposal represents an important first step in addressing a challenging situation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding our support of this application.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Pam Cumpata
President

60 Dakota Street, Suite F, Crystal Lake, IL 60012 – 815.893.0895
www.mchenrycountyedc.com
June 25, 2014

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60608

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative
Letter of Support
Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

I am writing this letter on behalf of McHenry County, Illinois in support of Cook County's application on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. As you know the leadership of the seven counties and the city of Chicago have identified the lack of a uniform, and possibly centralized system for Over Weight/Over Sized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration.

Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements. County and municipal governments also recognize that the existing systems have a negative impact on the region’s economy.

We are delighted to support this LTA application and look forward to being part of this project. This proposal represents an important first step in addressing a challenging situation. Please feel free to contact Mr. Joe Korpalski, County Engineer at 815-334-4960 or JRKorpalski@co.mchenry.il.us with any questions regarding McHenry County’s support of this application.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Tina R. Hill, Chairwoman
McHenry County Board
Mr. Randy Blankenhorn
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative
Letter of Support for Local Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

As the Will County Executive, I support Cook County’s application on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. As you know the leadership of the seven counties and the City of Chicago have identified the need for uniform regulations for Over Weight/Over Sized (OW/OS) truck permits across jurisdictions as a potential opportunity for regional cooperation.

Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from a highway to a delivery site may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process and requirements. County and municipal governments also recognize that the existing systems can be improved in order to positively impact the region’s economy.

I am pleased to support this LTA application and look forward to Will County being part of the project. Our proposal represents an important first step in addressing a challenging situation through regional collaboration. Please feel free to contact Alicia Hanlon, Sr. Transportation Planner at 815-774-6365 or ahanlon@willcountyillinois.com with any questions regarding Will County’s support of this application.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this application for LTA assistance.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive
June 17, 2014

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn  
Executive Director 
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 S. Wacker  
Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60608  

Re: Regional Truck Permitting Initiative  
Letter of Support  
Local Technical Assistance Application  

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:  

The Will County Center for Economic Development supports Cook County’s application submitted on behalf of the seven counties of northeastern Illinois, the City of Chicago and the Supply Chain Innovation Council of Chicago (SINC) requesting Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to explore ways to streamline the multiple truck permit systems that are in place in northeastern Illinois. As you know the leadership of the seven counties and the city of Chicago have identified the lack of a uniform, and possibly centralized system for overweight/oversized truck permits as an opportunity for regional collaboration.

Trucking industry leaders have long suggested that improved systems are needed to make goods movement easier in the Chicago region, reduce the cost of doing business, and enable growth of freight and related sectors. A truck carrying an overweight or oversize load from origin to destination may pass through state, county, township and several municipal jurisdictions, each of which has its own permitting process, permit fees, fines and restrictions. County and municipal governments also recognize that the existing systems have a negative impact on the region’s economy.

We request that CMAP support this request and look forward to being part of this project. This proposal represents a regional approach to addressing a challenging situation.

Sincerely,

John E. Greuling  
President & CEO