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: Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email):
   Jessica Ortega
   (630) 871-6404
   jortega@dupageforest.org

3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply):
   ___ Local government
   ___ Multijurisdictional group* Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):
   Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
   DuPage County Division of Transportation
   ______________________
   ______________________
   ______________________

   ___ 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.

Intersection of the West Branch of the DuPage River and Roosevelt Road (IL-38) in West Chicago (see attached map).

DuPage County Regional Trail Plan:  http://www.dupageco.org/EDP/Bikeways_and_Trails/1224/

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 Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the DuPage County Division of Transportation request technical assistance with a feasibility study for completion of the final missing link in the West Branch DuPage River Trail. This final link is a critical crossing of Roosevelt Road (IL Route 38). All the remaining segments of the trail are completed or are in design and funded through construction. Once complete, the West Branch DuPage River Trail will extend from the North Central DuPage Regional Trail in Bartlett in the north all the way south to Naperville in DuPage County. The trail continues south past Naperville into Will County where, when complete, it will connect to the I&M Canal Trail.

The West Branch DuPage River Trail’s crossing of Roosevelt Road is particularly challenging due to the closeness of the river, the intersection of two major state highways nearby – IL Route 59 and Roosevelt Road (IL Route 38), and the lack of existing traffic signals in the vicinity. In addition to crossing Roosevelt Road, the trail will also require crossing over the West Branch of the DuPage River and Gary’s Mill Road to connect with other completed sections of the trail. Roosevelt Road’s existing bridge over the West Branch of the DuPage River does not have sufficient clearance for a trail underpass, and existing overhead utility lines in the area would have to be relocated for a bridge crossing. Additionally, existing bridges along Roosevelt Road and Gary’s Mill Road do not have sidewalks.
The feasibility study should address a crossing of Roosevelt Road and the West Branch of the DuPage River as well as identify any other on-street routes or trail alignments that could be designated as the West Branch DuPage River Trail instead of a grade-separated crossing.

The following links show the route of the West Branch DuPage River Trail and its connectivity to other regional trails:

DuPage County Regional Bikeway Map:
http://www.co.dupage.il.us/EDP/Bikeways_and_Trails/Docs/46913/

West Branch DuPage River Trail Map (north half)
http://www.co.dupage.il.us/EDP/Bikeways_and_Trails/Content_Right/41480/

West Branch DuPage River Trail Map (south half)
http://www.co.dupage.il.us/EDP/Bikeways_and_Trails/Content_Right/41481/

DuPage River Trail
http://reconnectwithnature.org/FileManager/FPDWC-DuPageRiverTrailMap.pdf
Incomplete Section - West DuPage Woods to Blackwell

Legend
- Forest Preserve Property
- Open Water
- Existing Trail Easement
- Existing Conservation Easement
- Proposed Regional Trail Segment
- Existing Regional Trail Segment
- Existing Preserve Trail

Roosevelt Road Bridge looking North from Blackwell Forest Preserve.
Mr. Randall S. Blankenhorn  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 S. Wacker Drive  
Suite 800  
Chicago, IL  60606

Re: Letter of Support for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County  
Local Technical Assistance Grant Application

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

This letter comes to you in support of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County’s Local Technical Assistance grant request for the West Branch DuPage River Trail. We are pleased to support the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County on this study by providing technical assistance and coordination in support of this project.

Over 97% of this regional trail is existing or funded for development; this feasibility study will address the last critical 2/3-mile long segment of the 23-mile long West Branch DuPage River Trail at an area that poses challenges to safely accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians across two barriers – IL 38 and the West Branch DuPage River.

The West Branch DuPage River Trail was first identified in the 1984 DuPage County Bikeway Plan. DuPage County, local agencies and the Forest Preserve District have been working to design and construct this trail for nearly thirty years. The completion of this critical link will provide for safe non-motorized transportation movements in the west area of the county. It is our hope that this feasibility study plan will assist cooperating agencies to establish a preferred alignment and develop a funding strategy for the near future.

We look forward to participating in this effort and thank you for the opportunity that CMAP provides through the LTA program.

Sincerely,

Daniel A Thomas  
Trails Coordinator  
DuPage County Division of Transportation