



**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: The Village of Gurnee

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email):

Tracy Velkover: (847) 599-7550 x7571, TracyV@village.gurnee.il

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

Local government

Multijurisdictional group* \longrightarrow Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

Nongovernmental organization* \longrightarrow 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.

Please see the attached project narrative

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.)

Please see the attached project narrative

5. Project Location:

The Comprehensive Plan project for the Village of Gurnee would include all of the land area within the existing Gurnee corporate limits, small pockets of incorporated land surrounded by the corporate limits, and land outside of the corporate limits within Gurnee's planning jurisdiction.

6. Project Description:

The Village of Gurnee, located in central Lake County, lies approximately 38 miles north of the City of Chicago and 8 miles west of Lake Michigan. The Village is intersected by Interstate 94 and is located centrally between Chicago and Milwaukee, WI. Gurnee is perhaps best known for its many tourist attractions including Six Flags Great America and Hurricane Harbor Waterpark, Gurnee Mills Mall, and KeyLime Cove Resort and Waterpark, together attracting millions of visitors annually. As a result, the Village is a leading retail, recreation, and hospitality center in northern Chicagoland.

The Village of Gurnee is requesting assistance from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) in order to update its Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Gurnee's Comprehensive Land Use Plan was adopted in 1976 and was last updated in 1997. The Village's population, currently 31,295, increased by over 60 percent between the years 2000 and 2010. Now that the village is reaching its build-out capacity, the increase of new developments and infrastructure has slowed, with the focus shifting to maintaining existing developments and infrastructure. The Village has changed immensely since 1997 and the current plan no longer reflects the Village of Gurnee's vision or community goals.

Goals of the Updated Comprehensive Plan:

- Increase the range of affordable housing options- According to the Gurnee Housing Policy Plan (aligned with the *Home for a Changing Region* project), the largest percentage of Gurnee jobs lie in the retail trade sector. Along with other goals outlined in the Gurnee Housing Policy Plan, the Village plans to explore strategies to expand housing opportunities near worksites for its low and moderate-income workers.
- Support mixed-use and transit-oriented development- Current zoning regulations encourage single uses, from large-lot residential to low density retail development.

Mixed-use development could enhance the Village's strong commercial base while expanding its capacity for residential development.

- Promote multi-modal transportation systems and increase walkability- Gurnee's commercial and residential areas are almost completely auto-oriented. The Village is open to exploring options for the diversification of its transportation infrastructure, connectivity between neighborhoods and commercial areas, and expansion of existing pedestrian and bicycle trail networks.
- Enable access to parks and public green space- The Gurnee Park District owns and maintains 27 parks within the Village. The Village is also working to reclaim properties in the Des Plains River floodplain for public green space use. Access to parks and public green space is critical to the livability of a community.
- Stay consistent with the GoTo2040 Plan- The recommended actions regarding sustainability and efficient resource use will be incorporated into the new Comprehensive Plan.

The tasks outlined above require more resources than are currently available to the Village of Gurnee. Assistance from a qualified team of consultants provided by CMAP would allow Gurnee to develop a comprehensive plan that will appropriately address the Village's vision for a more sustainable community, as outlined in CMAP's GoTo2040 Plan.