



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 13.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board
From: CMAP Staff
Date: October 5, 2011
Re: Grants Awards to Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Projects

The overall philosophy of the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program is to identify projects that are priorities, and then use a variety of methods to accomplish them, including staff assistance as well as grants. Many projects are currently receiving staff assistance, but others can be effectively accomplished through grants instead. Staff has identified several projects within the LTA program which are good candidates for grant funding, and is recommending individual grants to communities for Board consideration.

CMAP has reserved \$1 million in FY 12 for grants to local project sponsors, and the Board approved \$740,000 in grants through the Community Planning Program at its August meeting. This leaves \$260,000 available to distribute through the remainder of FY 12. The priority of staff is to accomplish projects within the LTA program, so these grants would be directed to projects currently within the program. While this does restrict the pool of potential applicants, it should be noted that CMAP just completed a general grant application process (the Community Planning Program grants) in which every municipality in the region had the opportunity to apply for funding.

Three upcoming projects within the LTA program have been identified as good candidates for grant funding, based on the nature of the project and the capacity of the sponsor community. These projects include:

- McHenry County – plan for unincorporated areas; grant of \$80,000
- Village of Elburn – comprehensive plan; grant of \$100,000
- Village of New Lenox – US 30 corridor plan implementation assistance; grant of \$60,000

At its October meeting, the Board is asked to consider approving grants to these project sponsors to contract with consulting firms to undertake the identified projects. These grants will replace the staff assistance previously committed through the LTA program, allowing these staff resources to be directed to another community at a later point.

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ACTION REQUESTED: Consider approving grants to McHenry County, the Village of Elburn, and the Village of New Lenox.

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