

# Press Release



**Regional  
Transportation  
Authority**

## For immediate release



**Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning**

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## **Technical Assistance Available to the Region for Planning and Plan Implementation Activities**

*Twentieth Year of RTA Community Planning Program*

*CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program supports ON TO 2050 plan*

Chicago, IL – The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) today announced a joint Call for Projects for the [RTA's Community Planning Program](#) and [CMAP's Local Technical Assistance \(LTA\) Program](#). Funding for technical assistance is available to local governments, non-profit agencies, and the region's transit Service Boards for planning projects and plan implementation activities that benefit their community and the region as a whole. The call for projects runs from September 6 through noon on October 26.

"Over the last 20 years, the RTA's Community Planning program has provided technical assistance for nearly 200 projects that benefit regional riders by helping design communities that interconnect with local transit services," said Leanne Redden, RTA Executive Director. "I highly encourage municipalities across our region, and transit agencies, to apply for assistance to improve access to public transportation and support local economic development."

"CMAP's LTA program helps communities and our region thrive," said CMAP Executive Director Joseph C. Szabo. "The program customizes support to communities while helping them create and implement their own local plans for increased livability, sustainability, and economic vitality. We look forward to strong applications for projects that reflect the ON TO 2050 guiding principles of Inclusive Growth, Resilience, and Prioritized Investment."

While the RTA and CMAP have separate technical assistance programs, applicants are able to apply for either/both programs with a single application accessible at [www.rtachicago.org/applications](http://www.rtachicago.org/applications). This agency coordination allows for planning and plan implementation assistance to an expanded base of eligible applicants, aligns all efforts with the RTA's strategic plan, *Invest in Transit*, and CMAP's draft [ON TO 2050](#) priorities, and provides technical assistance in a coordinated manner that's beneficial to the region.

Municipalities, counties, townships, councils of government (COGs)/municipal associations, groups of two or more municipalities, and the RTA Service Boards (CTA, Metra, Pace) located within CMAP's seven-county region (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties) are eligible to apply for assistance. Nongovernmental organizations in the region are eligible to apply for CMAP assistance, but are required to have support from the local government in which their project will take place. A nongovernmental organization must partner with a governmental organization to submit a transit-related project application to the RTA.

Potential applicants can learn more about the application process by attending an Information Session on Tuesday, September 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at CMAP offices (233 S. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Suite 800), co-hosted by the RTA and CMAP. Attendees will learn about potential technical assistance opportunities and will have the opportunity to discuss best practices with past award recipients and get one-on-one input about the application process. Elected officials, municipal and county planners and staff, community-based organizations, nonprofits, civic organizations, and consulting firms that work with communities are encouraged to attend. To RSVP, contact Tony Manno at [tmano@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:tmano@cmapp.illinois.gov) or by calling (312) 386-8606 by Monday, September 10.

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#### **About the RTA**

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is the transit agency charged with regional financial oversight, funding, and transit planning for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace bus and ADA paratransit. The system provides more than two million trips each weekday on the RTA region's transit system in six counties with 7,200 transit route miles throughout Northeastern Illinois. The Agency also provides customer services including online and telephone travel planning assistance and travel training for seniors and people with disabilities. For more information, visit [www.RTChicago.org](http://www.RTChicago.org).

#### **About CMAP**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is our region's comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners are developing ON TO 2050, a new comprehensive regional plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities of northeastern Illinois implement strategies that address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues. For more information, visit [www.cmap.illinois.gov](http://www.cmap.illinois.gov).