Application form:
Community Planning Program and
Local Technical Assistance Program

DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 25, 2015

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: Village of Beach Park

2. Main Contact for Application:

   Name: Jon Kindseth
   Title: Village Administrator
   Phone number: (847) 246-6016
   Email: jon.kindseth@villageofbeachpark.com

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):

   ___ 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, RTA, or CCDPH 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, RTA, or CDPH.)

__X__ My project involves preparation of a plan.
_____ My project helps to implement a past plan.
__X__ 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 a bicycle, pedestrian, or active transportation plan in suburban Cook County.
_____ My project is not directly related to transportation or land use, but implements GO TO 2040 in other ways.

5. Local Match Requirement (please initial to indicate you are aware of the local match requirements):
I am aware that a local match will be required for most projects, and understand that if my project is selected it is up to the project applicant to contribute a local match. (See the program guide for further details on local match requirements.)

__X__ Yes, I understand that applicants will be required to contribute a local match.

6. 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 Village of Beach Park is seeking to update our Village-wide Comprehensive Plan. Our current plan is from 2008, prior to the most recent economic downturn. The Village is seeking a comprehensive plan which aligns with the GO TO 2040 plan. A map of the Village is attached for reference.

7. 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. Program staff will follow-up with you if we need any additional information to fully understand your proposed project.

The Village of Beach Park is a lake shore community in the northeast corner of Lake County, home to the only Illinois State Beach. Beach Park is approximately 7 square miles and a population of 13,638. The Village has a relatively short history since our incorporation in 1989. In an environment today as local government in Illinois, we are expected to be cutting overhead costs and reducing spending in order to lower the ever increasing tax burden. Beach Park, as so many other communities suffered significant losses in revenue during the recent recession. We are struggling to keep up with aging infrastructure while trying to pursue economic development opportunities. Our Village Officials recognize the value of having a comprehensive plan which reflects the current conditions of the community. A priority given to staff this year was to work on updating the Beach Park Comprehensive plan from 2008. I am respectfully requesting your assistance with this process.

Beach Park recognizes that your expertise in providing technical assistance to Chicagoland communities is unsurpassed by any other option we have to update our comprehensive plan. Beach Park’s comprehensive plan needs to be aligned with the GO TO 2040 plan as recognized by our region. Beach Park desires to be among your success stories of communities utilizing CMAP or RTA assisted comprehensive plans. Beach Park’s plan would also provide an opportunity to look at specific corridor plans, as well as further refining and developing a TOD plan in Beach Park. Although this is not
technically a multijurisdictional project, with the assistance from this LTA program, our comprehensive plan will be more aligned and complimentary to Zion’s and Winthrop Harbor’s recently completed CMAP assisted comprehensive plans. We believe that Beach Park’s comprehensive plan would be better utilized if it has the same level of professionalism that CMAP brought to our neighbor’s comprehensive plan process.

As mentioned above, because Beach Park does not have a long history we also do not have the legacy problems that older more established communities have. Beach Park comprehensive plan update would be an opportunity to address transportation and economic development issues through a more holistic land use plan. Our recent incorporation also allows the Village to be more flexible in our land use and zoning ordinances. Beach Park’s comprehensive plan will need to protect the character of the community while outlining the framework of our 25 year plan to integrate our community into the larger regional 2040 plan and ultimately reality. It does not make as much sense to hire a private planning firm to update our comprehensive plan when our ultimate goal is to have a plan which aligns with our neighbors and the 2040 regional plan, which CMAP knows best. We ask for your local technical assistance in updating and further developing Beach Park’s Comprehensive Plan. Our current comprehensive plan can be found on our Village website at http://www.vofbp.com/business/zoning-and-maps

Beach Park will greatly benefit from CMAP’s LTA program to improve our comprehensive plan. We also believe our community has much to offer as far as diversity and unique characteristics. Beach Park surrounds an airport, is sandwiched between two rail lines and has multiple pedestrian paths which crisscross our Village. Beach Park has a tremendous potential for a Transit Oriented Development along Sheridan Road, overlooking the State Park and Lake Michigan. Beach Park has had very limited mixed use developments, and this identified TOD area would be suitable for mixed use. Beach Park has experienced significant population growth and housing demographic shifts since the current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2008. We believe that this Community Planning and Local Technical Assistance program is the best option for the Village of Beach Park at this time. We respectfully request your assistance with our comprehensive plan update.