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 Crestwood

2. Main Contact for Application:

   Name: Bill Graffeo
   Title: Village Administrator
   Phone number: 708-481-4800
   Email: Graffeo.b@villageofcrestwoodil.gov

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

   ___X___ Local government
   ___ ___ Multijurisdictional group* Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

   ___Nongovernmental organization* Name of local government partner(s):
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
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 CCDPH.)

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.
X----- 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):
X Yes, I understand that applicants will be required to contribute a local match.

6. Project Location: The scope of this project will be an Active Transportation Plan within the Crestwood Village limits and designed to serve all the Village residents.

7. Project Description:

The Village of Crestwood seeks to create and execute a Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan for the benefit of the nearly 11,000 residents of the Village. This plan’s objectives will be to create opportunities and resources that will encourage Crestwood’s citizens to:

- Walk and bicycle to work, school, parks, and businesses;
- Improve traffic safety;
- Reduce traffic congestion – especially around school campuses, and;
- Build a more environmentally healthy and active community.

An active transportation plan would address several current challenges for pedestrians and cyclists in Crestwood:

1. **Recreational Opportunities:** The community is vastly underserved by parks and open spaces for recreation – about 5.5 acres per 1000 residents. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ goal is 10 acres per 1000 residents.
2. **An incomplete sidewalk network.**
3. **Poor access to schools:** Both school campuses in the village have blocks adjacent to the schools where children must walk in the street to commute to school. As a result, many of the students commute by bus or a family vehicle due to safety concerns.
4. **No direct connection to the Forest Preserves of Cook County trails adjacent to Crestwood.** As a result, residents have to drive a few blocks in a vehicle to walk, run, or ride their bikes as a means to enjoy this valuable resource.

This proposed Comprehensive Plan will create a framework for a complete sidewalk network through all neighborhoods of Crestwood – a dream of the Village that has yet to be realized. Further, the plan will create a vision for a bicycle grid throughout Crestwood made up of paths, lanes, and routes. This grid would connect Crestwood to regional bikeway corridors, allow for more efficient transport to PACE bus stops and also link schools, businesses, and recreation together for active transportation options. It will also involve intersection safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists; the replacement of “rural”
style roads and ditches with modern, urban streets with storm sewers and curb and gutters, and; improve ADA compliance.

Of course, no active transportation plan would be complete without a viable public awareness/education component. This plan would focus on increasing bicycle and pedestrian safety throughout the community – especially with school age children. The Village Board and its Recreation Commission is committed to establishing programs to create a safer environment for walking and cycling instead of driving an automobile. This would include public awareness for motorists on sharing the road. Village leaders and stakeholders are committed to doing the necessary “ground work” of public input awareness. In fact, the Village Recreation Commission conducted a survey of Village residents earlier this year which showed bicycle paths as a major community recreation need. Key Village staff, a representative from the Village Board of Trustees and members of the Recreation Commission would form the core of a Steering Committee to assist the CMAP staff or consultant to execute this plan.

In an effort to enhance the community’s pedestrian and recreational resources, the Mayor and Village Board have established closer relationships on a regional planning level. This proposed LTA funded plan would involve a close working partnership with the following agencies/groups:

- **Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC).** Crestwood seeks to work with FPCC to identify, design, and construct two (2) pathway links to the Tinley Creek Trail in Rubio Woods, directly west of Crestwood (one at Central Avenue and Midlothian Turnpike; the other at 135th Street and Central Avenue). This would be a key link for walkers, runners, and cyclists connecting the residents to the FPCC assets in Rubio Woods.

- **Cook County Highway Department (CCHD):** The Village is currently working with the CCHD to plan and develop sidewalks and bicycle paths on Midlothian Turnpike and Pulaski Road – both CCHD roads. The Village has been allocated nearly $3 million in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to construct pedestrian and bicycle improvements along these vital roads.

- **Southwest Council of Mayors (SCM):** Through the SCM, Crestwood has received federal STP funds in the last year to improve sidewalks on Cicero Avenue and construct sidewalks and a bike path on 135th Street. The SCM also has a CMAP funded Bicycle Plan that includes a Pulaski Road Corridor terminating in Crestwood.

- **Cal-Sag Trail:** Crestwood also wishes to develop a plan using LTA expertise to link Crestwood’s active transportation grid to the newly developed Cal-Sag Trail which connects into Crestwood at 127th Street and Cal-Sag Road. This trail would allow residents from Crestwood and its neighbors to have direct access to the breadth of the trail – Burnham, IL to Lemont, IL.

- **CMAP’s Go To 2040 Plan:** Finally, this LTA project will support the objectives of the Go To 2040 Plan by providing congestion relief benefits, improved air quality, and improving the health and fitness of the residents of Crestwood. Further, the broader goal of the Go To 2040 will be a priority, i.e. roadway and storm drainage improvements; safer routes to schools, and supportive land and zoning uses.

With the help of a CMAP LTA grant, the Village of Crestwood is confident that this Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan will offer its residents – and those of neighboring communities like Robbins, Midlothian, and Palos Heights – better and healthier transportation options and a more livable community. Their leaders are committed to extending their time and resources to make this a reality.
December 2, 2014

Joseph C. Szabo  
Executive Director  
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
233 S. Wacker  
Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60608

ATTN: Erin Aleman

RE: Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Application  
Village of Crestwood  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Dear Mr. Szabo,

On behalf of the Village of Crestwood, I am hereby offering our full commitment to apply for Local Technical Assistance (LTA) funding to create a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for our Village. The Village commits to meet the local matching funds requirement of 15% of the total cost.

Nearly 11,000 residents call Crestwood home. We have developed and modernized virtually all of the infrastructure in the Village. However, we still have no complete sidewalk network for school children and adults to travel to and from our schools, parks, shopping, and public transit amenities. And there are no bicycle paths or routes to encourage our residents to use more active transportation modes. Since elected Mayor in 2013, I have committed to construct the necessary sidewalks to complete our grid and to add opportunities for our residents to bicycle to work, school, shopping, and have full access to the Cook County Forest Preserves right next door to our Village. The technical and financial resources of CMAP can help our small community meet this vision. But we need a bold and comprehensive plan. The LTA program can make that a reality.
Please contact me at (708) 371-4800 or at ipresta@villageofcrestwoodil.gov or our Village Administrator, Bill Graffeo at (708) 371-4800 or at graffeo.b@villageofcrestwoodil.gov, should you need further information.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Louis Presta
Mayor
Village of Crestwood

CC: Bill Graffeo
June 22, 2015

Mr. Joseph Szabo
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60608

RE: Crestwood Pedestrian and Bicycle Comprehensive Plan
   LTA Technical Assistance Application

Dear Mr. Szabo,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways in support of the Village of Crestwood’s application for a Local Technical Assistance (LTA) from CMAP grant to execute a Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

Currently, the Village of Crestwood has an incomplete sidewalk network and no bicycle routes, lanes, or paths. The goal of this requested Comprehensive Plan is to create a greater opportunity for residents of Crestwood to walk or bicycle to school, work, shopping, and recreational facilities in a safe manner. Further, the Forest Preserves of Cook County have abundant opportunities for recreation and the enjoyment of natural open space right next to the Village. However, there currently is no safe and efficient access to the Preserves outside of auto travel.

Cook County has jurisdiction and maintains three (3) major thoroughfares in Crestwood: Midlothian Turnpike, Central Avenue, and Pulaski Road. In the last few months, the Village has received a commitment of federal funds to construct sidewalks on Pulaski and sidewalks and bicycle paths on Midlothian Turnpike. The CCHD looks forward to partnering with Crestwood to see these projects successfully completed.
We are delighted to support this LTA application and look forward to being a part of this project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highway’s Support of this LTA application.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Yonan, P.E.
Superintendent of Transportation and Highways
June 23, 2015

Joseph C. Szabo
Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker
Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

RE: Village of Crestwood’s LTA Application

Dear Mr. Szabo:

The Southwest Conference of Mayors is a body of duly elected officials representing twenty-one communities in southwest suburban Cook County with a population in excess of 350,000. The Village of Crestwood is a Municipal Member of the Southwest Conference of Mayors.

The Southwest Conference of Mayors is in full support of the Village of Crestwood’s Local Technical Assistance (LTA) application for funding to create a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Village of Crestwood. The Southwest Conference of Mayors will assist with the Plan whenever possible and necessary. Also, once the Village of Crestwood’s Plan is complete the Southwest Conference of Mayors will incorporate it into our conference-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Thank you for considering the Village of Crestwood’s LTA application to fund a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Respectfully,

Vicky Matyas-Smith
Executive Director

Gerald R. Bennett
President
Mayor, City of Palos Hills

James J. Sexton
Vice President
Mayor, Village of Evergreen Park

Robert S. Straz
Vice President
Mayor, City of Palos Heights

David R. Brady
Treasurer
President, Village of Bedford Park

Victoria A. Smith
Executive Director

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