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:
EVERYDAY EDGEBROOK

2. Main Contact for Application:

Name: NOEL BUCAN & LAURA GUNTHER
Title: Coordinators of Everyday Edgbrook
Phone number: 773-763-5811 - Noel  773-490-8200 - Laura
Email: noel@aquasalonchicago.com  laura@localgoodschicago.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:
_____ STATE REP. JOHN D’AMICO

*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 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.
___X___ 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.

DOWNTOWN EDGEBROOK, CHICAGO, Identified by the intersections of Devon, Caldwell, Central and Lehigh.

Map link: https://www.google.com/maps/@41.9972783,-87.7641616,17z

7. Project Description:

Currently Edgebrook has a new 501 (c) 3 organization, EVERYDAY EDGEBROOK, a business development and advocacy organization, comprised of dedicated local “brick and mortar” business owners, community organizations, and area residents who are totally committed and enthusiastic about working together to REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN EDGEBROOK (see Map link: https://www.google.com/maps/@41.9972783,-87.7641616,17z ). Simply, we now have a critical mass of stakeholders to make the necessary improvements. However, we need TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to develop a comprehensive plan that will address the challenges of a congested, geographically and transportation-wise complicated business district. The problems have been identified for decades but the necessary leadership and expertise in the community were lacking.

Since these earlier inadequate efforts, Niles, Skokie and Lincolnwood have built large shopping centers on our immediate borders. A comprehensive plan to improve our downtown area will result in a richer mix of businesses and restaurants that will increase our Chicago tax base and improve pedestrian
accessibility and safety. Edgebrook has experienced a significant increase in families with young children. Their needs and safety have to be considered.

Our transportation configuration of several dangerous intersections, a Metra train station, one bicycle trail and another approved new one, the confluence of four (4) main streets (Caldwell, Central, Devon & Lehigh) three of which are state roads-----all within six (6) blocks-----are made even more complicated by the increasing frequency of freight trains that use the same tracks throughout the day. Furthermore, both the passenger and freight trains block all four main streets for long periods of time because of the three surface crossings within a one (1) block area.

Everyday Edgebrook and the Edgebrook community desperately need expert assistance to help the Edgebrook business district reach its full potential. And, we are committed to implementing the comprehensive plan that is developed. In its short existence, Everyday Edgebrook already has a track record of holding a family friendly street fair, implementing several beautification projects, and has successfully mobilized the merchants and community into a cohesive unit. We hope we have the opportunity to work with you on this vital project.

A link to the Everyday Edgebrook Facebook Page where you can see many of our accomplishments and activities to date:

https://www.facebook.com/everydayedgebrook?fref=ts

Website with link of merchant members:

www.everydayedgebrook.com

Map of Edgebrook:

https://www.google.com/maps/@41.9972783,-87.7641616,17z
June 24, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for Everyday Edgebrook’s application to the Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program. The intersections encompassing Devon, Caldwell, Central, and Lehigh Avenues pose numerous safety and transportation concerns for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. These issues have affected the surrounding community and businesses for numerous years and Everyday Edgebrook has made a dedicated effort to alleviate some of the challenges there. I believe members of Everyday Edgebrook will present some strong ideas on how to improve this complicated area and hope that they will receive the necessary assistance to help downtown Edgebrook reach its full potential. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John C. D’Amico