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 Frankfort

2. Main Contact for Application:

   Name: Joe Piscia
   Title: Grant Specialist
   Phone number: 815-469-2177
   Email: j piscia@vofil.com

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

   ___ Local government
   ___ Multijurisdictional group*
   ___ Nongovernmental organization*

   Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

   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 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.
   ____ 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.

Village of Frankfort corporate limits, Will County.

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 Frankfort requests assistance preparing an update to the Frankfort Bike Trail Master Plan (last completed in 2005). The updated plan will incorporate pedestrian facilities, identify existing improvements, key connection points, proposed future improvements and serve as a foundation to prioritizing and funding future improvements for both cyclists and pedestrians. Frankfort is home to nearly 12 miles of public bicycle/pedestrian trails constructed in accordance with AASHTO standards. Frankfort is home to five of the 22 mile Old Plank Road Trail – traversing seven communities and two counties. According to a study completed by Trails for Illinois, the Old Plank Road Trail sees about 128,000 users per year. The study also showed people spend more money at businesses along trails, trails encourage good attitudes about the environment, and trails help create a healthy, fit community.
The Old Plank Road Trail provides a central bike and pedestrian path for the 20,000 residents of Frankfort and the 45,000 residents serving interconnected trail systems. The trail is adjacent to about 50 businesses, 10 parks, 18 neighborhoods, the Frankfort Village Hall, and Grand Prairie Elementary School. Vehicle traffic for these establishments is alleviated because of the Old Plank Road Trail. On a beautiful, sunny, weekend day residents walk and bike the trail to Downtown Frankfort and spend the day enjoying Breidert Green and many of the local shops. Parents use the trail to walk their children to and from Grand Prairie Elementary School, instead of using their personal vehicles; saving money, and cutting emissions. The trail is home to events (taken from Old Plank Road Trail website)* in Frankfort throughout the year, such as:

- Frankfort Country Market (summer Sundays)
- Frankfort Old Plank Trail 5k (October)
- Cruisin’ Frankfort (Thursday Summer Evenings)
- Frankfort Fall Festival (September)
- Frankfort Winter on the Green Ice Festival (January)
- Frankfort German Heritage Celebration (may)
- Frankfort Concerts on the Green (summer)
- Frankfort Movies on the Green (summer)
- Frankfort Fine Arts Festival (June)

*Of the 19 Events shown on the Old Plank Road Trail, 9 are found only in Frankfort

These events generate a great deal of income for the Village of Frankfort and its local retailers, specifically Fall Festival. Fall Festival brings in over 300,000 visitors a year and has been ranked as the second best Festival in Illinois, and it takes place right on the Old Plank Trail. Other events on the trail raise the happiness of Frankfort and make it a fun place to live. Cruisin’ Frankfort is a prime example. Every Thursday in Frankfort residents park their show cars all around downtown Frankfort and have an outdoor car show. People from all over Frankfort use the Old Plank Trail to walk downtown and enjoy classic cars.

Frankfort has 78 neighborhoods total, and many do not have a direct path leading to the Old Plank Road Trail and all of its resources. We want to encourage use of the Old Plank Road Trail, and the best way to do so is to make it more accessible. Residents cannot use the trail system to its full potential if they do not have convenient access to it. Adding bike trail all around Frankfort should increase the availability of the Old Plank Road Trail.

The Forest Preserve District of Will County has sent a Letter of Support for our Bike Path Plan. See attachment one for the letter.

The goals Frankfort would like to accomplish with the Bike Path Plan Update are as follows:

- Providing a marked trail within half mile of every residential property in the Village
- Expand the plan to include pedestrian facilities
- Provide a direct connection to every school and park in the Village, as well as the Frankfort Public Library, Village Hall, and major commercial centers
- Ultimately provide access from all trails into the Old Plank Road Trail
- Maximizing trail parallelism with the roadways, where appropriate
- Identify opportunities for strategic additional trail linkages using utility rights of way. This includes potential development of the Natural Gas Pipeline and segments of Commonwealth Edison rights of way to supplement other trails
- Identify linkages with existing and planned trail segments in other localities
- Develop an inventory of existing the existing trail system
- Improve the Village of Frankfort’s “Bike Friendly Community” rating
- Establish trail system design guidelines
- Develop a capital improvement plan


Increasing the use of bike and pedestrian trails is the main concern of this plan update. Frankfort realizes increasing the number of bike paths increases the quality of living for residents. They aid healthy living, local shopping, and clean air. Expanding Frankfort’s bike path network will also make recreational and commercial areas more accessible. We hope to utilize all CMAP has to offer in preparation of this plan, and hope, together, we can create a lasting, efficient plan.
June 16, 2015

Mr. Jerry Ducay  
Village Administrator  
Village of Frankfort  
432 W. Nebraska  
Frankfort, Illinois 60423

RE: Village of Frankfort Bikeway Plan – Grant Application

Dear Mr. Ducay,

The Forest Preserve District of Will County would like to express its support of the LTA Grant application being submitted by the Village of Frankfort for assistance in preparing a Bikeway Plan.

The Village of Frankfort needs a comprehensive bikeway plan to offer a non-motorized form of transportation and guide future development and road improvements. The Village has made great progress with trails and bikeways however many connections are still needed and may require the use of road right-a-ways or other corridors. A comprehensive bikeway plan will help determine the appropriate form of bicycle accommodation, will help set funding priorities, and will assist in obtaining funding for implementation. A Bikeway Plan will have great benefits in and around the Village of Frankfort by providing safe connections to other communities, regional trail and bikeway systems, public transportation, commercial areas and open space.

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is very interested in a Village of Frankfort Bikeway Plan and fully supports this project. We look forward to participating in the planning process.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marcella M. Demauro  
Executive Director