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/ Jerry Ducay
Title: Grant Specialist
Phone number: 815-469-2177
Email: jpiscia@vofil.com

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):
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

*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.

The project is located in Downtown Frankfort. A map may be found in Attachment 1 of this document.

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.

(Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)

The Village of Frankfort requests assistance from CMAP to update and analyze the Historic District Revitalization Strategies. The previous document thoroughly mapped the goals deemed appropriate in 2007, now eight years later an update is needed. Downtown Frankfort serves as a hub for recreation, retail, and commercial enterprises for the Village of Frankfort and the surrounding communities.

Downtown Frankfort is home to about 87 days of Village sponsored events a year. Events put on by the Village of Frankfort have become a stable in recreational activity for the residents of Frankfort. Events such as the Frankfort Country Market – supplying fresh, locally grown food – and Concerts on the Green – providing live, free concerts to the public – occur once a week throughout the summer. One of the
most important events sponsored by Frankfort is the annual Frankfort Fall Festival. The Festival attracts over 300,000 visitors from all over Illinois during Labor Day weekend. In 2014, it was rated the second best festival in Illinois, and 11th in the United States. According to the Frankfort Fall Festival website “With over 300 participating artisans (from 30 different States), and unlimited entertainment and food options, the festival continues to grow.” In the update the Village wishes to examine methods to house Frankfort’s numerous events more efficiently, and plan for the likelihood of an increased number of events.

Downtown Frankfort is also a center for local business; 75 local businesses call downtown Frankfort home. These businesses provide valuable goods and services to the community, while simultaneously maintaining Frankfort’s small town charm. However, most areas similar to Downtown Frankfort contain around 150 stores and restaurants. The spending power surrounding Downtown Frankfort is over $45 million dollars, and Frankfort would like to capitalize on this opportunity by bringing more retail and restaurants to the Downtown area.

Even with the plethora of events and numerous businesses Downtown Frankfort manages to maintain a sense of calmness – bringing peace to its residents. With blooming flower pots, Breidert Green, and Prairie Park; Downtown Frankfort provides a place to relax for the residents of Frankfort. Whether you are fishing by Prairie Pond, listening to a concert on the Green, or simply walking around enjoying the scenery, Downtown Frankfort is a delightful place to be. Maintaining this feel to the Downtown is pivotal in the Historic District Revitalization plan. No matter what is changed; Downtown must keep its atmosphere.

The update to the Revitalization Plan may include but is not limited to the following:

- An updated map of the Downtown area and include all new businesses.
- Updated studies on surrounding towns and their downtown income.
- Update business development and enhancement strategy.
- Provide a current plan for both organization and finance.
- Increase access to open spaces and natural features.
- Improve residents’ access and circulation to and around the downtown area.
- Increase parking supply.
- Improve revitalization strategies.
- Increase visibility of stores to both automobile commuter population and pedestrians.
- Create signage that identifies and directs visitors to the downtown area.
- Analyze the current downtown business mix.

The Village is very passionate about its Downtown area, taking great pride in everything it provides. The update and eventual implementation of this plan will improve the retail and recreational capabilities of Downtown and subsequently improve the lives of Frankfort’s residents. The Village looks forward to the possibility of working with CMAP to create an optimal plan for Downtown Frankfort.
Attachment 1: Map of Downtown Frankfort