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 Justice

2. Main Contact for Application:

Name: Matthew J. Zarebzan
Title: Director of Economic Development
Phone number: 708-458-2130
Email: mzarebzan@villageofjustice.org

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 CCDPH.)

____ My project involves preparation of a plan.
___ My project helps to implement a past plan.
___ 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:
The project location is Archer Road from 88th Avenue to 71st Street in Justice, Illinois

7. Project Description:
Please tell us what you would like to do in your community, and what assistance is needed.

Please see Attached Project Description.
June 23, 2015

Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program
RE: Archer Road from 88th Avenue to 71st Street in Justice, IL
Request for Planning Assistance

The Village of Justice is a comparatively small, bedroom community located in southwest suburban Cook County approximately 18 miles southwest of the Loop via I-55. Several commercial arteries traverse the community, including Archer Road, 79th Street, and Roberts Road. Bisected by I-294 the community encompasses 2.84 square miles, and includes two large cemeteries: Resurrection (480 acres) and Bethania (114 acres). The 2010 population in Justice was 12,926.

The Village of Justice is requesting planning assistance in initiating a comprehensive plan to develop a long-range community vision, which would establish a clear and defined path for future growth and development for Archer Road from 88th Avenue to 71st Street in Justice, IL.

Very few of the businesses in the Archer corridor are the types of businesses that attract daily walk-in customers or generate pedestrian activity, such as retail establishments or restaurants. A majority of the commercial development located on Archer Road is geared toward the cemetery business, including multiple monument companies, and a flower shop. The commercial uses attract very specific customers, but they provide a niche service or product with the result being that Archer Road feels less active and busy than other portions of the Village. Other types of businesses located within this corridor include professional offices such as a dentist, insurance agency, a convenience and liquor store, a bar/lounge, car repair, auto shops and garages.

Archer Avenue does provide access to a few key Village institutions, including Village Hall, and a police and fire department facility. The park district offices and public library are both located just north of Archer Road. In addition to the Village government services, Frank A. Brodnicki Elementary School can be seen from Archer Road but is accessed on 75th Street on the north, and the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church also has a significant presence along Archer Road. The Village’s largest and most utilized open space/park facilities, Commissioners Park, consisting of about 4.4 acres and is located in the northwest portion of Justice and accessed from Archer Road.

As with a large portion of the Village’s primary arterial streets, the entire south side of Archer Road abuts two cemeteries, Resurrection and Bethania Cemetery. The cemeteries create challenges from a development standpoint due to their size and location, but also serve to attract groups of people into the Village consistently throughout the year.
A large portion of the Village’s residential land uses is found northwest of Archer Road. This part of the Village contains single-family homes, town homes, multi-family housing, such as condominiums. In addition, a few of the 2-story commercial buildings along Archer Road contain upper-floor apartments, although these building contain relatively few units compared to other residential buildings located on 79th Street and 88th Avenue are independently managed by the building owners.

Pedestrians do have access to walkways on both sides of Archer Road, but lack public transportation. The nearest bus service is located at 79th Street. Creating service for Archer Road would create access as well as provide a more viable option for the residents located on the north side of the Village. A large part of creating a comprehensive plan for Archer Road would include planning for public transportation services to be added.

In conjunction with the Mayor and Board of Trustees, the Village Economic Planning Board, and the assistance of the Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program the Village of Justice feels it can create a clear, documented and shared vision for 79th Street. This vision would be a guide for funding strategies, capital improvement programming, new development and retention/attraction of businesses. The Village considers this planning process an important opportunity to; Develop an optimal short term and long-range land use strategy; Create and test a range of alternative development concepts that would enhance and revitalize 79th Street; Review and assess the current development regulations within the community to find opportunities for unified development standards and guidelines; and to establish better infrastructure and transportation options.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal for your review. If there are any questions regarding our submittal please feel free to contact me at any time.

Best Regards,

[Signature]

Matthew J. Zareczan
Village of Justice
Director of Economic Development