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: The Village of Midlothian

2. Main Contact for Application:
   Name: Karen Kreis
   Title: Village Trustee, Community Development Chair
   Phone number: (708) 389-0200 x 981
   Email: kkreis@villageofmidlothian.org

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 CDPH.)

___ X ___ My project involves preparation of a plan.
___ X ___ 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.

Select locations (TBD) along 147th Street (IL 83), between Cicero Avenue and Kedzie Avenue, Midlothian.

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.)
Objectives:
The Village of Midlothian (the Village) is applying for a LTA grant to support a community-based collaborative re-imagination, and plan of action for 147th Street (IL-83) as the central corridor to the Village. The Study will embrace an iterative placemaking approach that marries the multiple needs and opportunities for retail, recreation, cycling, walking, and — critically for Midlothian — stormwater management, and prepares the Village for a swift engineering design process and project implementation.

As part of the study, we request CMAP’s help to:

- Conduct a review of the 147th street corridor, providing a review of existing and forecast travel conditions, streetscape design recommendations, benefit to commercial properties, and preliminary implementation costs for a street enhancements with green infrastructure stormwater management improvements. Our aim is to get as close to implementable engineering designs as possible.

- Carry out a community-based, iterative placemaking approach to re-imagining the street that strengthens public engagement in the design process and bring quick wins in the form of demonstration projects, street events, or pop-ups. We understand the cost of any implementation will not be covered by the LTA grant.

The study will build on the significant investment being made by the Village to upgrade its infrastructure: from stormwater upgrades in the Village center funded by the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program (IGIG), to improvements in the pedestrian environment along 147th Street (IL-83) funded by the Regional Transportation Authority’s Access to Transit program, planned green infrastructure projects on private (a demonstration home on 147th Street) and public property in the village. The Village is working closely with MWRD on a Phase II Study for Flood Control on Natalie Creek, which will alleviate much of the flood-related pressure on the 147th Street corridor while bringing broader recreational opportunities along the creek.

We envisage an approach that builds momentum towards a long term vision for economic revitalization and community resilience through integrated place-based strategies. Pop-ups and interactive events will help the community see what is possible, building community support for action and determining what set of designs are most appropriate for improvements along 147th Street (IL-83). As such, we believe that this project could offer a case study in the south suburbs for placemaking best practices that include green infrastructure for stormwater management. The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) has endorsed this view and see strong links to this study and their existing work on Complete Streets.

A number of activities have led Midlothian to move forward on proposals for a placemaking plan for 147th Street:

- **Chronic flooding** in the Village (see video) caused by overbank flooding from nearby creeks, and from overland flooding as a result of urban runoff from impervious surfaces and left streets serving as conduits for stormwater run-off. The Village invited state representative Will Davis to host a meeting that brought together the key agencies involved in flood relief and requested the Center for Neighborhood Technology and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a plan of action. This plan is likely to recommend the widespread integration of green infrastructure within the Village’s streetscapes.
Livability and transportation: The 2011 Active Transportation Plan prepared on behalf of the Village proposes turning 147th Street into a Complete Street, with improved transit conditions and connections, improved pedestrian walkways and new bicycling facilities. To help move forward on this work, the Village applied for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Access to Transit funding program and was one of 13 communities selected for access enhancements. The RTA has submitted a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) proposal for matching funds for these improvements. The Village aims to coordinate the Access to Transit / CMAQ investments so that they are consistent and complementary to a Complete Streets plan. The Village is also applying for a Cook County Healthy Hot Spot grant which, if obtained, will develop a Complete Streets Policy for the community and address construction and maintenance issues. Depending upon the results of the Healthy Hot Spot competitive grant application, the Village will work with both grant agencies to ensure coordination.

Green infrastructure: The 2013 Midlothian Creek Green Infrastructure Plan prepared on behalf of the Village (available on request) suggests site-based green infrastructure and bicycle and pedestrian improvements near the train station on 147th Street (Midlothian’s TOD area). The Plan led to the Village’s application to IGIG to start these improvements.

Watershed and creek enhancements: The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) is carrying out engineering plans to reduce overbank flooding along Natalie Creek. The Village is working with MWRD to leverage any investment in a way that brings wider pedestrian and cycling benefits to the Village, with links to 147th Street. The implementation of these plans will bring relief to the Village, enabling strategic reinvestment in community assets.

The work proposed supports the goals of the region’s Go To 2040 plan, by helping the Village of Midlothian:

- Improve stormwater management, with the introduction of green infrastructure in areas with previously impervious surfaces;
- Provide supportive infrastructure for transportation mode choice;
- Improve corridor aesthetics with the addition of the green infrastructure plantings;
- Complement existing investments that support transit ridership and economic development; and
- Energize local residents to believe that their streets and flooding issues can improve.

Leadership and Partners
The work will be guided by the RainReady steering committee made up of Village Trustees, residents affected by flooding (Floodlothian Midlothian), and the Superintendent of Public Works. The committee meets monthly to steer the implementation of stormwater management strategies in the Village via a RainReady plan that is being developed by the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) working in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers. The project was one of just four projects selected nationally by the Corps ‘Silver Jackets’ program that is designed to support coordination between federal agencies working on flooding.

This proposal for a placemaking plan is being steered by the RainReady committee and is being closely coordinated with:

- The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)
- RTA
- IDOT – the agency was involved in the meeting hosted by Will Davis, and we have had initial discussions with them about the proposed corridor study and iterative planning process.
• South Suburban Mayors and Managers Associations (SSMMA) to explore a new model for implementation of their regional Complete Streets program.
• OAI and Highbridge, who are leading the green infrastructure installations in the Village center and some of the planned demonstration rain gardens in private property (a home on 147th Street) and the Village library.
• Cook County Forest Preserve, since the agency owns a golf course that drains into the watershed.

Iterative placemaking
The RainReady steering committee has stressed the importance of bringing improvements to the Village in ways that builds public support, strengthens residents’ engagement and creates a sense of momentum. The Center for Neighborhood Technology has recommended an iterative placemaking approach – described by Project for Public Spaces as “lighter, quicker, cheaper" - that encourages citizen-led efforts to shape their places. Acknowledging the additional challenges of implementing an iterative approach to design on IDOT roads, we are nevertheless keen to explore opportunities such as the use of temporary designs and pop-ups that strengthen public engagement in the planning process and bring quick wins in the form of demonstration projects or street events.
June 18, 2015

Ms. Karen Kries  
Village Trustee, Community Development Chair  
Village of Midlothian  
14801 S. Pulaski Rd.  
Midlothian, IL 60445

Dear Ms. Karen Kries:

On behalf of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), I write to express my support for the Village of Midlothian’s application for the 2015 Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program.

This application seeks assistance to conduct a corridor study along 147th Street (IL-83) with a focus on Complete Street improvements that bring retail, stormwater management, recreational, and cycling and pedestrian benefits to the heart of the Village.

This project advances SSMMA’s regional vision to implement transit-oriented development, green infrastructure and complete streets in the Southland and builds on multiple projects underway or already completed. In addition, the innovative iterative planning approach that is proposed could serve as a model for future work in the south suburbs and the Chicago region.

SSMMA strongly supports this application and our staff looks forward to working with you on this study. If you need any additional information to support your application, please feel free to contact the SSMMA staff.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Paesel  
Executive Director

Cc: Molly Oshun, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Ms. Karen Kreis  
Village Trustee  
Village of Midlothian  
14801 S. Pulaski Road  
Midlothian, IL  60445  

Dear Ms. Kreis:

Subject: Letter of Support for Midlothian CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Village of Midlothian’s (Village) 2016 Community Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program application.

The Local Technical Assistance will help the Village carry out a placemaking study for 147th street (IL 83) which is an IDOT road. The study could serve as a model for the south suburbs in the use of placemaking strategies to bring green infrastructure, transportation, recreational enhancements to communities.

The study links well with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District’s work in Midlothian to alleviate flooding along Natalie Creek. In addition, we are furthering similar green infrastructure and resilience strategies in communities across the south suburbs, many of whom have similar challenges to those facing Midlothian. The findings of the study could prove to be informative to our work in these communities.

For any additional information, please contact the staff at MWRD.

Sincerely,

David St. Pierre

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