

**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](http://www.rtachicago.com/applications). You may submit the form by email to [applications@rtachicago.com](mailto: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 New Lenox**

**2. Main Contact for Application:**

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| --- |
| Name: Robin Ellis, AICP |
| Title: Assistant Village Administrator / Community Development Director |
| Phone number: (815) 462-6413 |
| Email: rellis@newlenox.net |

**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):

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\_\_\_\_ Nongovernmental organization\* Name of local government partner(s):

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\*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.)

\_\_RE\_\_ 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 Village of New Lenox is located approximately 35 miles southwest of Chicago in Will County. The Village currently encompasses approximately 14 square miles, but has a planning jurisdiction of nearly 40 square miles extending into three townships. The primary areas to be studied are the older residential neighborhoods along Cedar Road, as well as areas between existing, developed residential areas and U.S. Route 30 and the Old Plank Road Trail.

**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 New Lenox has experienced significant residential and commercial growth over the past two decades. Most of this more recent development has included sidewalks. However, there are large residential areas, primarily east and west of Cedar Road, that were developed in the mid-1900s and do not include pedestrian facilities. The lack of sidewalks makes it difficult for residents to walk to nearby commercial areas and the Metra Rock Island station.

The commercial corridor along U.S. Route 30 has been developed without the consistent inclusion of pedestrian or bicyclist facilities due to the historic practices of the Illinois Department of Transportation, previous absence of Village requirements, and the presence of a number of unincorporated properties. The lack of safe connections along and between commercial uses creates a dangerous situation and further encourages the use of automobiles.

The Village benefits from having the Will County Forest Preserve District’s Old Plank Road Trail traverse the center of the community, linking a number of schools and park sites. However, many residential neighborhoods lack a safe way to access the trail, especially neighborhoods on the south side of the Village.

The Will County Highway Department has jurisdiction over a number of roads within the Village, and this agency does not typically consider pedestrian and/or bicyclist needs when designing and constructing projects. Past practice has resulted in a lack of pedestrian and bicyclist facilities along Laraway Road and Gougar Road, inhibiting the use of alternative modes of transportation to Lincoln-Way West High School and the Metra Laraway Road station, as well as commercial developments.

The Village of New Lenox is seeking assistance from CMAP to evaluate the gaps that occur in the existing pedestrian and bicyclist facility system. The goal of the project would be to identify the gaps, recommend locations where pedestrian and bicyclist facilities should be improved and/or constructed to maximize the number of residents and businesses that benefit from improved pedestrian and bicyclist access, and identify possible funding sources for future construction of improvements.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for assistance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.