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. Upon receipt of application, you will receive an e-mail verifying that your application has been received.

1. Name of Applicant:
Village of Palos Park, 8999 W. 123rd Street, Palos Park, IL 60464

2. Main Contact for Application:

   Name: Lori Sommers
   
   Title: Director of Community Development/Building Department
   
   Phone number: 708.671.3731
   
   Email: lsommers@palospark.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):
   _Forest Preserve District of Cook County
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

   ____ 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.
- [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.
- [X] 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 proposed project is located in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Cook County and the Village of Palos Park, a non-home-rule community with 4,847 residents that was incorporated in 1914. The Village and the Forest Preserve District are collaborating to make the trail system in Cook County the best connected system in the region. The team proposes to examine existing Cook County Trails and the newly created Cal-Sag Trail to identify missing trail connections and potential linkages throughout this region. The team sees this not only as a way of stitching together the various segments of Palos Park, but also a way to connect people to jobs and businesses and cultural opportunities and promoting the trail as a real transportation alternative.

In 2004 the Village of Palos Park adopted a Strategic Plan which noted a goal of improving the quality and safety of the Village’s infrastructure to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and equestrians throughout all areas of the Village and secure the proper design and implementation of other infrastructure systems. The Village’s objective is to establish a better bicycle/pedestrian trail system linking Forest Preserve District of Cook County and other areas of the Village. In 2011 the Village of Palos Park adopted an amendment to its Comprehensive Plan (http://www.palospark.org/pdf/PalosParkCompPlan12072009.pdf) which included an Alternative Transportation Improvement Section. After the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan the Village worked to implement the plan through collaborations such as the Cal Sag Trail Coalition (http://calsagtrail.org). On June 6, 2015 the Village opened its section of the Cal Sag along with the Forest Preserve District, Palos Heights and Alsip.

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County completed and adopted a Recreation Master Plan in March 2013 (http://fpdcc.com/downloads/FPDCCRecMasterPlan030813-1FINALPRINT.pdf). The Recreation Master Plan reviewed all aspects of recreation throughout the District and revealed that trails were the Forest Preserves’ most popular and heavily used assets. It was recommended that a separate Trail Master Plan and Policy be created; this was completed in March 2014.
The Trail Master Plan’s overarching goal is to improve the user experience and identify opportunities to ensure a safe and easy-to-navigate trail system. The Forest Preserve District’s existing 300+ mile system is the most extensive and diverse in the Chicago Region and expanding and connecting major regional trails is a major focus. The District’s Next Century Conservation Plan, formally adopted in January 2015 (http://www.nextcenturyconservationplan.org/), outlines an ambitious vision to conserve the forest preserves for the next one hundred years. Major components of this plan are to ensure that everyone in Cook County feels welcome at the forest preserves and that communities will value the economic benefits of protected land. Trails play a key role in advancing both of these goals providing communities with connectivity to businesses and employment, as well as providing people with opportunities to participate in healthy outdoor recreation activities.

7. Project Description:
Please tell us what you would like to do in your community, and what assistance is needed.
The Village of Palos Park and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County are seeking assistance to create a comprehensive and expanded trail plan for the Cal-Sag West trail segment that includes Palos Park and the Forest Preserve areas. In addition to promoting the trail system as a recreational asset, the map would show connections to employment and business districts and shopping centers, and promote this trail system as a viable alternative transportation asset. The plan will address how to connect the missing links in the Forest Preserve District and the Village of Palos Park. More specifically, the plan will focus on the following areas:

- Create safe walking/bicycling connections between key destinations along the Cal Sag Trail and other major trail systems in the region, as well as into neighboring communities.
- A network of walking/bicycle trails that will connect residents to local shopping, institutions, transit, and other neighborhoods.
- Accessibility to important recreational features within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County
- Create a public education and outreach plan on bicycling and walking in the region as a viable transportation option.
June 25, 2015

Lori Sommers, AICP, LEED AP
Community Development Director
Building Department
Kaptur Administrative Center
8999 West 123rd Street
Palos Park, IL 60464

Dear Ms. Sommers,

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County is pleased to submit this letter of support to the Village of Palos Park for the application to the Local Technical Assistance Program for the for the development of comprehensive and expanded trail plan for the Cal-Sag West Trail Segment.

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County would welcome the opportunity to be part of this collaborative initiative and urges your support of this project.

Sincerely,

Michelle Uting
Grant Administrator