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: Triton College

2. Main Contact for Application:

Name: Adrian Fisher  
Title: Sustainability Coordinator  
Phone number: (708) 456-0300 ext. 3578  
Email: adrianfisher@triton.edu

3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply):

___ Local government

___X__ Multijurisdictional group*  
Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):
Village of Melrose Park
Village of River Grove

___ 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.)

___ 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.)

___ 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 proposed project will be located on Fifth Avenue between River Road on the north and North Avenue on the south. The project area is located in the Villages of River Grove and Melrose Park. Both villages are targeted Healthy Hotspot communities. Please view attached map.

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.

History
Triton College, founded in 1964, is one of 48 community colleges in Illinois and operates under the direction of the Illinois Community College Board, with accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Once described by Time Magazine as a "cutting edge" community college, Triton College is located in western Cook County and serves the near western suburbs of Chicago including Melrose Park, River Grove, Elmwood Park, Leyden, and the Proviso Township, River Forest, Riverside, Brookfield and several other communities. Triton College is dedicated to improving sustainability on campus and in the communities it serves. This is demonstrated by the extensive list of external partnerships the college has established over the years. The college is certified at the Gold level of the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact and our Sustainability Planning
Guide is aligned with the college’s overall mission and vision. The guide includes five sustainability goals related to planning, creating a culture of sustainability, improving the built environment in ways that will enhance sustainability, reducing emissions and resource use, community engagement and forming connections and partnerships on sustainability-related issues and projects.
(http://online2.triton.edu/docs/presidentsoffice/2014_09_02_FinalTriton_Sustainability_Plan.pdf)

As part of this commitment to sustainability, Triton also has a history of transit-oriented projects. In 2011, Triton became an institutional core team member of the PlanItGreen Community Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest; both of these communities are located in our district. We subsequently partnered with Pace Bus, Dominican University and Concordia University (both in River Forest) to survey students and staff about transit needs. This relationship is ongoing, with plans developed to educate students and staff about transit options and to survey students at orientation. Data will be used by Pace Bus in future planning. Additionally, Triton is a Pace retail location for sales of Ventra cards and we have worked with Pace to provide a shuttle service between the campus and Pace bus stops at the intersection of North and Fifth Avenues.

In regards to cycling and walking, campus improvements have included multiple new bike racks. We have developed a fitness path/bike plan for the campus; the walking path is currently being built as part of campus renovations, while the bike path continues under discussion. Triton also belongs to the Chicagoland Bike2Campus Coalition, a group of twelve schools whose mission is to “promote cycling as a fun, healthy, and sustainable mode of transit on (and between) our campuses, in our communities and in the region. We encourage everyone to learn about being smart and safe while cycling.”
http://www.bike2campus.com. This spring Triton participated in the Coalition’s Bike2Campus Week, April 20-24.

Proposed Project
Triton College, which serves the Villages of River Grove and Melrose Park and twenty-three other communities (total of 300,000 residents), is very difficult to access except by car. The nearest Metra station is approximately two miles away. Pace bus service is also limited: Route 331 goes to campus, and there is Pace Bus shuttle service half a mile to the North Avenue Route 318. The speed limit on Fifth Avenue, which bisects the campus, is 35 mph, which motorists frequently exceed. Conditions for pedestrians and cyclists are very difficult. Additionally, parts of the stretch in question have gaps in the sidewalks and there are no streetlights. There is no accommodation for cyclists at all; traffic flow makes for uncomfortable riding.

Triton College, with the support of Melrose Park and River Grove, would like to create a plan to make Fifth Avenue between North Avenue and River Road an active transportation connector, or complete street, which would serve the River Grove and Melrose Park communities as well as Triton students, faculty and staff. The plan would include streetscape improvements such as trees and better lighting, and most importantly, sidewalk improvements, bike accommodations such as signage and striped, and possible traffic calming features. This would improve usability for residents of the two villages and the Triton community at large. It would also make that stretch more welcoming for everyone.

Currently the bridge over the Des Plaines River at Thatcher and North Avenues is being reconstructed. Included in that project will be pedestrian/bike enhancements on the south side that will connect with a
bike path and sidewalk that ends at Riverwoods Drive in Melrose Park. In 2016, North Avenue in Melrose Park between Riverwoods Drive and Mannheim Road is due to be enhanced for cyclists and pedestrians. This would be a good time to plan and implement improvements to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists traveling on Fifth Avenue. If approved, we would like assistance in creating such a plan to make pedestrian and bike improvements, along with streetscape enhancements, on Fifth Avenue between River Road and North Avenue. Such assistance might include creating a committee composed of community members, outreach, consultation and advice, along with putting the plan into the proper format, along with any other aspects of the planning process that such a project would require. Such a completed plan would provide guidance for future implementation. A well-developed bike/pedestrian plan would also be valuable when seeking implementation funds for improvement projects, which Triton plans to aggressively pursue.
Legend

- **Shaded**: 5th Ave. Pedestrian & Bicycle Improvements
- **Dotted Line**: Currently Planned Bike Facilities
- **Filled Line**: DesPlains River Trail
- **Dotted Circle**: Gaps In Bike Network
- **Dotted Circle**: Triton College Planned Fitness Trail

Intersection improvements for Pedestrians & Bicyclists
June 8, 2015

Jill Leary
Interim Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois  60606

Dear Jill,

The Village of Melrose Park enthusiastically supports Triton College’s application to the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program to develop a plan for bicycle/pedestrian improvements on Fifth Avenue between North Avenue and River Road. Triton College is one of our strongest and most committed community partners. We are excited to be one of the collaborators, along with the Village of River Grove, on this initiative to create a viable bicycle/pedestrian plan for the residents and students of District 504.

We support the college’s commitment to environmental sustainability and their dedication to making the Triton campus, including the 24 communities within District 504 healthier and safer. The bicycle/pedestrian plan would improve Triton’s connectivity with North Avenue for pedestrians and cyclists as well as reduce unsafe conditions, increase ADA accessibility and encourage healthy exercise and sustainable modes of transportation on and off campus. All of these factors help to impact a community’s quality of life for its residents.

We look forward to this collaborative and transformative partnership with Triton College and fully support their application to CMAP’s LTA Program.

We appreciate your time and consideration of Triton College’s application to the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Serpico
Mayor
Village of Melrose Park
June 11, 2015

Bob Dean, Deputy Executive Director for Local Planning
CMAP
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Bob,

Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) is writing to support Triton College's application to the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program to plan bike/pedestrian improvements for Fifth Ave. between River Road and North Ave. Triton is working in collaboration with the Villages of Melrose Park and River Grove on this initiative that would connect with the bike/pedestrian improvements currently planned for North Ave. between Riverwoods Drive and Mannheim Rd., most likely to begin construction in 2016.

Seven Generations Ahead (SGA), based in neighboring Oak Park, IL, is a 15-year old non-profit serving the Chicago metro area and Midwest through its role to promote sustainable and healthy communities. Since 2010, SGA has led the sustainability plan development, implementation and report card process for the communities of Oak Park and River Forest, and meets regularly with institutional leaders including Triton College to support institutional alignment with the goals and strategies outlined in the Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest. Triton, though outside of the Oak Park/River Forest geographical boundaries, sits on the PlantGreen Core Team and has been an engaged partner on multiple levels, including a collaboration with Dominican University and Concordia University to work with PACE to increase student public transit options to and from campuses. Triton is applying for this grant as part of its commitment to sustainability and to support goals established within PlanItGreen, including increasing biking and walking within both communities and participating institutions.

SGA has experienced full engagement and commitment from Triton with respect to sustainability initiatives, and supports their efforts to apply for support from CMAP's LTA Program.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of Triton College's proposal request to the LTA Program.

Sincerely,

Gary Luehen, Executive Director
Seven Generations Ahead