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 University Park
   698 Burnham Drive
   University Park, IL 60484

2. Main Contact for Application:
   Name: Bola Delano
   Title: Village Manager, Village of University Park
   Phone number: 708-534-4813
   Email: bdelano@university-park-il.com

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 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):

The village is aware that a local match will be required for this project and staff understand that if this project is selected it is up to the project applicant to contribute a local match.

- [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.

*(Village-Wide Map Attached)*

This project covers all of Village of University Park. The project proposal is to develop an innovative implementation strategic framework/plan that coordinates previous adopted plans to make them implementable and relevant to the community as well as develop performance measures that complement the strategic goals and guiding principles of GOTO2040 plan. Below are links to some of the plans in place that need to be aligned:

- University Park Hazardous Mitigation Plan:
  [https://planuniversitypark.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/university-park-comprehensive-plan-final.pdf](https://planuniversitypark.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/university-park-comprehensive-plan-final.pdf)

- RTA usage of University Park’s 2002 TOD:
  [http://www.rtams.org/rtams/planningStudy.jsp?id=17](http://www.rtams.org/rtams/planningStudy.jsp?id=17)

Both plans are comprehensive in nature but they do not address the emerging issues evolving within the community.

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.
This proposal is to develop an innovative implementation plan that coordinates all past efforts and takes an innovative effort to implement, integrate and coordinate previous efforts using the guiding principles of GOTO2040 as a baseline. This effort will enable the village to establish priorities and develop an implementation plan with specific performance measures for planning, economic development, capital projects and regional transit. The process for this effort will involve reviewing current plans and policies, taking a strategic look at emerging issues as it relates to transportation, quality of life and transportation/transit developing a list of long and short term priorities with implementable strategies and performance measures. The next stage will involve drafting and implementing policies and ordinances that can/will be adopted by the village leadership. This strategic approach will provide a process refined, policies and tools that will allow the village board, community committees and the Village Staff to execute and implement real planning principles and programs as well as review their performance.

Demographics
The Village of University Park is located within Will County and some of its borders are in Cook County covering the Townships of Monee, Crete, and Rich. It is home to Governors State University and is the last stop south on the Metra electric Line. The village has four Tax Increment Financing districts and is 10.84sq miles in size. The village is seeking assistance from the Community Planning and Local Technical Assistance Programs to develop an implementation plan with performance measures that will help improve the implementation of real planning principles which will ultimately assist efforts to attract economic development initiatives and increase the tax base as well as improve other funding opportunities. It will also help the board and village leadership to be establish a set of procedures that are measurable and compliant as well as accountable. According to the 2013 US Census Bureau, the Village population is 7,111. The 2010 US Census Bureau reports: per capita income is $20,133 (approximately 30% less than the Illinois average); median household income $46,925 (approximately $10,000 less than the Illinois average); residents living below poverty = 21.0% (nearly twice the Illinois average); unemployment 20.2% (twice as much as the Illinois average); vacant housing units are nearly 13%; and a great need for improved services, business expansions, and other forms of economic development. The technical support for this effort is greatly needed.

The Village is seeking technical assistance support to prepare an implementation plan that will not only outline the framework for the development of areas; but develop performance measures that recognize the physical, economic, social, political, aesthetic, and related factors of the community as a whole.

In addition, this process will align the Village’s existing 2002 Transit-Oriented Development plan with emerging issues (link provided); align the Village’s existing 2014 hazardous mitigation plan done by the DCEO IKE grant for hazardous mitigation planning (link provided); establish corridor and local access improvements; plan for the town center, commercial development improvements; update efforts for non-motorized transportation options (bicycle, walking, and
pedestrian); establish criteria for water resource management to include flooding and drainage measures; develop housing initiatives and update zoning policies that address the emerging needs of Governor’s State University transient population; and develop workforce programs to meet the demand of industrial businesses relocating to the community. It will also include interviews with village stakeholders and an analysis of planning data.

The Village currently has a group of volunteers that lead efforts for the planning commission but in the absence of an implementation plan with measures of performance there is little to no experience in being able to monitor development or identify the legal and liability issues involved in planning and zoning. This has resulted in the village making bad decisions for a number of developments. To name a few, City Scape was a housing development currently abandoned which was never completed and it did not address any of the planning/transportation guiding principles which would have made the proposal attractive to the emerging student and young population in the village. As a result the development failed and the village had to bear all costs due to the negligence and bad practices of the developer. If measures were in place a lot of these issues would have been addressed. The current administration looks forward to being able to implement a strategic framework that will measure performance and provide additional outcomes identified below:

- Help to improve quality of life and improve services for residents and businesses.
- Integrate all modes of transportation through a variety of interconnected choices
- Encourage non-motorized transportation options/sustainability.
- Create regional and local jobs and training programs/add new development/expand existing businesses and development opportunities.
- Improve Village services throughout the community and integrate local land use with the transportation network
- Establish a solid partnership with Governor’s State University regarding its expansion efforts, infrastructure, housing, and regional presence.
- Improve capacity for future funding in all disciplines named within the plan.
- Strengthen the sense of community—setting forth a realistic vision for the community.
- Provide an accountable, transparent and fair process in planning
- Protect and enhance the environment and the natural habitat resources within the community
- Integrate previous plans and other guiding documents for the community to support the vision and address the common purpose.

In conclusion, the village is aware that if it fails to plan, then in reality it is planning to fail. The Village of University wants to plan to succeed. With that being said the village over the years has been advised to react to planning opportunities rather than planning for opportunities. This has resulted in the village having a number of plans that are not linked, had no performance measures and did not address a common vision. In light of the fact that Governors State University is now a 4 year college the village acknowledges the fact that it needs to plan for future emerging trends that come from being a University Town. This proposal will finally allow the village to be proactive, do things in a streamlined process rather than on an ad-hoc basis and have identified measures to monitor performance. Any assistance received will enable the
village to adapt to change, be more accountable and take advantage of emerging trends and new opportunities. It will also improve the quality of life for the community as a whole as well as promote economic vitality.