

**Application form:**

**RTA Community Planning Program and**

**CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program**

**DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 29, 2017**

This application form is online at [www.rtachicago.org/applications](http://www.rtachicago.org/applications). You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.org.

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

**1. Name of Applicant**

 **The Village of Beecher, Will County, Illinois**

**2. Main Contact for Application**

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| --- |
| Name: Robert O. Barber |
| Title: Village Administrator |
| Phone number: 708-946-2261 |
| Email: bobadm@villageofbeecher.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):

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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 or the RTA 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.

\_\_X\_\_ My project involves preparation of a plan.

\_\_X\_\_ My project involves updating an already existing 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 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.

The Village has budgeted $8,000 (20% local match for a planned $40,000 worth of consultant work in the event the project is outsourced.

**6. Project Location**

The Village’s proposed plan will examine all territory within its 1.5 mile planning jurisdiction in addition to some areas where regionally - significant capital projects are planned or under way. The Village’s current land use plan, adopted in 2005, is on the Village’s website, [www.villageofbeecher.org](http://www.villageofbeecher.org).

**7. Project Description**

The Beecher Village Board and the Beecher Planning and Zoning Commission have passed unanimous motions of support to update the 2005 land use plan as a full comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan has not been fully prepared for Beecher since 1996. Since that time, there have been major changes in the community which has more than doubled in size. Major capital projects such as the South Suburban Airport, CSX Crete Logistics and Intermodal Center, the Illiana Expressway, and the Great Lakes Basin Railway are all in various stages of planning and development and are within five miles of the Village of Beecher. There is a need to engage the residents of Beecher in the planning process and allow them the opportunity for input and collaboration with the local leadership. The use of a third party with technical and facilitative skills and experience will greatly enhance the value of the plan to the community. The Village has set aside $8,000 in its current budget as a local match if awarded an LTA to pay for CMAP staff or for outsourcing. It is estimated that an outsourced plan would cost about $40,000.

The Village has already adopted zoning and subdivision regulations that accommodates new technologies such as solar and wind energy and embraces the use of conservation design through the use of incentives for developers. However, the current comprehensive plan is inadequate and outdated. The Village not only desires to update the plan but needs to.

**8. Previous Plan Implementation Efforts**

The Village has drafted a Water and Sewer Master plan for its 1.5 mile planning jurisdiction in 2014 so that sizes of pipes and force mains and pumping capacities are sufficient to adequately convey water and wastewater to the planning area. The Village is also in the process of rehabilitating its wastewater treatment plant to meet new IEPA regulations and increase its capacity. Developers have been required to oversize pipes and mains for many years now to accommodate future development. However, the Village does not have an updated cohesive land use or transportation plan to supplement its underground infrastructure plans.

The Village has been successful in the past creating a regional land use plan around the proposed south suburban airport (SSA) with its neighboring communities and Will County through a CMAP (which was then called NIPC) grant project. This work resulted in the creation of a development district where planning decisions and also revenues would be shared so that decisions on land use would be purely driven by the plan and not economic incentives. The Village has also adopted and implemented successful land use plans in 1971, 1989, 1996 and 2005. However, significant public participation has not been solicited since 1996.

**9. Additional Strategic Partnerships**

The Village of Beecher has active boundary agreements with the Village of Peotone to the west and Grant Park to the south. It has participated not only in subregional plans such as the SSA land use plan but participated in two re-writes of the Will County Land Use Plan. The Village also helped Washington Township draft its land use plan which was one of the first plans of its kind in the State of Illinois. The Village has also facilitated the creation of parks and recreation plans and an overall leisure strategy for youth and seniors as the community tries to address these needs without a park district.

In drafting the comprehensive land use plan, the Village recognizes that the success of the final product is a result of effective participation and collaboration with all stakeholders. The Village would encourage the Will County Land Use and Highway Departments and the Washington Township Planning Commission (an advisory body) to participate in the creation of the plan. The Village will also reach out to the Villages of Grant Park, Peotone and Crete to get their input into the plan nearer our borders. Engaging other local governments and community organizations as the Beecher Chamber of Commerce, Beecher School District, Beecher Fire District, and the Beecher Library District to participate and provide input are critical to the plan’s successful implementation.