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. 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

Illinois International Port District

2. Main Contact for Application

   Name: Clayton Harris III
   
   Title: Executive Director
   
   Phone number: 773.646.4400
   
   Email: director@iipd.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 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.
___ My project involves updating an already existing 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.
___ 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
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 location of the project includes the land holdings of the Illinois International Port District, on Chicago’s far south side, as well as the neighboring communities (which include Chicago’s East Side, Hegewisch, Pullman, Riverdale, and South Deering) and stakeholders upstream and downstream along the Calumet River.

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. For plan updates please tell us how you will be building upon (or replacing) the previous work. Program staff will follow-up with you if we need any additional information to fully understand your proposed project.

The Illinois International Port District (IIPD) at the Port of Chicago is located on the south west shore of Lake Michigan in Chicago, Illinois in Cook County. The IIPD is an independent municipal corporation created through state legislation and is the entity tasked with maintaining the viability of the Port of Chicago, which it accomplishes through promoting the shipment of cargoes and commerce through its facilities.

The IIPD’s operations are multifaceted and include the management of industrial maritime zones, as well as jurisdiction over conservation and recreational areas. The IIPD is divided into two areas of operation commonly referred to as Lake Calumet and Iroquois Landing. Lake Calumet is approximately 1,600 acres of commercial and industrial use; the north end being utilized mainly for recreation and the south, east and southwest sides being utilized for industrial. Iroquois Landing is approximately 190 acres all
being utilized for industrial operations. The IIPD collects revenue from numerous lease agreements and operating licenses and through the administration of Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) #22 as well as from Harborside, a world-class links golf course on the northern part of Lake Calumet.

The IIPD is committed to developing and maintaining a world-class port that operates as a modern, economically competitive and sustainable facility, focused on generating and expanding economic activity and creating employment opportunities for residents of the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois. Under IIPD’s leadership, in 2010, Port activities supported jobs for nearly 7,000 Illinois residents, representing $573.9 million in wages and salaries, and generating $425.9 million in direct business revenues.

Given the variety of activities that take place on land within the IIPD’s jurisdiction, IIPD strives to create a multi-use Port that develops modern industrial maritime facilities to continue to support the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois economy; engage the surrounding communities, businesses and government agencies to provide unique commercial and recreational opportunities and; support open space and ecological conversation areas, where feasible.

However, IIPD recognizes that most of its past planning efforts have not focused outwardly. To truly engage the surrounding communities so that they benefit from economic activities at IIPD, and so that IIPD can participate more fully in community aspirations beyond economic development (e.g., historic preservation, recreation), IIPD will take a step back and address some key questions: What voice can IIPD lend to traffic management, transit improvements or expansions, and other infrastructure issues that would simultaneously advance the interests of IIPD and the community? What role can IIPD play in the advancement of existing plans for area transportation, land and water conservation, recreation and regional tourism? What assets of IIPD, in particular land and water access, would lend themselves to advancing other community concerns?

IIPD seeks support through the Local Technical Assistance program to examine these questions and build a broader scope, identify ways to address them by engaging community groups and other stakeholders, and then to develop a plan for implementation.

8. Previous Plan Implementation Efforts
Please describe actions you have taken to implement previous plans in your community – whether your efforts were successful or not – to achieve infrastructure improvements, development investment, policy changes, advocacy, volunteer involvement, or other actions. If you do not have experience implementing previous planning work, please describe what you will do to make sure that your plan is implemented. Illustrating a commitment to implement plan recommendations is very important to both agencies as we consider new planning projects.

Generally speaking, past planning efforts by IIPD were inwardly focused. As an example, the 2012 Strategic and Capital Needs Study had minimal planning for coordination with other land use, infrastructure or economic activities happening beyond IIPD’s properties. Similarly, planning efforts in the surrounding communities – such as Positioning Pullman, the Calumet Land Use Plan and Calumet Open Space Plan – included recommendations for use of IIPD land, but did not have a strong IIPD presence in the planning process. With new leadership at IIPD, there is an opportunity for integration of these planning efforts.
As a result of that new leadership being in place, and because of interest from the State of Illinois, philanthropic community, and partners involved in efforts such as the Calumet Collaborative and Great Rivers Chicago, it seems more likely than ever that new resources may be brought to bear to support implementation of any planning priorities that result from this process.

9. Additional Strategic Partnerships
Please list any additional partners you may want to include in this planning project. Please specify if you have made contact with them in advance of submitting this application.

IIPD is an active member of the Calumet Collaborative (which has succeeded Millennium Reserve) and the Great Rivers Chicago Implementation Committee, which is facilitated by the Metropolitan Planning Council. As this project moves forward, those relationships and partners will be brought together to leverage resources and catalyze action at the port.

Additionally, IIPD is currently engaged in discussion with a wide range of possible new partners – Cook County, multiple agencies of the State of Illinois, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, civic community partners such as MPC and the Active Transportation Alliance, etc. – to being new financial, staffing and implementation assistance to IIPD. These partnerships are still taking shape, but a planning priorities report executed in partnership with CMAP and RTA could help shape what is actually needed from those partnerships and accelerate their development.