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

Village of Justice

2. Main Contact for Application

Name: Matthew Zarebczan

Title: Director of Economic Development

Phone number: (708) 458-2130

Email: mzarebczan@villageofjustice.org

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

_X_ Local government

_X_ Multijurisdictional group*

Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

_Village of Justice_

_Village of Bedford Park_

____ 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.
____ 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 Village of Justice, incorporated in 1911, is a non-home rule community located in southwest suburban Cook County, Illinois, approximately 18 miles southwest of the Loop via I-55. Several commercial arteries traverse the community, including Archer Road, 79th Street, Roberts Road and 88th Avenue. Bisected by I-294 the community encompasses 2.84 square miles. Three cemeteries account for one-third of the Village’s square mileage. Neighboring Justice is the Village of Bedford Park. Bedford Park is an Illinois Home Rule community located on the southwestern border of the Chicago city limits. The Village is near Chicago’s Midway Airport and is minutes away from downtown Chicago. The location for the proposed project is a strip of land, approximately 15,000 linear feet, that stretches along the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the Illinois & Michigan Canal located on the North Border of both the Village of Justice and the Village of Bedford Park.

(Please see Attachment #1 – Project Location 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. 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.

(Please See Attachment #2 – Project Description/Previous Plan Implementation Efforts)
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.

(Please See Attachment #2 – Project Description/Previous Plan Implementation Efforts)

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.

The Village of Justice will be the lead on the proposed project, but will be working together with the Village of Bedford Park. We have received concurrence from both Mayor’s from each municipality, the Justice Economic Planning Board, and the Justice Zoning Board of Appeals. These sources will work in conjunction with the resources provided through the local technical assistance program to make sure that our goals of planning for the future development of the I&M Corridor are achieved.

Additional Enclosures:
- Attachment #1 – Project Location Map
- Attachment #2 – Project Description/Previous Plan Implementation Efforts
- Letters of Support
2017 RTA Community Planning Program and CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program Application
Village of Justice

Attachment #1

Project Location Map
Project Description/Previous Plan Implementation Efforts

The Village of Justice in conjunction with the Village of Bedford Park is seeking local technical assistance to perform a study of the potential land use and future development opportunities along the Illinois & Michigan (I&M) Canal Corridor. The corridor is a stretch of underused and vacant land that is approximately 15,000 linear feet in length along the I&M Canal that covers the northern borders of both Justice and Bedford Park. To the north of the corridor is the Sanitary and Ship Canal and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). The southern portion of the corridor includes the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Canadian National rail line that is currently used for freight and Metra passenger trains.

The I&M Canal Corridor provides great opportunities for future commercial/industrial development and alternative freight transportation methods by using the current rail and water resources established in the area. These resources would be attractive to industries that are looking for options to bypass the increasing congestion on roadways. Creating recreational opportunities by building parks and bike paths along the canal would provide for a pleasant mix of greenspace and industry in the corridor. Developing the I&M Canal Corridor would create jobs as well as tax revenue to assist in funding municipal services.

The Village of Justice was awarded a local technical assistance opportunity in 2007 for a RTA Transit Oriented Improvement Study. Since the completion of this study the village has made many improvements to its infrastructure. Sidewalks have been added along major arterial roads, we are completing the design engineering for the reconfiguration of the intersection at 86th Avenue and Archer Road, and are working with Willow Springs, Bedford Park, and Summit to extend the I&M Bike Path through all municipalities. The Village has initiated meetings with Pace to explore alternative transportation routes in the Village and assisted with the planning of the Bus on Shoulder Route from Toyota Park to downtown Chicago via I-55. One of the larger improvements is the current Justice I-294 Tollway ramp project that consists of the addition of a Northbound off ramp and a Southbound on ramp onto 88th Avenue that includes the reconstruction of local roads, intersection improvements, and sidewalks with bike paths on 88th Avenue from 81st Street to Archer Road. This project is closing in on the completion of Phase I Engineering and the Village has secured funding for Phase II Design Engineering.

The Village views the I&M Canal Corridor as an important asset towards the future success of the community but face many challenges in regards to access to this land and ownership. The existing railways do not allow for entrance to the corridor and the majority of the land is being leased from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and as per the lease could only be used for recreational purposes. That is why the planning for the future of this corridor is a necessity to create a map for succession. If awarded the opportunity, the Village of Justice and the Village of Bedford Park are willing to work together with all the resources provided through the local technical assistance program to ensure that our goals of planning for the future development of the Illinois & Michigan Canal Corridor are achieved and will continue working together to implement the plan to benefit not only our communities but the surrounding region.
June 22, 2017

RE: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)  
    2017 Local Technical Assistance Program (LTA)

To Whom It May Concern:

The land located along the Illinois & Michigan Canal Corridor in the Village of Justice is vastly underutilized. This area is very favorable for future development, alternative transportation and green space/recreational opportunities. The Village of Justice fully supports the proposal being submitted through CMAP’s 2017 LTA Program requesting technical assistance to perform a study of the potential land use and future development opportunities along the Illinois & Michigan Canal Corridor. If awarded the opportunity the Village of Justice will work in collaboration with the Village of Bedford Park and strongly support all efforts by assisting in every means possible.

Respectfully,

Krzysztof Wasowicz
Village President
June 26, 2017

To: Village of Justice  
7800 Archer Road  
Justice, IL  60458  

RE: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)  
2017 Local Technical Assistance Program (LTA)  

To Whom It May Concern:  

The Village of Bedford Park supports the proposal for CMAP’s 2017 LTA Program being submitted by the Village of Justice requesting technical assistance to perform a study of the potential land use and future development opportunities along the Illinois & Michigan Canal Corridor. If awarded the opportunity the Village of Bedford Park plans to work in collaboration with the Village of Justice and strongly support all efforts by assisting in all means possible. 

Respectfully, 

David R. Brady  
Village President