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

McHenry County, Illinois

2. Main Contact for Application

Name: Darrell Moore
Title: Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Development
Phone number: 815-334-4549
Email: dnmoore@co.mchenry.il.us

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):
- City of McHenry
- Fox River Waterway
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- McHenry County Conservation District

____ 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.
___ 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.

6. Project Location

Please provide a brief description of the location of your project. You may attach 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 planning area in this proposal consists of the Fox River (and directly adjacent lands) as it runs through McHenry county. The goal of this proposal is to build upon the previous and current Fox River planning efforts from Carpentersville to the Burtons Bridge area, which have been made possible through CMAP’s Local Technical Assistance program. It will begin at the north end of the current study area at Burtons Bridge and extend up river touching multiple municipalities, conservation areas, and parks over a distance of about 10 miles until reaching the Dutch Creek inlet at Johnsburg. A planning area map is attached to this application. Depending on the final scope of work, this plan may help implement other plans, including:

- McHenry County Green Infrastructure Plan
- McHenry County 2030 Comprehensive Plan
- City of McHenry Core-Downtown Sub-Area Plan
- McHenry County Conservation District Comprehensive Site Development and Public Access Plan

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 (attach separate page as needed but 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 Fox River holds great promise for McHenry County. Historically, it has played a major role in development—attracting residents, vacationers, and businesses—but today its full potential remains unrealized. This is due in part to the lack of vision and comprehensive planning for the river. That is why CMAP’s assistance is needed. We need the kind of expertise and perspective that comes from a regional planning agency to help our communities, parks districts, businesses, and residents come together to craft a common vision for the river.

In 2015, McHenry County recognized the outstanding planning work being done under the LTA program for the cities of Algonquin and Carpentersville. That study’s focus on increasing access to the Fox River, improving water quality, and enhancing downtown areas was seen as equally important for the Fox River northward through McHenry County. Seeking to build upon the foundation and successes of that planning work, McHenry County submitted its own LTA program application and was accepted—though it was determined that only half of the proposed planning area could be accommodated. Over the last two years, CMAP has provided invaluable expertise and guidance and has just produced the first draft of the existing conditions report. As that study moves forward, the county and its partner agencies are once again looking to the next phase of this regional plan. At this time we are asking for assistance with Fox River planning that extends north from the current planning area to Dutch Creek, a distance of about ten miles.

The following are goals for our study:

- Focus attention upon the Fox River and on how a multijurisdictional planning effort can benefit the communities, businesses, and residents along it.
- Provide a forum for dialogue between the jurisdictions, neighborhoods, and businesses along the river that might not otherwise engage with one another, despite their common interests and concerns regarding the river.
- Review existing plans and seek to identify common goals, potential connections, and opportunities to update and align those plans.
- Look for ways in which current plans can be implemented through the planning process or as a result of it.
- Study current conditions and potential opportunities for transit and intermodal connections to, along, and on the river.
- Study current conditions and potential opportunities for public access and recreational use along the river.
- Study current conditions and potential opportunities for open space along the river that preserves and enhances quality of life, environmental conditions, and water quality of the river.
- Study current conditions and potential opportunities for commerce aimed at users of the river.
- Develop strategies for attracting residents and tourists to the river and the central business districts adjacent to it.
- Examine perceived and actual barriers to recreational use and enjoyment of the river.

These goals align with the GO TO 2040 plan’s calls for more livable communities through expanded and improved parks and open space, access to green space, local planning, and cooperation between communities. In particular, the ties between green spaces, personal well-being, and the regional economy are at the heart of this proposal. “Access to parks and open space improves the health of our region’s residents and the value of their homes,” states the GO TO 2040 plan. Furthermore, the opportunity to develop businesses along the river and in downtowns that provide services for rivergoers could serve as an economic engine for the region. The emerging priorities of the ON TO 2050 plan also align with these goals, by improving the economic conditions, conserving public open space, and evaluating flooding and possible climate change impacts.
According to 2015 population estimates from the US Census, more than 30,000 people live in the census tracts that border this stretch of the Fox River. The Fox Waterway Agency reports more than 20,000 boating permits annually, making its jurisdiction one of the most travelled inland waterways in the country. This is a corridor ripe for regional planning. With the leadership and skills of CMAP, this can become a reality.

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.

The McHenry County 2030 Comprehensive Plan is the master planning document for McHenry County. Many of the specialized plans and studies the county has conducted since its adoption in April 20, 2010 were originally prescribed within the plan’s goals and objectives such as The Green Infrastructure Plan (2012), The Local Food and Farmland Assessment (2013), and The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2016). Specific programs and ordinance language have also come as a result of the planning efforts by the Department of Planning and Development. The Unified Development Ordinance, incorporated recommendations from these plans including few restrictions on agricultural uses and limitations on impervious coverage by establishing a Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Areas Overlay District. Snow and ice training, 3-D ground water modeling, and well monitoring have come out of the Water Resource Action Plan (2011) which was drafted from the Water Resources Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The Legacy Waterfront Neighborhood Overlay District was created by the Unified Development Ordinance as a result of a study completed in 2012 with CMAP LTA assistance. This study of neighborhoods around the Fox River and other waterways aligned with the Land Use and Water Resource Chapters of the Comprehensive Plan.

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. (Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)

The McHenry County Department of Planning and Development has completed numerous multijurisdictional planning efforts in the past several years. For this project we would plan to partner with the City of McHenry, who has already agreed to assist with some of the matching funds required for this grant. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, whose state park (Moraine Hills) borders the Fox River within the proposed study area also supports the project. The McHenry County Conservation District has noted there support of the application in a support letter. The Fox Waterway Agency would also be an important partner for this project. In regards to possible member of a steering committee, the current steering committee involved in the current Fox River Corridor Plan would be evaluated to determine if any of the existing members could carry over into the next plan and new members appropriate to the study area would be added.
Figure 1.2. Regional context.

Approximate Study Area of Algonquin-Carpentersville Plan:
- Dutch Creek
- McHenry Riverwalk & Boone Creek
- McHenry Park
- IDNR Moraine Hills State Park

Proposed Study Area:
- McHenry County

Study Area of Current Fox River Corridor Plan:
- Fox River
- McHenry
- Lake
- Kane
- DuPage
- Cook
- Kendall
- Grundy

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2016.
June 22, 2017

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Local Technical Assistance Program
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear CMAP LTA Review Committee Members,

McHenry County is proud to submit this application for a Fox River corridor study under the Local Technical Assistance program. With the help of CMAP, we can foster a dialogue amongst the many agencies and jurisdictions along the river and develop a comprehensive plan that identifies opportunities for access, recreation, open space, and commerce. We believe that this proposal exemplifies the type of planning and collaboration promoted in the CMAP GO TO 2040 Plan and its continued efforts in the new emerging trends of the ON TO 2050 Plan.

Along with our partners, we look forward to building upon the planning work currently underway for the Fox River corridor between Trout Valley and Burtons Bridge and the completed work in Carpentersville and Algonquin. These plans have been made possible by the CMAP Local Technical Assistance program. Our proposal is a logical next step for regional planning along the Fox, and one that can only happen with the expertise and guidance of CMAP.

The county is aware that matching funds are a requirement of assistance. At the June 6th meeting of the Planning, Environmental, and Development Committee of the County Board, members voted unanimously to apply for this grant program with the understanding that all matching funds will likely need to come solely from the county.

CMAP’s involvement is vital to the success of this regional planning effort. Only a regional planning body can provide the perspective and professional resources needed to complete this multijurisdictional plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Jack D. Franks
Chairman, McHenry County Board
RESOLUTION NO. R-17-013

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A LOCAL TECHNICAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE GRANT DELIVERED BY THE CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING

WHEREAS, the City of McHenry, McHenry County, Illinois, is a home rule municipality as contemplated under Article VII, Section 6, of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the passage of this Resolution constitutes an exercise of the City's home rule powers and functions as granted in the Constitution of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City of McHenry ("City"), in conjunction with the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development and other partner agencies, will apply for staff assistance services through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning ("CMAP") and the Local Technical Grant Assistance Program, to evaluate the Fox River Corridor and develop recommendations to implement to further utilize and enhance the environmental and recreational benefits the Fox River offers; and

WHEREAS, CMAP has adopted the GO TO 2040 Plan as the long-range regional comprehensive plan for the seven-county Chicago region, encompassing Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, Oakwood Hills and Will counties, and is offering staff assistance, through the Local Technical Grant Assistance Program as a means of advancing the plan’s implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF McHENRY, McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The City Council supports the proposed project, in conjunction with McHenry County, to study, review and provide recommendations and outline specific amendments to implement following a comprehensive study of the Fox River Corridor.

SECTION 2: The City Council accepts the offer of staff assistance services by CMAP.

SECTION 3: The City Council recognizes the importance of the Fox River.

SECTION 4: The City will contribute $5,000 towards the completion of the study.

SECTION 5: This resolution shall be effective as of the date of its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 19th day of June 2017.

Voting Aye: Condon, Devine, Mihevc, Schaefer, Santi, Glab
Voting Nay: None
Absent: Curry
Abstain: None

Mayor Wayne S. Jett

ATTEST:

City Clerk Lynzi Nevitt
June 27, 2017

Darrell Moore
Deputy Director
McHenry County Department of Planning and Development
2200 N. Seminary Ave.
Woodstock, IL 60098

RE: Local Technical Assistance Application to CMAP for Fox River Corridor Planning – Johnsburg, IL to Moraine Hills State Park.

Dear Mr. Moore,

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is writing in support of McHenry County’s Local Technical Assistance Application to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning for the second phase of the Fox River Corridor Planning process. The Department appreciates the focus this planning process will be bringing to our valuable natural resources assets, Moraine Hills State Park, and the Fox River corridor north to the Dutch Creek confluence.

This proposed multijurisdictional planning effort, using CMAP staff expertise, will, as the application states, “provide a forum for dialogue between the jurisdictions, neighborhoods, and businesses along the river that might not otherwise engage with one another, despite their common interests and concerns regarding the river.” During the summer months, the Chain O’ Lakes and Fox River Corridor become one of the busiest inland waterways in the nation, providing recreational opportunities for thousands of boaters, fishermen, and water enthusiasts. Comprehensive, all-inclusive planning efforts are key to maintaining both the economic and natural resource value of this heavily used and much-loved area asset.

The Department is involved in the proposed planning area through several of our divisions including: Office of Water Resources, as a public navigable waterway managed under the authority of the Department of Natural Resources; Office of Land Management, Moraine Hills State Park; and Office of Resource Conservation. DNR looks forward to collaborating with McHenry County, CMAP and the local jurisdictions, businesses, neighbors, and residents on the planning process.

Best regards,

Greg Kelly
IDNR Land Management Superintendent
Moraine Hills State Park/Volo Bog
815-385-1623

Nancy Williamson
IDNR Office of Resource Conservation
Regional Watershed Coordinator
815-263-9857
June 20, 2017

RTA Community Planning Program and
CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program

Re: Support for Local Technical Assistance Program for Fox River

Dear Program Administrator:

I am pleased to write this letter of strong support for the County of McHenry’s application for the CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program funding for the continued study and plan preparation for the portion of the Fox River from approximately Route 176 in Burton’s Bridge north to the southern end of the Chain O’Lakes at Dutch Creek in Johnsburg, McHenry County, Illinois. The extension of the study area includes additional acreage along the river managed by the McHenry County Conservation District on behalf of the taxpayers of McHenry County. A unified and coordinated regional approach to the joint resource would benefit both northern McHenry County communities and help further the regional public interest in continuing the waterway as a focal point of the area for visitors as well as residents.

In general, the Conservation District is interested in developing and enhancing bike trails and canoe/kayak trails that serve the area as well as fishing opportunities. We would continue to support having one of our staff members on the project team to coordinate recreational and natural resource planning for the future. The proposed additional Fox River Study would continue to facilitate a broad multi-jurisdictional analysis of how to increase public use and enjoyment of an outstanding natural resource.

We look forward to continuing our work with any and all partners who wish to become involved in the project planning for this phenomenal public amenity.
Thank you for considering the County of McHenry’s LTA application and please contact me at 815. 338.6223 X1233 if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,
McHenry County Conservation District

Elizabeth S. Kessler, MBA, CPRE
Executive Director

c: Board of Trustees
   John Kremer, Director of Operations & Public Safety