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 Oak Lawn

2. Main Contact for Application

   Name: Jack Gallagher
   Title: Village Engineer/Director of Community Development & Growth Management
   Phone number: 708-430-7816
   Email: jgallagher@oaklawn-il.gov

3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply)
   ___ Local government
   ___ Multijurisdictional group*

   Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):
   Village of Bridgeview, City of Hickory Hills, IDOT, Illinois Tollway, Norfolk Southern

   ___ 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.

- ✓ My project involves preparation of a plan.
- ✓ My project involves updating an already existing plan.
- ✓ 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.)

- ✓ 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.

See attached

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.

See attached

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.

See attached

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.

See attached
(Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)
6. Project Location

Project is located at the interchange of 95th Street and Harlem Avenue and interchange of 95th Street at I-294 Tri-State Tollway within the municipal boundaries of the Village of Bridgeview, City of Hickory Hills, and Village of Oak Lawn, which are in southwest Cook County. Other entities also have property within this area: Illinois Tollway has I-294, Illinois Department of Transportation is responsible for 95th Street and Harlem Avenue, and Norfolk Southern Railroad has a line running Northwest/Southeast under Harlem Ave. and over 95th St. Harlem Ave., the railroad, and I-294 are all elevated above 95th Street. 95th Street is 6 lanes east of the eastern most Harlem Ave. ramps with a dedicated center left turn lane. West of these ramps 95th Street narrows to 4 lanes with a raised median center until 76th Avenue at the west where the dedicated center left turn lane returns. The speed limit of 95th St. in this area is 45 MPH while most of the street is 30 or 35 MPH. With the interchange at Harlem, entrance and exit at I-294, and narrowing from 6 to 4 lanes 95th Street suffers from traffic congestion during rush hour in the morning and evening. The entrance to northbound I-294 from the east and southbound I-294 exit are particularly congested. There is no sidewalk on 95th St. from 76th Avenue to 69th Avenue or on Harlem Ave. from 92nd Place to 98th Street /Frontage Road.

Source: Village of Oak Lawn GIS

Relative Studies:
- Harlem Avenue Corridor Plan: http://harlemcorridor.com/
- 95th Street Corridor Study: http://www.oaklawn-il.gov/home/showdocument?id=2626

7. Project Description

The major concern that the Village of Oak Lawn has for this location is the congestion. We would like to expand on the Harlem Avenue Corridor and 95th Street Corridor studies to target this specific area and get more detailed. Studies offered the following suggestions: improve gateways with
What we are looking to accomplish with this area is reduce congestion, provide access for pedestrians, improve motorist and pedestrian safety, and encourage new development. A design for the improvements to both the intersection of 95th St. and Harlem Ave. and I-294 and 95th St. is what we believe is needed in order to plan for future developments in this area and steer them to the redesign similar to that in the Harlem Ave. Corridor Plan. It would be beneficial to incorporate the studies’ suggestions mentioned above in the design of this area. We think that a single point urban diamond would be better suited at the intersection at 95th St. and Harlem Ave. incorporating pedestrian crossings. The Harlem Ave. bridge over the railroad would need to be upgraded or at least remain intact if the updates to 95th St. and Harlem Ave. are to be implemented. The railroad bridge over 95th St. would need to be updated for vehicle, especially truck, safety to prevent accidents. Finally, improvements would need to be done not only to the Tollway itself but also the entrance and exit ramps to reduce congestion on the Tollway, 95th St., and Harlem Ave. A dedicated lane for westbound traffic to enter northbound I-294 without the need to wait at the traffic signal and a wider/2-lane southbound exit ramp off I-294 are just a couple of thoughts. All of these improvements will turn this area from a headache into a stress-free commute.

8. Previous Plan Implementation Efforts

Our previous experience lies with the meeting that we had with the Illinois Tollway in regards to the Tollway and 95th St. entrance and exit. In meeting with them in became apparent that every agency would need to be on board and in agreement for congestion to be reduced. The Village of Oak Lawn has been and continues to work with IDOT with various traffic signals and studies throughout the Village. The Harlem Ave. Corridor study involved the City of Hickory Hills and Village of Bridgeview.

9. Additional Strategic Partnerships

- Non-profit transportation agency
- Pace Suburban Bus