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 Robbins

2. Main Contact for Application

Name: Tyrone Ward
Title: Mayor
Phone number: (708) 385-8940
Email: tward@robbins-il.com and calltyrone1.1@juno.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.
____ 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.

Kedzie Avenue corridor between 139th Street and the Calumet-Sag Channel (see rendering/map as noted below “Presentation on the Robbins Vision”) https://goo.gl/WRfUye

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 Village of Robbins (Village) has partnered with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to develop a plan that includes stormwater improvements to address flooding along Midlothian Creek impacting approximately 140 acres. The Village has been working closely with MWRD since 2014 in developing this project. Currently, the area located between 137th and 139th Streets along Kedzie Avenue is susceptible to flooding in events greater than a five-year storm, and the area north of 137th Street and west of Kedzie Avenue floods during events that exceed a 10-year storm. The proposed stormwater improvements include naturalized wetland detention and channel improvements in a park setting, providing opportunities for open space and recreational uses that the Village currently lacks.
Since flooding issues were identified as a significant barrier to economic opportunities in the Village, several development concepts surrounding the stormwater park were incorporated into a holistic vision plan. The proposed stormwater solutions will remove approximately 140 acres from the floodplain, freeing the area for potential development. There are 26 acres of vacant land within a 5 minute walk from the Metra station on 139th Street. The Village envisions a mixed-use neighborhood development, with the stormwater park to the north and proximity to the Metra station as a major draw to attract new residents. New residents will create demand for greater retail options, spurring development along the Kedzie Corridor. The plan also includes a potential 33 acre industrial district along the Cal-Sag Channel, creating new jobs and spurring growth.

This bold initiative envisions a transformative solution to flooding, affecting positive socioeconomic change for our community. Being a disadvantaged area we will need assistance from numerous partners to realize this vision. In order to pursue the necessary planning for the transit-oriented development and industrial districts, we respectfully request assistance through your Local Technical Assistance grant program. Our hope is that by engaging CMAP’s and RTA’s expertise, the stormwater park amenity we are creating in partnership with MWRD, along with the existing Village assets of the Metra station and industrial area, we will create a path forward for sustainable prosperity for the Kedzie Avenue corridor through mid-century and beyond. Together, we have an opportunity to invoke real and lasting change for our community, providing a model for other socioeconomically-challenged communities in our area.

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 Village is committed to implementing the components recommended in the overall vision plan through strategic partnerships it has developed with the entities listed below. The Village has worked closely with various stakeholders and engaged the public to get input on the current concept, which incorporates many elements of the recommendations from previous planning efforts. While implementation of many of the recommended improvements from prior planning efforts has not been possible due to the lack of capacity at the Village, the partnership approach for the current vision plan will allow Robbins to achieve the community’s long-term redevelopment goals. Through the partnership with MWRD, the Village envisions the stormwater park initiative providing a stimulus to the community in reaching its redevelopment goals, and as a result can provide for an increased tax base that can allow the Village to grow its capacity into the future.

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.

These partners have been contacted and are engaged in discussions to assist with the implementation of this overall initiative, and some may be involved in aspects of the LTA request:
The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Cook County Bureau of Economic Development
Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
Cook County Land Bank Authority
Chicago Community Trust
Chicago Botanic Garden
Regional Transit Authority
Metra
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
The Nature Conservancy
Morton Arboretum
South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association
Illinois Housing Development Authority
Metropolitan Planning Council
U.S. Department of Defense / Innovative Readiness Training Program
OAI, Inc.
Millennium Reserve
South Suburban Land Bank and Development Authority
Housing Authority of Cook County
Openlands
Argonne National Lab
Illinois Association of Park Districts

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

Presentation on the Robbins Vision
https://goo.gl/WRfUyv