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October 24, 2018

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker Dr. #800
Chicago, IL 60606

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is the City of Countryside's CMAP LTA Grant application for a new Comprehensive Plan.

The City of Countryside is very excited about this opportunity and looks forward to working with CMAP on the upcoming project. If you need more information, please feel free to call me at 708-485-2595.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Peterson
Assistant City Administrator

APPLICATION FORM

RTA Community Planning Program and CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program

Deadline: Noon on Friday, October 26, 2018

This application form is online at www.rtachicago.org/applications. You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.org. Please submit one application per project as a PDF package. Please avoid submitting multiple PDFs for the same application.

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

City of Countryside

Name: **City of Countryside**

Applicant

Name: **Sharon Peterson**

Main Contact of Application

Title: **Assistant City Administrator**

Phone: **708-485-2595**

Email: **speterson@countryside-il.org**

TYPE OF APPLICANT

(please check all that apply)

- Local Government**
- Multijurisdictional group***
- Nongovernmental organization***

*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.

1. 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 City of Countryside is located in Cook County, Illinois, primarily north of Interstate I-55 (Stevenson Expressway) and Interstate 294 (Tri-State Tollway) in the Chicago Metropolitan Region. The City, with a population of 5,895 (2010 Census) and geographic area of 2.83 square miles, is a mature suburban community located approximately 15 miles from the Chicago Loop. The City incorporated in 1960 and realized significant growth during the first two decades of its existence. For more information about the City of Countryside, please visit www.countryside-il.org.

On November 10, 2004, the City of Countryside adopted the official Comprehensive Plan for the City, entitled Vision for 2024. This document was developed with considerable community involvement and represents a strong planning and policy guide for the City of Countryside to follow for future development. The document reflects the vision of the City and development goals set forth by the City for the next 20 years. The City of Countryside has experienced dramatic change in development since 2004, and Elected Officials and City staff recognizes the need for a new Comprehensive Plan for the next twenty years; especially because our current plan is 14 years old. Many of the sections are outdated, for example, on pages 14 - 22, several of these Goals and Objectives have already been accomplished or the Goals and Objectives are old and antiquated.

A Comprehensive Plan should be subject to continuous review and refinement, and the City of Countryside is committed to developing and adopting a new Comprehensive Plan and is requesting funding from CMAP. Our request is for the Local Technical Assistance Program to assist us in developing the new Comprehensive Plan. Our current Comprehensive Plan can be found by the following link:
<https://www.countryside-il.org/departments/community-development/countryside-comprehensive-plan-update/>

2. 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 limit your responses to 6000 characters including spaces).

Staff identified items that have either been achieved, need to be updated, or are no longer applicable to the City of Countryside. A sample of some of these items are listed below:

- The Demographic Overview should be updated to reflect the 2010 Census figures (Page 6)
- The median age of our residents should be updated to reflect the 2010 Census information (Page 7)
- Racial and ethnic identification should be updated to include 2010 Census information (Page 7)
- Our income brackets need to be updated (Page 8)
- The entire section on Recreation Department should be deleted; the City now has an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park District of LaGrange for recreational programming. This section should be renamed Parks and Open Space, or Parks and Special Events (Page 29)
- Update/Delete the section on City Hall/Civic Center; our new Municipal Complex will open in June, 2019 in a different location (Page 29)
- Delete entire section on ESDA Services; as a cost savings measure, this Department was eliminated in May, 2017 (Page 31)
- Update the Bike/Pedestrian Routes section; in 2012, the City adopted an Active Transportation Plan which we currently use when seeking funding for sidewalks, bike paths, and shared-use paths (Page 48)
- Update the TIF section of the Comprehensive Plan; the City created a TIF District in 2010 (Page 50)
- Update the Transportation and Infrastructure Improvements section of the Comprehensive Plan because this section is outdated and the City has undertaken some of these initiatives (Page 52)
- Update the section on Open Space and Natural Resources; the City was awarded an OSLAD Grant from the IDNR in 2012 for the development of a park in an underserved area. We have received three ITEP Grants; two for Streetscape projects and one for a Shared-Use Path (Page 52)
- Update the following project items under the "Action Agenda: Countryside Comprehensive Plan," because several of these items are outdated and have already been accomplished
Commercial; (Page 55)
Transportation and Circulation; (Page 58)
Administrative Actions; (Page 61)
Design and Appearance; (Page 59)
Industrial; (Page 57)
Community Facilities; (Page 57)
- The plan should include recommendations on improvements to the Zoning Code
- The Economic Development Initiatives of the Comprehensive Plan should be reviewed and updated. In particular, the "Sales Tax Revenue Sharing Program," "Low-Interest Rate Business Loan Program," and "No Municipal Property Tax" section of the Economic Development Incentives section (Page 91)

2. Project Description (continued)

Map items to be updated:

- Existing Land Use Plan – Countryside has seen various changes in land use since the creation of the Plan in 2004 (Figure 1)
- Land Use Plan – The future land use of areas in Countryside should be reviewed as certain corridors have experienced development change since 2004 (Figure 2)
- Community Facilities Plan – Countryside has added a new park to our facilities, and the current Municipal Hall location will change in June 2019, when the new Municipal Complex opens at Joliet Road and Brainard Avenue (Figure 3)

Subarea Plans:

- City Hall/55th Street Subarea – The Plan should be updated to include the new businesses that have opened on 55th Street and the relocation of the Municipal Complex (Figure 6)
- Plainfield Road/55th Street Subarea – The Plan should extend to Willow Springs Road and provide recommendations on the possible future land use of the residential properties on the south side of 55th Street west of Brainard Avenue (Figure 7)
- LaGrange Road Subarea – Land Use Plan – The Plan should be updated to properly designate the Supersonic Shell Station (5300 LaGrange Road) with the right land use. The land use for the former fire station, which is now an Andy's Frozen Custard (LaGrange Road and 58th Street) should be updated from "public" to "commercial" (Figure 8)
- LaGrange Road Subarea – Improvement Recommendations – The entire subarea needs to be updated because items 2-5 no longer exist as listed and this Figure also needs to include the TIF District, LaGrange Overlay District, and also include the City Center development (Figure 9)
- Joliet Road Subarea – The Plan should be updated to include the Countryside Senior Apartments, the Clocktower Pointe development as well as the new Municipal Complex. A note should be incorporated into the plan indicating that this area includes Historic Route 66 (Figure 10)
- Dansher Industrial Park Subarea – The Plan should be updated as some of the areas outlined have been developed (Figure 12)

The City of Countryside is dedicated to adopting a new Comprehensive Plan. The City's Fiscal Year is from May 1 to April 30. The Comprehensive Plan is itemized in the current requested budget for Fiscal Year 2020, subject to City Council approval. The City of Countryside kindly requests a funding from the Local Technical Assistance program to assist the City in preparing and adopting a new Comprehensive Plan.

3. Additional Strategic Partnerships. Please list any additional partners you may want to include in this planning project, and specify if you have made contact with them in advance of submitting this application. (Please limit your response to 1400 characters).

PLAN CHARACTERISTICS

My project involves:

- The preparation of a plan.
- Updating an existing plan.
- Implementation of a previous plan.
- 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 addresses ON TO 2050 and/or Invest In Transit in other ways.

ON TO 2050 ALIGNMENT

(Please check all that apply)

- Inclusive Growth
- Prioritized Investment
- Resilience

RTA INVEST IN TRANSIT ALIGNMENT

(please check all that apply)

- Deliver Value on our transit investments
- Build on the strengths of the transit network
- Keep transit competitive