



**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

The North Avenue District

2. Main Contact for Application

Name: Judith Alexander

Title: Chair, The North Avenue District (See attached mission statement and fact sheet)

Phone number: 708-772-3702

Email: jalexander@n-ave.com

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

☐ Local government

☐ Multijurisdictional group* \longrightarrow Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

☒ Nongovernmental organization* \longrightarrow Name of local government partner(s):
City of Chicago, 29th Ward
Village of Oak Park
See attached letters of support
The Chicago Department of Planning and Development
and Department of Planning and Development have
also made verbal commitments to coordinate with
regard to the proposed study.

*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.

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- ☒ 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. (CDOT is reapplying to IDOT for a grant funded by federal SPR funds. The grant will fund a North Ave. transportation study evaluating, among other things, how transportation resources can bolster the district's economic development. The proposed redevelopment/land use plan will inform the transportation study. IDOT approved the transportation study initially, but funds were not disbursed due to the state budget crisis. It is expected to approve the re-application as well.)
- ☐ 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.

The Village of Oak Park has set aside adequate funds to cover the local match for both the city and the village. (This is appropriate because CDOT plans to cover the entire local match for the North Avenue transportation study if their reapplication for the grant is approved as expected.)

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 North Avenue District includes North Avenue (IL Route 64) from Austin Blvd. to Harlem Ave. , from the street to the east-west alleys running parallel to it. It is the border between Chicago to the north and Oak Park to the south, and therefore is part of both municipalities. It also includes the entire Sears site bounded by North Avenue (to the south), Wabansia (to the north), Nordica (to the east) and Harlem (to the west).

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 document, "Proposed Redevelopment/Land Use Plan for The North Avenue District".

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.

Because there is no plan for North Avenue, The North Avenue District (T-NAD) has no plan implementation experience as an organization.

However, ours is something of a blue ribbon board, with members experienced in construction management, entrepreneurship, marketing, public architecture, real estate investment, zoning law, etc. (See attached fact sheet.) We have drawn on this experience to, for example, advocate for district zoning changes we believe will support economic development or prevent negative uses. Many of these recommendations have been accepted. Similarly, we are currently making a number of parking-related recommendations. We have also supported applications for zoning variances, helping enable two new projects and a new business. We helped a popular new restaurant obtain a Chicago liquor license. We successfully prevented two negative businesses from opening on the Chicago side of North Ave. (unlicensed nightclubs pretending to be a banquet hall and a restaurant, respectively). In addition, we keep the public informed through a monthly e-newsletter, a website, two Facebook pages and two Facebook community groups.

In terms of implementation, we are currently pursuing establishment of a Chicago-side SSA and are beginning to work with Oak Park on establishment of a BID, SSA and/or TIF. We plan to function as Service Provider, ideally funded 50% by each side of the district/service area. We anticipate sufficient funding to hire an executive director and to implement some aspects of the redevelopment plan. Working with the ED, we will pursue implementation grants as well.

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 Austin Chamber of Commerce, North Avenue Business Association and Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce should be included as key informants for interviews.

We are in contact with all three organizations, but have not yet discussed our CMAP application with them.

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