

2026 RTA Community Planning and CMAP Technical Assistance
Program Application

Description Area

Application Instructions
Please provide all of the information requested on each page of the application. Clicking “Save and Resume Later” will allow you to close the application and resume later where you last left off. To help CMAP and the RTA understand which types of technical assistance are the highest priority for your community, you may apply for up to two types of assistance by completing a separate application form.
If you have any questions, please contact:
Alex Waltz alex.waltz@rtachicago.org, 312-913-3234
Heather Mullins heather.mullins@rtachicago.org, 312-913-3244
Lily Brack lbrack@cmap.illinois.gov,312-386-8610
Patrick Day pday@cmap.illinois.gov,312-386-8634

Learn more about the programs and view previously selected projects at www.rtachicago.org/cp and at www.cmap.is/callforprojects.

Description Area

Applications due April 17, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

Description Area

Primary Applicant Information
Please provide information for the primary contact person assigned to this application.

Name:

Organization:

Title:

Pronouns:

Telephone number:

Email:

Address:

Description Area

Co-Applicant and Secondary Applicant Information

Please provide information for the secondary contact person assigned to this application. If you are applying as a single organization, list a secondary contact from within your organization. If you are applying in partnership with another organization, provide contact information for someone from the partnering organization. If you are a Community Based Organization or a Non Profit Organization, fill out this section with information for your co-applicant. The co-applicant needs to be a government entity such as a municipality, government agency, county, etc.

Name:

Organization:

Title:

Pronouns:

Telephone Number:

Email:

Address:

For which assistance type are you applying? (Choose one - You may apply for more than one type of assistance by completing a separate application form.)

ADA Public Right-Of-Way Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Description Area

Creating communities that meet compliance standards and advance full accessibility with a clear understanding of the challenges and benefits. CMAP will work with local governments to support compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The agency will help conduct self-evaluations and develop ADA Transition Plans, helping communities identify and prioritize improvements to make sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps accessible.

Have there been any long-range plans (i.e., comprehensive plan, bicycle pedestrian plan, land use plan, transportation plan, etc.) created within the last five years that include the proposed study area?

If yes, will the proposed project:

If so, please list the name of the plan(s) here and provide a link:

Do you currently have an ADA self-evaluation and transition plan?

If yes, what year was it last updated?

If yes, does it cover public rights-of-way, facilities, programming or all of these components?

If yes, how do you use your ADA self-evaluation and transition plan?

If no, what is the biggest barrier to producing an ADA self-evaluation and transition plan?

Do you have an ADA Coordinator?

If yes, is their name and contact information posted on your community's website?

Do you have a notice to the public of their rights under the ADA posted in a public location in the community?

Do you have a grievance procedure in place regarding accessibility?

What data are available to your community that could be used for ADA self-evaluation and transition planning?

What projects have your community recently completed, or are currently working on, that are relevant to accessibility planning for persons with disabilities?

What type of support does your community need to create or update a self-evaluation and transition plan? (Select all that apply)

What is the biggest challenge for your community in ADA planning and implementation? Please rank the following from 1 to 3 (with 3 being the most important), using each number once.

Has staff attended a CMAP, IDOT, or other ADA/RPOWAG training course in the past 2 years?

If so, please list the course(s)

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Please tell us if you have reviewed the contribution schedule above and understand that if selected, your community will be required to pay the contribution amount indicated:

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Please indicate your agreement to these requirements:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**Description Area**

Cultivating innovative approaches that identify networks for safe travel for all; consider programming, policy, and design frameworks for non-vehicular travel modes; and prepare communities for various implementation funding sources. CMAP will work with local governments to create plans that identify improvements for people walking, bicycling, and getting around without a car. Projects will receive planning support for engagement, mapping, data analysis, and recommendations for transportation, safety, and livability improvements.

Provide the proposed study area boundaries for your project using streets, geographic features, jurisdictional boundaries, etc. Please specify if the study area spans multiple jurisdictions and include any existing public transit services, greenways, or trails that are in the study area:

Have there been any long-range plans (i.e., comprehensive plan, bicycle pedestrian plan, land use plan, transportation plan, etc.) created within the last five years that include the proposed study area?

If yes, will the proposed project:

If so, please list the name of the plan(s) here and provide a link:

Description Area

In every bicycle and pedestrian plan, CMAP seeks to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety, ADA accessibility, access to transit by all modes, connectivity, and last mile connections; and identify and prioritize infrastructure improvements.

In addition to the goals noted above, what priorities would you like the plan to address? (Choose up to three)

Describe any current bicycle or pedestrian focused initiatives happening in your community:

Is your existing bicycle and/or pedestrian infrastructure used by the community?

If not, why? (Select all that apply)

What projects have your community recently completed, or are currently working on, that are relevant to bicycle and/or pedestrian planning?

What data are available to your community that could be used for bicycle and pedestrian planning?

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Please indicate your agreement to these requirements:

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Description Area

Cultivating innovative approaches that implement ON TO 2050 principles and support data-driven, transparent capital improvement planning and preparing communities for greater plan implementation success. CMAP will support local governments to evaluate existing capital planning processes; provide recommendations and training that can help develop a transparent, strategic, and successful planning process; and engage with the community to create a multi-year capital improvement plan.

With the CIP program, CMAP works with communities to build their capacity to identify, prioritize and program for design and construction of capital projects. Please describe your interest in creating a multi-year capital improvement plan, and in building staff capacity to identify, prioritize, and program capital projects?

Does your community currently have a multi-year CIP?

If yes, does your existing CIP work well in your community?

If your existing CIP does not work well, please explain why:

Communities receiving capital improvement plan technical assistance may have certain information available at the start of the project. Which of the following information does your community have readily available? (Select all that apply)

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Please indicate your agreement to these requirements:

Corridor Plan

Description Area

Cultivating innovative approaches that implement ON TO 2050 principles and interweave roadway safety improvements, multimodal transportation options, inclusive economic growth, and regional housing needs. Partner with roadway agencies to build more transit-friendly streets and advance bus rapid transit, while implementing Transit is the Answer.

CMAP and the RTA will work with local governments to develop plans that address transportation and other improvements in a neighborhood, business district, corridor, riverfront, or other focus area. CMAP and the RTA also will help develop goals for improvements, propose specific projects to address these goals, and create strategies to implement recommendations. As regional collaboration is a priority, CMAP and the RTA encourage multijurisdictional applications.

Please upload a map of the proposed study area:

Describe the proposed study area boundaries for your project using streets, geographic features, jurisdictional boundaries, etc. Please specify if the study area spans multiple jurisdictions and include any existing public transit services, greenways, or trails that are in the study area.

Have there been any long-range plans (i.e., comprehensive plan, bicycle pedestrian plan, land use plan, transportation plan, etc.) created within the last five years that include the proposed study area?

If yes, will the proposed project:

If yes, please list the name of the plan(s) here and provide a link:

What are the primary goals of this plan and what are you looking to accomplish?

Description Area

In every corridor plan, CMAP and the RTA work with communities to improve road safety and increase transit access, walkability, and bikeability. Both agencies try to ensure corridor plans promote inclusive growth and encourage land uses that leverage the existing transportation network.

In addition to those outcomes, what are the priority goals you would like the plan to address? (Choose up to three)

What are the priority traffic safety challenges that need to be addressed in the area? (Select all that apply)

Which corresponding agency has roadway jurisdiction and describe your previous and ongoing coordination with them and with other municipalities (if applicable) located along the corridor when developing this application. Have you successfully collaborated with roadway agencies and neighboring municipalities on other transportation projects and if so, what were they?

What are your priority economic development outcomes in creating the proposed corridor plan? (Select all that apply)

Are there flooding challenges in the proposed study area?

Please identify any community organizations or other key partners who will be involved in the planning process:

Is there any additional information you want us to know?

Description Area

CMAP and the RTA strive to be transparent about the level of staff commitment and hours required to participate in technical assistance projects. With 284 communities in our region, and numerous applicants, CMAP and the RTA must select committed applicants to best use limited resources. If your project is selected, your organization will need to execute an intergovernmental agreement (or similar agreement), provide a program contribution if applicable, and commit to attending regular check-in meetings with CMAP or the RTA, participate in outreach activities, perform timely review of deliverables, and engage in all other efforts that are necessary to effectively carry out the proposed planning project. More information on these requirements can be found on the program website.

Please indicate your agreement to these requirements:

How many staff people would be available to work on this project and what is their capacity to take on additional projects if awarded? Who would be the primary project manager and point of contact?

Description Area

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Please tell us if you have reviewed the contribution schedule above and understand that if selected, your community will be required to pay the contribution amount indicated:

Development Dialogue**Description Area**

RTA assistance, in partnership with the Urban Land Institute, will be provided to solicit guidance and advice from development experts through a half-day workshop with municipal staff. Panelists and municipal leaders discuss the development climate and potential strategies to prepare for and attract development at a specific site, parcel or block. These sessions most commonly take place after a planning study, such as an eTOD plan, has been completed, but can also occur during the larger planning process.

In what location are you seeking to solicit development strategy advice from a panel of developers? (i.e. which parcel, block, at what address)

Please upload a map of the target parcels or block.

Describe property ownership of the parcels. Are they under municipal control, privately owned, land bank, etc.

Which existing transit services are adjacent to or are near by the location? (Name rail station and/or bus routes)

What long-range plans (i.e. Comprehensive Plan, Transit-Oriented-Development Plan, Land Use Plan, Transportation Plan, etc.) identify the need to target economic development to this location?

What are the primary goals for this event and what are you looking to accomplish?

Is there any additional information you want us to know?

Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Plan

Description Area

Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Plans (ETOD) are based on the basic tenets of transit-oriented development, with mixed land uses, higher residential densities, and pedestrian friendly environments. ETOD plans move beyond traditional TOD plans by ensuring an equitable planning process that listens to the voices of all those impacted, considers a range of diverse housing types with a focus on affordability, and develops recommendations that benefit existing as well as future residents. These plans produce recommendations for an appropriate mix of land uses, development densities, and transportation improvements to support increased transit ridership within a quarter- to half-mile radius of a rail station or major bus station. They also address urban design elements, including streetscape improvements, and recommend multi modal mobility improvements to and within the station area. Emphasis is placed on an equitable planning process, encouraging improved or increased access to both housing and jobs near transit, the identification of the health benefits of implementing TOD plan recommendations, and an in-depth understanding of the parking utilization in the study area.

Describe the proposed study area boundaries for your project using streets, geographic features, jurisdictional boundaries, etc:

What are the existing transit services in the study area?

Have there been any long-range plans (i.e., comprehensive plan, bicycle pedestrian plan, land use plan, transportation plan, etc.) created within the last 10 years that include the proposed study area? (Include link to plan)

If yes, describe how the proposed project will build from, update, and/or implement recommendations from the previous plan:

What are the primary goals of this plan and what are you looking to accomplish?

The RTA strives to advance community empowerment and equitable opportunities for all residents through our program. If selected, do you commit to working with the RTA to ensure all residents have an opportunity to participate during the planning process and that plan recommendations will include equitable solutions to transportation, housing and development and policy?

How will you center equity in the planning process and in the types of recommendations that might be developed?

Is there any additional information you want us to know?

Please upload a map of the proposed study area:

How many staff people would be available to work on this project and what is their capacity to take on additional projects if awarded? Who would be the primary project manager and point of contact?

Housing Readiness

Description Area

Developing innovative approaches that implement ON TO 2050 principles, plan for a robust housing market, and embrace coordinated land use strategies. This technical assistance type is only open to municipalities in which a county-level housing readiness plan is approved or underway. CMAP will work with eligible municipalities to provide technical assistance to develop housing readiness plans that diversify housing supply to better meet residents' needs. Through these plans, communities can address regulatory barriers such as policy and code changes; identify strategic locations for future housing development; and build critical partnerships and communication tools. This technical assistance category is open only to municipalities located in counties where a countywide housing readiness plan has been adopted or is currently underway. For the 2026 call for projects, only municipalities in McHenry and Kane counties are eligible to apply, as those counties are in the final stages of adopting their countywide housing readiness plans.

Please identify any staff, elected officials, and community organizations who would likely be involved in the housing readiness project.

**What are your goals for the housing readiness project?
(Select all that apply)**

**What are the priority housing challenges in your community?
(Select all that apply)**

Does your community have any housing plans underway or completed within the past 5 years?

If yes, please provide a link to the completed plan, or anticipated completion date of one under development.

When did your community last update its zoning code?

Are there proposed housing developments in your community?

If yes, please describe.

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Please indicate your agreement to these requirements:

Neighborhood Access to Transit Improvement Plan

Description Area

Through its strategic plan, Transit is the Answer, the RTA is committed to support efforts to improve accessibility around transit services and will work with municipalities to examine the level of access at a transit stop or station in their community. We will convene transportation partners in a walking tour to observe gaps in accessibility, then develop recommendations for small-scale, short-term improvements that will benefit transit riders in the near-term. Possible improvements include sidewalk connections, crosswalks, ADA compliance, pedestrian signal heads, bus shelters, bus pads, and station amenities such as benches, wayfinding signage, etc. The plan will include one or more graphics depicting the station area improvements and an implementation strategy that recommends funding sources. These plans can be used as a basis for Access to Transit applications, or other funding sources to implement access improvements. Identifying these improvements in areas served by transit will further support access to transit.

Describe the area in need of access improvements, including transit station name or bus stop location(s).

What long-range plan (i.e. Comprehensive Plan, Transit-Oriented-Development Plan, Land Use Plan, Transportation Plan, etc.) identifies the need for access improvements at this location and what were the recommendations from the plan?

What type of improvements might be needed?

What are the primary mobility concerns to be addressed with this plan? (Select all that apply)

The RTA strives to advance community empowerment and equitable opportunities for all residents through our program. If selected, do you commit to working with the RTA to ensure all residents have an opportunity to participate during the planning process and that plan recommendations will include equitable solutions to transportation and policy?

Is there any additional information you want us to know?

Please upload a map of the proposed study area:

How many staff people would be available to work on this project and what is their capacity to take on additional projects if awarded? Who would be the primary project manager and point of contact?

NEXT program (plan implementation assistance)

Description Area

Cultivating innovative approaches that implement ON TO 2050 principles and support communities' capacity to organize plan implementation efforts to achieve plan goals. CMAP will work with local governments taking their next steps toward achieving outcomes outlined in local plans, including past CMAP and RTA plans. CMAP will work with communities to help organize implementation efforts, prioritize planned improvements, promote economic prosperity, develop an action plan, and assist with executing the action plan.

Please list any staff, community organizations, and elected officials that would likely be involved in the plan implementation technical assistance project.

Description Area

With the NEXT program, CMAP works with communities to build their capacity to implement existing plans, especially those created with CMAP and the RTA.

What is the name of the plan(s) that you would like assistance implementing through the NEXT program?

Was the plan adopted by your municipality within the past 5 years?

If no, please share your feelings on the plan's continued relevance and why implementation of this plan is a priority for your community.

What are the primary goals of partnering with CMAP on this technical assistance project? What are you looking to accomplish?

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Please indicate your agreement to these requirements:

Node-Oriented Development

Description Area

Advancing ON TO 2050 principles through integrated land use, mobility, and economic strategies that strengthen an existing node (employment center, medical district, higher education campus, or downtown area) to support economic growth and create vibrant, connected places. CMAP will work with local governments to create node-oriented development plans that integrate strategies for transportation, housing, jobs, and retail/commercial development, and in turn, strengthen each node's role in the local and regional economy and transportation network. Nodes serve as vibrant centers of activity, promote walkability, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and maximize the use of existing infrastructure

Provide the proposed study area boundaries for your project using streets, geographic features, jurisdictional boundaries, etc. Please specify if the study area spans multiple jurisdictions and include any existing public transit services, greenways, or trails that are in the study area:

Is the focus (or node) of this study area an underused, obsolete, or abandoned use? Please describe.

In a node-oriented development plan, CMAP strives to promote walkability, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and maximize the use of existing infrastructure. These plans should promote economic competitiveness and encourage land uses that leverage the existing transportation network and capitalize on the subject node as an anchor or catalyst for economic development. In addition to those outcomes, what are the priority goals you would like the plan to address? (Choose up to three):

Have there been any long-range plans created within the past 5- to 10 years that include the proposed study area? Please include a link to the plan. If yes, how does the proposed project build upon or update the existing plan?

Are there traffic safety or demand challenges that need to be addressed in the area? (Select all that apply)

What are your priority economic development outcomes in creating the proposed node-oriented development plan? (Select all that apply)

Are there flooding challenges in the proposed study area?

Please identify any community organizations or other key partners that will be involved in the planning process.

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Local Road Safety Plans

Description Area

Cultivating innovative approaches that implement ON TO 2050 principles to develop local road safety plans and prepare communities for funding available under the Highway Safety Improvement Program and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. CMAP will work with local governments to prepare a proactive, data-driven tool that helps communities identify, analyze, and prioritize roadway safety improvements. The tool incorporates crash data, local insights, and steering committee guidance to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes. By evaluating all roads — regardless of jurisdiction — and applying a Safe System approach that anticipates human error, local road safety plans provide a holistic framework to improve safety for all road users, including pedestrians and bicyclists, in high activity areas. Please note: Local road safety plans offer recommended strategies but do not commit agencies to implement them; actions depend on priorities, funding, and community feedback.

Describe the proposed study area boundaries for your project using streets, geographic features, jurisdictional boundaries, etc. Please specify if the study area spans multiple jurisdictions and include any existing public transit services, greenways, or trails that are in the study area:

Description Area

In every transportation safety plan, CMAP works with communities to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety, ADA accessibility, safe access to transit by all modes, as well as identify, design, and prioritize safety improvements that can prevent speeding and reduce vehicle crashes.

In addition to those outcomes, what are the priority goals you would like the plan to address? (Choose up to three)

Does the proposed project benefit groups who have been historically disadvantaged, or residents with limited proficiency in English?

If yes, please describe:

Are there existing projects within the study area that might affect traffic, mobility, or safety? (i.e., transportation or mobility studies, redevelopment plans/projects, road re/construction projects, storm water management, economic development plans, etc.)

If so, please identify them:

How well is your existing bicycle and/or pedestrian infrastructure used by the community?

If not, why? (Select all that apply)

Are you able to provide CMAP staff with local crash reports?

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Transit Area Parking and Zoning Regulation Updates

Description Area

The RTA will assist municipalities in rewriting existing off-street parking requirements to comply with the People Over Parking Act, a state-wide regulation passed as part of the The NITA Act, going into effect June 1, 2026, that eliminates minimum off-street automobile parking requirements for most new development located near public transit rail stations and along high-frequency bus routes. In addition, the RTA will support local government staff to create development standards and review process that makes investment in the community more attractive to potential developers, business owners, and residents seeking to improve their property. These efforts will involve assessment of the current regulations and existing conditions in the community and will deliver a revised parking ordinance, zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, unified development ordinance, overlay district, or other regulations.

Are you seeking assistance to update parking regulations in accordance with the People Over Parking Act or are you seeking transit-supportive zoning code amendments in transit served areas?

Which existing transit services are in the study area? (Name rail station and/or bus routes)

Describe how existing parking and zoning regulations do not support your vision for future land use?

Describe municipal officials' interest and support in amending the parking or zoning code to encourage transit-supportive land uses and development:

Is there a long-range plan (i.e. Comprehensive Plan, Transit-Oriented-Development Plan, Land Use Plan, Transportation Plan, etc.) identifies the need to amend the zoning code in the study area? What were the zoning recommendations from this plan?

Describe the recommendations and include a link to the plan.

Are you seeking to increase allowed development density near your transit served areas as part of the code amendments?

Are you seeking to decrease or eliminate minimum off-street parking requirements as part of the code amendments?

Do you have an inclusionary zoning or housing affordability ordinance?

If not, are you seeking to encourage greater provision of housing units affordable to people and families of all income levels?

What types of code amendments are needed? (Select all that apply)

What are the primary goals of amending the zoning code and what are you looking to accomplish?

The RTA strives to advance community empowerment and equitable opportunities for all residents through our program. If selected, do you commit to working with the RTA to ensure all residents have an opportunity to participate during the amendment process and that code recommendations will include equitable solutions to identified transportation and land use issues?

Is there any additional information you want us to know?

How many staff people would be available to work on this project and what is their capacity to take on additional projects if awarded? Who would be the primary project manager and point of contact?

Please upload a map of the proposed study area:

Please upload a statement of municipal support on applicant letterhead:

Closing Questions

How did you find out about the call for projects? (Select all that apply)

Which resources did you find helpful as you identified your requested assistance type and completed this application? (Select all that apply)

How difficult was it to fill out this application?

Description Area

Applications must be completed by 12:00 p.m. on April 17, 2026.