

# New Planning Cooperative: Key to Implementing 2040 Plan

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The Kane County Board's unanimous vote on May 8 to adopt a new long-term plan for the county that is being recognized for its groundbreaking integration of land-use, transportation and health planning, demands creation of a shared vision and implementation strategy that Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay said should be no less comprehensive than the collaborative effort required to generate the 2040 Plan itself.

"We are good at being visionaries. Give yourself credit for that," McConnaughay told a diverse group of more than 30 public and private planners and government policy makers from throughout Kane County during introductory remarks at a recent kick-off meeting of a new, broad-based planning cooperative that will be charged with guiding the long-term implementation strategy.

"We all recognize we live in great communities and we want to preserve that and enhance that," said McConnaughay. "We can't get there without a game plan...a vision and a strategy."

"The implementation falls on each of us, coming together and sharing a vision," she said. Given what McConnaughay described as Kane County's "incredibly rich history of planning" over nearly 50 years, including planning partnerships that have resulted in award-winning collaborations, "I am absolutely confident that you can do this," she said.

The Kane County Planning Cooperative is at the core of the 2040 Plan Implementation Strategy, according to Mark VanKerkhoff, director of the Kane County Development and Community Services Department. "The hope is that the cooperative will be the source of influence when it comes to implementation," said VanKerkhoff, who moderated the kick-off meeting.

"We all need to work together more than ever before," said VanKerkhoff. Among other things, he said the cooperative will need to focus on some of the planning gaps that exist due to budget and resource cuts. Along with county's Health Department and Division of Transportation, the Development Department will redouble its outreach to Kane municipalities, and continue to assist with local planning efforts, initiatives and help them better compete for grant funding. While the three county departments do not individually have the resources to assist municipalities and address future planning needs, collectively they are able to pool their resources to address various issues.

"Funders are looking for existing collaborations," he said. "Grant money is tied to adopted plans and collaboration," said VanKerkhoff.

**Summary of the Planning Cooperative roundtable discussion:**

- **Barriers to local planning**, including collaboration barriers, lack of staff, cuts in external funding, lack of training for planning commissioners, planning staff overextended with little time to devote to special planning projects, coordinating planning for health with land use and transportation...
- **Gaps in local planning resources**, including lack of resources to provide training and educational opportunities for staff, elected officials and community, need to coordinate facility sharing (sharing of resources and equipment among municipalities to save money), effective inter-agency coordination for planning pedestrian crossings-especially on state highways, limited staff time to expand programs in the community...
- **Topics planners would like to see the Planning Cooperative address**, including stalled developments, redevelopment of incomplete subdivisions, retrofitting commercial corridors and infrastructure, development of local walkability plans, implementing compact-mixed use with form-based zoning, creating healthier communities, advancing local food production and facilities, sustainability plans, and watershed planning...

<b>Kane County Planning Cooperative Grant Funded Projects Summary for 2012</b>			
<b>Project/Goal</b>	<b>Total Grant Award</b>	<b>Grant Funds Remaining</b>	<b>Type/Source of Funding</b>
Kane County Planning Cooperative <i>Goal: To implement the 2040 Plan</i>	\$360,000	\$30,000	Healthy Communities Grant, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Funding for local planning efforts <i>Goal: To implement the 2040 Plan</i>	\$40,000	\$40,000	Grant through the Power of Policy Contest, American Public Health Association
Evaluation of Land Suitability for Agriculture <i>Goal: To identify evaluation tools and resources to determine land suitability for local farms/local food.</i>	Local Technical Assistance	Local Technical Assistance	CMAP Local Technical Assistance via Federal Grant
Health Impact Assessment – <i>Goal: To determine the health impacts of utilizing farmland preservation to increase local food production and access.</i>	\$125,000	\$125,000	Health Impact Project, Pew Charitable Trust

Green Infrastructure Map and Plan <b>Goal: To create a green infrastructure map and develop specific implementation recommendations.</b>	Phase 1 \$16,000	Phase 1 \$16,000	Phase 1 - Grant from Chicago Wilderness via Boeing.
Remnant Oak Woodland Study & Map <b>Goal: To identify and map the remnant oak woodlands in Kane County</b>	Technical Assistance (consultant)	Technical Assistance (consultant)	Chicago Wilderness via Federal Grant
Create a model transportation overlay ordinance <b>Goal: To implement the Long Range Transit Plan</b>	Local Technical Assistance	Local Technical Assistance	CMAP Local Technical Assistance via Federal Grant

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