

KANE COUNTY 2040 PLAN
Kane County Planning Cooperative

For Immediate Release

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www.countyofkane.org

Kane County and Municipalities Benefit from \$1.2 Million in Technical Assistance through Cooperative Efforts, including \$400,000 Awarded for 2014

The Kane County and its municipalities have a long history of planning cooperation, historically bringing valuable planning resources and grants of all types. The most recent benefits will be realized in 2014, when 7 new planning projects and studies involving Kane County and seven municipalities will start up with assistance from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The approved projects are considered to be significant because they help achieve one or more regional goals in CMAPs' **GO TO 2040 Plan** as well as the **Kane County 2040 Plan**. This is the third year of CMAPs' Local Technical Assistance Program.

The approved seven projects in this third round of awards represent a value of about \$350,000-\$400,000 to Kane County, according to estimates provided by CMAP. Since the first two years of the program, including ongoing projects, the value of the assistance provided to Kane County and municipalities is worth about \$800,000, making the combine value of planning assistance about \$1.2 million. "This assistance represents a substantial benefit to Kane County and its communities", stated Kane County Board Chairman, Chris Lauzen, "being competitive to bring in outside planning resources reduces the burden on local taxpayers while ensuring that Kane County remains a great place to live, work and do business."

Kane County's vision, leadership and the award winning **Kane County Planning Cooperative** have been a large part of the success for gaining approval from CMAP for these projects. The **Kane County Planning Cooperative** is a collaborative effort between Kane County's Health, Transportation and Development planning staff. One of the Cooperative's fundamental goals is to help municipalities and other planning partners "fill in the gaps" in local planning resources by providing technical assistance. This is of particular importance in some of the county's municipalities that have no, or overextended, planning staff.

Municipalities approved for LTA projects for 2014 include Algonquin, Carpentersville, Pingree Grove, South Elgin, Barrington Hills, Campton Hills, and Montgomery. Projects range from bike/pedestrian planning, sharing municipal services, to updates of zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans.

Kane County's approved project will benefit CMAP, the region, and a Kane County municipality to be determined. Kane County will be sharing training they received in 2012 to undertake a recently completed Health Impact Assessment (HIA) studying the impacts of increasing local food production. An HIA is an emerging planning tool used to evaluate how a plan, program, or policy will affect the overall health of a population. A HIA is designed to inform policy makers *before* a plan, program, or policy is adopted.

Kane County Kane County will partner with CMAP to perform the HIA, while also training CMAP staff about the HIA process and providing an example of HIA for the region. The topic of study selected by the County and CMAP will be a municipal plan, program, or policy that directly implements CMAP's GO TO 2040 Plan and the Kane County 2040 Plan.

Municipalities in Kane County interested in having the HIA undertaken to benefit their community are encouraged to contact Mark VanKerkhoff, Director, Kane County Development & Community Services Department at (630) 232-3451 or at vankerkhoffmark@co.kane.il.us.

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