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**Name:** Caroline Connors

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**Title:** Executive Director

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**Address:** 10827 S Western Avenue  
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**For which project type are you applying? (Choose one – You may apply for more than one type of assistance by completing a separate application form.)** Corridor Plan

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## Corridor Plan

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**Please upload a map of the proposed study area:** <https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/16105314867>

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**Describe the proposed study area boundaries for your project using streets, geographic features, jurisdictional boundaries, etc. Please specify who has roadway jurisdiction and if the study area spans multiple jurisdictions and include existing public transit services, greenways, or trails.**

The proposed corridor for study extends along South Western Avenue from Evergreen Park at 83rd Street to Vermont Street in Blue Island. The project crosses multiple jurisdictions including Evergreen Park, City of Chicago, and Blue Island. Illinois Department of Transportation may also have jurisdiction on certain sections of South Western Avenue through the project area.

Pace and CTA both operate within the study area:

- CTA Route 95 (95th to 91st)
- Pace bus 349, 385 (127th south)
- CTA cross street routes 87, 103, 112, 119
- Pace bus cross street routes 381 (95th Street)

Beginning at 83rd Street, the project would allow for improved connection to the Major Taylor Trail on the north end and the Cal-Sag Trail on the south end of the project limits at Vermont Street. Opportunities also exist to provide improved accessibility to the on-street bike route network along many of the east-west streets including 87th Street, 99th Street, 103rd Street, 111th Street, 115th Street, and 119th Street, connecting to additional bike routes along Longwood Drive and South Vincennes Avenue.

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**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?**

No

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**If yes, will the proposed project:**

Update an existing plan

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

There have not been any holistic plans developed for this section of Western Avenue in the last five years. Both Blue Island and City of Chicago have investigated the South Western Avenue Corridor in different contexts in 2011 and 2013, respectively. Some elements of these plans were implemented, but a holistic, cohesive effort has not been completed for the full proposed project area.

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**What is the goal of this plan? What are you looking to accomplish?**

The goal of this study is to identify opportunities to improve safety, mobility, and economic vitality along the corridor, with special attention to non-motorized access and mobility and transit improvements. The South Western Avenue corridor is extensively developed with retail, but the roadway is designed to maximize vehicular throughput. There is a significant crash history throughout the corridor, highlighting the conflicts between land use and current roadway design. An equitable and multimodal implementation plan is the end goal for the corridor plan that matches the overarching themes of CMAP's ON TO 2050 Plan: Inclusive Growth: Growing our economy through opportunity for all; Resilience: Preparing for rapid changes, both known and unknown. Prioritized Investment: Carefully target resources to maximize benefit. The holistic approach taken for this corridor study will include the following: upgrade ADA requirements throughout the corridor; look to improve pedestrian and non-motorized user safety and mobility; consolidate vehicular access and improve access patterns to big box retail; review traffic control options including signal timing and phasing; improve access for all modes to jobs, education, and healthcare; improve the overall reliability of transit through the corridor; subsurface utility replacement and/or upgrades as necessary to improve and expand telecommunications, improve drainage/water/wastewater infrastructure, replace any lead service lines remaining in the corridor; look to bury overhead utility lines to improve resiliency.

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

Increase transportation resilience  
Attract investment and development  
Encourage transit-oriented development

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

ADA accessibility  
Bicycle and pedestrian facilities  
Crashes  
Pedestrian crossings  
Problematic intersections

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**Describe your coordination when developing this application with the roadway agency and other municipalities located along the corridor:**

The Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA) and Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association (MPBHBA) have met in person or are currently coordinating with the following agencies and municipalities:

Kelly Burke - Mayor, Village of Evergreen Park - In person coordination; confirmed support

Matthew O'Shea - 19th Ward Alderman, City of Chicago - In person coordination; confirmed support

Erika Sellke - Chicago Department of Planning and Development (Far South Planning Region) - On-going email coordination

Thomas Wogan - City Administrator, City of Blue Island - On-going coordination with interest in combining efforts currently underway in Blue Island

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

Attract new retail development

Attract new jobs

Retain businesses

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**Are there flooding challenges in the proposed study area?**

No

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

Yes

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**If yes, please describe:**

The largest Evergreen Park racial/ethnic groups are White (non-Hispanic) (55.4%), Black (Non-Hispanic) (24.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race) (14.7%), Asian (non-Hispanic) (2.1%), and Other/Multiple Races (Non-Hispanic) (3.3%). Total non-English spoken at home was 14.5% (10.9% Spanish) with 3.5% responding speaking English Less than "Very Well".

The Beverly neighborhood area's racial composition in 2021 was 55.3% white, 32.4% Black, 1.3% Asian and 3.7% other racial categories. Hispanics or Latinos of any race made up 7.2% of the population.

The Morgan Park neighborhood area's racial composition in 2021 was 33.1% white, 28.8% Black, 6.8% Asian and 2.7% other racial categories. Hispanics or Latinos of any race made up 28.7% of the population.

Blue Island's racial composition in 2023 was Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race) (45.9%), Black (Non-Hispanic) (31.4%), White (non-Hispanic) (21.1%), Asian (non-Hispanic) (0.05%), and Other/Multiple Races (Non-Hispanic) (1.1%). Total non-English spoken at home was 40.1% (38.3% Spanish) with 15.4% responding speaking English Less than "Very Well".

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

Government Stakeholders/Jurisdiction

1. Illinois Department of Transportation
  - a. State ROW 87th - 99th (1.5 miles)
  2. Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
    - a. County ROW 74th - 87th and 99th - 115th (2 miles)
    - b. 2023 Cook County Bike Plan recommends improvements to "high stress" bike crossings at 83rd and Western and new routes that would cross western at 91st and 99th.
3. City of Chicago Department of Transportation
  - a. Traffic impacts
  - b. May be able to act on behalf of IDOT due to 2023 MOU with IDOT to collaborate on traffic safety infrastructure.
4. City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development
  - a. Far south region
5. CMAP (technical assistance)
6. CTA
  - a. Route 95 starts at 87th, runs to 95th/Dan Ryan
  - b. Western bus runs along corridor. Upcoming better streets for buses plan may designate this corridor as a priority corridor for BRT.
7. PACE
  - a. Route 349
8. Village of Evergreen Park
9. City of Blue Island

Community Organizations

8. Friends of the Cal-Sag Trail
  9. Active Transportation Alliance
  10. Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA)
  11. Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association (MPBHA)
  12. ComEd
  13. Western/Rock Island TIF
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**The RTA and CMAP strive to advance community empowerment and equitable opportunities for all residents through our program. If selected, do you commit to working with the RTA or CMAP 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?**

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Yes

**Is there any additional information you want us to know?**

The Beverly Area Planning Association (BAPA) and the Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association (MPBHBA) have been looking to improve the safety and mobility of South Western Avenue Corridor for over a decade. Partnering with Evergreen Park and Blue Island provides an opportunity to develop a comprehensive and holistic plan for this project area. Developing this plan will also allow for opportunities to pursue additional funding through both the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program (both Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities Grants and Implementation Grants) to make a significant difference in the future of the corridor, improving safety and mobility for generations to come!

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**Please indicate your agreement to these requirements:**

Yes

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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:**

Yes

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## **Closing Questions**

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

Website  
Planning liaison

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**What resources did you find helpful as you apply for the call? (Select all that apply)**

Instructional videos  
Receiving assistance from CMAP or RTA staff

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**How difficult was it to fill out this application?**

Somewhat easy

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