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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.) Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Plan

Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Plan

Describe the proposed study area boundaries for your project using streets, geographic features, jurisdictional boundaries, etc: We propose developing an Equitable Transit-Oriented Development plan focused on the major arterial streets north of the Pulaski Orange Line station (Pulaski, Archer, 47th St. and 51st St.)

Which existing transit services are in the study area? (Name rail station and/or bus routes) The Pulaski Orange Line station is immediately south of 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)

Aside from citywide plans, we are not aware of any comprehensive plans that address the proposed study area. That said, the Chicago Department of Planning and Development has recently launched a multi-phase planning and development initiative for Brighton Park and Gage Park that would potentially include parts of the study area (see link below):

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/47th-and-western-avenue/home.html>

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

N/A, although we are interested in how this project can best align with the goals of Chicago's Connected Communities Ordinance, which encourages Equitable Transit-Oriented Development near CTA stations, but has not been maximized at Orange Line stations on the southwest side:

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/equitable-transit-oriented-development/home/connected-communities-ordinance.html>

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

The Pulaski station is the second-busiest station on the CTA Orange Line, and generates a significant amount of foot traffic on a daily basis, especially at rush hour and during arrival/dismissal at nearby Curie Metro High School. We hope to identify opportunities for residential, commercial, and community-centered development along the major arterial streets closest to the station. This is especially crucial on the southwest side, where pedestrian-friendly spaces are few and far between.

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?

Yes

Describe what areas in the planning process and the types of recommendations you're looking for that need to be centered on equity:

The two communities that would be directly served by Equitable Transit-Oriented development near the Pulaski Orange Line station would be the residents of Archer Heights and students at Curie Metro High School. Archer Heights is in community cohort 4 (per CMAP's call for proposals). The neighborhood has a higher non-white population (mostly Hispanic/Latino) and a higher percentage of residents earning under \$50,000 per year than the city as a whole. In terms of transit, Archer Heights has a noticeably higher percentage of residents driving to work, and a lower percentage of residents using transit or walking/biking, than the city as a whole.

(Information per CMAP's Archer Heights community snapshot: <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/126764/Archer+Heights.pdf>)

Curie Metro High School has a significantly higher percentage of Hispanic/Latino students, and a larger percentage of low-income students, compared to Chicago Public Schools as a whole.

We hope this planning process can deliver a vision for walkable, pedestrian-friendly, community-oriented, and culturally appropriate development to serve communities that have been denied these basic quality of life elements.

Is there any additional information you want us to know?

We are proposing a focus on the areas north of the Pulaski Orange Line station that are totally within the 14th ward, seeing as there is only space for two applicants (the 14th ward alderwoman and a local community group, in this case). If it is possible to broaden the study area south to include parts of the 23rd ward, that would be beneficial to residents of both communities, but would require additional coordination with that alderman.

Depending on the scope of this project, we would love to consider the major streets around the Kedzie Orange Line station as well (totally within the 14th ward) in order to maximize the amount of E-TOD planning along the Orange Line. The Kedzie station also has a major industrial footprint in the blocks immediately surrounding it, and overlaps more directly with the recently launched Chicago Department of Planning and Development "Stitching it Together" initiative.

Please upload a map of the proposed study area:

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/16105577873>

Closing Questions

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

Website

Other: Conversations with E-TOD advocates at Elevated Chicago and the Active Transportation Alliance, and correspondence with CMAP staff

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

Web page FAQ

Receiving assistance from CMAP or RTA staff

How difficult was it to fill out this application?

Neither easy nor difficult
