

RTAChicago.org

# RTA'S ACCESS TO TRANSIT PROGRAM

APTA Sustainability and Multimodal Planning Workshop  
July 29 – August 1, 2018  
Vancouver, BC

Michael Horsting, AICP  
Manager, Local Planning



# MOVING YOU

# BACKGROUND

- Small-scale bike & pedestrian infrastructure improvements
- Plan implementation assistance for partner communities
- Increase transit ridership
- Reduced vehicle emissions



# ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS



Bus and Rail Warming Shelters



Crosswalks and Signal Heads



Sidewalk Connections

# ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS



**Covered Bike Parking**



**Wayfinding Signage**



**ADA Accessibility Improvements**

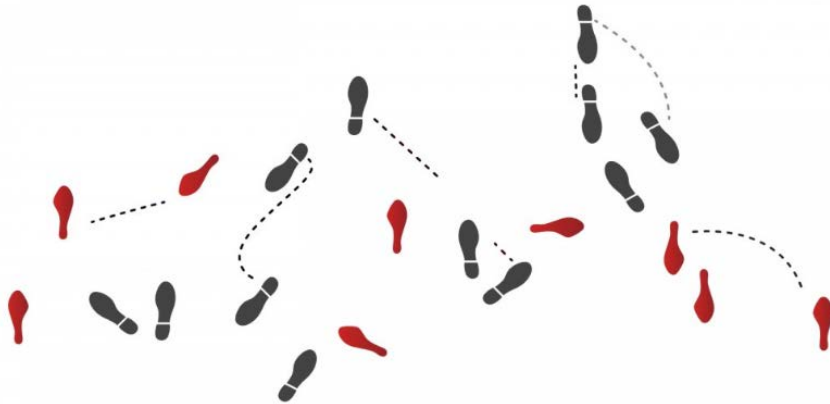
# PROGRAM FUNDING AND BENEFITS

- Two-Step Program:

1. RTA Call for Projects
2. “Bundled” CMAQ Application

- Municipal Benefits

1. RTA Local Match
2. Technical Assistance
3. CMAQ Competitiveness
4. Promotes multi-modal transportation



## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Applicants must be a municipality or county government who has participated in previous RTA or RPC transit-related planning study
- Participated in a multi-jurisdictional transit agency corridor study



# HOW TO APPLY

- Complete RTA application form from [program website](#)
- Statement of community support
- Detailed estimate of project costs
- Concept plan/location map
- Local data:
  - Project area zoning
  - Pop. and Empl. densities
  - Transit ridership





# CHOOSING A PROJECT

- Aligned with plan goals
- Ability to increase ridership / reduce VMT
- Readiness / ability to implement
- Transit operating agency coordination



# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

## If a project receives funding...

- Local Government takes ownership and manages project to completion
- IGA with RTA to confirm funding and PM obligations
- Provide quarterly updates to RTA
- Invoice RTA for reimbursement

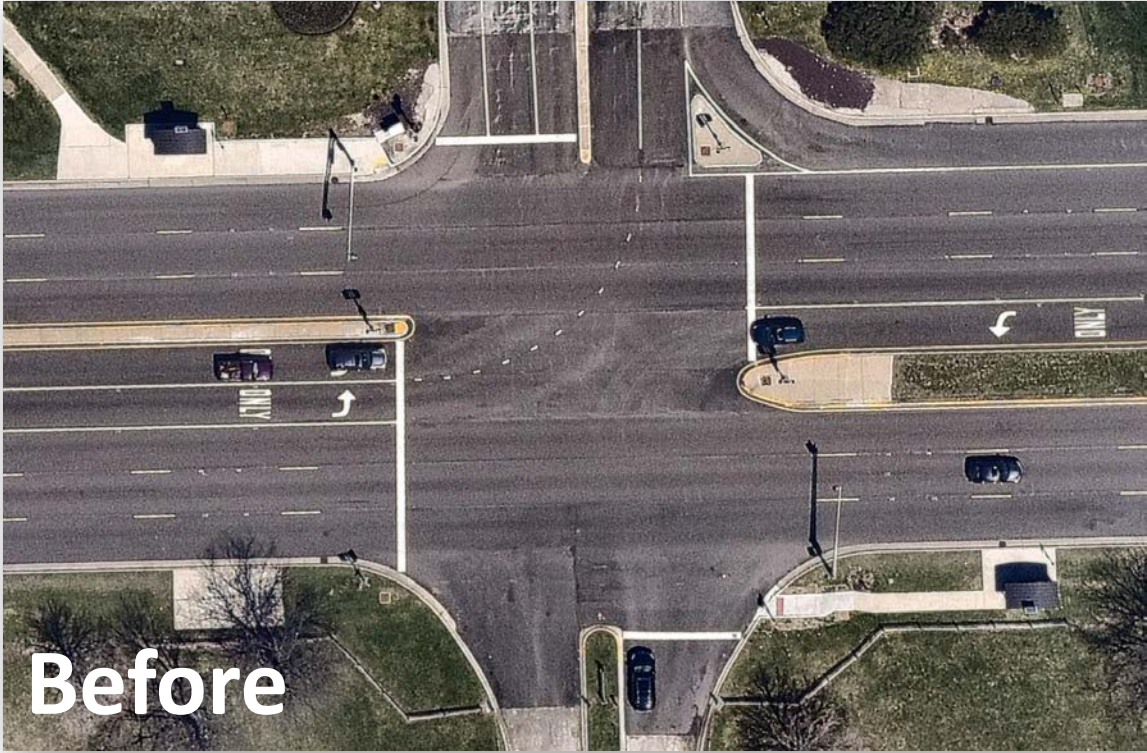




## PROGRESS

- Three completed phases of program
- Projects funded in 22 communities throughout region
- \$10 million in federal, local and RTA funds invested
- Completed projects in Evanston, Glen Ellyn, Mount Prospect, Palos Heights and Rolling Meadows

# PROJECT EXAMPLE – ROLLING MEADOWS



# PROJECT EXAMPLE – ROLLING MEADOWS



# PROJECT EXAMPLE – MOUNT PROSPECT



Before

# PROJECT EXAMPLE – MOUNT PROSPECT



After

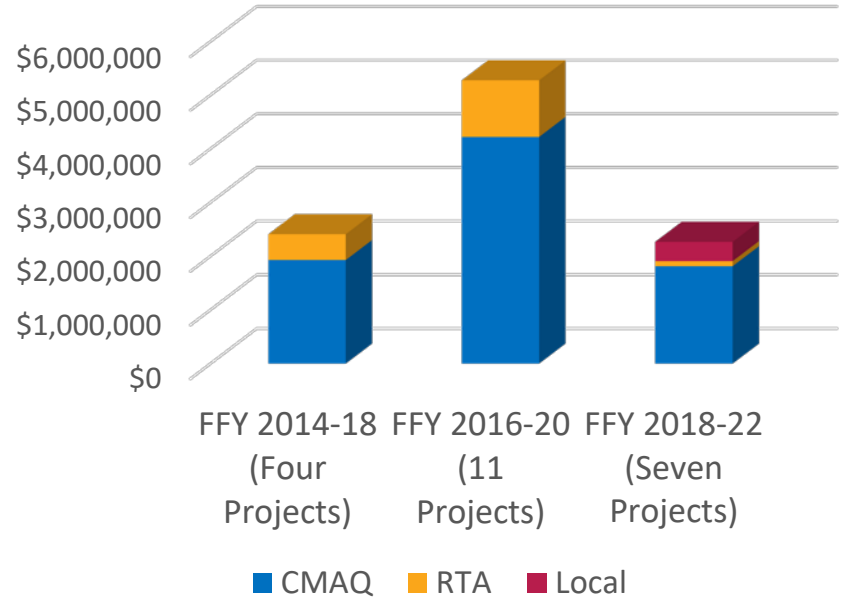
# GROWING PAINS & RTA FUNDING

**RTA Local Match:**

**Pilot: 20%**

**2016 Program: 20%**

**2018 Program: 0%-20%**  
**(and set budget max.)**



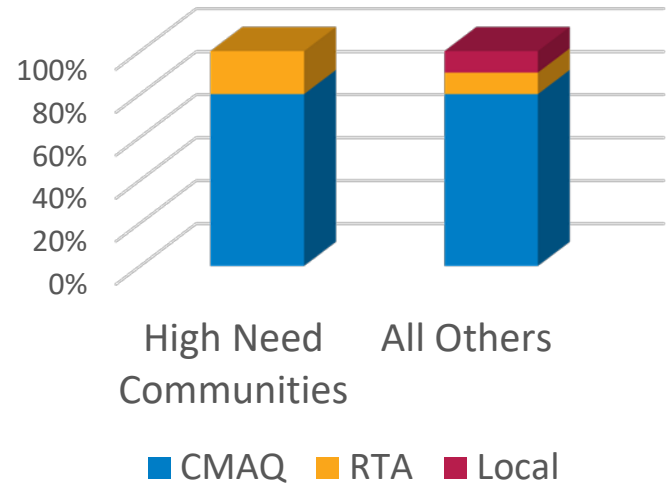
# ROUND 4 PROGRAM CHANGES

## Local Match:

- “Highest need” communities continue to receive 20% local match funding from RTA, all others receive a flat 10% of project budget

## Project Budgets:

- \$150,000 - \$1 Million





# ONGOING CHALLENGES

- Lack of a dedicated funding stream (CMAQ program design)
- Local match funding dependent on RTA Board
- More assistance to applicants is needed with IDOT engineering requirements
- Attracting interest from fringe communities

# QUESTIONS?

**Michael Horsting, AICP**  
**Manager, Local Planning**  
**[horstingm@rtachicago.org](mailto:horstingm@rtachicago.org)**  
**312-913-3159**