Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Administration and Public Works Committee

From: David Stoneback, Public Works Agency Director  
Lara Biggs, P.E., Bureau Chief – Capital Planning / City Engineer  
Sat Nagar, P.E., Senior Project Manager

Subject: Resolution 20-R-17, Requesting Grant Funds from Cook County  
Department of Transportation and Highways for the Phase II Engineering Services of the Main Street Corridor Improvement Project

Date: February 27, 2017

Recommended Action:
Staff recommends City Council adopt Resolution 20-R-17 authorizing the City Manager to apply for “Invest in Cook” Grant Funds for the Phase II Engineering Services of the Main Street Corridor Improvement Project. The proposed project is on Main Street from Maple Avenue to Hinman Avenue.

Livability Benefits:
Built Environment: Enhance public spaces; Provide compact and complete streets and neighborhoods  
Climate & Energy: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
Equity & Empowerment: Ensure equitable access to community assets  
Health & Safety: Promote healthy, active lifestyles

Background:
The Cook County Department of Highways & Transportation (DoTH) has initiated a new funding program “Invest in Cook” designed to fund transportation improvements in Cook County on local streets. The DoTH is playing an active role supporting local governments in their effort to maintain a comprehensive transportation network for the purpose of expediting completion of projects vital to a stronger economy and more livable communities. Different project types eligible for funding include transit, bicycle, pedestrian, freight, roadway and bridge improvement projects. DoTH has stated that the preferred projects would align with their five priorities of Connecting Cook County, which is their long-range transportation plan. These priorities are:

- Prioritize Transit and Other Transportation Alternatives
- Support the Region’s Role as North America’s Freight Capital
- Promote Equal Access to Opportunities
- Maintain and Modernize What Already Exists
- Increase Investments in Transportation

Analysis:
Staff recommends applying for funding to cover the cost of engineering services for improving Main Street, Maple Avenue to Hinman Avenue. This section of Main Street is in the heart of the Main Street business district, and it has deteriorated significantly. The road surface has had extensive patching and shows signs of base failure due to severe distress of the pavement. The paver sidewalk has heaved at several places, and needs to be reconstructed to provide ADA accessible ramps at most of the cross streets.

Pedestrian crossings of Main Street at Custer Avenue and Elmwood Avenue need to be improved to provide safer pedestrian access to the Metra and CTA Stations. Additionally, the existing traffic signal at Sherman & Main is old and needs to be replaced.

Staff is proposing to request grant funding in the amount of $460,000 for the Phase II Engineering/ construction plans for the Main Street Corridor Project. As part of the project, the following infrastructure improvements will be addressed between Maple Avenue and Hinman Avenue.

- Roadway rehabilitation/ reconstruction
- Sidewalk/ streetscape including ADA accessible ramps
- Water main replacement (Sherman to Hinman)
- Traffic signal modernization at the Main Street / Sherman Avenue intersection
- Pedestrian crossings on Main Street at Elmwood Avenue and Custer Avenue
- New street lights and cabling system
- Repair or removal of vaulted sidewalks in the public right-of-way

The project plans will be developed for staged construction to minimize impacts on the business district and maintaining two-way traffic on Main Street during construction.

Staff believes this project is a good fit with the “Invest in Cook” program because it improves access to public transit, addresses pedestrian deficiencies, and will make improvements to a significant commercial business district (providing a secondary economic development benefit). The grant funding application needs to be submitted in early March. A competitive selection process, based on the benefits of the project outcome, will be used to determine the grant recipients. The phase II design is expected to start later this year with construction scheduled for 2019-2020.

Attachments:
Project Map
Resolution 20-R-17
A RESOLUTION

Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application for Invest in Cook Grant Funds from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways for the Main Street Corridor Improvement Project, Phase II Engineering from Maple Avenue to Hinman Avenue

WHEREAS, the Invest in Cook has a grant program operated by the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (“DoTH”), designed to enhance the transportation system and encourage more livable communities; and

WHEREAS, Invest in Cook funding can be requested to support projects that will prioritize transit and other transportation alternatives, maintain and modernize existing infrastructure, and increase investments in transportation, and

WHEREAS, the City is submitting an Invest in Cook application, attached hereto as Exhibit A, for the construction of the Main Street Corridor Improvement Project, Phase II Engineering at Maple Avenue to Hinman Avenue (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to apply to Invest in Cook for the total Project cost of four hundred and sixty thousand dollars ($460,000.00) of Invest in Cook funds for the Project,

NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1: The City Manager is hereby authorized to submit the Invest in Cook Application for funds and the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to attest, on behalf of the City of Evanston.
SECTION 2: The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate any additional conditions of the application that he deems to be in the best interests of the City.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

______________________________
Elizabeth B. Tisdahl, Mayor

Attest:

______________________________
Rodney Greene, City Clerk

Adopted: ________________, 2017
EXHIBIT A
INVEST IN COOK
Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
FY2017 Call for Projects

Applicant Municipality/Agency/Organization

Applicant's Name and Title
(Mayor, President, Supervisor, Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director, etc.)

Project Name

Toni Preckwinkle, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH)
69 West Washington, Suite 2300
Chicago, IL 60602

John Yonan, Superintendent

January 23, 2017

AN INITIATIVE OF:
Application Checklist
Please use the following checklist to ensure that your application package is complete and includes the information we need to evaluate your project. Omission of items does not necessarily preclude your application from consideration, but the items on the following checklist are highly recommended.

Required Items:
- Signed Mayor’s or Chief Executive’s cover letter
- Completed Application
- Project Area Map
- Project Milestone Schedule
- Most Recent Auditor’s Report or Other Proof of Financial Standing

Optional Items:
- Sections or summary of applicable project-related studies or reports (limit five pages)
- Resolutions and Certifications of Resolutions
- Detailed Cost Estimates (Required for construction funding requests)
- Attach any related images

If you have any questions or would like to request assistance filling out the application contact Tomohiko Music at (312) 603-3808 or InvestInCook.CC@cookcountyil.gov. DOTH staff is available to help clarify application fields, provide guidance on how to submit a competitive application, and for applicants who can demonstrate the need, assistance in preparing an application (contingent on staff availability).

Please submit an electronic copy of the completed application PDF, with all related attachments, through the Invest In Cook application submission page at:

https://www.cookcountyil.gov/content/invest2017application

The deadline for submitting all applications is: March 17, 2017 at 5:00 PM CST
(Applications received after this date and time will not be accepted. No exceptions.)
Applicant Information

Applicant Name: ________________________________________________

Applicant Municipality, Agency, or Organization: ________________________

Mayor, President, or CEO Name and Title: _____________________________

Project Title (use TIP title if applicable): __________________________________

Applicant’s Email Address: ___________________________________________

Applicant Address: ___________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ Illinois Zip Code: _________________

Telephone: ___________________________ Fax: ________________________

Applicant Website Address: _________________________________________

Total Amount Requested*: __________________________________________

Total Matching Funds**: _____________________________________________

* A total funding request is not required at the time of submission, but it is highly recommended and may improve your chances of being selected. Contact DOT at investincook.CC@cookcountyil.gov before applying if your organization needs assistance developing a cost estimate. Your request for assistance will be evaluated for need and approval will be dependent on DOT staff availability.

** Matching funds are not required, but local support in the form of financial or other contributions will be looked at favorably in the evaluation.

_________________________________________ Date

_________________________________________

Signature

Title
Applicant Information ( Continued )

County Commissioner

District Number(s): ______________________

Council of

Mayor(s): ______________________

Project Type: □ Transit □ Freight □ Planning Study

□ Bike/Ped □ Roadway □ Feasibility Study □ Other ______________________

Current

Project Phase: □ Feasibility/Planning Study □ ROW Acquisition □ Construction

□ Preliminary Engineering □ Design Engineering □ Other ______________________

TIP ID (for existing projects): ______________________

Will you need assistance with a cost estimate? (Y/N): □ Yes □ No

Will you need any other assistance before your project can begin? (Y/N): □ Yes □ No

If additional assistance is desired, please describe your needs below*:

*The County will make available resources in the form of staff and time for projects that we feel warrant the effort from applicants who can justify their need. These services will be provided at the Department's discretion and are contingent upon staff availability.

Project Location Information

Not all fields are required, but please ensure the following fields are filled in as completely as possible. Please attach a map with sufficient detail to accurately locate your project in a GIS system.

Project Limits

Name of Street or Facility to be Improved

Municipality (or Municipalities) Involved

South/West Project Extents

North/East Project Extents
Project Summary

Provide a description of proposed improvements and impacts that will result from your project. Provide details that demonstrate how your project benefits your community, and explain your project’s effects on items checked in the boxes in the other sections. References to plans and other analysis will also help staff evaluate your project.
Project Funding Request and Financing Summary

Please provide a funding summary and rough timeline for any applicable fields. If you are requesting County assistance in developing a cost estimate, you may leave the table blank, but consult with the Department at InvestInCook.CC@cookcountyil.gov before submitting your application. Project funding awarded under this program may not be used for staff salaries. Please include funding from completed phases.

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<th>Starting County Fiscal Year*</th>
<th>Total Phase Cost</th>
<th>County Funds Request</th>
<th>Other Funding Sources</th>
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<td>Fund Type**</td>
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<td>Planning/Feasibility Study</td>
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<td>Preliminary Engineering</td>
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<td>Right of Way Acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Project Costs</td>
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*Cook County fiscal years begin December 1st

**Please indicate the type of funding source (county, local, Federal, State, etc.)

Is local money committed? (Y/N)  □ Yes □ No
If yes, please provide copies of resolutions demonstrating commitment.

Is ROW acquisition required for this project?  □ Yes □ No
If yes, has the ROW already been acquired?  □ Yes □ No

Estimated Construction Year: ____________

Applicant Experience

In the box below, please demonstrate your organization's ability to execute a project of similar size, scope, and complexity as the project for which you are submitting this application. Please provide a description, total cost and year of projects with comparable scopes completed by your organization in the recent past.
## Evaluation Criteria

### Consistency with Existing Plans

Does this project implement goals from Connecting Cook County?  □ Yes  □ No

Does this project implement goals from other local and regional plans?*  □ Yes  □ No

*If you replied yes, please summarize and provide links to the plans in the project summary. If a web link cannot be provided, please attach a copy of the pertinent parts of the plan with your application. Consistency with Cook County plans, e.g. Planning for Progress, Partnering for Prosperity, or Connecting Cook County, will be looked at favorably.

### Prioritizing Transit and Other Transportation Alternatives

Existing Multimodal Infrastructure/Services (check all that are present within the project buffer; buffers for each mode are specified in the program description)

- □ Transit (Rail)  □ Bus Benches  □ Crosswalks  □ Bike Lanes
- □ Transit (Bus)  □ Transfer Station  □ Trails  □ Street Lighting
- □ Bus Shelters  □ Sidewalks  □ Paths  □ Other

Transit Routes Used by Facility:

Daily Weekday Ridership:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Condition of Transit Facilities</th>
<th>Condition of Pedestrian Facilities</th>
<th>Condition of Bicycle Facilities</th>
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<tr>
<td>□ Excellent</td>
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New or Improved Multimodal Infrastructure/Services this project will provide (check all that apply)

- □ Transit (Rail)  □ Bus Benches  □ Crosswalks  □ Bike Lanes
- □ Transit (Bus)  □ Transfer Station  □ Trails  □ Street Lighting
- □ Bus Shelters  □ Sidewalks  □ Paths  □ Other

### Primary Project Transportation Alternatives Impacts (please check all that apply):

- □ Fills gap(s) in the pedestrian network
- □ Intersects existing trails or bikeways
- □ Provides new bicycle facilities where none had existed
- □ Improves safety in a high crash area (provide documentation)
- □ Improves the speed or reliability of transit services
- □ Improves the safety or comfort of transit users
- □ Helps complete a planned trail project
- □ Provides new pedestrian facilities where none had existed
- □ Improves an existing facility
- □ Provides safe bicyclist access to existing transit route(s)
- □ Provides new transit service within a transit desert
- □ Provides ADA improvements to transit facility
Support the Region's Role as North America's Freight Capital

New or Improved Freight Infrastructure/Services this project will provide (check all that apply):
- Roadways
- Bridge
- Rail
- Permitting
- Viaduct
- Grade Separation
- Intermodal Facility
- Other

Traffic Volumes (AADT): __________ Truck/Heavy Vehicle Share of Traffic (%) __________

Does an industrial area or company depend on the facilities your agency plans on improving?*
- Yes
- No

*If yes, please provide a description of the area and the company(s) impacted by your improvement in your project summary.

Primary Project Freight Impacts (please check all that apply):
- Project improves a designated truck route
- Project improves the speed or reliability of goods movement
- Project improves the safety of freight movement in the region
- Project improves intermodal connections between freight modes

Promote Equal Access to Opportunities
Primary Project Impacts on Equal Access (please check all that apply):
- Project is in an economically disadvantaged area
- Project is located in an area with a high minority population
- Project creates or retains jobs accessible to low- and moderate-income persons
- Project is located in a CDBG designated low to moderate income census tract
- Project reduces travel time for transportation users in a disadvantaged area
- Project helps make a currently disadvantaged area more attractive to new businesses

Maintain and Modernize What Already Exists
Primary Project Impacts on Maintenance and Modernization (please check all that apply):
- Project repairs a facility that is currently in poor condition
- Project improves signals to help safety and traffic flow
- Project brings an existing facility up to modern design standards
- Project includes implementation of new safety features that were not present

Increase Investments in Transportation
Funding Programs Applied For:
- Federal Grants
- State Grants
- Local
- Other

Funding Awards:
- Federal Grants
- State Grants
- Local
- Other