

Regional TOD Working Group

The Regional TOD Working Group was formed by the RTA in June 2008 to provide a forum for a mixture of regional government and non-profit agencies to discuss and coordinate the numerous TOD initiatives underway in the region. The Working Group meets quarterly, with a primary focus on TOD implementation strategies and efforts, and a secondary focus on planning efforts. Strategies and initiatives developed by the Working Group help set priorities and guide the RTA's work plan related to TOD.

Members:

Metra	Regional Transportation Authority
Chicago Transit Authority	Illinois Department of Transportation
Pace	Metropolitan Planning Council
Center for Neighborhood Technology	Urban Land Institute
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Active Transportation Alliance
Governor's Office	Metropolis 2020
City of Chicago (Departments of Transportation, Environment and Land Use Planning)	Illinois Department of Transportation

At the initial meeting of the working group, two top priorities / action items were identified, with significant progress made on both items to date (*in italics*):

1. **TOD pre-development funding / land acquisition fund:** *RTA Staff conducted initial research on similar funds throughout the country and brought in a national expert to a Working Group meeting to discuss a TOD land acquisition fund for affordable housing that was recently established in the Bay Area. The RTA has applied for a federal grant to conduct a feasibility study to establish this type of fund in the Chicago region.*
2. **Implementation technical assistance:** *RTA dedicated a staff position to focus on the implementation of TOD (and other transit studies) funded through the RTA's Community and Subregional Planning programs. This staff person is contacting all past program participants to inventory implementation efforts to date and offer direct technical assistance on implementation efforts. The RTA has applied for a federal grant to fund expanded technical assistance efforts for these communities. Technical assistance will focus on ordinance updates (zoning, parking, etc), streamlining entitlement processes and developer recruitment, among other strategies.*

The Working Group also conducted two TOD surveys, one targeted to municipalities and the other to private developers, to gain further insight on what types of strategies or technical assistance is needed to further TOD in the region. The feedback received reinforced the two priorities listed above and also resulted in the creation of a brochure outlining available municipal funding sources for TOD. Additional efforts conducted by the RTA in coordination with the Working Group include the preparation of a Housing and Jobs Policy (adopted by the RTA Board of Directors), a draft Transit-Oriented Development Policy and a White Paper on Tools and Techniques for Facilitating TOD Value Capture.