

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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R1 Releases Proposed Project List for Federal Transportation Funding Public Comment Now Open

ROCKFORD, IL – Region 1 Planning Council (R1), the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford Urban and Metropolitan Area, is asking for public comment on the preliminary list of transportation infrastructure projects to be awarded Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) federal funding.

Projects that may be awarded funding include:

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)					
Year	Name	Sponsor	Activity	Amount Requested	Potential Award
FY 2027	Latham/Ralston Corridor Widening & Rehabilitation	Winnebago County	Capacity W	\$6,160,000	\$4,037,092
FY 2028	Harrison Avenue Reconstruction	City of Rockford	Capacity R	\$9,000,000	\$4,349,410
FY 2028	Townhall/Spring Creek Extension	Boone County	Capacity N	\$9,077,398	\$4,300,770

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)					
FY 2027	Long Prairie Trail Bridge Replacement Phase One	Boone County Conservation District	Bicycle/Pedestrian	\$203,074	\$203,074
FY 2027	Bob's Park Streetscape	City of Belvidere	Bicycle/Pedestrian	\$518,148	\$518,148
FY 2027	Roscoe Road Shared-Use Path	Winnebago County	Bicycle/Pedestrian	\$1,271,066	\$1,271,066
FY 2027	Poplar Grove North Boone School Bike Lane	Boone County	Bicycle/Pedestrian	\$1,271,066	\$1,271,066
FY 2028	Highcrest Multiuse Path	City of Rockford	Bicycle/Pedestrian	\$1,271,066	\$1,271,066

Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)					
FY 2027	Major Intersection Emergency Vehicle Preemption Purchase & Repairs	Village of Machesney Park	Intersection	\$41,745	\$41,745
FY 2028	Bell School/Olde Creek Roundabout	Winnebago County	Intersection	\$1,290,000	\$1,290,000

Public comments must be submitted no later than 4:30pm on Friday, February 27.

Following the public comment period, the MPO Technical Committee will review the public comments and discuss changes to the preliminary project recommendations.

Comments may be submitted by email, telephone, or mailed to: Director of Planning, 127 N Wyman St., Suite 100, Rockford, IL 61101 | Phone: 815-319-4180 | Email: info@r1planning.org

About MPO-Attributable Federal Funding

Surface Transportation Block Grant

The Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) provides flexible funding for a wide variety of projects, including highways and transit. Surface Transportation Block Grant funds are the most versatile and may be used for any project that is recommended in or consistent with the R1 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Funds can be used on any federal-aid roadway classified above a local road or a rural minor collector and bridge projects on any public road.

Eligible projects can include highway projects and bridge improvements (construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing, restoration, and operational), transportation system management, public transit capital improvement projects, commuter rail, carpool projects, bus terminals and facilities, bikeways, and pedestrian facilities.

Transportation Alternative Program

The goal of the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) is to allocate resources to well-planned smaller scale, but critically important projects that provide and support connected alternate modes of transportation that are safe for all users, enhance the transportation system through preservation of visual and cultural resources, and improve the quality of life for members of the communities impacted.

Projects must enhance the transportation system by serving a transportation need or providing a transportation linkage, use, or benefit. Each project or activity must demonstrate a relationship to surface transportation. Project categories include: pedestrian/bicycle facilities (on-road and off-road), sidewalks; conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to trails; streetscapes (stand-alone landscape projects are ineligible); historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities; vegetation management in transportation rights-of-way; archaeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project; storm water management, control and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff; reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality or restore and maintain connectivity among terrestrial or aquatic habitats; and construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas.

Carbon Reduction Program

IIJA establishes the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), which provides funding to projects and programs that reduce transportation emissions. Funding can be used for a wide range of projects that support this goal, including: operational projects that improve traffic flow, such as the construction of roundabouts, left-turn lanes or other managed lanes; intelligent transportation systems; certain traffic control measures, such as traffic signal coordination, intersection improvements, and incident management; construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities; promotion of alternative travel modes, including ridesharing; acquisition, installation, or operation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure or hydrogen, natural gas, or propane vehicle fueling infrastructure; construction of a bus rapid transit corridor or dedicated bus lanes; and purchase of new public transportation facilities and equipment.

ABOUT R1 – [Region 1 Planning Council](#) is a special-purpose, regional government agency providing cross-jurisdictional, government-to-government collaborative planning for Northern Illinois. The regional planning model provides an efficient means to promoting a well-informed, comprehensive dialogue that holistically addresses regional issues by fulfilling the needs of government entities for long-range planning, securing funding, and analyzing and providing data in support of regional projects and initiatives.