



MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 10:00 am

Region 1 Planning Council

127 N. Wyman Street, Suite 100, Rockford, IL 61101

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Discussion Items
 - a. StreetLight Data Discussion
 - b. Green Streets Plan
5. Action Items
 - a. Approval of the March 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (Resolution 2026-04)
 - c. Approval of the Regional Housing Coordination Plan (Resolution 2026-05)
6. R1 Staff Reports
7. Agency Reports
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

Opportunities for public comment will be afforded on all agenda items.

Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact R1 Planning at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.



Green Streets Guide

MPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE | APRIL 16, 2026

AN ENGINE FOR COLLABORATION
IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS





WHAT IS THE GREEN STREETS GUIDE?

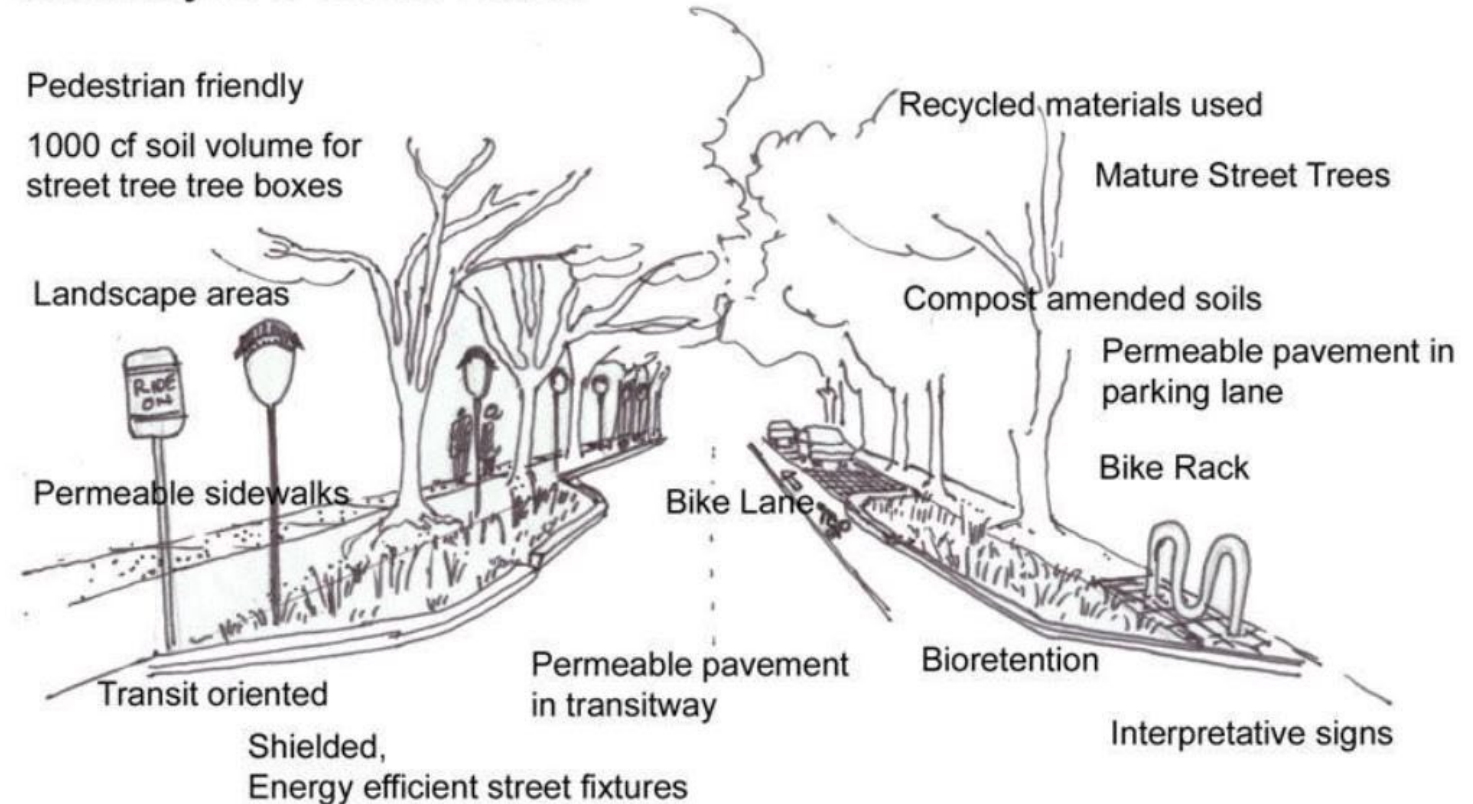
Overview & Purpose

Meant to analyze **current infrastructure**, outline key **design components** of a green street, and offer regional **implementation recommendations**.

Recommendations will include strategies to:

- improve roadway **flooding**,
- street **safety**,
- public **health**,
- and **aesthetics**.

Anatomy of a Green Street



[Learn About Green Streets](#) | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



WHAT IS IN THE GUIDE?

- Inventory of existing **design standards & types of infrastructure** on residential, urban, and commercial street types.
- Guidelines for design components of a green street:
 - Space requirements
 - Green Infrastructure types
 - Transportation infrastructure
 - Materials
- Implementation recommendations to inform the future ‘Green Streets Plan’

WHO WILL BE IMPACTED?

- Anyone who walks, bikes, takes public transit, or drives in the region, so **everyone!**



Gray Street



Green Street



[Stormwater BMP Fact Sheet: Street Design and Patterns](#) | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



Bioretention (rain garden)



Street trees and native vegetation



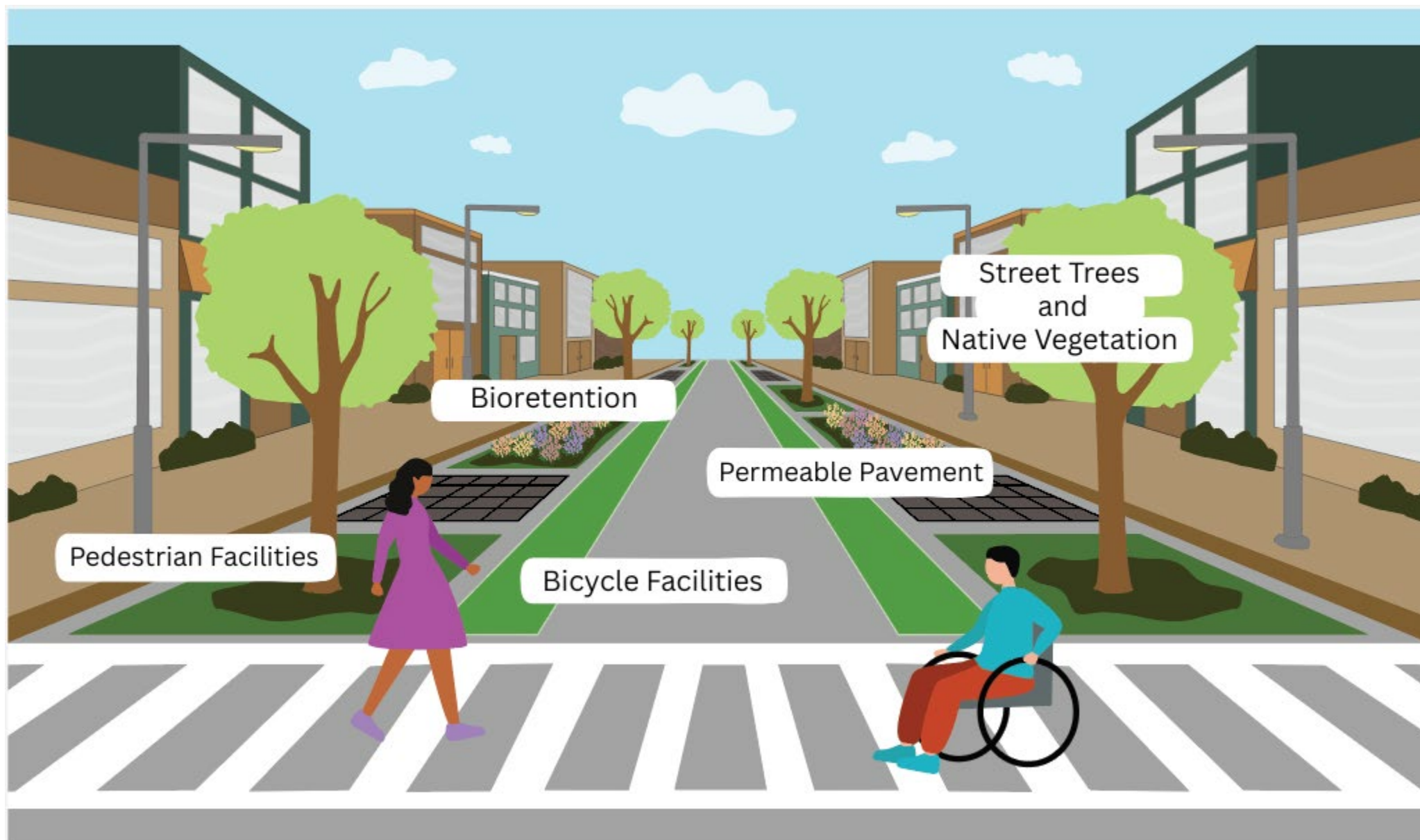
Bike facility (bike lane)



Pedestrian facility (sidewalks; crosswalks)



Permeable pavement





PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Round #1. Envision Greener Streets

- Educate the public and stakeholders on the project
- Identify what people's ideal streets look like (*visioning activity*)

Round #2. Spreading Awareness

- Public education

Round #3. Public Comment

- Receive public feedback on the drafted Green Streets Guide

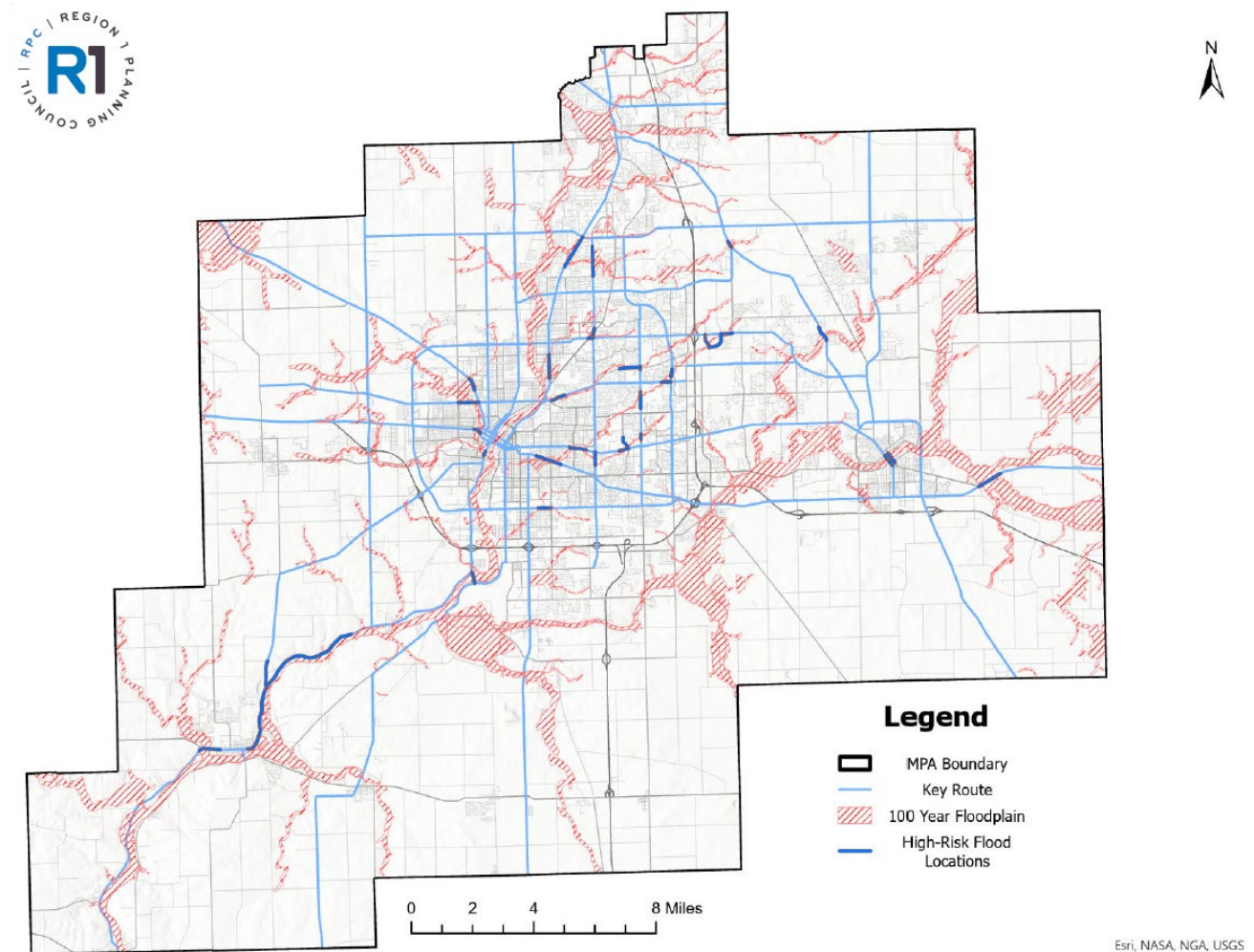
ROUNDS OF FUNDING

Round 1: Green Streets Guide

- Broad overview of green streets as a concept
- Best practices and design guidelines
- Street-type specific design/implementation recommendations
- Review of existing policies, standards, and key gaps

Round 2: Green Streets Plan

- Focus on priority corridors across the region
- Implement green infrastructure to reduce flooding
- Enhance pedestrian experience and environmental performance
- Corridor selection based on flood risk, expert input, and regional collaboration
- Outline green street project funding opportunities
- Offer proposed green street corridor **design concepts** to position municipalities for future funding opportunities



ENGAGE R1

SURVEY

Open

Green Streets Guide Survey

Your voice matters! By taking this short survey, you'll help guide local leaders and transportation experts create safer, greener, and more welcoming streets in our community. (Takes about 5 minutes)

We're planning for **greener streets** in the Rockford Region! Green streets incorporate plants, trees, and green infrastructure to soak up rainwater, reduce flooding, improve water quality, cool down neighborhoods, and make walking or biking more enjoyable.

Examples of green street features:



- A: Street trees and landscaped areas
- B: Rain gardens and bioswales
- C: Permeable pavement
- D: Safer sidewalks and bike paths
- E: Raised planted medians

The opposite of a **green street** is a **"gray street"** – one with low greenery, hard pavement everywhere, and that prioritizes cars over people. Below are image examples of how a street can be improved to incorporate green street elements.



[Stormwater BMP Fact Sheet: Street Design and Patterns](#) | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Please fill out this brief survey and **hit submit** to inform the plan.

MAP

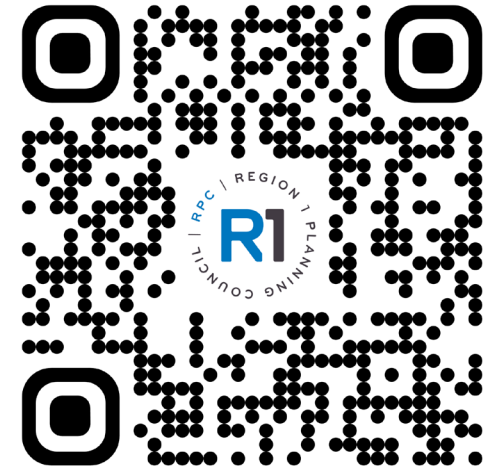
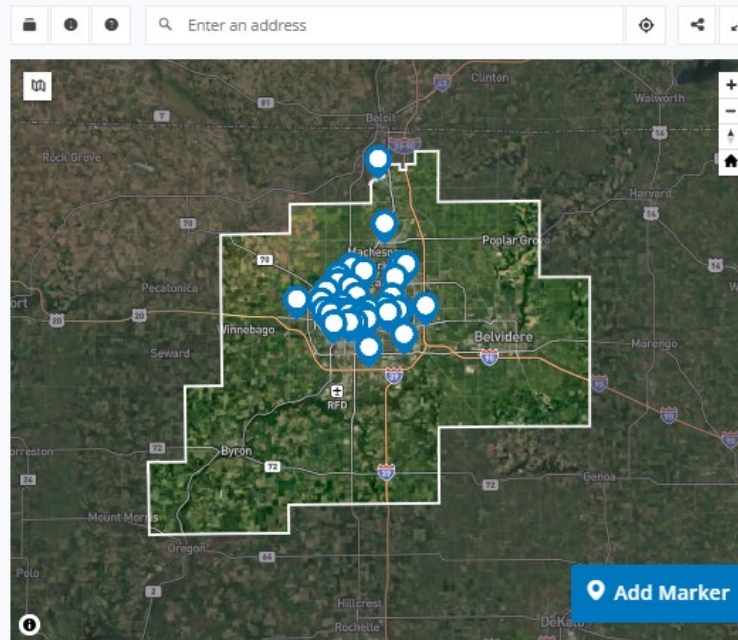
Open

Where could green street elements make the biggest difference?

Please **mark locations on the map** anywhere within the boundary where you believe green street elements would benefit streets within the Rockford Region to become more environmentally friendly and improve the pedestrian experience.

In your comment, let us know why you chose this spot and what kinds of green street features you'd like to see. Your input will help shape the Green Streets Guide.

39 contributions so far



<https://engage-r1.com/green-streets-guide>





DISCUSSION



Any
past/current/upcoming
projects across the
region that involve green
street elements?



QUESTION #1



Any upcoming projects/concepts that could be considered for the *Green Streets Plan*?

QUESTION #2



What are your biggest concerns or constraints when it comes to maintaining green infrastructure in the ROW over time?



QUESTION #3

NEXT STEPS

Further inform the Green Streets Guide by taking the survey!



<https://engager1.mysocialpinpoint.com/green-streets-guide>



PROJECT CONTACT

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Regional Planner

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MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2026 10:00 am

Region 1 Planning Council, 127 N. Wyman St. Suite 100, Rockford, Illinois 61101

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tim Verbeke at 10:00 am.

2) Roll Call

Members Present: Justin Krohn, Boone County Highway Department; Josh Sage, Boone County Conservation District; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works Department; Patricia Diduch, City of Byron; Shannon Messenger, City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford, Community Development; Tim Hinkens, City of Rockford Public Works Department; Matt Campbell, Four Rivers Sanitation District; Doug Delille, IDOT District 2; Dan Egelkes, RMTD; Izzy Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park Community Development; Mitch Hilden, Village of Machesney Park Public Works Department; Garrett Flores, Village of Roscoe; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Karl Palmquist, Winnebago County Community Development; Erin Marshall, Boone County Transit; Jon Paul Diipla, FHWA, IL Division (zoom); Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway

Members Absent: Boone County Planning Department; Chicago/Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere, Planning Department; City of Loves Park, Community Development; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Rockford Park District; Village of Winnebago; IDOT Division of Public Transportation; Ogle County Highway Department; SLATS; Stateline Mass Transit District.

Other Present: Eric Tison, Estelle Adiaba, Tim Verbeke, Jackson Sitter, Marilla Smith, Chloe Barnes, John Mac, Keagan Carlson, Ellie Sander, Lizette Gomez, Hallela Wagner, Nammratha Palli, Anushka Chipade and Ava Divizio of Region 1 Planning Council.

3) Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward at this time.

4) Discussion Items:

a) Draft FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) -Mr. Verbeke explained the draft UWP and how there are not many changes from previous years. The new projects the MPO will focus on are under Task 3.5 Regional Transportation Initiatives. The projects include a Regional Pavement Toolkit, an Emerging Technology Study focused on round two of the Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Plan, a plan forwarding the work of the green streets plan, and a community-based transportation plan looking at neighborhood level corridor planning.

b) BASICS Act Briefing – Mr. Verbeke gave a detailed outline on the proposed BASICS Act, what stage it is in congress and how this will impact members of the Technical Committee. The BASICS Act focuses on federal transportation investment on core infrastructure needs by ensuring funding reaches communities efficiently and is used where it delivers the greatest public benefit.

5) Action Items:

a) Approval of the February 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 2/19/2026 meeting minutes. Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere, Public Works motioned, seconded by Mr. Egelkes, RMTD. With no further discussion, motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b) Award of MPO-Attributable Funds (Resolution 2026-03). Mr. Verbeke explained that in conjunction with IDOT the allocated funding authorized under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is proposed to be awarded. Mr. Verbeke indicated that there are no changes to the scoring or funding amounts since the last time this item was presented (Feb Tech Meeting). The funding allocation can be found in Resolution 2026-03. Many letters of public comment were submitted during the public comment period. Those letters were summarized for the committee. Mr. Verbeke called for a motion. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department motioned, seconded by Ms. Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park Community Development, vote passed by unanimous voice vote.

6) Staff Reports-

- AMPO Technical Committee Meeting Recap – Mr. Verbeke explained that Michael Dunn and himself met with several members of congress and senate as well as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Mr. Verbeke has a sit down with both directors from FHWA and FTA. The goal of this meeting was to support the BASICS Act and educate the elected officials on the BASICS Act.
- Passenger Rail Update- R1 and the Southwest Railyards Reconnecting Communities consultant (AECOM) are scheduling a feasibility study for all the stakeholders. This meeting will most likely be combined with the station design meetings. One meeting in Rockford and one in Belvidere.

6) Agency Reports

- a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** Received approval for the North Boone Bridge project, still have 8 other bridge related lettings left this year.
- b.) **Boone County Planning Department:** n/a
- c.) **Boone County Conservation District:** n/a
- d.) **Boone County Transit:** n/a
- e.) **City of Byron:** n/a
- f.) **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** n/a
- g.) **City of Belvidere, Public Works:** n/a
- h.) **Loves Park, Community Development:** n/a
- i.) **Loves Park, Public Works Department:** n/a
- j.) **City of Rockford Community Development:** n/a
- k.) **City of Rockford, Public Works Department:** RAISE Grant Complete and waiting on Feds for approval. STBG awarded project from FY2025 will go to June 2027 letting. West State Street has an issue with HUD but has a solution to avoid HUDs property. There will be a land acquisition on East State. The 15th Ave Bridge project will go to September letting. High Crest TAP project will go to letting in late 2026. STBG project on Harrison Ave will go into design / phase 2 shortly. Alpine Road project is coming along and will be done in phases. 11th Street construction will start in May. Madison St. phase 2 starting in June. This is a two phased project.
- l.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District:** n/a

- m.) **IDOT, District 2:** n/a
- n.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** n/a
- o.) **Rockford Park District:** n/a
- p.) **Machesney Park, Community Development:** n/a
- q.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** n/a
- r.) **Village of Roscoe:** n/a
- s.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** n/a
- t.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** Roscoe Bridge rehab project (5-month closure) starts in June. Roscoe TAP project will be combined with HSIP Project in late 2027. Harrison Ave resurfacing starts in May. Riverside TAP project is in design. Riverside CRP Traffic Signal project is scheduled for 2027. South Perryville Road STBG project is scheduled for construction in 2027. Riverside STBG project is currently in land acquisition phase. Owen Center HSIP Project is in Phase 2 engineering and ROW acquisition. Perryville path ITEP extension is underway.
- u.) **FHWA, IL Division:** n/a
- v.) **IDOT:** n/a
- w.) **Illinois Tollway:** n/a

Other Business:

Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Diduch, City of Byron motioned; seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department. A unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 10:46 am

Meeting minutes prepare by: Tim Verbeke

Minutes approved by action of the Board: _____



MPO POLICY COMMITTEE

MPO Resolution 2026-04

- RE:** **Adoption of the FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027) MPO Unified Planning Work Program**
- WHEREAS** the Region 1 Planning Council is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford Metropolitan Area, and the MPO Policy Committee has the specific responsibility to direct and administer the continuing urban transportation planning process; and
- WHEREAS** the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) require a Unified Planning Work Program for the purpose of programming the Federal transportation planning funds and the connecting State & Local funds for the planning activities that are required and necessary to ensure certification of the Rockford, Illinois Transportation Management Area (TMA), and:
- WHEREAS** the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (May 1, 2026 version) was developed, announced and distributed to the public in accordance with federal guidelines and with the MPO Public Participation Process; and
- WHEREAS** the draft document was made available for public comment between March 30, 2026 and April 30, 2026, and no comments were received from the public; and
- WHEREAS** the MPO Technical Committee has reviewed the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (May 1, 2026 version) and recommends approval;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**
- That the MPO Policy Committee:
1. Adopts the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (May 1, 2026 version);
 2. Certifies that the Rockford MPO transportation planning process is in compliance with all Federal requirements and is being carried out in accordance with all applicable provisions as specified in the Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Illinois, Department of Transportation;
 3. Directs the MPO Director to submit the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (May 1, 2026 version) and this Resolution to the State of Illinois, the FHWA and the FTA;
 4. Directs R1 Executive Director to pursue and enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Illinois for the purpose of funding and conducting the activities set forth by the Unified Planning Work Program; and
 5. Directs R1 Executive Director to pursue and enter into contracts with professional consultants, as needed, for the purpose of carrying out various sub-elements of work as specified in the Unified Planning Work Program.

We hereby certify the foregoing has been approved by a majority of the MPO Policy Committee Members on 1st day of May 2026.

Chairman Joseph Chiarelli
MPO Chair

Chairman Karl Johnson
MPO Vice-Chair

Number of members authorized to vote _____

Ayes _____

Nays _____

Abstain _____

DRAFT



Region 1 Planning Council

MPO Policy Committee

MPO RESOLUTION 2026-05

RE: **Adoption of the Regional Housing Coordination Plan**

WHEREAS the Federal Highway Act of 1962, as amended, and the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, provide for an urban transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS Region 1 Planning Council is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford Urban and Metropolitan Area, and the MPO Policy Committee has the specific responsibility to direct and administer the continuing urban transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) currently authorizes funding to improve our nation's transportation system for highways, highway safety, public transit, alternative non-motorized forms of transportation, and freight; and

WHEREAS the "Regional Housing Coordination Plan" (dated March 12, 2025) is a plan sponsored by Region 1 Planning Council in collaboration with its member agencies, partnership organizations, and local stakeholders, to create a housing plan for the Rockford Region; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the Housing Coordination Plan is to preserve, improve, and expand housing stock across the region over the next five to ten years. It is designed to support local decision-making and empower communities with tools and strategies tailored to the region's unique needs is not to replace parking; it is to transform and improve parking infrastructure and practices to better environmental, economic, transportation, and social systems; and

WHEREAS the public comment and review period for draft of the Housing Coordination Plan for the Rockford Region Plan was from March 19, 2026 through April 19, 2026 and the draft Housing Coordination Plan for the Rockford Region was made available for review via the MPO website (posted March 19, 2026) as well as through contacting the MPO offices.

WHEREAS the MPO Technical Committee has reviewed MPO Resolution 2026-05 and has recommended that the Housing Coordination Plan for the Rockford Region to be adopted by the MPO Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS MPO encourages its partner agencies to also adopt the Housing Coordination Plan for the Rockford Region and to incorporate the plan in future transportation/land use plans within the region; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The MPO Policy Committee adopts the May 1, 2026 version of the Housing Coordination Plan for the Rockford Region along with the changes, if any, as to be documented in the minutes of the MPO Technical Committee April 16, 2026 meeting.

We hereby certify the foregoing has been approved by a majority of the MPO Policy Committee Members on this 1st day of May 2026.

Chairman Joseph V. Chiarelli
MPO Chair

Chairman Karl Johnson
MPO Vice-Chair

Number of members authorized to vote _____

Ayes _____

Nays _____

Abstain _____

DRAFT