



Climate Resiliency Forum

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024 – 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Region 1 Planning Council

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Discussion Items:
 - a. Climate Action Plan – Updates
 - b. Resilience Improvement Plan
 - c. Parking Reimagined – Strategies
5. Action Item: Approval of the July 23rd, 2024 Meeting Minutes
6. Staff Reports
7. Agency Reports
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

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.

Climate Action Plan: Update

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CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ELEMENTS

The Plan

- Part 1. Introduction
- Part 2. About the Region
- Part 3. Trends & Impacts
- Part 4. Regional Assessment
- Part 5. Strategic Direction
- Part 6. Looking Ahead

Technical Reports

- GHG Emissions Inventory & Air Quality Assessment
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Social Determinants of Health
- SWOT Analysis
- Public & Stakeholder Engagement



PART 5. STRATEGIC DIRECTION



Answers the following:

- Where do we want to go?
- How are we going to get there?
- How will we implement the plan?
- How did we do?



PART 5. IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Type		Partners		Public - Boone County		Feasibility	
●	Program	CoC	Chamber of Commerces	BC	Boone County	↙	Low
◆	Policy	CVB	Convention & Visitors Bureau	CoB	City of Belvidere	→	Medium
■	Projects	EDO	Economic Development Organizations	VoC	Village of Caledonia	↗	High
		IDOT	Illinois Department of Transportation	VoPG	Village of Poplar Grove		
		SD	School Districts (K-12)	VoT	Village of Timberlane		
		CC	Community Colleges				Cost Feasibility
Timeframe		UN	4-Year Universities				Capacity Feasibility
Ongoing				Public - Winnebago County			Political Feasibility
Immediate	Within 1 year	TA	Transit Agencies	CoLP	City of Loves Park		
Near term	1 - 5 years	WIB	Workforce Investment Boards	CoR	City of Rockford		
Mid-term	6-10 years	UT	Public Utilities	VoCV	Village of Cherry Valley		
Long term	11-25 years	PC	Park Districts & Conservation Districts	VoMP	Village of Machesney Park		
		SW	Soil & Water Districts	VoNM	Village of New Milford		
		SN	Sanitation Districts	VoR	Village of Roscoe		
		LB	Land Bank and Trustee programs	VoW	Village of Winnebago		
Estimated Cost		SBDC	Small Business Development Center	WC	Winnebago County		
\$	Under \$10,000						
\$\$	\$10,000 to \$100,000	R1	Region 1 Planning Council				
\$\$\$	\$100,000 to \$500,000	MUN	All Municipalities				
\$\$\$\$	Over \$500,000	CO	All Counties				
				Private			
				C	Consultant		
				F	Financial Institute		
				I	Industry Leaders		
				N	Neighborhood Residents		
				O	Property Owners		
				R	Realtors/Brokers		



NEXT STEPS

- Plan goes into design
- Public comment period
- Stay up-to-date on EngageR1!

**Next meeting:
November 5th**



PROJECT CONTACT

Lauren Kleve,
Environmental Planner
LKleve@R1planning.org



Resilience Improvement Plan

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What is the Resilience Improvement Plan?

Definition

The Resilience Improvement Plan, established through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, addresses growing risks to transportation systems caused by climate change and natural disasters. The program ensures that surface transportation—roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure—remains operational and safe during extreme events.

Goal

Through this plan, local and state authorities will collaborate to reduce risks and enhance infrastructure that can better withstand extreme storms, and other climate-related threats.



Make surface transportation assets more resilient to current and future weather events and natural disasters



Why Is It Important?



Purpose

Focus on strengthening the transportation systems, and ensuring that they remain operational even during severe weather events, such as storms, flooding, or droughts.

Outcome

By enhancing infrastructure resilience, communities will benefit from fewer disruptions to vital services like hospitals and emergency routes.



Key Features of the Plan

Collaboration

The plan is built on collaboration between federal, state, and local partners. This approach ensures a comprehensive response to climate impacts, combining resources and expertise from multiple levels of government to address infrastructure challenges.

Strategies

The plan outlines strategies that will help communities prepare for future risks. These include updating infrastructure to handle more frequent and intense storms, improving drainage systems, and relocating roads in flood-prone areas.



Funding and Support

Funding Source

The plan is supported through the PROTECT Formula Program, which allocates federal funding to states for resilience-related activities. This funding ensures that states can undertake necessary projects without significant financial strain.

Usage

These funds are used for a variety of resilience-related activities, such as assessing risks, designing infrastructure projects, and implementing necessary upgrades. This includes planning, preconstruction activities, environmental reviews, and actual construction efforts to protect transportation systems from future disasters.



Eligible Projects and Improvements

Types of Projects: The plan targets key transportation projects

- **Highway and public transportation improvements:** Ensuring roads and public transit can withstand extreme weather.
- **Stormwater control upgrades:** Enhancing drainage systems to manage flooding.
- **Natural infrastructure:** Utilizing nature-based solutions like marshlands to absorb water and reduce flood risk.
- **Focus:** The plan encourages upgrades like raising bridges to prevent flooding, installing better drainage systems, and incorporating natural infrastructure (e.g., wetlands) to absorb floodwaters.



What's in the Plan?



Emergency Routes

Identification of key roads and routes needed during evacuations and emergency responses.

Protection for Vulnerable Populations

Special attention to areas where disadvantaged communities might be more affected by climate events, ensuring they receive the necessary support.

Resilience Improvements

It includes detailed assessments of transportation infrastructure and other critical community services, like energy grids and water systems, to identify and strengthen areas that are at risk from climate hazards.



Timeline

2024

In the initial phase, stakeholders will be identified, and the project scope and outline will be created. This also includes forming the Resiliency Working Group, which will oversee the plan's development.

2025

Over the course of the year, draft versions of the plan will be developed, taking into account research on past and future climate trends. Working group meetings will be held to gather feedback and finalize priorities.

September 2025

The final version of the Resilience Improvement Plan will be approved, paving the way for prioritizing and applying for funding to implement construction projects in fiscal year 2026.



Benefits of the Resilience Improvement Plan

Stronger Infrastructure

Roads, bridges, and other critical transportation systems will be better equipped to handle the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, reducing long-term damage.

Prepared Communities

Communities will experience fewer disruptions, with faster recovery times when disasters do occur. This ensures that evacuation routes remain functional and that access to hospitals and other emergency services is not compromised.

Environmental Protection

The plan also integrates natural infrastructure solutions, like wetlands, which not only help manage flooding but also contribute to healthier ecosystems, making communities more resilient.



Next Steps

Get Involved

As the plan moves forward, stakeholders, including local governments, businesses, and the public, are encouraged to participate in the planning process. Collaboration is key to building a resilient transportation system.

Stay Informed

The Resiliency Working Group will continue to share updates, and the public will have opportunities to provide feedback as the plan evolves. Future meetings and milestones will be shared with everyone.



Parking Reimagined: Goals & Strategies

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

As mobility, land use, and climate patterns change and new transportation technologies emerge, regions must begin to examine current parking trends and reimagine how parking could look in the future.



At the end of this planning process, the region will have a plan that demonstrates how parking can be **transformed over the next 5-10 years**.



PARKING REIMAGINED GOALS

1. Environment
2. Mobility
3. Parking Policy & Pricing
4. Parking Retrofits
5. Placemaking



Share the Parking Strategies survey on EngageR1!



Please share any feedback with the project contact:

PROJECT CONTACT

Lauren Kleve,
Environmental Planner
LKleve@R1planning.org



Parking Reimagined

Goals and Strategies

The drafted goals and strategies for the Parking Reimagined Plan are provided below. Please review the document and direct any feedback or questions to Lauren Kleve at LKleve@R1Planning.org.

Goal #1: Environment

Reduce the environmental impact of parking facilities to support local ecosystems and mitigate the effects of climate change.

- Strategy 1.1: Increase the use of stormwater best management practices in parking facilities.
- Strategy 1.2: Implement cool and permeable pavements into current and future parking facilities.
- Strategy 1.3: Assess the feasibility of installing solar canopies within public parking lots.
- Strategy 1.4: Adopt or update landscaping guidelines and regulations to require a minimum amount of maintained native vegetation and shade trees are incorporated into parking design.

Goal #2: Mobility

Improve transportation infrastructure, access, and connectivity throughout the region to decrease vehicle congestion and demand for parking.

- Strategy 2.1: Address sidewalk, shared use path, and bicycle network gaps that impact connectivity.
- Strategy 2.2: Incorporate bicycle parking into public parking facilities.
- Strategy 2.3: Examine the feasibility of procuring a regional car sharing service.
- Strategy 2.4: Increase frequency and range of shuttle services to designated park-and-ride lots during highly attended events and busy downtown hours.
- Strategy 2.5: Pilot a regional mobility hubs program.
- Strategy 2.6: Conduct a public education campaign to improve the perception of public transit and active forms of transportation.

Goal #3: Parking Policy & Pricing

Balance parking demand, parking space utilization, and parking efficiency through policy and pricing.

- Strategy 3.1: Update parking ordinances to better reflect parking demand, utilization, and development types.
- Strategy 3.2: Analyze parking demand and space occupancy to implement demand-based pricing.
- Strategy 3.3: Establish parking benefit districts in select areas to generate revenue for parking maintenance and other public service improvements.
- Strategy 3.4: Encourage shared parking agreements within commercial and industrial areas.
- Strategy 3.5: Encourage employers to provide parking cash-outs to employees who do not wish to utilize parking subsidies.

Goal #4: Parking Retrofits

Encourage multifunctional uses of parking facilities and repurpose underutilized parking into spaces to better serve the community.

- Strategy 4.1: Update zoning codes to allow and encourage temporary conversions and multiple uses of parking lots.
- Strategy 4.2: Incentivize infill developments within identified vacant parking lots.
- Strategy 4.3: Repurpose underutilized parking spaces into functional greenspaces such as urban meadows, community parks, or rain gardens.
- Strategy 4.4: Expand the availability and prioritize accessibility of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and designated EV parking spaces in parking facilities.

Goal #5: Placemaking

Improve quality of life by fostering active, engaging, and safe public parking facilities that encourage people to connect with their surroundings.

- Strategy 5.1: Improve and increase parking facility lighting, signage, and security measures.
- Strategy 5.2: Increase pedestrian access into and out of parking facilities with pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.
- Strategy 5.3: Increase beautification of parking facilities through art installations.
- Strategy 5.4: Increase wayfinding signage to aid navigation to parking facilities and nearby destinations.

If you want to learn more about the Parking Reimagined Plan, please visit the project's page on EngageR1 at engager1.mysocialpinpoint.com/parking-reimagined.



Climate Resiliency Forum

Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024 – 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Region 1 Planning Council

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Colin Belle, City of Rockford Planning and Zoning; Mike Bacon, Climate Reality Project; Alan Branhagen, Natural Land Institute; Rebecca Olson, Olson Ecological Solutions; Orlando Toatley, Rockford Mass Transit District; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford; Todd Marshall, Winnebago County Health Department; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County Highway Department; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District;

Staff Present: Lauren Kleve, Clara Romeo, Vanessa Mauries, Juliana Charlebois-Berg, Eric Tison, Estelle Adiaba, Ryan Salamon

3. Public Comment

- a. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus: Cheryl Scott presented the free Home Energy Savings assessment in partnership with energy and gas providers, followed by requesting opportunities to conduct additional presentations on the matter.
- b. Sustain Rockford extended an invitation to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to present the project at one of their upcoming meetings.

4. Action Item: Approval of the Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2024

- a. Motion by Sustain Rockford, Seconded by City of Rockford Planning and Zoning. Minutes Approved.

5. Discussion: Parking Reimagined

- a. Lauren Kleve, R1 Environmental Planner, introduced the Parking Reimagined project, which aims to assess the state of parking in the Rockford Region and adapt to emerging trends. The presentation covered the project's objectives, goals, timeline, and status.

