

Amy Salamon

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To: Amy Salamon
Subject: [Test] R1 February 2025 Newsletter - Plans That Go the Distance

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February 2025

State of the Trails

R1 to map shared-use trail conditions, add to Google Maps

If you've ever seen the Google Maps Street View car drive through your neighborhood, you may have been fascinated. The technology! There's my street on Google Maps! The innovation has revolutionized the way we explore and travel the world.

Now think 'Google Street View car,' but on a bike. Put simply, that is R1's State of the Trails project.



Trail mapping will begin in the summer of 2025. R1's bike will be modeled after this one, built and used by the Des Moines Area MPO. The electric bike features a 360-degree camera to record images for Google Street View, an iPhone to record pavement roughness, and a rear-facing GoPro camera to photograph trail conditions. *Photo from the Des Moines Register, May 19, 2017*

Beginning in summer 2025, R1 is taking its high-tech bike on every one of Winnebago and Boone Counties' 130 miles of shared use paths and trails. Made possible by an IDOT Statewide Planning and Research grant, the State of the Trails project will map and record the condition of all regional bike/pedestrian paths. The goal is to improve path and trail conditions, ultimately making them safer and encouraging residents to get active.

"Many of these trails are 20 years or older, degrading in some parts, and the only way we know of a maintenance issue is through the users," said Nathan Larsen, R1 Planner and State of the Trails lead. "The best way to get good, comprehensive information on the entire network's condition is to just get out there and ride it."

To do that, Larsen and other R1 team members will assemble a data bike – an e-bike equipped with an iPhone and two cameras. This equipment will record pavement data and take pictures of the path and its surroundings. All of this information will be analyzed and distributed to trail caretakers, who will use it to prioritize and develop maintenance plans. In addition, 360° view imagery will be uploaded to Google Maps, enabling all trails to be seen through Google Street View, which is not currently available for

shared-use paths.

“R1 is early to this method of data collection; only half a dozen other locations in the U.S. use it,” said Larsen. We’re excited about the opportunity to share our experiences with others who want to replicate it.”

Featured Plan: Health + Transportation Study



Expanded public transit + getting to support group

More bike paths + stronger heart

Well-lit streets + fewer traffic accidents

Transportation systems affect us all daily, either helping or harming a community’s health. The recently published Health + Transportation Study for the Rockford region ensures that future transportation planning decisions work to make health outcomes better for everyone.

This report points out the connections between transportation and health, provides region-specific

health data, and recommends implementable actions within the transportation system that support public health. It is a reference document for the general public, as well as transportation or healthcare decision-makers, to take action to create a healthy, thriving community.

The study's findings fall into five broad categories: active lifestyles, healthy and sustainable environment, safety, choices and access for all, and equity. Specifically, access to a variety of resources - healthcare, fresh food, parks, employment, safe routes – was revealed to be a critical need that could be addressed through transportation solutions.

Read the [2024 Health + Transportation Study](#) by clicking [here](#).

Health + Transportation Teams Multiply Impact

But there's more illuminated here than just the study's data. The report is the result of R1's collaborative power in data collection and broad transportation reach, then applied to the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board's (WCCMHB) extensive efforts to address health concerns. This resulting study relies on both areas' connections and expertise to multiply the regional impact.

The MPO's data pointed out that lack of transportation is a barrier for residents to receive mental health services. As a result, the WCCMHB recently rolled out HIPPA-compliant rideshare services. Service providers can request a driver to transport clients at no cost. It is intended to serve those who cannot receive services due to a lack of transportation, particularly during off-hours or at locations not served by public transit.

Identifying a need, then using other areas of the agency to implement a solution. That's what makes R1's model powerful.

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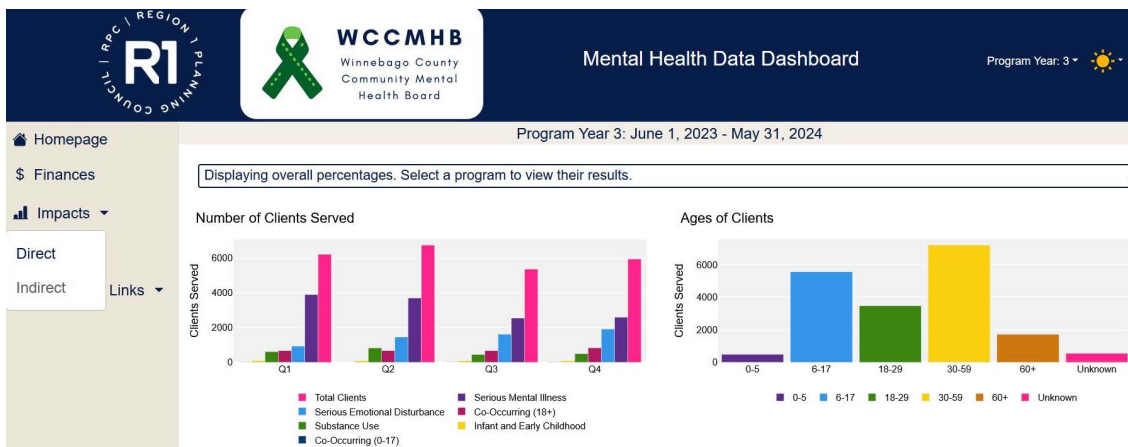
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SURVEY OPEN THROUGH FEB. 14

Mental Health Outcome Data Centralized in New Dashboard



WCCMHB programs' outcomes are now easy to find and understand, thanks to an innovative data dashboard, now live on the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB) webpage. The goal is to present the WCCMHB's comprehensive data as well as individual program progress in a transparent, centralized, and user-friendly way.

"As soon as we have the data and know outcomes, everyone else will know," said Seth Boswell, Data

Intelligence Coordinator.

To view the dashboard, go to <https://r1planning.org/community-impact/wccmhb/wccmhb-impact/> and click on the green **Data Dashboard** button.

The innovation lies in the speed and array of detail available. Information on funded organizations' goals, progress made, demographics served and much more will be available as soon as it is reported to R1. Any way you want to analyze it, the colorful statistical graphs, program goals, and service provider overviews are easily accessible to show the financial and client impact made in Winnebago County.

Benefits:

- Up-to-date data on funded programs
- Filters provide WCCMHB or organization-specific outcomes
- Mobile-friendly
- Flexibility to quickly refine and add new capabilities
- Archived data

“We’re getting better data out to the community. This model also allows us to evolve, adding new functionality and metrics as needs change,” said Jason Holcomb, Director of Community Impact.

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