

Transportation Needs & Priorities Survey

ANALYSIS REPORT
APRIL 18, 2019



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This document has been prepared by the Region 1 Planning Council in collaboration with its member agencies, partnership organizations, and local stakeholders.

This report was prepared in cooperation with the following:

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Federal Transit Administration Illinois Department of Transportation

The contents, views, policies and conclusions expressed in this report are not necessarily those of the above agencies.



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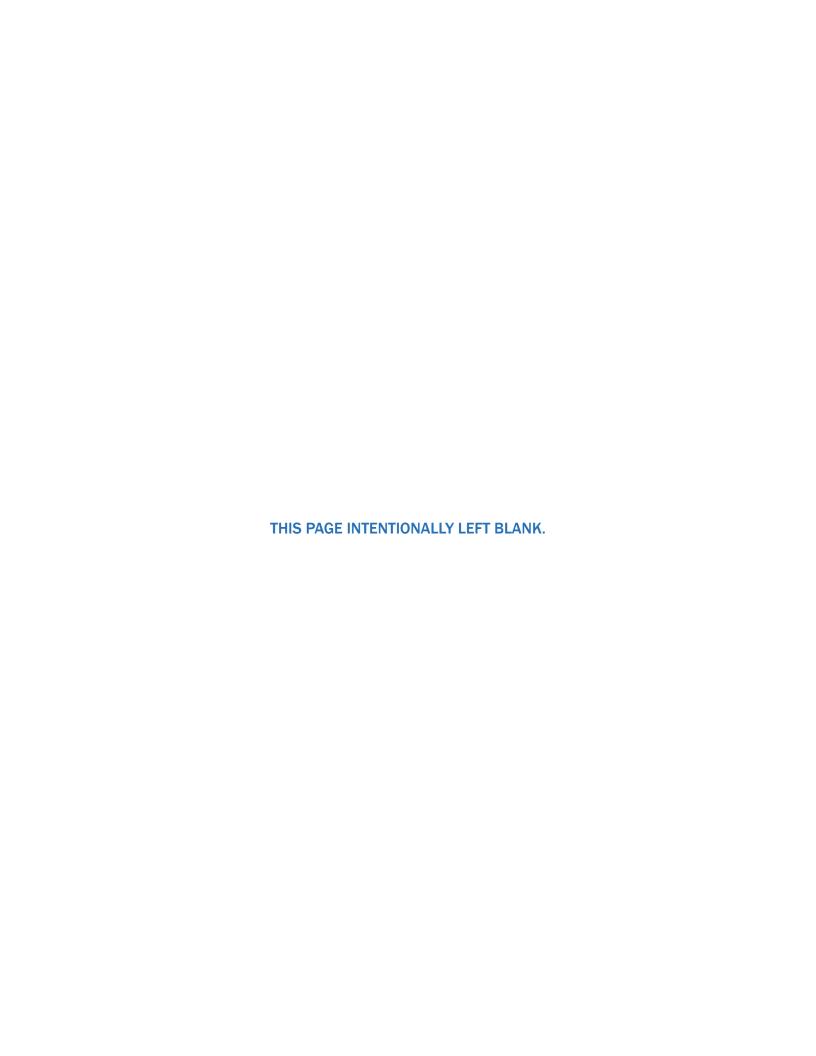
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CONTENTS

SURVEY OVERVIEW	
SURVEY OVERVIEW	
Key Findings	2
POPULATION COMPARISONS	3
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS	4
Current Transportation Conditions Questions	5
Current Transportation Conditions Questions Funding & Policy Questions	7
Future Growth & Development Questions	
Personal/Household Travel Questions Demographics Questions	
Demographics Questions	14
APPENDIX A	17
Paper Questionnaire	
Web-based Questionnaire	

LIST OF TABLES

POPULATION COMPARISONS	
Table 1. Age.	
Table 2. Race & Ethnicity	
Table 3. Educational Attainment	
Table 4. Household Income	
Tuble 1. Household meaning	
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS	
Table 5. Additional Comments on Transportation	6
Table 6. Transportation Funding Allocations	
Table 7. Project Selection Priorities	9
Table 8. Additional Comments on Development	
Figure 9. Work/School Location by Zip Code	
Figure 10. Home Location by Zip Code	
IST OF FIGURES	
QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS	
Figure 1. Biggest Transportation Challenges	
Figure 2. Current Quality of the Transportation Network	6
Figure 3. Large-Scale vs Small-Scale Projects	
Figure 4. Funding - One Time Fees on New Development	
Figure 5. Funding - Tolls on New Roads	
Figure 6. Funding - Increased Sales Tax	8
Figure 7. Funding - Increased Gas Tax	8
Figure 8. Funding - Property Taxes	8
Figure 9. Funding - Special Assessment District	8
Figure 10. Funding - Tax on Vehicle Miles Driven	8
Figure 11. Future Growth & Development	
Figure 12. Usage - Personal Vehicle	
Figure 13. Usage - Carpool	
Figure 14. Usage - Commercial Airline	
Figure 15. Usage - Bicycle	
Figure 16. Usage - Bus/Public Transit	
Figure 17. Usage - Intercity Bus	
Figure 18. Usage - Passenger Rail	
Figure 19. Usage - Pedestrian Facilities	
Figure 20. Usage - Taxi	
Figure 21. Vehicles per Household	
Figure 22. Typical Commute Length	
Figure 23. Employment Status	
Figure 24 Gender	16



Survey Overview

Every five years, metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) must prepare a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)¹, in accordance with federal legislation. This plan provides an innovative and sustainable transportation framework that fits the local context of the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Area's transportation network over the next 20-30 years. The purpose of the plan is to guide recommendations and strategies for future connectivity and integration of the multi-modal transportation system. Key elements of the plan include information regarding land use, environmental and economic linkages, and trends to the transportation network of the region.

Region 1 Planning Council (RPC), acting as the Rockford MPO, began the most recent update process with an extensive public engagement campaign to gather the thoughts and opinions of both the general public and stakeholders. This first of three engagement campaigns included five public workshops, nine pop-up booths, stakeholder interviews, and a public survey.

The goal of this engagement campaign was to gather public opinion on how/where the region should grow/develop in the future, the existing gaps in the transportation network, the needs of the community and stakeholders, and the priorities of the region, particularly investment priorities. The information collected in this campaign will be used to frame the goals and objectives of the MTP over the next 30 years.

This report summarizes the results of Region 1 Planning Council's (RPC) Transportation Needs and Priorities Survey. The report is intended as an initial high-level summary of the results; additional trend analyses will be conducted throughout the development of the MTP.

SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY

This report is based on a survey conducted online and in person from December 10, 2018 until March 15, 2019. Both online and the in-person paper versions of the survey were carried out by RPC staff. The survey was conducted among the residents and employees of Boone, Ogle, and Winnebago counties. A total of 237 respondents participated in the survey.

A media advisory announcing the over engagement campaign, including an invitation to participate in the survey, was sent by email from RPC staff to local media outlets on December 11, 2018 and a notice published in the Rock River Times on December 19, 2018. The survey was made available in both an online and paper version, as well as in both English and Spanish. The communication strategy included several email reminders to the RPC's extensive distribution lists, posts on social media websites, and links on the RPC website. Paper copies were available at all MTP workshops and pop-up booths, in addition to all MPO committee meetings.

In total, participants were asked 22 questions. The questions were designed to evaluate the public's views on the current transportation network, future transportation funding and priorities, and land use development. Generally, the type of questions used were multiple choice and rating scales. Demographic information was also collected.

The charts and tables in this report are subject to rounding errors, and in some cases the totals may not sum to exactly 100%. On questions for which we accepted multiple responses, the percentages will sum to more than 100%.

¹ Formerly known as long-range transportation plans (LRTP). MTP and LRTP may be used interchangeably within this document.

KEY FINDINGS

- Automobile is the primary mode of transportation for most of the population who works or residents in the region, with 95% of respondents reporting that they drive a personal vehicle frequently.
- The typical commute to work or school for the majority of individuals within the region is less than 30 minutes (74%), with 36% having less than a 15-minute commute typically.
- The biggest challenges are the maintenance of the transportation system (46%); access to quality jobs & education opportunities (44%), and the lack of alternative transportation options (36%).
- Respondents reported that the most acceptable potential funding mechanisms is one time fees on new developments (53%), while the least acceptable funding mechanisms are property taxes (70%) or a fee based on vehicle miles traveled. An increase in gas tax is split on if it should or should not be utilized (both received 42.1%).
- When asked to allocate funds to different transportation projects, on average respondents spent the most money on replacing or upgrading aging facilities (\$33.50).
- Enhancing safety is ranked as the highest priority for transportation project selections, followed closely by maintaining the system and increasing connectivity.
- Reinvesting and redeveloping high density areas, such as downtowns and major corridors (51%) was the respondents preferred method of managing future growth and development.

Population Comparisons

This section compares the survey respondent trends with the population trends for the three-county region (Boone, Ogle, and Winnebago counties). It shows the overall respondents and population by age, race and ethnicity, income, and educational attainment. The source of the population trends was the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Table 1. Age

	Respondents (%)	Population (%)
18 to 24 years	6.5%	8.5%
25 to 34 years	20.8%	12.0%
35 to 44 years	23.1%	12.2%
45 to 54 years	18.5%	14.0%
55 to 64 years	16.7%	13.4%
65 years or older	13.4%	16.1%

Number of Respondents = 214

Table 2. Race & Ethnicity

	Respondents (%)	Population (%)
Asian	0.0%	2.1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Black/African American	3.6%	9.7%
White	85.6%	82.1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.5%	0.3%
Two or more races	2.6%	2.7%

Number of Respondents = 195

Table 3. Educational Attainment

	Respondents (%)	Population (%)
Less than high school	0.9%	12.5%
High school / GED	8.4%	32.9%
Some college, no degree	15.3%	23.8%
Associate degree	12.1%	9.0%
Bachelors degree	28.4%	13.9%
Advanced degree	31.6%	8.1%

Number of Respondents = 215

Table 4. Household Income

	Respondents (%)	Population (%)
Less than \$25,000	8.7%	22.1%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	6.8%	10.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	9.7%	14.5%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	15.9%	19.7%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	15.0%	12.9%
\$100,000 to \$124,999	14.5%	8.2%
\$125,000 to \$149,999	11.1%	4.9%
\$150,000 or more	18.4%	7.6%

Number of Respondents = 207

Questionnaire Results

As previously stated, the survey was developed by Region 1 Planning Council staff to provide valuable public feedback necessary in the development of the 2020 update to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The survey was designed to collect information from respondents on a variety of topics, and survey questions can be grouped into the following categories:

- Current transportation network;
- Funding and policy;
- Future growth and development; and
- Personal and household travel;
- Demographic questions.

Select results of the demographic questions can be found in the Population Comparisons section of this report.

A complete set of survey questions as they appeared in the paper survey and on-screen in the web-based survey are included in Appendix A.

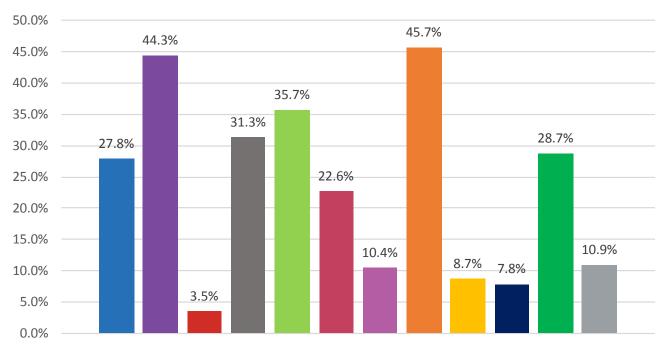
CURRENT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE THREE BIGGEST TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES FACING OUR REGION?

Multiple responses accepted.

Total Responses = 230

Figure 1. Biggest Transportation Challenges





Access to quality jobs and education opportunities

Efficient movement of freight and goods

Frequency of transit services and routes

Lack of alternative transportation options

Safety of the roadways for all users

Passenger and freight access to the airport

Maintenance of the existing roadways and bridges

Signal system and timing

Traffic congestion

Insufficient funding for transportation improvements

Other

Other Responses

Thirty-three respondents selected "Other - Please Write-in" as one of their choices. Upon review of the write-in responses, it was determined that seven could be classified in the pre-existing categories and one response was "NA." The remaining write-ins are listed below:

- Passenger rail (18)
- Cost of public transportation (3)
- Infrastructure for new technologies (2)
- Environmental impacts (1)
- Freight congestion (1)

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE CURRENT QUALITY OF THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM?

Linear numeric scale ranged from 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Neutral/unsure, 4 = Good, and 5 = Very good. Average Responses = 226

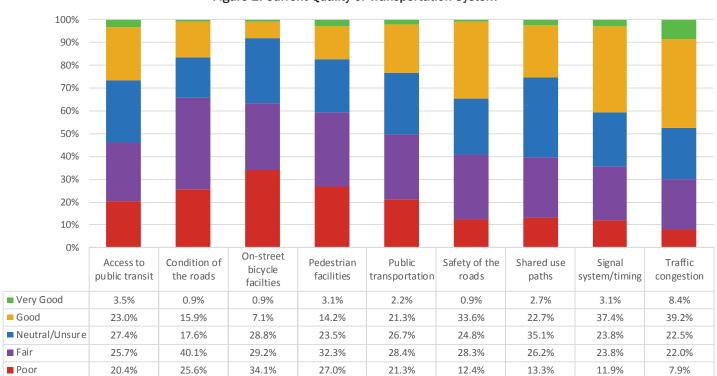


Figure 2. Current Quality of Transportation System

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR THE REGION

Responses have been grouped by topic and should not be construed as a comment in support of or against each topic. Total Responses = 84

Table 5. Additional Comments on Transportation

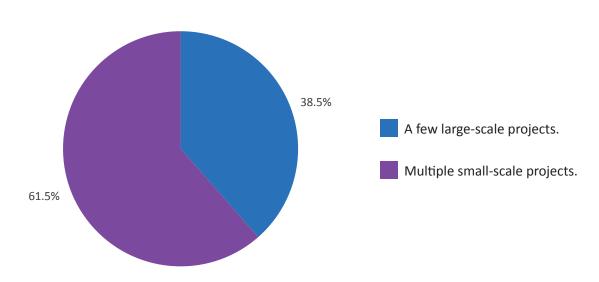
Topic	Responses
Passenger rail	32
Public transit	11
Other	10
Bicycle & pedestrian facilities	7
Access	4
Airport	4
Engineering/infrastructure	4
Maintenance of the system	3
Technology	3
Alternative transportation options	2
Funding	2
Safety	2

FUNDING & POLICY QUESTIONS

DURING THE NEXT 30 YEARS, WOULD YOU FOCUS FUNDING ON A FEW LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS OR MULTIPLE SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS?

Total Responses = 221

Figure 3. Large-Scale vs Small-Scale Projects



WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS ON THE FOLLOWING POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE?

Scale ranged from 1 = Should be utilized, 2 = No preference, and 3 = Should not be utilized.

Figure 4. Funding - One Time Fees on New Development

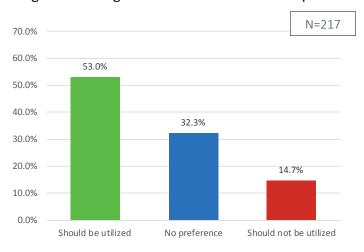


Figure 5. Funding - Tolls on New roads

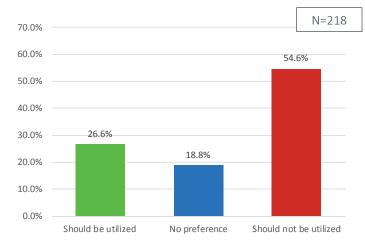


Figure 6. Funding - Increased Sales Tax

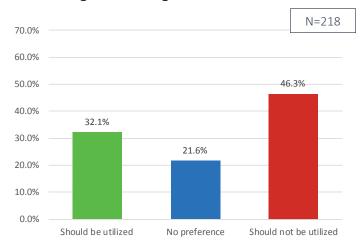


Figure 7. Funding - Increased Gas Tax

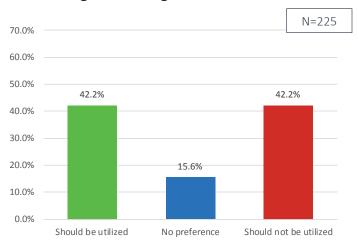


Figure 8. Funding - Property Taxes

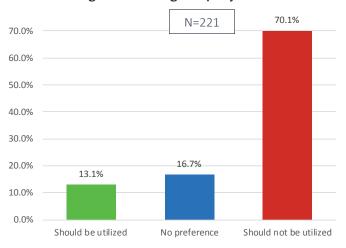


Figure 9. Funding - Special Assessment District

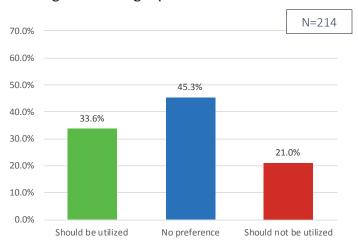
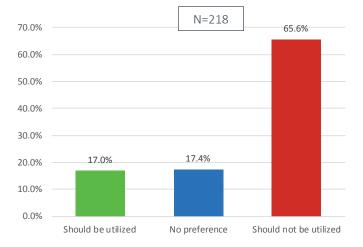


Figure 10. Funding - Tax on Vehicle Miles Driven



Other Responses

Sixteen respondents chose to include an additional option for potential funding sources. The additional funding responses are listed below:

- Existing sources (3)
- Federal and/or grants (3)
- Hospitality taxes (2)
- 1% road tax (1)

- Bicycle sales tax (1)
- Income tax (1)
- Municipal vehicle registration (1)
- Public infrastructure bank (1)
- Parking fees (1)
- Special service area (1)
- Tax based on vehicle weight (1)

IF YOU HAD \$100 TO SPEND ON TRANSPORTATION, HOW WOULD YOU DISTRIBUTE IT AMONG THESE PROJECTS?

Continuous sum in which respondents were able to enter number dollar values for each category, totalling \$100.

Table 6. Transportation Funding Allocation

Rank	Project Type	Sum	Average	Responses
1	Replace/upgrade aging facilities	\$4,115.30	\$33.50	123
2	Improve/add bus service	\$3,664.30	\$29.10	126
3	Construct new bike lanes and trails/greenways	\$1,906.70	\$18.30	104
4	Improve walking conditions	\$1,766.10	\$17.30	102
5	Improve roadway safety	\$1,613.10	\$17.30	93
6	Implement new transportation technologies	\$1,334.30	\$14.80	90
7	Improve street appearance	\$1,301.50	\$15.10	86
8	Improve intersections	\$1,293.00	\$15.40	84
9	Improve roadway operations	\$1,072.70	\$14.30	75
10	Other	\$942.00	\$27.70	34
11	Add lanes to existing roadways	\$931.50	\$13.90	67
12	Build new roadways	\$867.90	\$16.10	54
13	Implement traffic calming measures	\$672.60	\$11.00	61

HOW SHOULD THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES BE RANKED IN CONSIDERATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECT SELECTION?

Forced ranking scale with 1 = Highest priority to 9 = Lowest priority.

Table 7. Project Selection Priorities

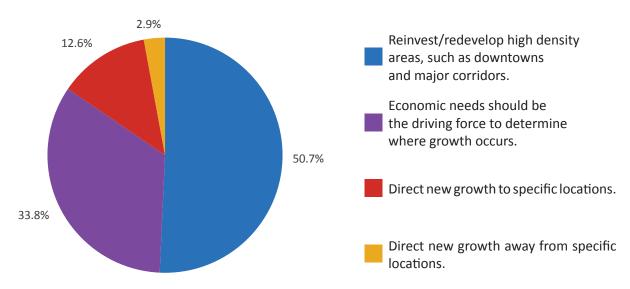
Overall Rank	Priority	Score	# of Rankings
1	Enhance Safety	1078	188
2	Maintain the System	1059	194
3	Increase Connectivity	1051	187
4	Boost Economic Vitality	1047	185
5	Expand Travel Options	1035	185
6	Protect the Environment	959	195
7	Improve Efficiency	931	186
8	Expand Technology	797	183
9	Increase Capacity	704	183

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

HOW SHOULD FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT BE MANAGED?

Total Responses = 207

Figure 11. Future Growth & Development



Specific Locations

Thirty-three respondents selected "Direct new growth to specific locations." However, only 29 locations were entered in. Several locations were rescategorized due to overlap with prewritten response - four locations described reinvest/redevelopment and three locations described economic needs. The remaining location are grouped below:

- Airport SE Rockford (2)
- Belvidere (1)
- East side (1)
- I-39 (3)
- I-90 (3)
- IL-173 (1)

- Loves Park (1)
- Machesney Park (2)
- Near train station (2)
- Outlying areas, such as suburbs/rural areas (5)
- Parks (1)

- Riverside Blvd (1)
- Rockton (2)
- Roscoe (2)
- South Beloit (1)
- State Street (1)
- West side (4)

Six respondents selected "Direct new growth away from specific locations." These locations are grouped below:

- Downtown (2)
- East State Street (1)

- Farmland (1)
- Rockford unspecified (1)
- West side (1)

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN OUR REGION

Responses have been grouped by topic and should not be construed as a comment in support of or against each topic. Total Responses = 19

Table 8. Additional Comments on Development

Торіс	Responses
Passenger Rail	5
Existing land use strategies	3
Neighborhood investment	3
Roadways	3
Economic development	2
Inter-regional connections	1
Public transit	1
Sprawl	1

PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD TRAVEL QUESTIONS

HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF TRANSPORTATION?

Frequency scale ranged from frequently to never.

Figure 12. Usage - Personal Vehicle

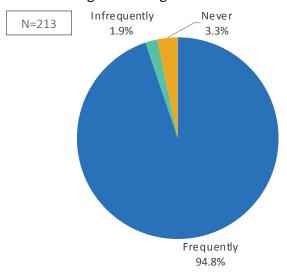


Figure 13. Usage - Carpool

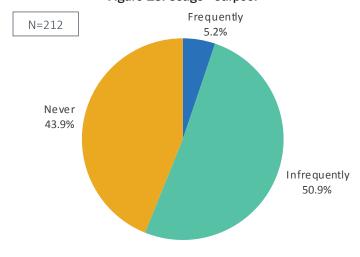


Figure 14. Usage - Commercial Airline

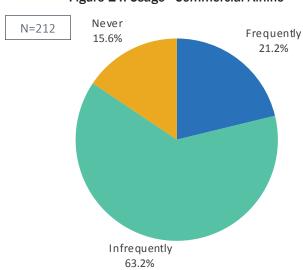


Figure 15. Usage - Bicycle

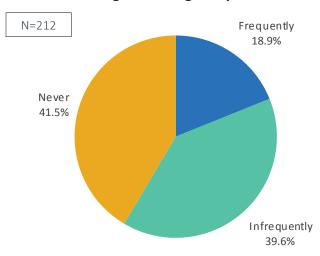


Figure 16. Usage - Bus/Public Transit

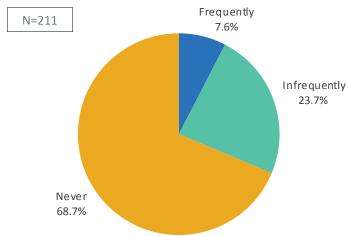


Figure 17. Usage - Intercity Bus

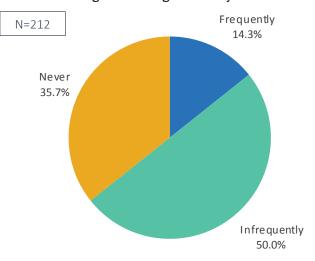


Figure 18. Usage - Passenger Rail

Figure 19. Usage - Pedestrian Facilties

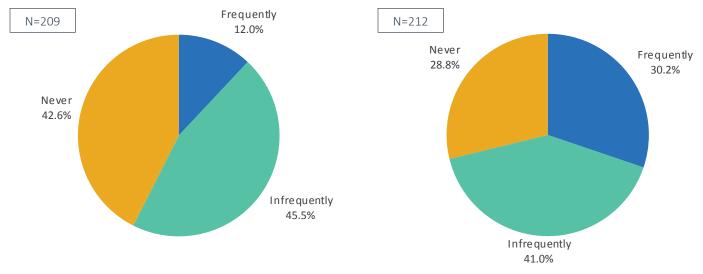
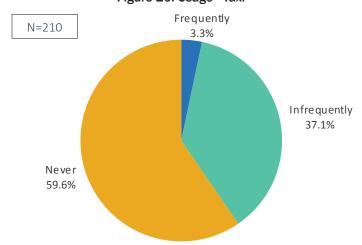


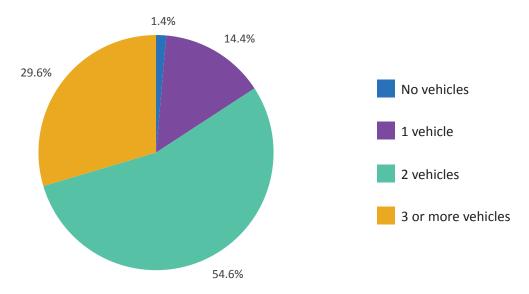
Figure 20. Usage - Taxi



HOW MANY VEHICLES ARE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD, INCLUDING MOTORCYCLES AND/OR ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

Total Responses = 216

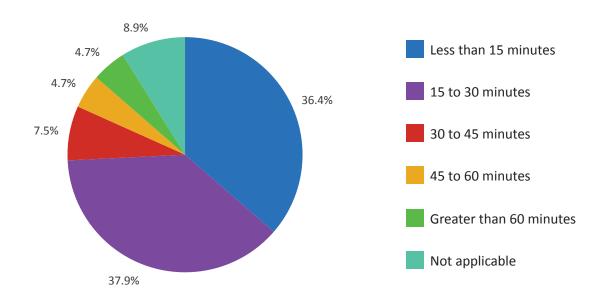
Figure 21. Vehicles Per Household



HOW LONG IS YOUR TYPICAL COMMUTE TO WORK/SCHOOL?

Total Responses = 214

Figure 22. Typical Commute Length



DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

WHAT IS YOUR WORK/SCHOOL ZIP CODE?

Zip codes have been grouped by which county the majority of its area is located within. Total Responses = 190

Table 9. Work/School Location by Zip Code

County	Zip Code	Percent
	61008	16.3%
Boone	61012	1.1%
	61065	1.1%
	60016	0.5%
	60068	0.5%
Cook	60601	1.1%
COOK	60605	0.5%
	60606	1.1%
	60613	0.5%
DuPage	60103	0.5%
Kane	60140	0.5%
McHenry	60050	0.5%
Ogle	61068	1.1%
Rock	53511	0.5%
NOCK	53547	0.5%
Stephenson	61032	1.1%
Whiteside	61071	0.5%
	61024	1.1%
	61072	1.1%
	61080	1.1%
	61101	16.8%
	61102	2.1%
	61103	7.4%
Winnebago	61104	11.6%
wiiiiicbago	61107	8.4%
	61108	5.8%
	61109	2.1%
	61111	4.7%
	61112	0.5%
	61114	5.3%
	61115	2.6%
Unspecified - In region		0.5%
Unspec	Unspecified - Out of region	

WHAT IS YOUR HOME ZIP CODE?

Zip codes have been grouped by which county the majority of its area is located within. Total Responses = 207

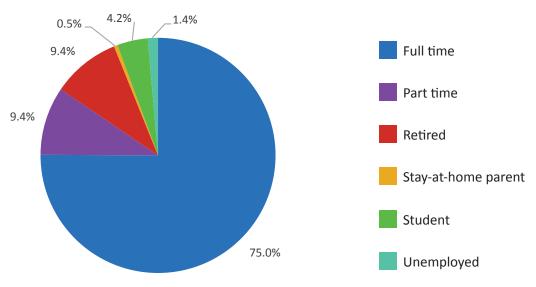
Table 10. Home Location by Zip Code

County	Zip Code	Percent
	61008	15.9%
	61016	0.5%
Boone	61038	0.5%
	61065	2.4%
	61080	1.9%
DeKalb	60113	0.5%
Kane	60140	0.5%
Lee	60553	0.5%
Lee	61006	0.5%
Mallonni	60098	0.5%
McHenry	60142	1.4%
Oglo	61054	0.5%
Ogle	61061	1.0%
Rock	53511	1.0%
Stephenson	61019	0.5%
Stephenson	61032	1.0%
	61024	1.4%
	61063	0.5%
	61072	1.9%
	61073	3.9%
	61088	0.5%
	61101	3.4%
	61102	2.9%
Winnebago	61103	9.2%
	61104	2.9%
	61107	16.9%
	61108	10.6%
	61109	2.9%
	61111	6.3%
	61114	3.9%
	61115	3.9%

WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR EMPLOYMENT STATUS?

Total Responses = 212

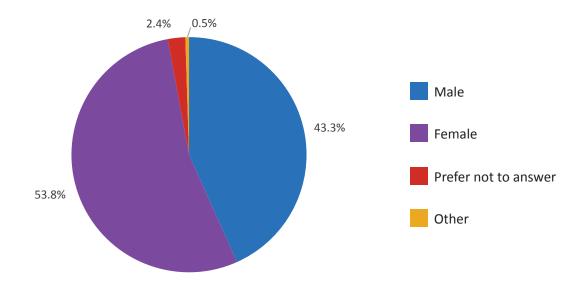
Figure 23. Employment Status



WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?

Total Responses = 210

Figure 24. Gender



Appendix A QUESTIONNAIRES

Paper Survey







TRANSPORTATION NEEDS & PRIORITIES SURVEY

Help improve transportation in the Rockford Region! Region 1 Planning Council (R1PC) is conducting a survey to better understand the transportation needs and priorities of those who live, work, and play in Boone, Winnebago, and northern Ogle counties. Your views and opinions will help shape the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

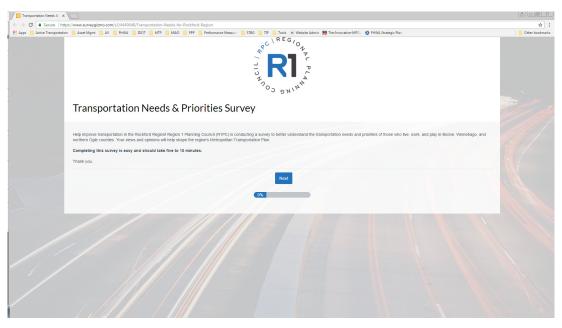
1.	What are the three bigger facing our Region? Access to healthcare, re	ecreatio	n, and	l cultur	ral faci	5.	If you had \$100 to spend on transportation, how would you distribute it among these projects? (Please specify dollar [\$] amounts.)			
	☐ Access to quality jobs a☐ Efficient movement of				rtuniti		Improve roadway safety			
	☐ Frequency of transit se						Improve roadway operations			
	☐ Lack of alternative tran			tions (walking c		Construct new bike lanes and trails/greenways Improve/add bus service			
	☐ Safety of the roadways☐ Passenger and freight a			airnort						
	☐ Maintenance of the exi						Replace/upgrade aging facilities			
	☐ Signal system and timin	ng					Improve intersections Implement new transportation technologies			
	☐ Traffic congestion☐ Insufficient funding for	transpo	rtatio	n impr	ovem					
	Other:							Add lanes to existing roadways Build new roadways		
_										
	How would you rate the current quality of the following aspects of the transportation system. (1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Neutral/unsure, 4=Good, 5=Very Good)							Implement traffic calming measures		
								Improve walking conditions		
			2	3	4	5		Improve street appearance		
	Access to public transit Condition of the roads							Other:		
	On-street bike facilities Pedestrian facilities Public transportation Safety of the roads						6.	How should the following priorities be ranked in consideration for transportation project selection? (1=Highest Priority to 9=Lowest Priority)		
	Shared use paths Signal system/timing							Boost Economic Vitality: Focus on investments that support trade, employment, and productivity.		
	Traffic congestion							Enhance Safety: Making roads, bridges, transit system, sidewalks, and bike paths safer through improved designs and increased enforcement.		
	During the next 30 years, few large-scale projects o ☐ A few large-scale proje	r multip					Expand Technology: Implementing technology to improve safety and efficiency of traffic operations.			
	☐ Multiple small-scale projects							Expand Travel Options: Provide more alternatives for people to travel to jobs, services, and other opportunities.		
4.	What are your opinions on the following potential funding sources to pay for transportation infrastructure? (1=Should be utilized, 2=No preference, 3=Should be not utilized)							Increase Capacity: Improving the movement of goods and people through the widening of existing roads and/or building of new roads		
	One time fees on new deve Tolls on new roads	it	1	2 □	3		Increase Connectivity: Creating a multimodal, interconnected system — connecting bikeways, pedestrian facilities, transit services, and roadways.			
	Increased sales tax Increased gas tax Property taxes							Improve Efficiency: Make travel more efficient and reliable for moving people and goods.		
	Property taxes Special assessment district Tax based on vehicle miles driven							Maintain the System: Keep the current transportation system in good repair to extend the life of our investment		
	Tax based on vehicle miles driven Other: Other:							Protect the Environment: Promote transportation projects that help reduce air and water pollution and minimize impacts on natural areas.		
1 F	LEG.									

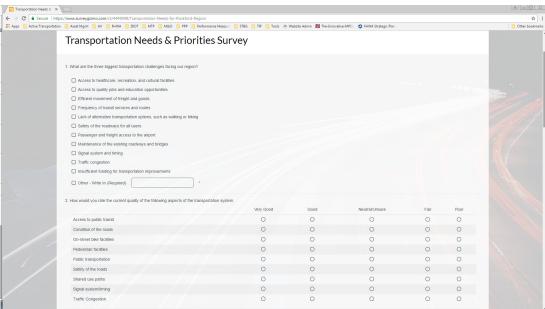


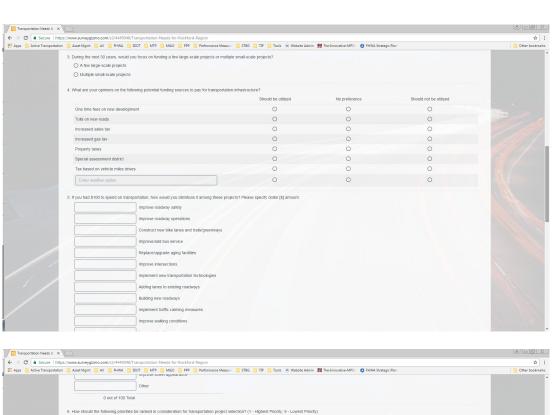
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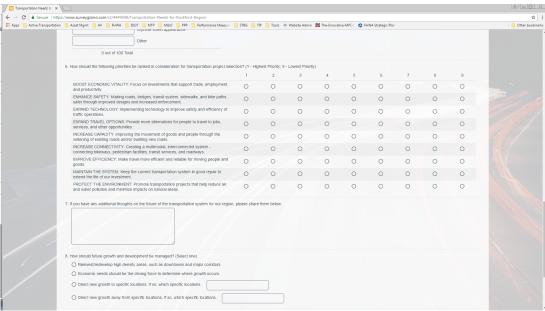
7.	Do you have any additional thoughts or	of	15. What best describes you employment status?							
	the transportation system for our region?						Full time Part time Retired		Stay at home parent Student Unemployed	
					16. V	۷h	ich category below incl	udes y	our age?	
8.	How should future growth and development be managed? (Select one) Reinvest/redevelop high density areas, such as downtowns and major corridors.]	17 or younger 18 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 44		65 or older	
	 Economic needs should be the driving force to determine where growth occurs. Direct new growth to specific locations. If so, which specific locations: 				c 	What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? ☐ Less than high school ☐ High school / GED ☐ Some college, no degree				
9.	If so, which specific locations: Do you have any additional thoughts or and development in our region?	wth]	Trade/technical training Associate degree Bachelors degree Advanced degree (Master's, Doctorate)		octorate)			
					18. V	۷h	at is your approximate	house	hold income?	
]	Less than \$25,000 \$25,000 to \$34,999 \$35,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$74,999		\$75,000 to \$99,999 \$100,000 to \$124,999 \$125,000 to \$149,999 \$150,000 or more	
10.	How often do you use the following typ transportation? (1=Frequently, 2=Infrequen		Vovor)		19. V	۷h	at is your gender?			
	Personal Vehicle	1	2	3			Male Female		Prefer not to answer Other:	
	Carpool Commercial airline Bicycle Bus/public transit Intercity bus (e.g. Van Galder, etc.) Passenger Rail Pedestrian facilities Taxi	/an Galder, etc.)					Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Select all that apply) ☐ Asian ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐ Black/African American ☐ White ☐ Hispanic/Latino			
11.	. How many vehicles are in your household, including motorcycles and/or electric vehicles.						American Indian/Alaskar Other: Prefer not to answer			
	□ 0 □ 1 □ 2 □ 3+				21. V tı	Vh rai	at is the best way to keensportation-related proj			
12.	 How long is your typical commute to work/school? (Select one) □ Less than 15 minutes □ 15 to 30 minutes 					☐ Television ☐ Local newspaper ☐ Online/website ☐ Radio announcement ☐ Public meetings/forums ☐ Newsletter				
	☐ 30 to 45 minutes ☐ 45 to 60 minutes ☐ Greater than 60 minutes ☐ I work from home/telecommute ☐ Not applicable					Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) Brochures/posters nank you for taking our survey. Your response is very				
13.	3. What is your work/school zip code?					important to us.				
14.	What is your home zip code?				lf	y (ou want to stay informed EMAIL:	sign ι	up for our mailing list!	

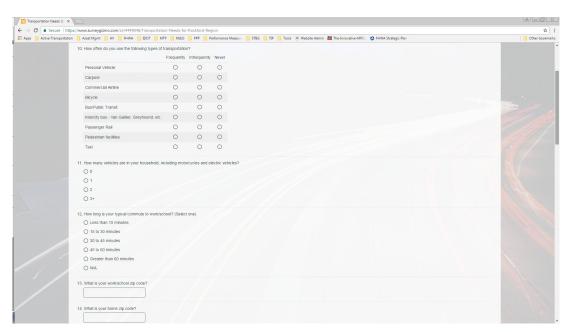
Web-Based Survey

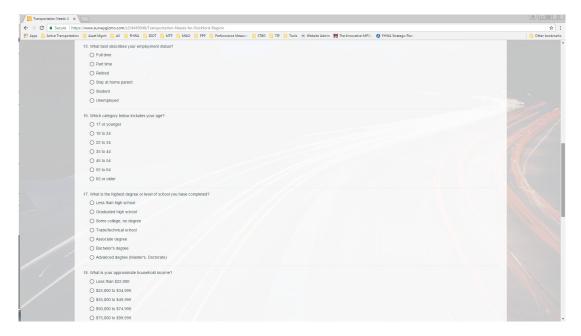


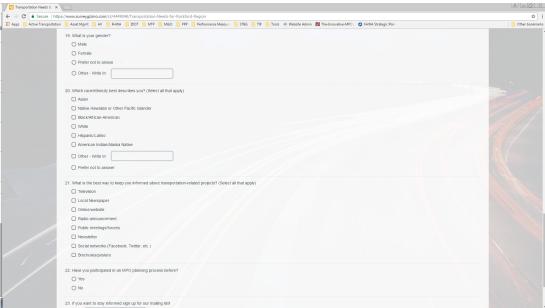












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ONLINE RESOURCES

Region 1 Planning Council Website

http://r1planning.org

2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Webpage

http://r1planning.org/mtp

Transportation for Tommorrow (2040): A Long Range Transportation Plan for the Rockford Region http://r1planning.org/fundamentals



COLLABORATIVE PLANNING FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS