



Joint News Release
From the City of Rockford, Blink Charging Co.
and Region 1 Planning Council

For Immediate Release

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**Downtown Rockford Adds Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Through Partnership with
Region 1 Planning Council and Blink Charging Co.**

ROCKFORD, IL — Drivers can now charge their electric vehicles in downtown Rockford thanks to a Region 1 Planning Council (R1) program to make charging stations more affordable for local governments.

R1 established a procurement program with Blink Charging Co. this year to help local governments in Northern Illinois purchase Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at discount prices. The City of Rockford is the first local government to take advantage of the program. Two Blink EV Charging Stations have been installed at a municipal parking lot at South Main and Cedar Streets, southwest of the Embassy Suites Rockford Riverfront Hotel. Each charging station allows two electric vehicles to charge simultaneously.

Cities, schools and other local governments in Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and McHenry Counties are encouraged to contact R1 to learn how to participate in the program and obtain EV Charging Stations for their community.

“In Rockford, we are focused on sustainability and stand in support of advancing needed transportation alternatives for our region,” said Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara. “We were excited to take advantage of the procurement program developed by our partners at R1, and to be one of the first municipalities in our Region to deploy EV charging infrastructure. We hope that investments like this will continue to help strengthen our community’s future EV readiness.”

Blink is a nationwide leader in EV charging equipment and networked EV charging services, enabling EV drivers to charge at thousands of locations throughout the United States. Blink has significant experience in working with a diverse portfolio of residential and commercial industries as well as governmental sectors and will work with key government personnel to help them understand the program, assist with optimization, and work through all interconnect, service upgrade, or related issues. R1 staff and a Blink representative will work with your agency to explain the benefits of the joint procurement program, help you determine optimal EV charging station sites in your community, and discuss grant opportunities as they become available.

Participation in the program is open to members of Northern Illinois Council of Governments (NorthCOG), a nonprofit membership-based organization of Northern Illinois local governments that is staffed by R1. NorthCOG provides a platform for its members to develop a shared legislative agenda to increase public and private investment in Northern Illinois. Additionally,

NorthCOG provides opportunities for its members to reduce the cost of government operations through public-private partnerships such as this EV Charging Station procurement program.

R1 staff will help local governments pursue state and federal grants that will become available in the coming months to further reduce the cost of purchasing and installing EV Charging Stations. Local governments that wish to participate in the Blink EV Charging Station procurement program can contact R1 Director of Economic Development & Policy, Isaac Guerrero at 815-319-4181 or iguerrero@r1planning.org for more information.

For more information about Blink Charging visit <https://blinkcharging.com>
For more information about R1 visit <http://r1planning.org>

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