

Amy Salamon

From: R1 Planning Council <info@r1planning.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 11:58 AM
To: Amy Salamon
Subject: [Test] R1 Oct Newsletter - Badges of Regional Growth

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U.S. Representative Darin LaHood Visits Rockford Region



R1 was honored to welcome U.S. Representative Darin LaHood on his visit to Rockford on Wednesday, October 2. Elected and appointed officials, as well as business leaders, came out to hear him speak and ask questions about ongoing legislative activity. Rep. LaHood emphasized his commitment to Northern Illinois and has a history of funding a number of projects across the region.

R1 staff shown here are (L to R) Emily Kate, Eric Tison, Michael Dunn, Jr., Isaac Guerrero, Rep. LaHood, Andria Sykaluk, Molli Naber, Paige Witherow, Amy Salamon, and Janna Bailey.

Brownfield Coalition Grant Paves Way for Site Development



Since receiving a U.S. EPA Brownfield Coalition grant in 2023, R1 has begun eight brownfield property assessments in Boone and Winnebago Counties. Three of these properties were located in priority sites, which received potential contaminant identification and took physical samples to be tested. These sites will then undergo cleanup planning or

be prepared for future development, depending whether any contaminants were found.

The program intends to identify, assess, and develop cleanup plans for brownfield properties in Boone and Winnebago counties that may have hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants present in the soil. These properties are typically former industrial sites with the potential for future economic development. R1 was awarded \$1 million for assessments to be conducted over the next four years.

Know of a potential brownfield that should be assessed? Let us know on [Engage R1!](#)



No plans are currently open for public comment.

For more information on plans that are still in progress but not seeking public input, visit [Engage R1](#). Curious about how Engage R1 works? Watch our tutorial, [How to Navigate Engage R1](#), for instructions on navigating our public engagement site and using its features.

Featured Plan: Parking Reimagined

Imagine a city where parking lots aren't just a sea of asphalt. These spaces can incorporate infrastructure that supports environmental, economic, and transportation systems through native plants, EV charging stations, bicycle parking, and public art installations.

That's what R1's Parking Reimagined Plan aims to do. When complete in early 2025, the plan will provide municipalities within the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Area with a playbook of recommendations and best practices so that parking can better support community needs. The plan recommends improvements to current and future parking in relation to the environment, mobility, policy and pricing, parking retrofits, and placemaking.

“Parking is currently a stagnant use of urban space, but it could be active,” says Lauren Kleve, Environmental Planner.

“It doesn’t have to serve just one purpose.”



“Mobility, land use, climate patterns, and technology are evolving, and the region’s parking must adapt along with these trends,” says Lauren Kleve, Environmental Planner and lead for this plan. “This plan is the first of its kind in our region to analyze current parking infrastructure and consider how parking can best support the region today and in the future.”

Why does it matter? As a car-centric region, parking is everywhere and affects the quality of everyday life – often in unseen ways. Traditional parking facilities contribute to higher urban temperatures and stormwater flooding, are incompatible with bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and can be an inefficient use of space. By transforming parking, this plan intends to improve residents' quality of life.

The Parking Reimagined plan also aligns with multiple R1 initiatives: the upcoming Climate Action Plan, Bike and Pedestrian Plan, Mobility Hub Study, and varied economic and transportation land use goals.

The plan just wrapped up its second round of public engagement, and R1 staff is now working on plan development. After the draft is complete, you can review it during its public comment period and provide input. For plan updates, follow the project page on [Engage R1](#).

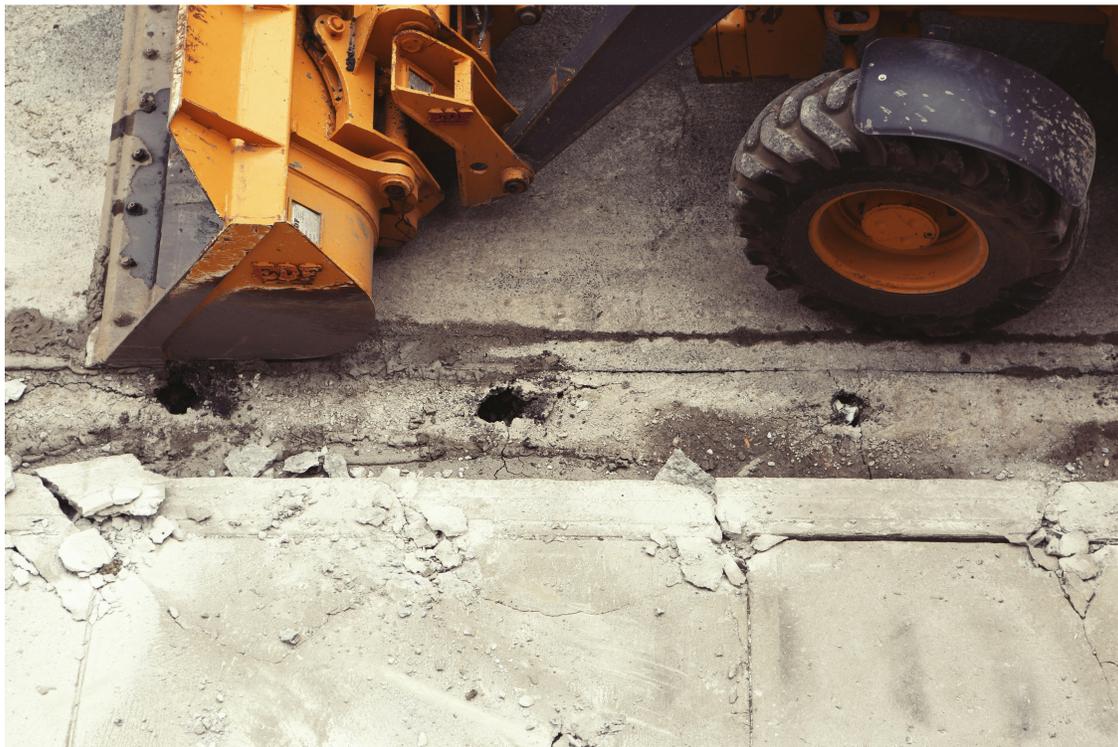


The Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB) was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Grant Professionals Association (GPA)'s Grantmaker of the Year Award. This national award recognizes grantmaking organizations that have improved the way grant professionals do their work and acknowledges outstanding contributions in the field.

GPA recognized R1 for working with the WCCMHB to design the Accelerator Awards, which provide one-time capital expenses for mental health services, and its use of Engage R1 as a one-stop resources for all information regarding funded programs, their services, and progress.

Call for Projects

Submit Transportation Infrastructure Priorities Beginning In October



As the federally-designated Rockford Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), R1 is seeking eligible projects for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds.

This Call for Projects is open from October 15, 2024, through November 29, 2024. At this time, the MPO intends to review applications for FY 2025-2029 apportionments allocated to the Rockford Urbanized Area.

See <https://r1planning.org/call-for-projects> for more information and eligibility for each of these programs.

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127 N. Wyman St., Suite 101, Rockford, IL 61101

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