Press Release

For Immediate Release

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State of the Trails
Innovative Tech Will Map Regional Bike-Pedestrian Paths

ROCKFORD, IL — Coming soon to a trail near you: the region's first high-tech data bike upgrading the region's bicycle paths and trails.

Beginning in May, Region 1 Planning Council (R1) will begin recording data on all of Winnebago and Boone Counties' 178 miles of shared use paths and trails. It will map and record the condition of regional bike/pedestrian paths, with a goal of improving path and trail conditions. This information will be shared with trail caretakers, who will use it to develop prioritized maintenance plans. Panoramic images captured throughout the project will also be uploaded to Google Maps, allowing comprehensive and accessible information for people wanting to get active.

To collect this information, R1 staff have assembled the Rockford Region Data Bike, an electric bicycle equipped with an iPhone and two cameras. Team members will ride this bike on shared use paths, recording pavement data and taking pictures of the path and its surroundings. This innovative data collection method will transform path and trail maintenance in the Rockford region, ensuring that access and mobility remains in place for years to come.

The State of the Trails data collection begins on May 7 and is anticipated to be complete by September. This project is funded by a $150,000 IDOT Statewide Planning and Research grant.

ABOUT R1 – Region 1 Planning Council is a special-purpose, regional government agency providing cross-jurisdictional, government-to-government collaborative planning for Northern Illinois. The regional planning model provides an efficient means to promoting a well-informed, comprehensive dialogue that holistically addresses regional issues by fulfilling the needs of government entities for long-range planning, securing funding, and analyzing and providing data in support of regional projects and initiatives.

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