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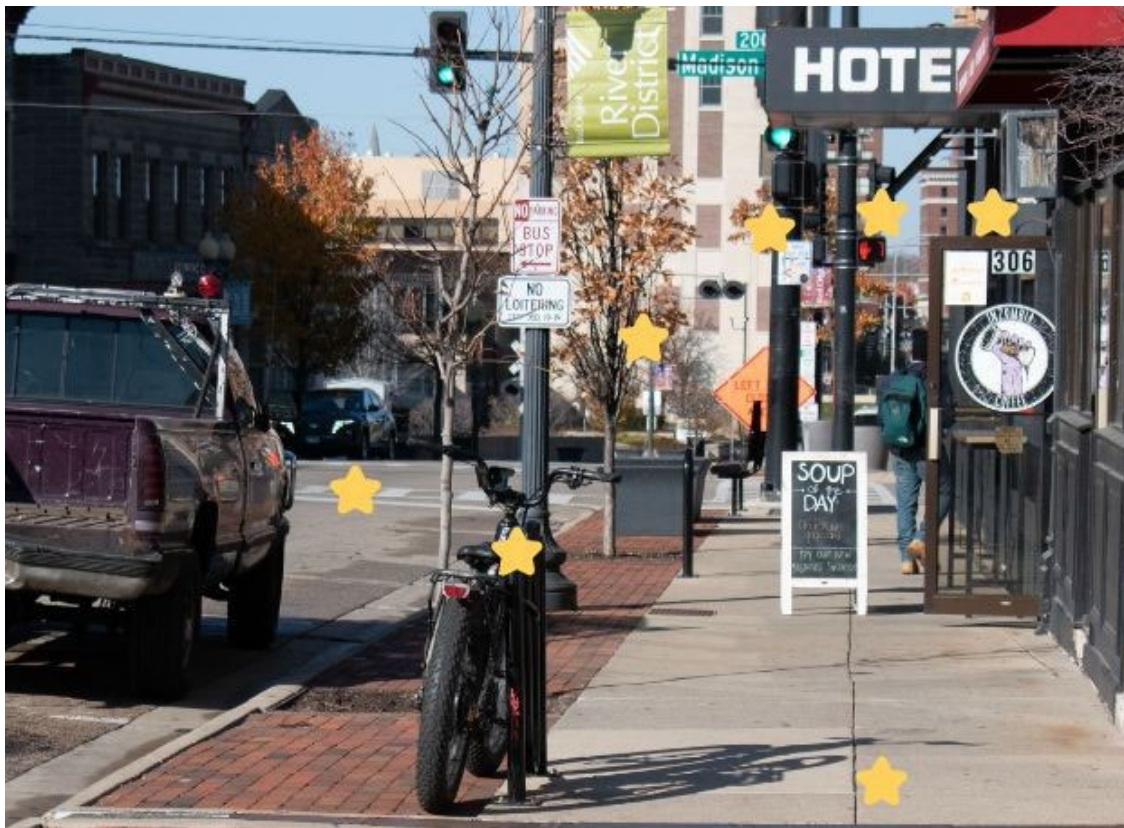
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November 2025

Building Better Streets

R1 Named #8 in Nation for Complete Streets Policy



Picture of East State St., Rockford with stars marking Complete Streets features.

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policies adopted in 2023 and 2024. (San Antonio was ranked #1.)

The report evaluated policies for comprehensiveness, inclusivity, and regional coordination. R1 was the only MPO in the top ten; the remainder were municipalities. R1's policy, adopted in May 2024, earned perfect scores in these categories:

- Commitment & vision
- Prioritizes underserved communities
- Applies to all projects and phases
- Mandates collaboration
- Includes project prioritization process

"I truly appreciate this recognition for our hard work in representing best practices in innovative Complete Street policies," said Michael Dunn Jr., R1 Executive Director. "The hard work and knowledge of current and past staff continues to gain recognition nationwide as a high-performing federal MPO."

About Complete Streets

Complete Streets are recommended design guidelines that ensure everyone - pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, motorists - has safe and accessible travel throughout the community. The Rockford MPO's policy includes these principles into all transportation plans within the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Area. Elements that can be included in a Complete Street are better lighting, bus stop shelters, wider intersections, or additional shared use paths.

To read the full report, visit [Smart Growth America](#).

Read the Rockford MPO's [Complete Streets Design Guidelines](#).

3rd Annual Legislative Luncheon Tickets Now Available

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

invites you to attend the third

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 9

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

UMB Bank Pavilion

1868 Reid Farm Road, Rockford

Tickets

\$75 per person

\$750 per table of 10

To reserve tickets, please contact Paige Witherow at
pwitherow@r1planning.org by 5:00 pm on November 28.

Please join us for the 3rd annual NorthCOG Legislative Luncheon! This year's event will feature state Representatives Cabello, Sosnowski, Vella, West, and Senators Arellano, Stadelman, and Syverson discussing the 2025 legislative season and filling attendees in on what is to come in 2026.

The event is presented by Midland States Bank. You can purchase tickets through Paige Witherow at pwitherow@r1planning.org.

Stay Informed, Stay Healthy

R1 Launches Air Quality Webpage

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One click on R1's new air quality site provides the real-time data you need to enjoy the day's activities while protecting your health.

Visit r1planning.org/air to view:

- Current air quality level in your area
- 7-day trend
- Interactive map
- Resources to learn about greenhouse gases and air pollution impacts.

"We wanted to provide a comprehensive platform for people to see real-time updates about the area's air quality," said Megan Mech, R1 Clean Energy Navigator. "Knowing more about air quality can prompt people to make informed choices about their daily activities in relation to their own health and the planet's."

Data is provided by Air Now, in partnership with the US EPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and other federal and state agencies. You can also sign up for personalized air quality notification to .

The webpage supports R1's sustainability efforts, including the recently updated [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#), part of the agency's [Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP).

Call for Projects

Applications Open for MPO-Attributed Funding, Economic Development, Infrastructure Priorities

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Photo credit: MyStateline WTVO News

Municipalities: need funding for priority transportation, infrastructure, and economic development projects? Submit them to R1 by December 1 to be ranked and used to inform a variety of state and federal funding R1 can pursue.

This collective request serves a variety of purposes:

- **Transportation:** Evaluate and award Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) federal funding.
- **IL Legislative Advocacy:** Develop the Infrastructure Priorities booklet, which prioritizes regional infrastructure projects and is shared with state lawmakers to secure state funding.
- **Economic Development:** Prioritize projects that catalyze private sector investment, job creation, or long term economic resilience for DCEO or US EDA funding and is included in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update.

Projects may be included in multiple funding priority reports.

All projects to be considered for **MPO-attributed funding** are due by Monday, December 1 and should be submitted at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8504339/Region-1-Planning-Council-s-2026-Federal-Funding-Application-copy>.

Infrastructure and Economic Development projects are due by Friday, November 28 and should be submitted at <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8538157/InfrastructurePriorities2026>.

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