THE CONNECTION POINT
NEWSLETTER
COLLABORATIVE PLANNING FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS

November 2026

Two Approaches, One Goal: Safer Travel for Everyone

School Zone Safety, Safe Streets 4 All Programs Deliver Actionable Solutions



R1 recently completed Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) and School Zone Safety (SZS) programs. These studies gave cities, counties, and school districts targeted, actionable safety recommendations and a clear list of where to focus first for implementation.

"We are committed to making travel safer for people, whether they are traveling by vehicle, bike, foot, or some other way," said Tim Verbeke, R1 Director of Planning. "When we address it as a region, it

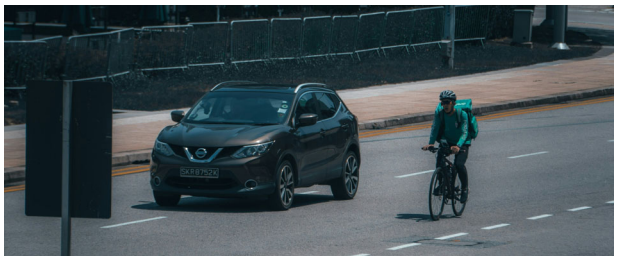
exponentially makes our investments go further.”

School Zone Safety

R1 conducted extensive safety audits at five school districts, composed of 17 schools, to identify student safety risks during arrival and dismissal. Each district received a report containing an analysis and list of recommended improvements tailored to each school, along with at-home activities for parents and their children.

Districts can use these findings to pursue implementation funding and prioritize projects in their capital improvement plans.

An additional 38 schools in the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) received a regional safety report and the activity materials, even if they did not opt in to the detailed audit.



Safe Streets 4 All

Four plans aim to prevent serious injuries or fatalities on the region’s roads – one for Winnebago County, Boone County, the MPA, and the City of Rockford. Each plan contains a safety analysis with recommendations that address both risky behaviors and infrastructure.

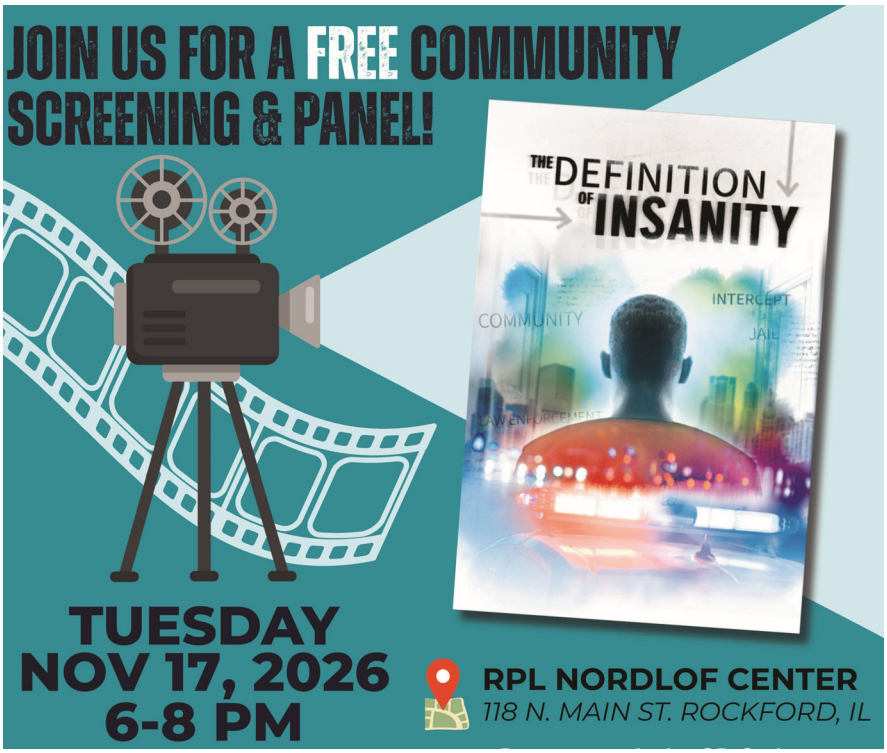
Next, R1 will work with each board to pursue U.S. Department of Transportation funding for implementation.

Recommendations were provided for 12 emphasis categories, including speed and cell phone enforcement, reconfiguring intersections at high-incident locations, and improving pedestrian and bicyclist visibility.

Both programs were funded by grants from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Read the Plans

Safe School Zones Regional Report
Traffic Safety Action Plan - Winnebago County
Traffic Safety Action Plan - Boone County
Traffic Safety Action Plan - Rockford MPA
Traffic Safety Action Plan - City of Rockford



Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-definition-of-insanity-community-screening-and-panel-tickets-2001889809309

Treatment, not incarceration.

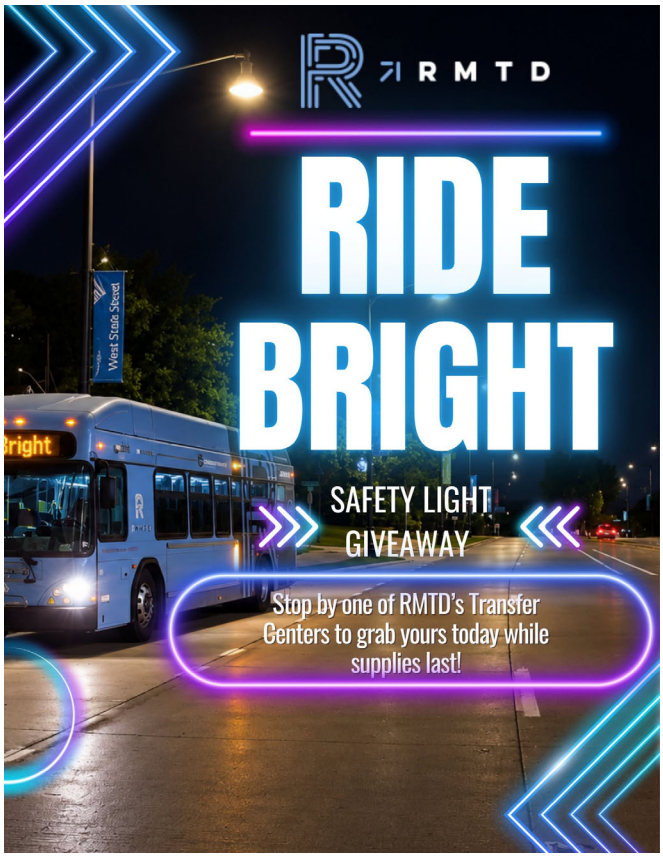
Join the WCCMHB for a free film screening this month that will reframe how the community responds to mental illness within the justice system.

Area leadership is interested in adopting a similar approach for jail diversion in Winnebago County. The panel discussion that follows is the beginning of a longer conversation about how this model could work in Winnebago County.

WHAT: **'The Definition of Insanity'** film screening and panel discussion
WHEN: November 17 from 6-8 pm
WHERE: The Nordlof Center, 118 N. Main St., Rockford
COST: Free
SIGN UP: **https://lnkd.in/gm9WGrfy**

Light refreshments will be served

Have you committed to sustainable commuting?
Rockford Mass Transit District wants you to stay safe while biking or walking as the days get shorter.



Locations
Downtown Transfer Center: 501 W. State St., Rockford
East Side Transfer Center: 725 N. Lyford Rd., Rockford

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

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