



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Regional Collaboration Leads to Federal Safe Streets for All Grant Award

ROCKFORD, IL — On February 1, 2023, the U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced Region 1 Planning Council will receive a \$400,492 Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan grant to update the Regional Transportation Safety Plan and complete Local Safety Action Plans for the City of Rockford, Boone County, and Winnebago County. The SS4A awards will fund improved safety planning for over half the nation's population, and will fundamentally change how roadway safety is addressed in communities through local and regional efforts that are comprehensive and data-driven.

National and regional trends are showing an uptick in the number of traffic crashes, particularly fatal crashes on the rise. In order to address these trends, Region 1 Planning Council, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Rockford Region, and local governments want to make a commitment and take action to significantly reduce all crashes on our roadways and are looking at proven and innovative ways to reverse this trend.

With this funding, R1 will pursue an update to the regional plan, including robust stakeholder and public engagement, as well as extensive data collection and analysis to help determine the causes of crashes. Additionally, R1 will assist the City of Rockford and Boone and Winnebago Counties in developing local traffic safety action plans. These localized action plans would allow the unique safety concerns of the local government to be addressed. For example, as the urban core of the region, the City of Rockford has vastly different traffic patterns and safety concerns than Boone County, which is more rural in comparison. To ensure context-sensitive solutions are employed throughout the region, different strategies and countermeasures need to be considered on a county or municipal basis.

ABOUT R1: Region 1 Planning Council (R1) is a special-purpose, regional government agency. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities. A regional council depends on intergovernmental collaboration to foster economic and community growth; through planning, research, federal funding, and data. For more information, visit <http://r1planning.org>.

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