



## News Release

### For Immediate Release

**Date:** June 26, 2023

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### Region 1 Planning Council Hosts Workshops for Regional Planning Efforts

**ROCKFORD, IL** — R1 Planning Council is hosting six SWOT workshops designed to gather input from residents to find out their perceptions about the Northern Illinois region. R1 will then use feedback received to guide local policymakers as they update federally-required planning documents that steer progress in the area's transportation, economic development, and climate needs. Your participation will provide a greater understanding of what is working in your community's planning implementation and what is not.

Please join us for the following sessions:

**Wednesday, July 19** - Built Environments & Neighborhoods, *Discussion includes strengthening neighborhoods through quality transportation options, equitable housing, and economic competitiveness*

**Wednesday, July 26** - Transportation & Infrastructure, *Discussion includes identifying priorities for highways, bridges, public transit, freight, bicycles, and pedestrians*

**Wednesday, August 2** - Innovation & Investment, *Discussion includes sharing industry strengths, remaining competitive, and funding for job creation and quality of life improvement*

**Wednesday, August 16** – Energy, *Discussion includes needs and innovations for energy efficiency, equity, and clean/renewable sources*

**Monday, August 28** - Natural Resources & Climate, *Discussion includes current state of natural resources and climate impacts on water, forests, and air quality*

**Wednesday, August 30** - Health & Equity, *Discussion includes public health practices designed to identify and understand community needs, and improve health concerns*

Location: Rockford Mass Transit District East Side Transfer Center, 725 N. Lyford Road, Rockford

Time: 8:30-10:30 am

All workshops are open to the public. Individuals may attend all, or choose topics of interest.

To register for any of these workshops please visit: <http://r1planning.org/publiccomment>

**ABOUT THE PLANS:** R1 is responsible for creating and implementing long-range plans that encourage regional progress in several key areas. New this year is the creation of the region's first Climate Action Plan, which will rely on feedback

from these workshops to inform the plan. Broadly, the Climate Action Plan intends to address the region's strategy to alleviate and adapt to climate change, and prepare for future federal requirements. The region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) are also receiving mid-plan updates this summer.

**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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