



News Release

For Immediate Release

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R1 Received National Award for Excellence from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

ROCKFORD, IL — Region 1 Planning Council (R1) was awarded the National Award for Excellence in MPO Coordination & Partnership at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations' (AMPO) annual conference on September 27. R1 was selected for this honor from among its metropolitan planning organization (MPO) peers nationwide. AMPO is the national transportation organization providing federal policy advocacy, technical support, and peer-to-peer collaboration for metropolitan planning organizations.

R1 received this award for its decades-long partnership with Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD) and work done to advance the public transit system, particularly with respect to accessibility and environmental justice. Most recently, RMTD and R1 developed a Ridership Feedback survey and conducted field work to gather input from RMTD users on the system's performance and to identify service gaps. R1 also prepared RMTD's Climate Action Plan in 2022, which received national recognition as part of the Federal Transit Administration's Health Planet Challenge.

"I am appreciative of the collaboration and mutual support between RMTD and R1," says Joseph Chiarelli, Winnebago County Board Chairman. "That rapport and respect makes the necessary regional planning and project implementation smooth, which positively impacts Northern Illinois as a whole."

R1 and RMTD also regularly collaborate on programs such as the distribution of federal transportation funding, as well as develop several regional transit analyses and plans addressing short- and long-term needs and gaps in Rockford's public transit system, particularly for those in transit-dependent populations.

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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