



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Community Invited to Open Houses to Improve Northern Illinois Public Input Will Shape Regional Economic, Transportation, and Climate Plans

ROCKFORD, IL — Region 1 Planning Council (R1) is hosting three open houses to gather public input about the future of economic development, transportation and climate action in Northern Illinois.

Several activities are planned for each open house that will allow attendees to recommend where Northern Illinois should steer future investments, explore new economic and sustainability initiatives, and fill health and housing gaps to make the region a better place to live, work and play. These open houses are among several strategies that R1 is employing to gather public feedback to inform federally-required, regional transportation and economic development plans and the region's first-ever climate action plan.

Each one of these plans is critical to unlocking state and federal funds to address the region's transportation, economic development, and climate needs.

Please join us for the following open houses:

Thursday, Oct. 5 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Region 1 Planning Council Offices, 127 N. Wyman Street, Rockford 61101

Tuesday, Oct. 10 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm

McHenry County Mental Health Board, 620 Dakota Street, Crystal Lake 60012

Thursday, Oct. 12 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Boone County Council on Aging – Keen Age Center, 2141 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere 61008

ABOUT THE PLANS: R1 is responsible for creating and implementing long-range plans that encourage regional progress and direct funding to improve transportation, economic development and more. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) addresses the transportation system, including highways, bridges, public transit freight and bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Boone and Winnebago Counties and northern Ogle County over the next 20 to 30 years. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a five-year framework that identifies goals, strategies and actions to create a strong, diverse economy in Winnebago, Boone and McHenry Counties. R1 is also shaping the region's first Climate Action Plan for Winnebago and Boone Counties, which will provide strategies and recommendations for alleviating and adapting to climate change.

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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