



DATE: October 15, 2026
TO: RAILS Board of Directors
FROM: Joe Filapek, Associate Executive Director
SUBJECT: 9.1 Strategic Plan Update

During the September Board meeting, the Board reviewed a draft of the refreshed RAILS strategic plan, including the proposed objectives aligned with our strategic goals. We are now moving into the next phase of the process by engaging both RAILS members and staff to gather feedback on the draft objectives. Through two separate online Padlet activities, members and RAILS staff are invited to consider how the objectives support our members and their work. Questions for RAILS staff focus on how the objectives fit into their current work, while member library staff are asked how the objectives support them and how they align with their libraries' own goals and objectives. Both groups are also encouraged to identify anything they believe may be missing from our draft objectives.

We are soliciting feedback through the end of October, and the activity will also be a topic of discussion during our October staff meeting. This outreach is an important opportunity to ensure the proposed objectives are meaningful and responsive to the needs of our members, while also providing necessary direction for RAILS staff. In early November, we will review the feedback received and meet with our consultant, Cindy Fesemeyer, to discuss the input and determine if any revisions are necessary.

Our goal remains to bring a finalized draft of the refreshed strategic plan to the Board for approval at the November meeting. The feedback gathered through this process will help ensure the plan reflects the perspectives of our staff and our members and will provide a useful framework for guiding RAILS' priorities and work moving forward.