

Meeting of the RTA Board of Directors

October 19, 2023

Welcome! Meeting Starts at 9 a.m.

Meeting Agenda: rtachicago.org



1. Call to order

Pledge of allegiance



RTA Board of Directors meeting

- Roll call
- Approval of minutes

4. Public comment



5. Executive Director's report



Legislative update



2024 Regional Operating Budget and Five-year Capital Program

- Late October - early December: County Board presentations
- November 16 - December 7: Budget public comment period
- December 5: Transit is the Answer Coalition in-person meeting
- December 7: RTA virtual public hearing



Access to Transit Program – Call for Projects

October 16 – December 15, 2024



Today's agenda



6. Information items

6a. Presentation and Discussion of 2024 RTA Agency Budget



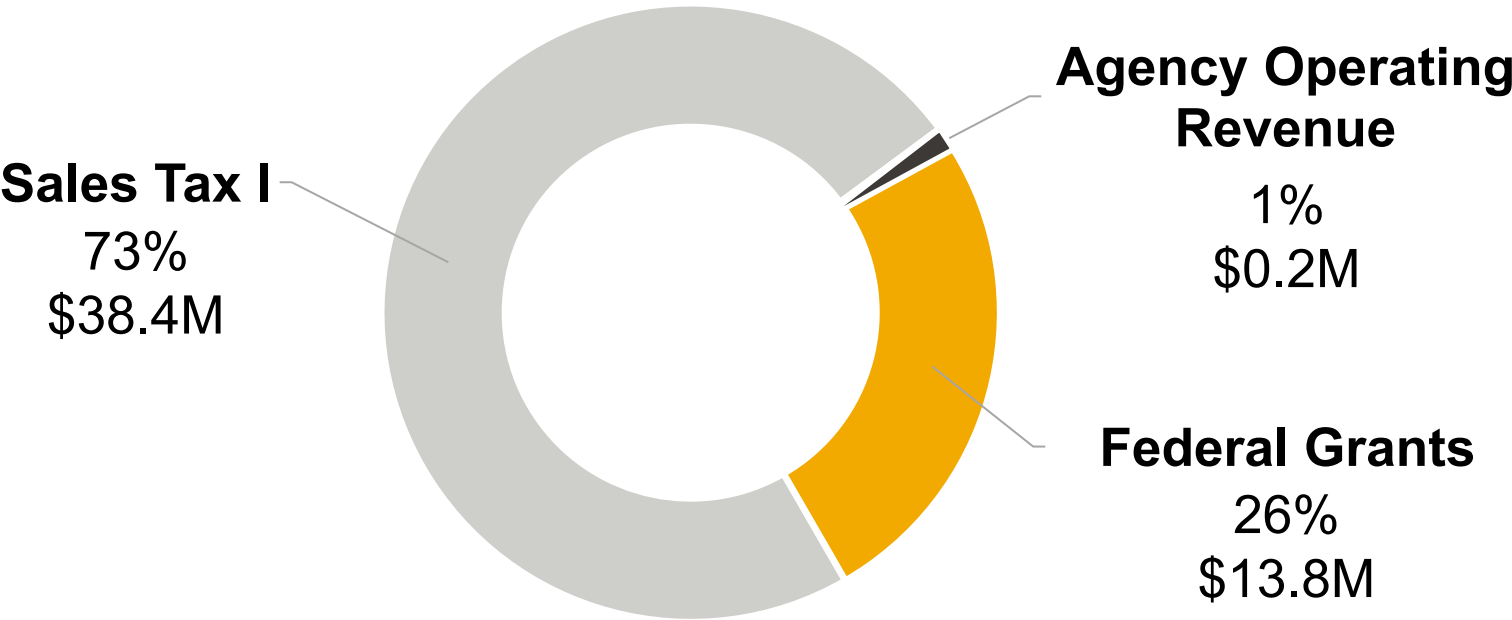
Overview – 2024 RTA Agency Budget

Priority initiatives:

- Expansion of reduced fare programs, such as Metra's reduced fare pilot program.
- Communications campaign to educate riders about new fare options to boost ridership; targeted transit advocacy and engagement.
- Information Technology infrastructure: improved cyber security, network hardware replacement, document management system implementation.
- Further implementation of *Transit is the Answer* strategic plan, including the Climate Action Plan for Transit, Transit Friendly Communities Guide, and Travel Information Review planning initiatives.

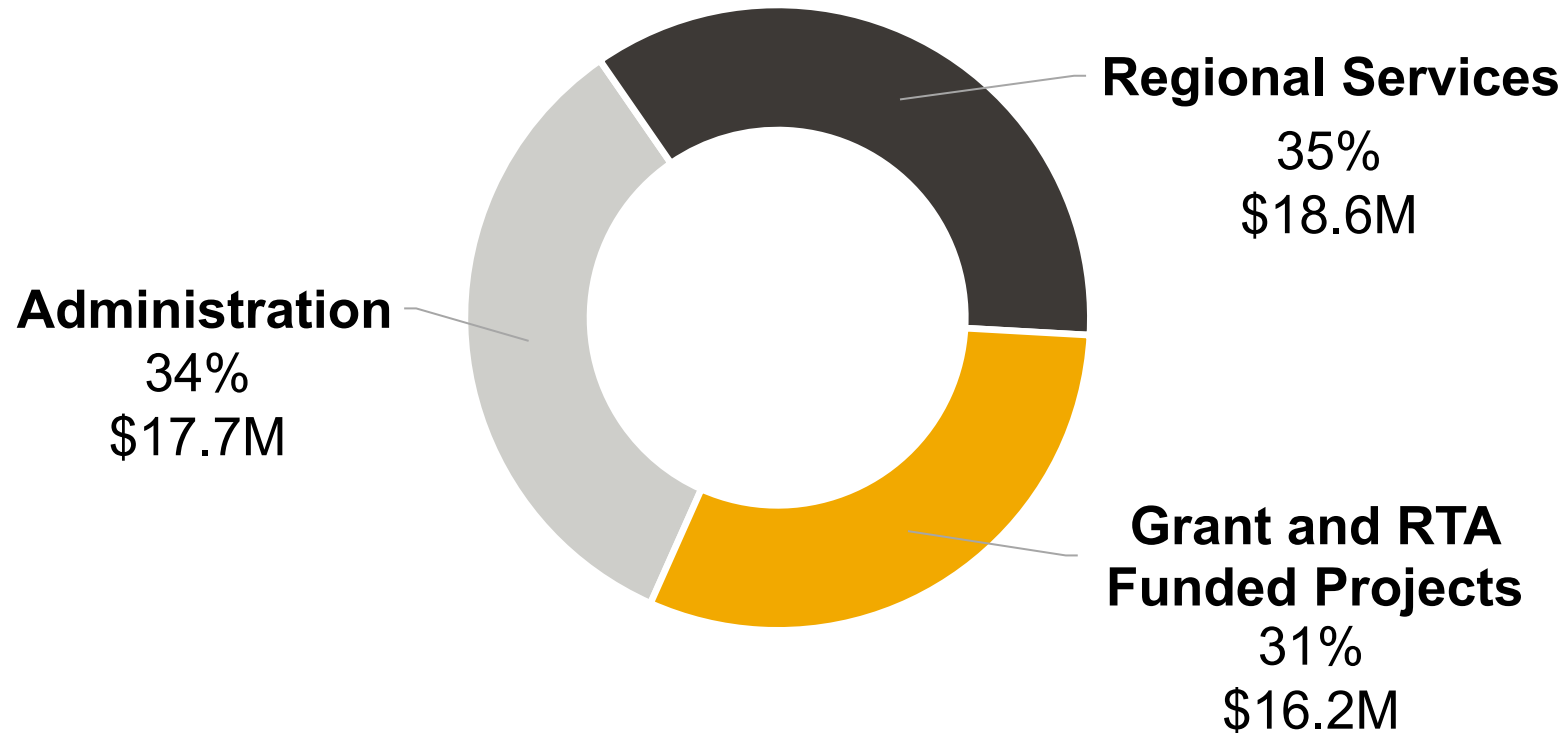
2024 RTA Agency budgeted revenue

2024 Revenues: \$52.5M



2024 RTA Agency budgeted expense

2024 Expenses: \$52.5M



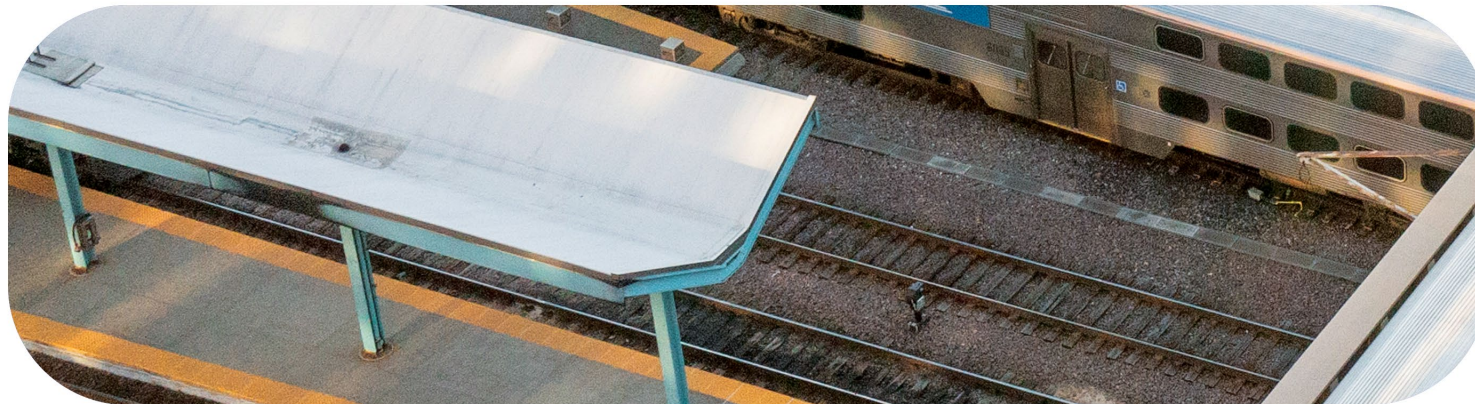
RTA Agency budget year-to-year comparison

(in millions)	2023 Adopted Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	% Change
Administrative	\$17.669	\$17.694	0.1%
Regional Programs	\$18.598	\$20.749	11.6%
Budget Total	\$36.267	\$38.443	6.0%

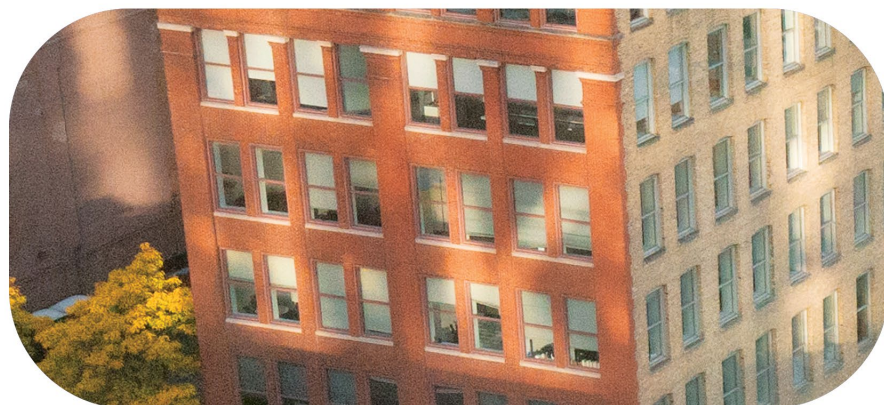


6b. *Transit is the Answer* update





LEGISLATIVE



UPDATE

2024 State Legislative agenda

- Goal: Build support for state legislative action to address the projected fiscal cliff and other RTA policy goals
- Resource for educating lawmakers and advocates about challenges, opportunities, potential solutions
- Agenda is a living document; will be updated/revised based upon feedback from legislators and stakeholders



Policy priorities

- Fully fund the region's transit system
 - Raise at least \$730M annually in new operating revenue
 - Increase levels of sustainable capital funding to meet \$3.5B need over 10 years
- Develop a funding structure less reliant on rider fares
 - Reform 50% farebox recovery ratio requirement
 - Fully fund free and reduced fare programs
 - Pilot expansion of reduced fare program to include people experiencing low-incomes

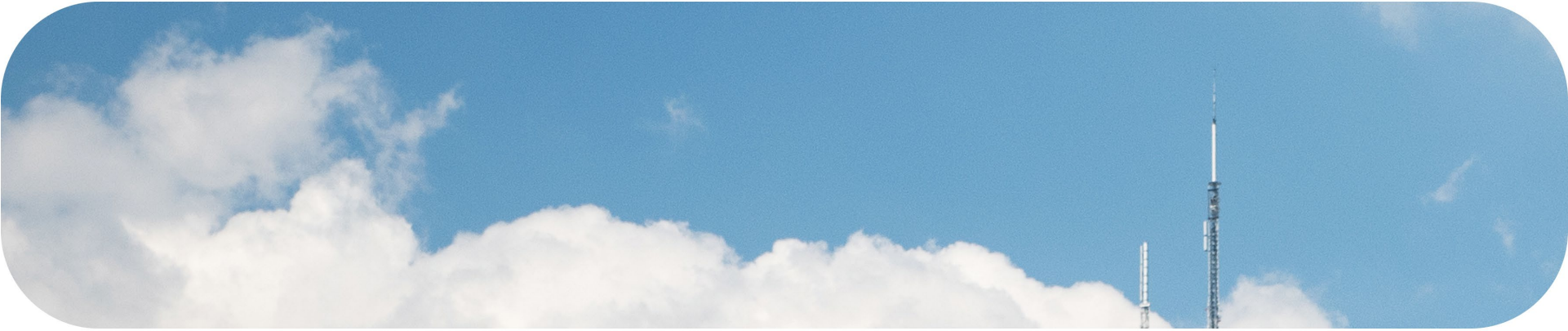
Policy priorities

- Pursue reforms and efficiencies that will improve transit operations
 - Strengthen regional approach to fare policy
 - Build on data-driven capital investment process to advance equity, mobility justice
- Pursue reforms to how state prioritizes transportation projects
 - Set statewide and regional GHG goals for transportation
 - Reform road system user fees (tolls, parking, etc.) to support transit
 - Provide additional capital funding to accelerate transition to zero-emission bus network

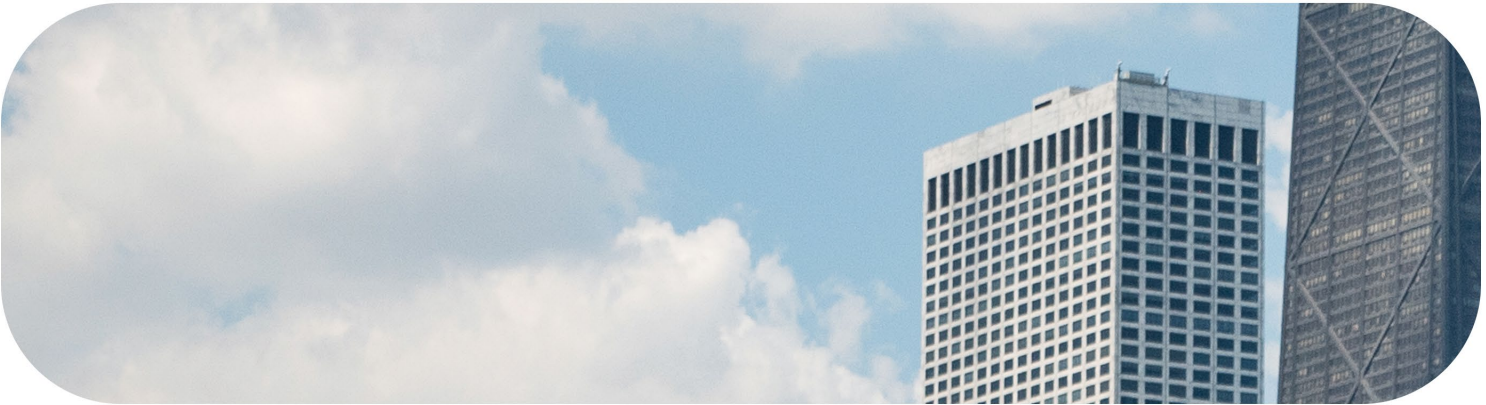
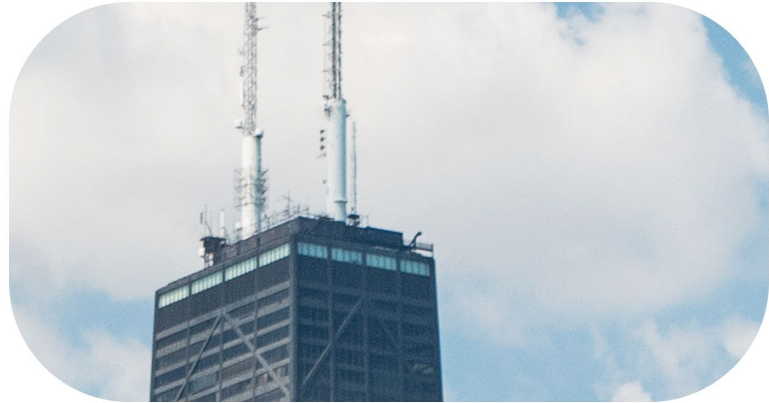
Next steps

- Gain feedback and insight from state legislative partners, *Transit is the Answer* Coalition, Citizens Advisory Board, other stakeholders
- Ongoing outreach to ILGA members, especially leadership and key committees
- Veto Session dates
 - October 24-26
 - November 7-9

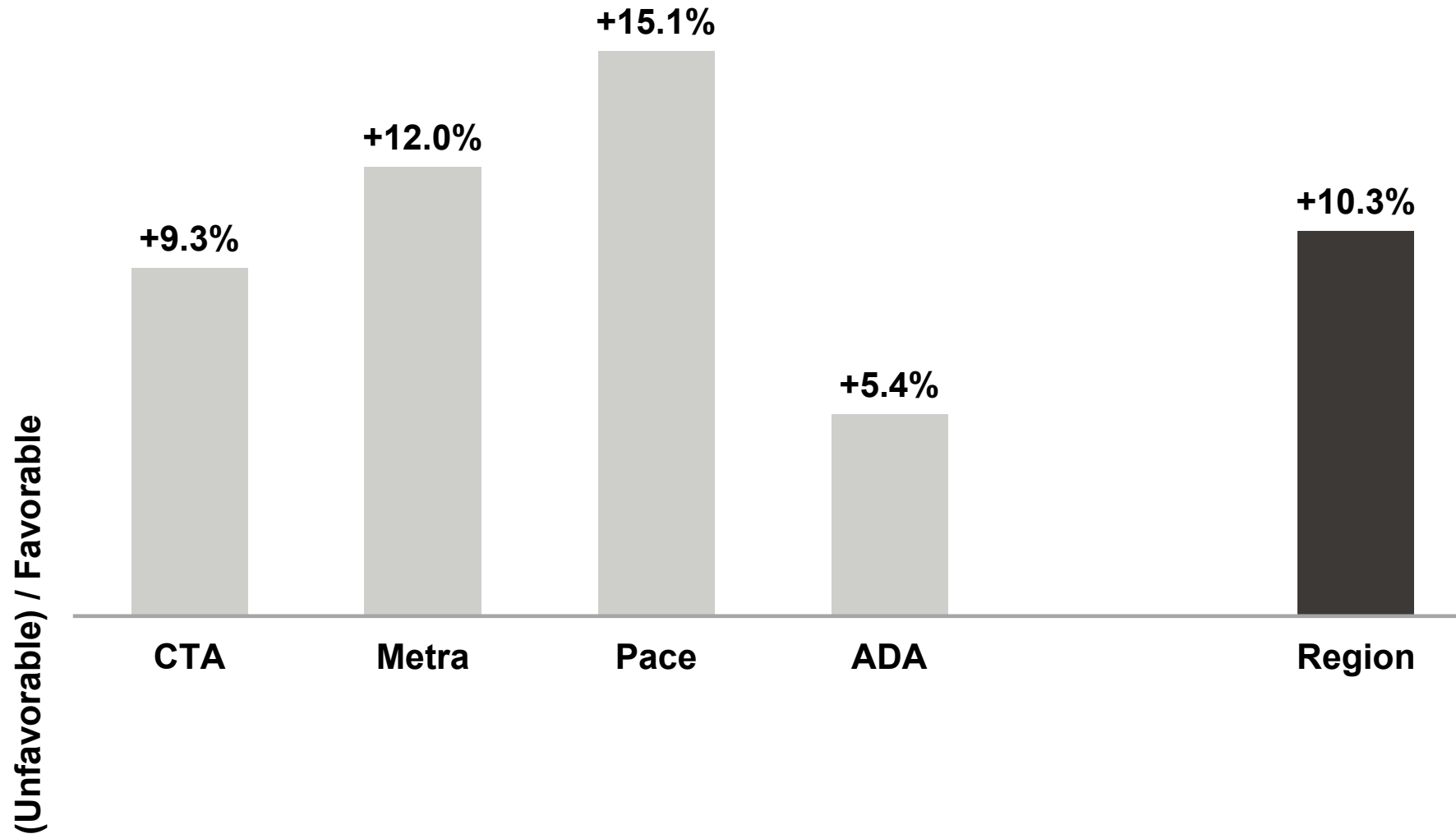




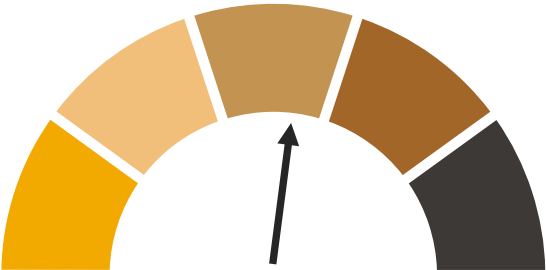
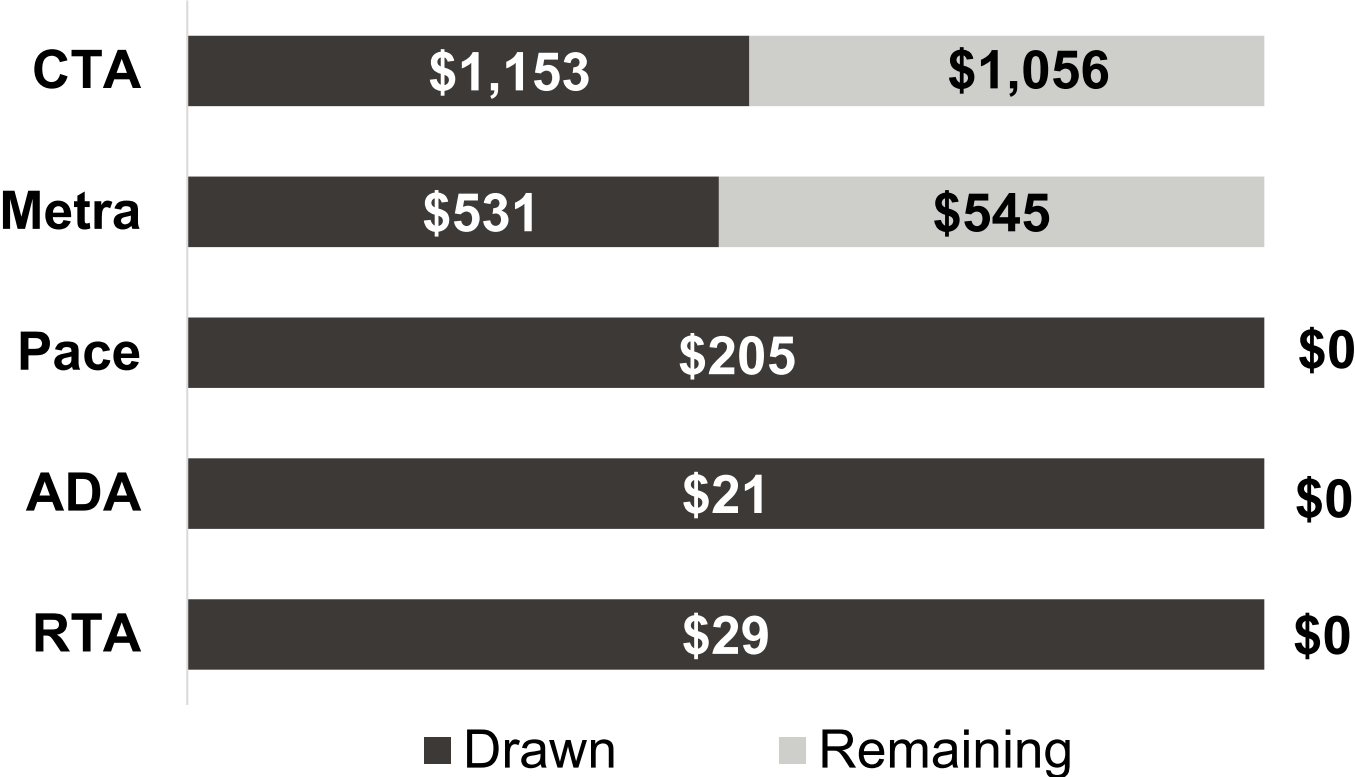
FINANCE



Operating deficit variances from budget YTD through August



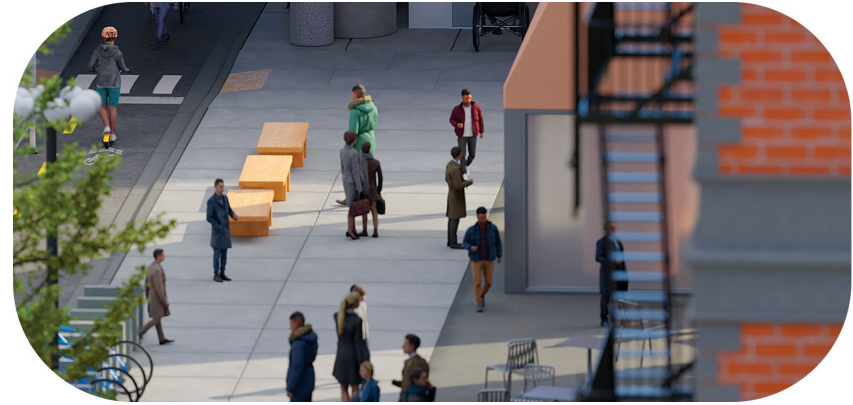
Relief funding draw (in millions)



**Region Total
Drawn = 54.8%**

**\$1.939B
of
\$3.540B**





PROJECT UPDATE



Transit is the Answer **Commitment**

Seek funding for an expanded regional free or reduced fare program available to people experiencing low incomes to make the system more affordable and advance understanding about the barriers that fares present to riders.



RTA/Metra Access Card Pilot

- Income-based reduced fare on Metra system
- RTA administering eligibility, all SNAP eligible households in the six counties qualify
- Cook County contributing \$6M to the effort, RTA and Metra also contributing funds to cover administrative costs and lost operating revenue
- Amendment with Omicron Technology Solutions, LLC. to cover administrative expenses
- With additional funding we can expand the pilot to CTA and Pace riders
- Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Federal Grant

One-Day Regional Connect Pass

- Combined one-day pass
- Builds on the successful integration of CTA and Pace fares
- Offers a lower price-point from monthly RCP

Safety and Security Summit

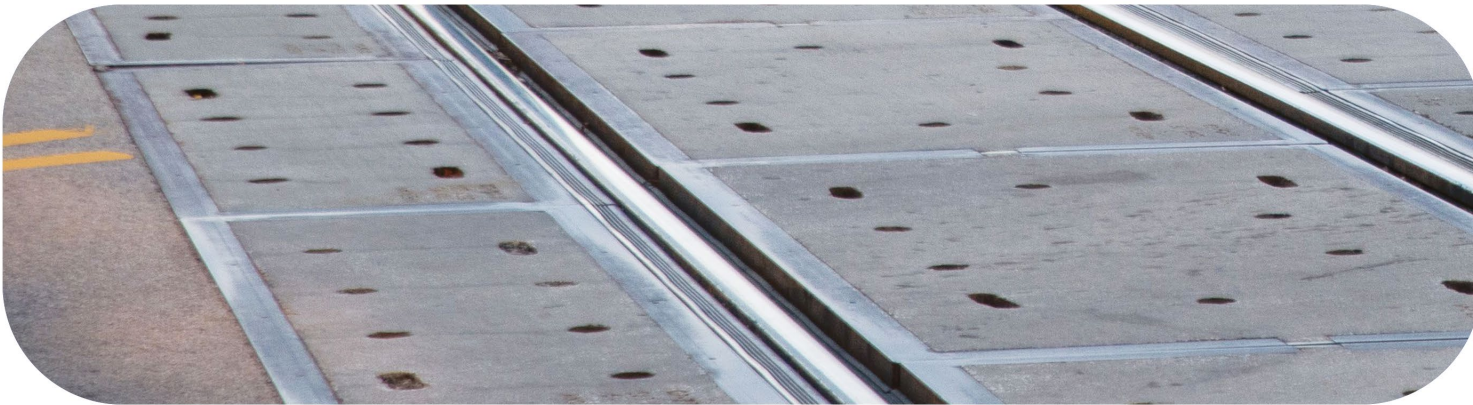
- Planning meetings with close partners continue this fall, event to take place early 2024
- Build on success we are seeing, increase and advance non-police strategies
- Activate transit champions, launch an initiative, shift the narrative

Planning projects

- Transit Friendly Communities Plan
- Regional Transit Climate Action Plan
- Travel Information for Riders



ENGAGEMENT



Transit is the Answer Coalition

- Next coalition meeting December 5th
 - In-person event at RTA offices, registration required
- Budget public hearing December 7th
 - Virtual, registration required

Questions?

7. Action items

**7a. Ordinance
authorizing updates
to the RTA's Citizens
Advisory Board
(RTACAB) bylaws and
board structure**



RTACAB restructuring

- Recommendation in *Transit is the Answer*
 - Enhanced role of RTACAB
 - Increased rider input
 - Tracking implementation of *Transit is the Answer*

RTACAB restructuring

- Current RTACAB members' input obtained
- New membership composition
 - 11 voting members
 - 10 non-voting members
- Continued quarterly meetings and board updates

7b. Resolution setting the 2024 RTA Board meeting schedule



**7c. Ordinance
authorizing a
contract amendment
with Omicron
Technology
Solutions, LLC**



7d. Approval of travel expense reimbursement(s)



8. New business

Adjournment

The next meeting of the RTA Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, November 16.

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