

# Meeting of the RTA Board of Directors

May 18, 2023

Welcome! Meeting Starts at 9 a.m.

Meeting Agenda: [rtachicago.org](https://rtachicago.org)



# 1. Call to order

# **Pledge of allegiance**



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# RTA Board of Directors meeting

2. Roll call

3. Approval of minutes

# 4. Public comment



# 5. Executive Director's report



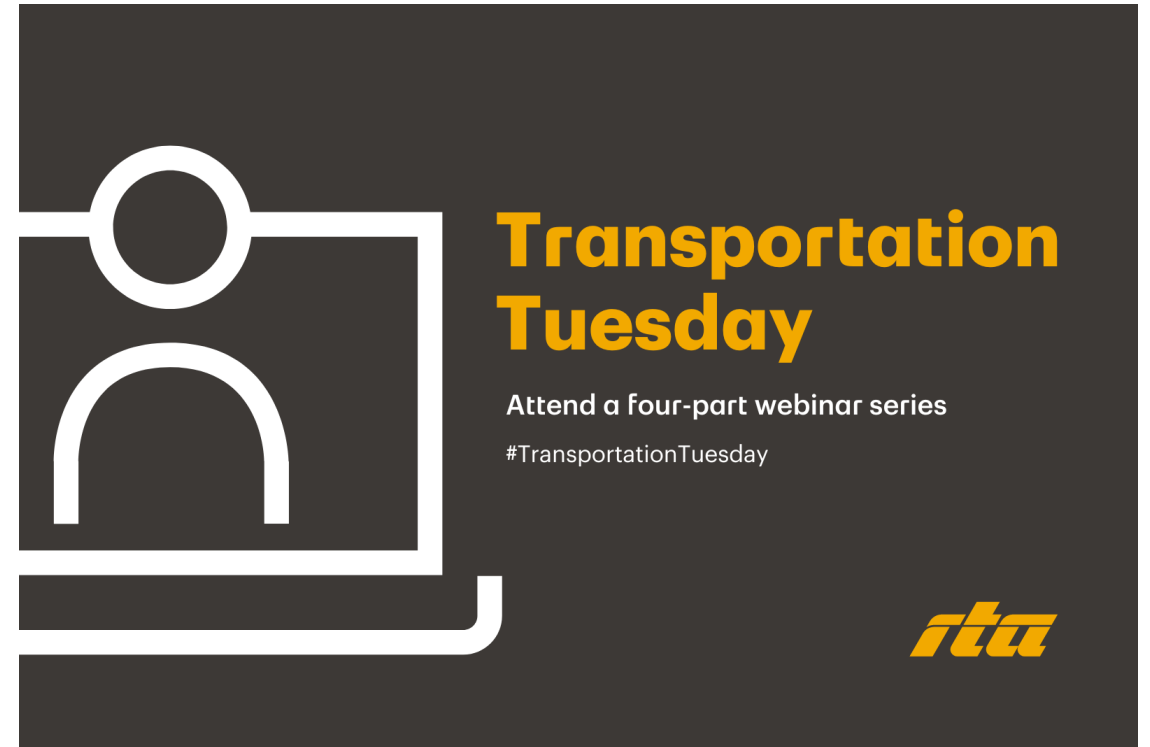
# Legislative Update



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# Transportation Tuesday

- June 6: A New Era for Chicago Transit
- June 13: Mobility Hubs
- June 20: Transit in Industrial Corridors
- June 27: Advancing a Regional Capital Strategy





# Today's agenda



# 6. Information items

# **6a. Update on the activities of the RTA Transit Access Citizens' Board**



# 6b. Transit is the Answer Update

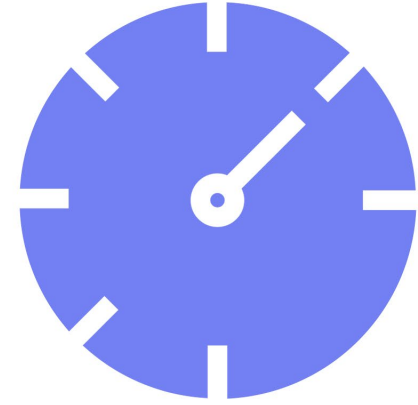
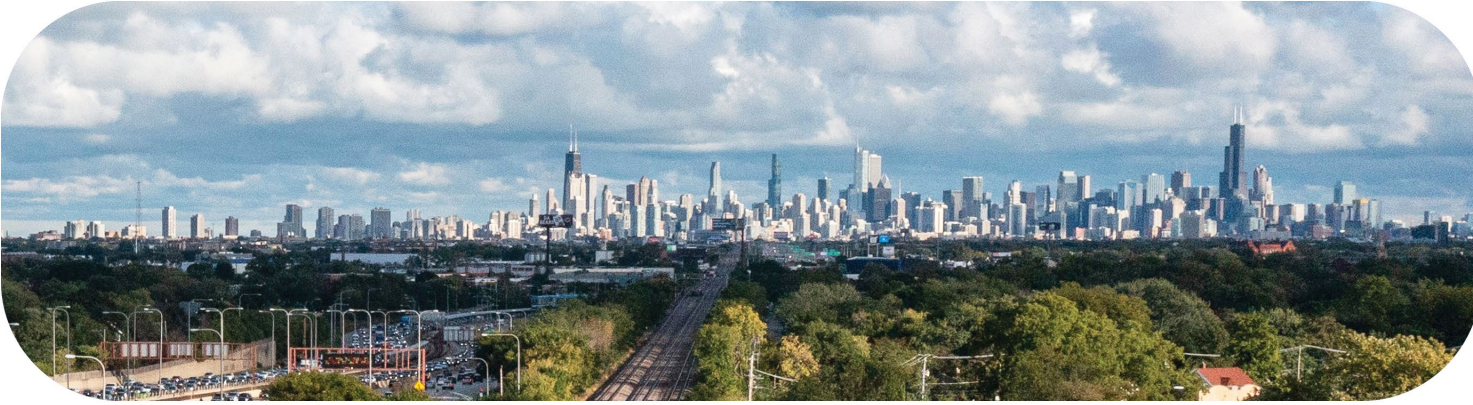


# INTRODUCTION

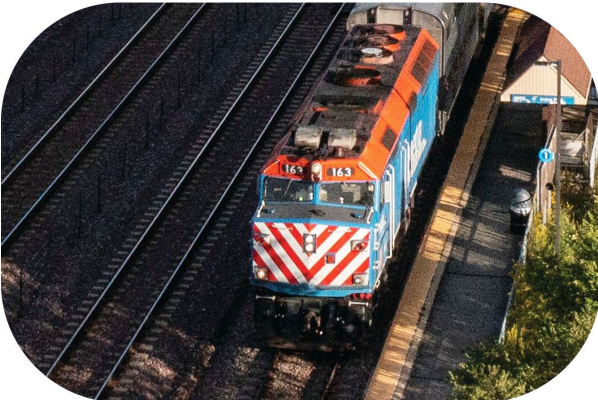
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# New format

- Monthly Update
  - Performance Measures
  - Finance
  - Legislative Update and Engagement
- Quarterly: Deep-dive on one Shared Regional Activity
  - Project update
  - Coalition and Engagement activity
  - Data and Performance Measures

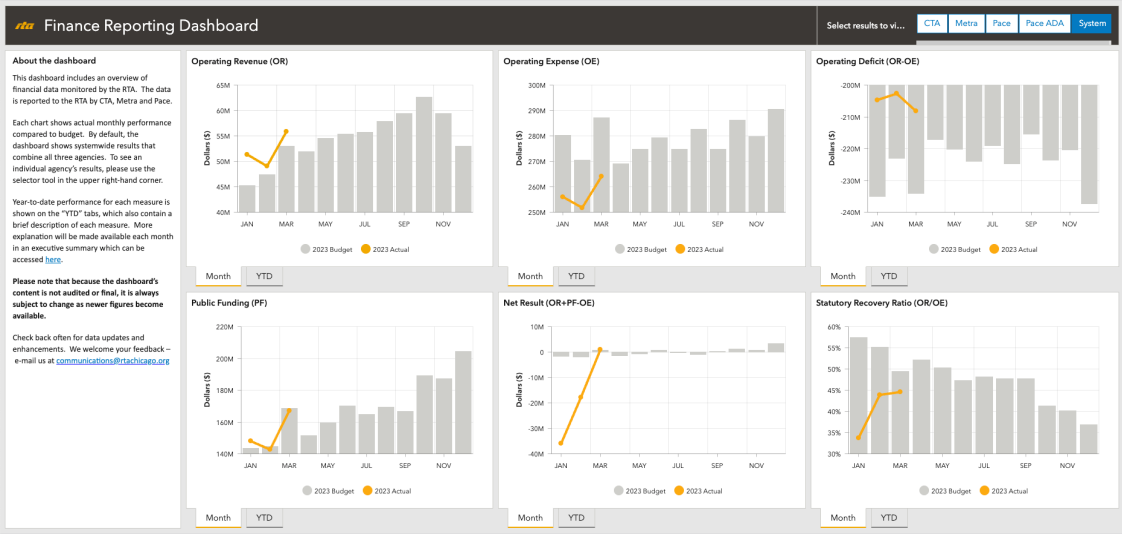


**PERFORMANCE**



**MEASURES**

# Performance Dashboards





# State of Transit Dashboard

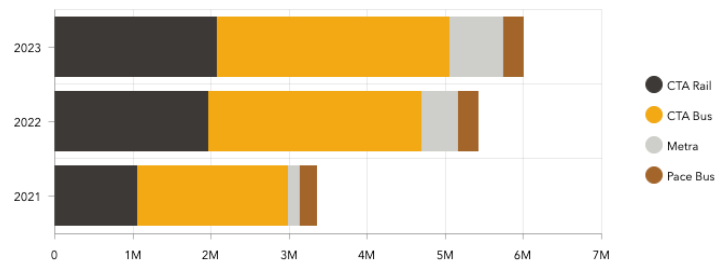
This dashboard displays the state of transit for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) service area including the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra, and Pace. Each panel will be updated as data becomes available. See the RTA website at [RTAChicago.org](http://RTAChicago.org) for more information.

**Instructions:** Select icon at top right of each panel to maximize window. Interact with the charts by hovering over the data or clicking on the legend. If available, download the data behind the chart by clicking the arrow icon at bottom left of panel.

Updated: 5/12/2023

## RIDERSHIP

Weekly ridership totals: March 13 - 19

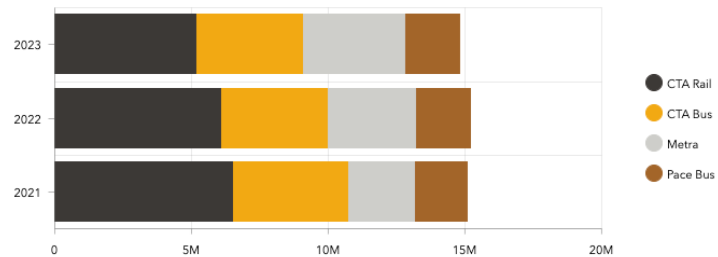


Ridership

Ridership Trend

## SUPPLY

Vehicle revenue miles: March 2023

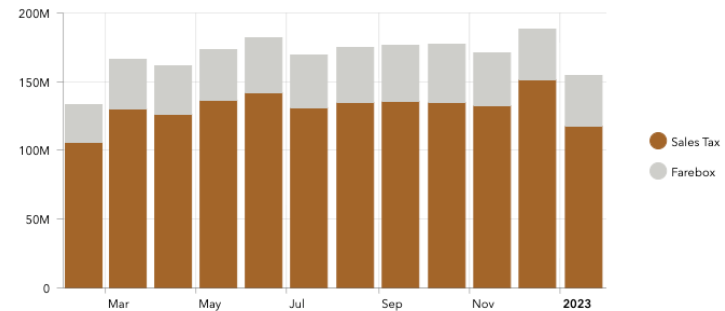


Supply

Supply Trend

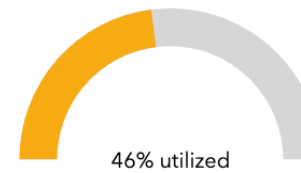
## REVENUE

Farebox and sales tax revenue



## RELIEF FUNDING

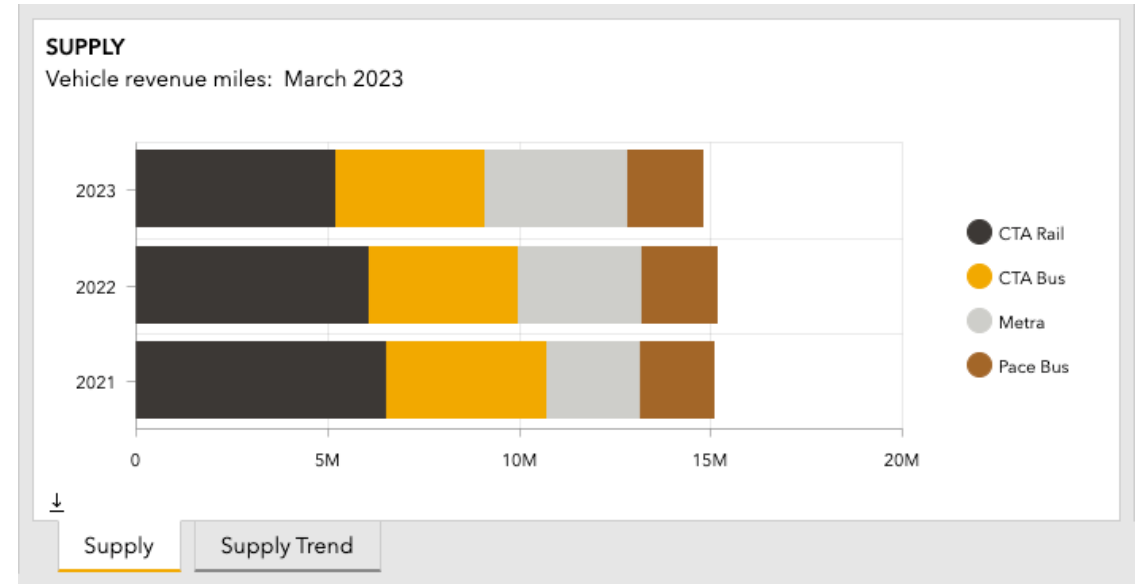
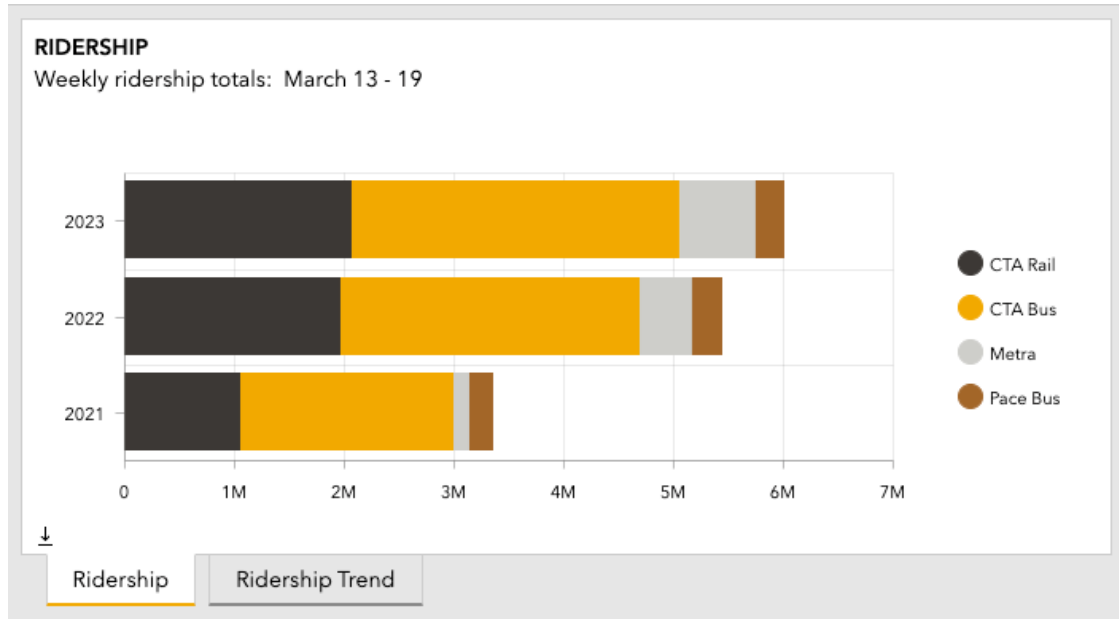
Relief funding drawdown through: March 2023



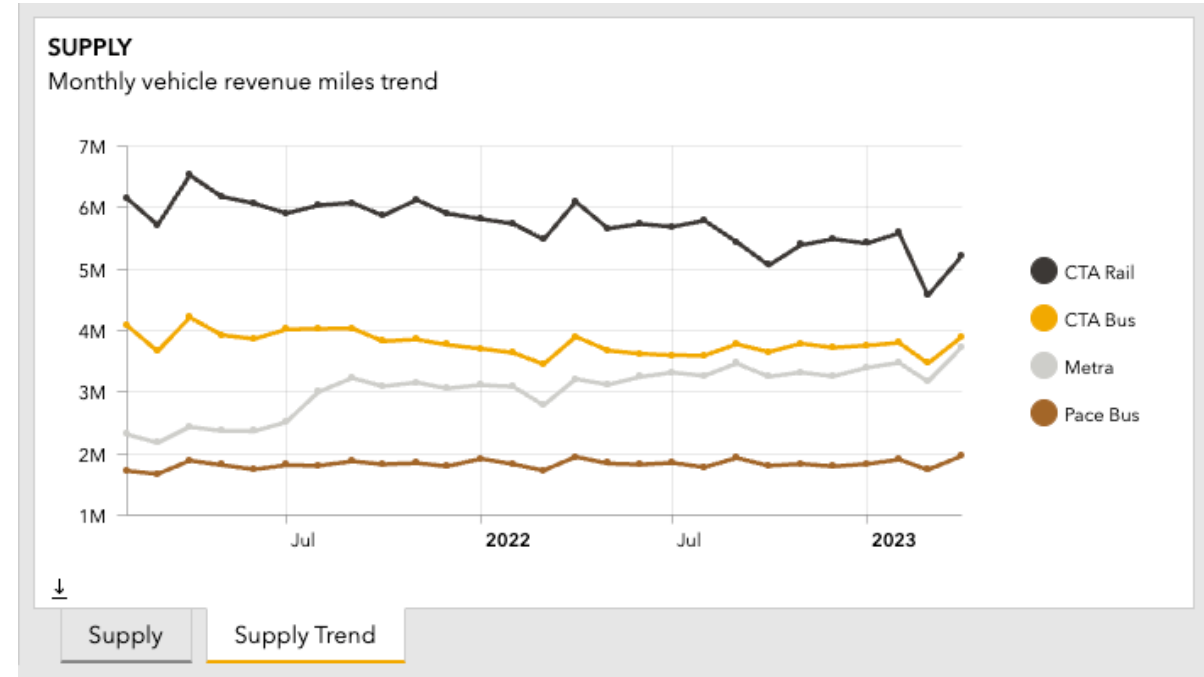
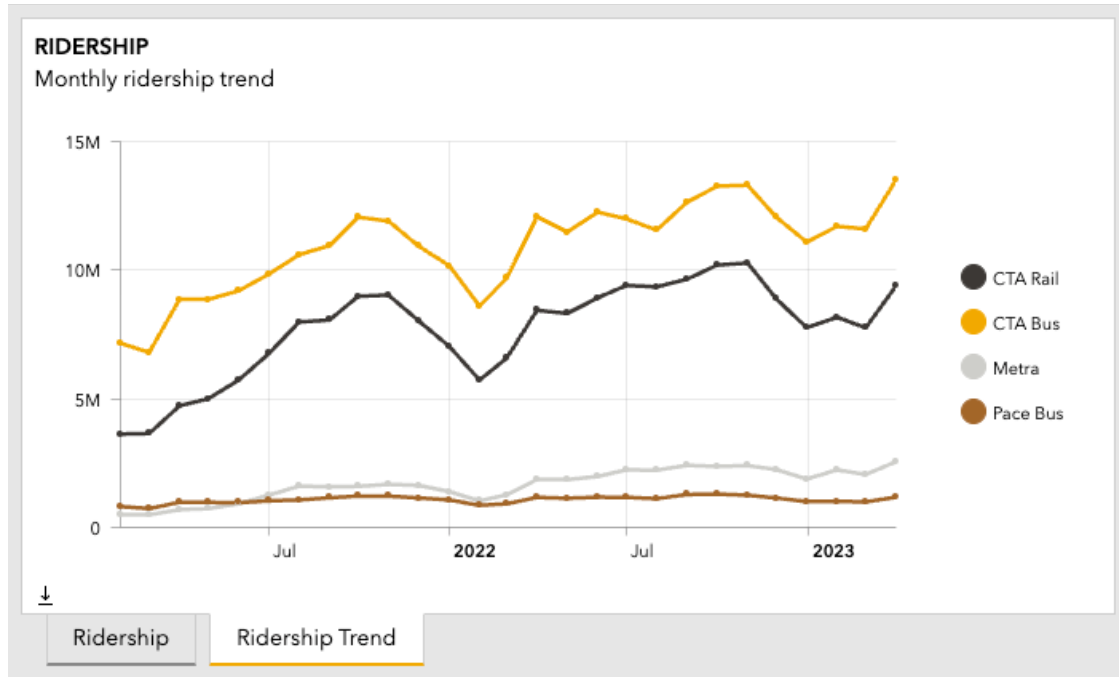
Federal Relief Funding Remaining

More Info

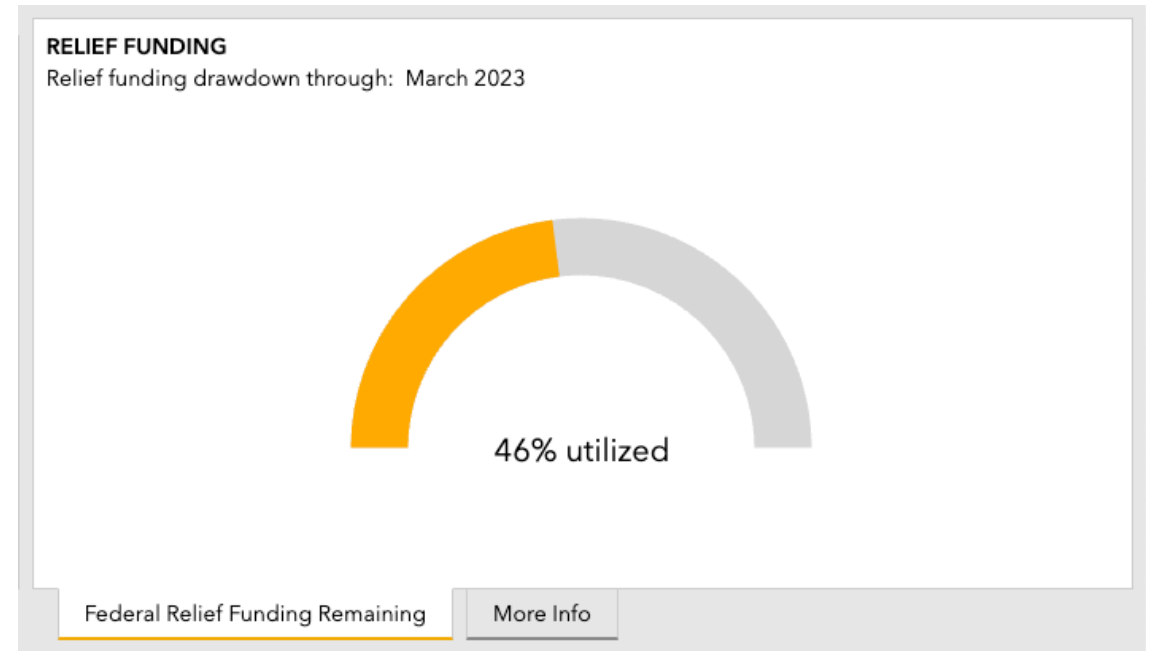
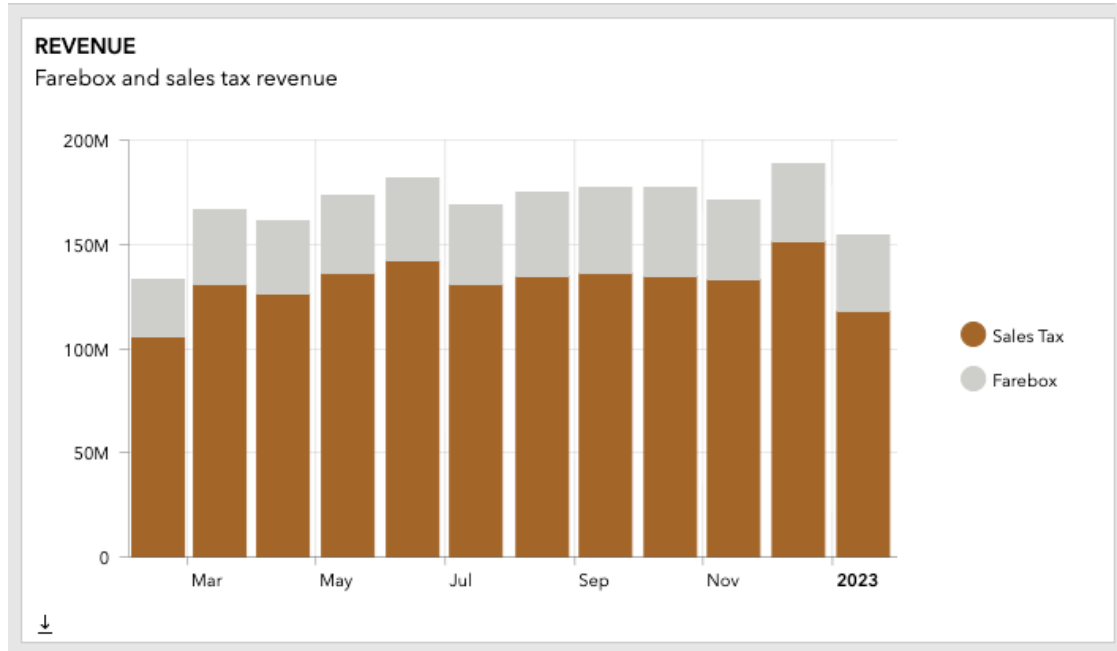
# State of Transit Dashboard



# State of Transit Dashboard



# State of Transit Dashboard



# Finance Dashboard

rta Finance Reporting Dashboard
 
 Select results to vi...
 CTA
Metra
Pace
Pace ADA
System

**About the dashboard**

This dashboard includes an overview of financial data monitored by the RTA. The data is reported to the RTA by CTA, Metra and Pace.

Each chart shows actual monthly performance compared to budget. By default, the dashboard shows systemwide results that combine all three agencies. To see an individual agency's results, please use the selector tool in the upper right-hand corner.

Year-to-date performance for each measure is shown on the "YTD" tabs, which also contain a brief description of each measure. More explanation will be made available each month in an executive summary which can be accessed [here](#).

Please note that because the dashboard's content is not audited or final, it is always subject to change as newer figures become available.

Check back often for data updates and enhancements. We welcome your feedback – e-mail us at [communications@rtachicago.org](mailto:communications@rtachicago.org)

**Operating Revenue (OR)**

● 2023 Budget ● 2023 Actual

Month YTD

**Operating Expense (OE)**

● 2023 Budget ● 2023 Actual

Month YTD

**Operating Deficit (OR-OE)**

● 2023 Budget ● 2023 Actual

Month YTD

**Public Funding (PF)**

● 2023 Budget ● 2023 Actual

Month YTD

**Net Result (OR+PF-OE)**

● 2023 Budget ● 2023 Actual

Month YTD

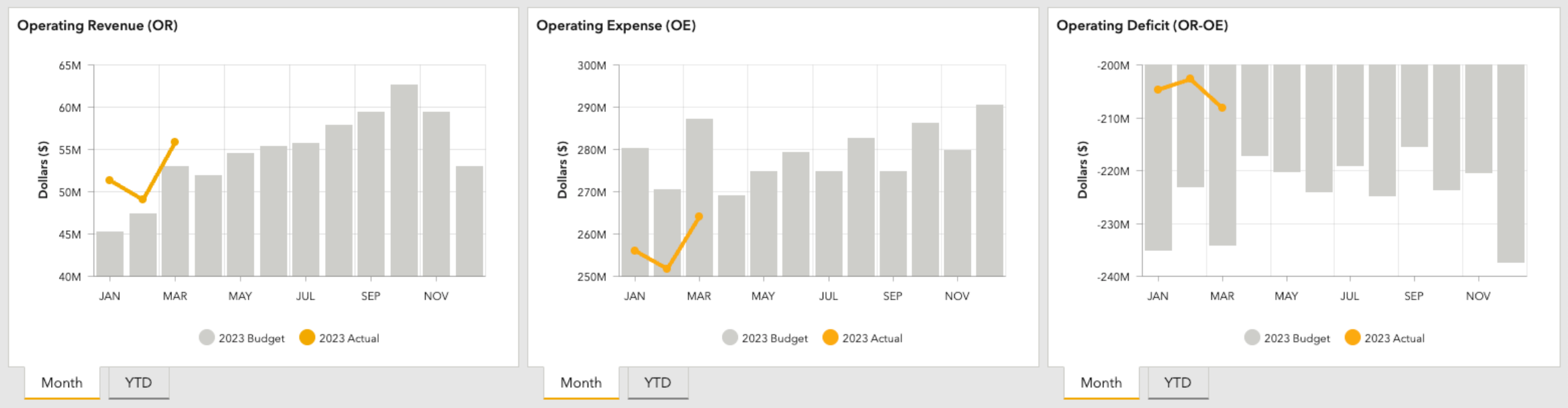
**Statutory Recovery Ratio (OR/OE)**

● 2023 Budget ● 2023 Actual

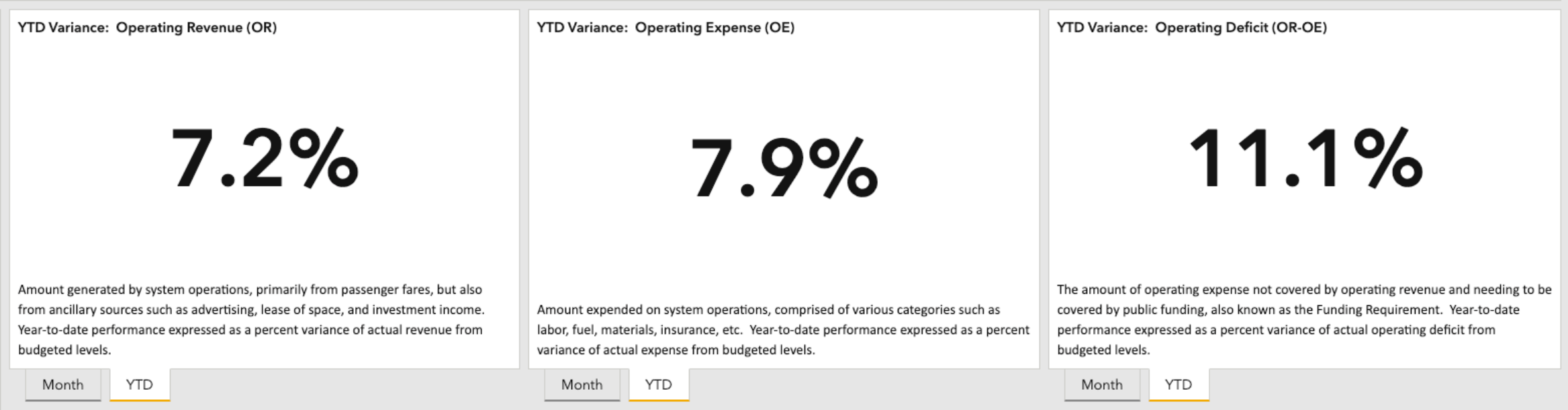
Month YTD

21

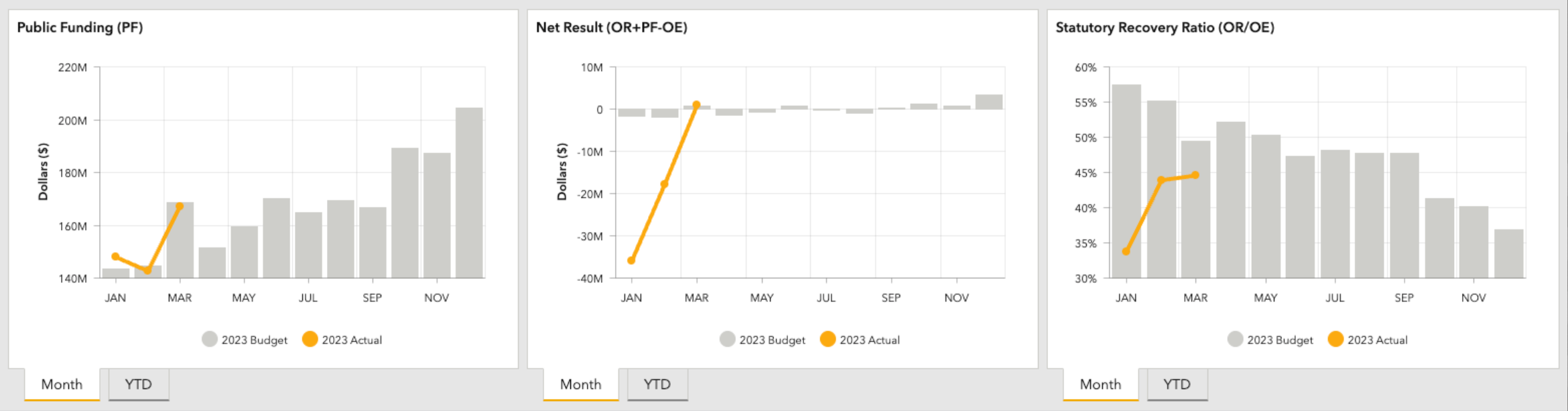
# Finance Dashboard



# Finance Dashboard

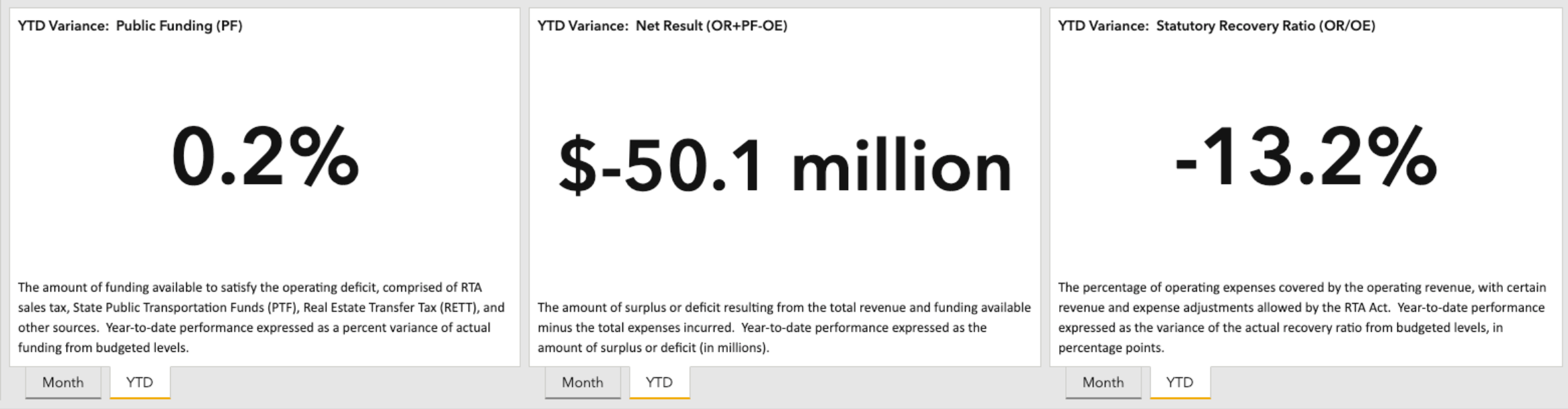


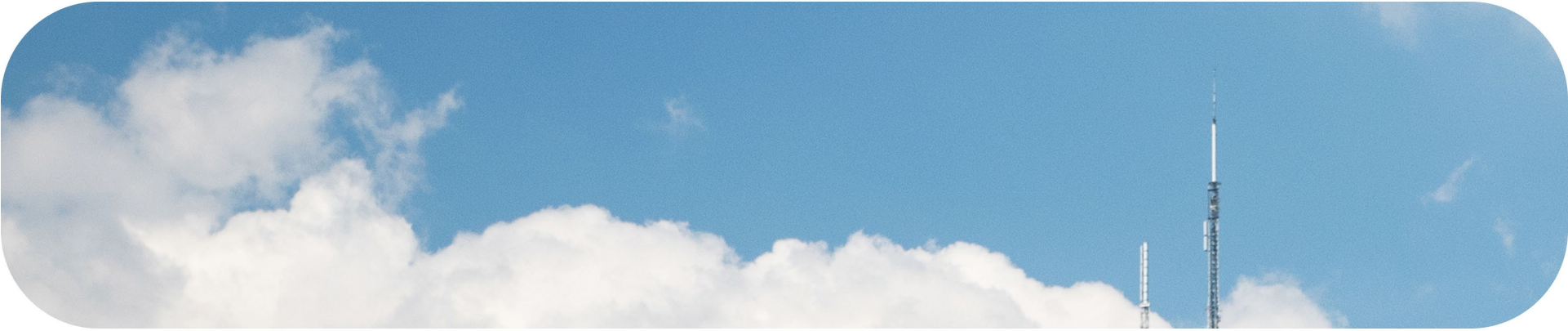
# Finance Dashboard



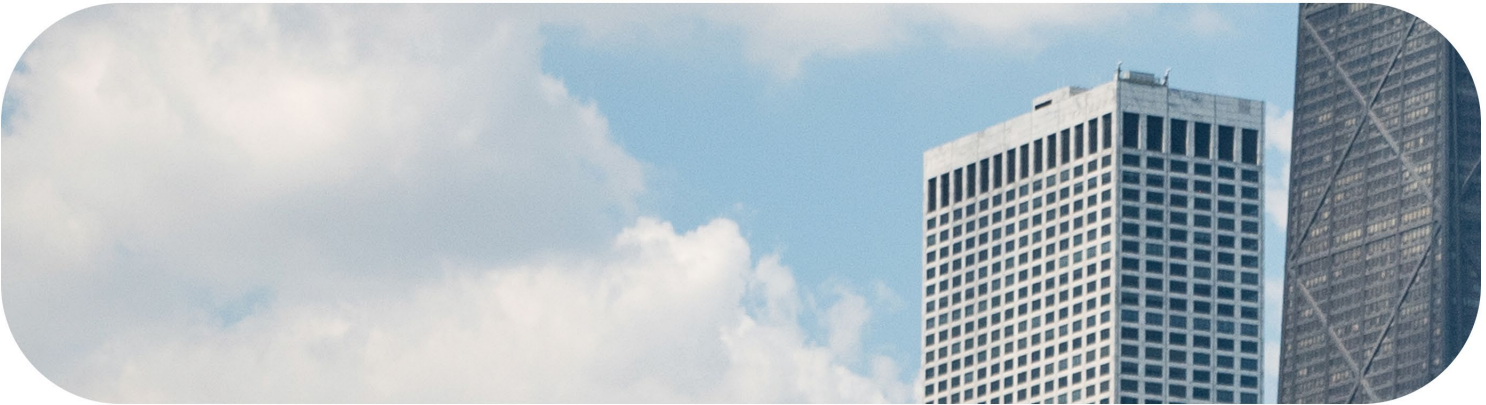


# Finance Dashboard

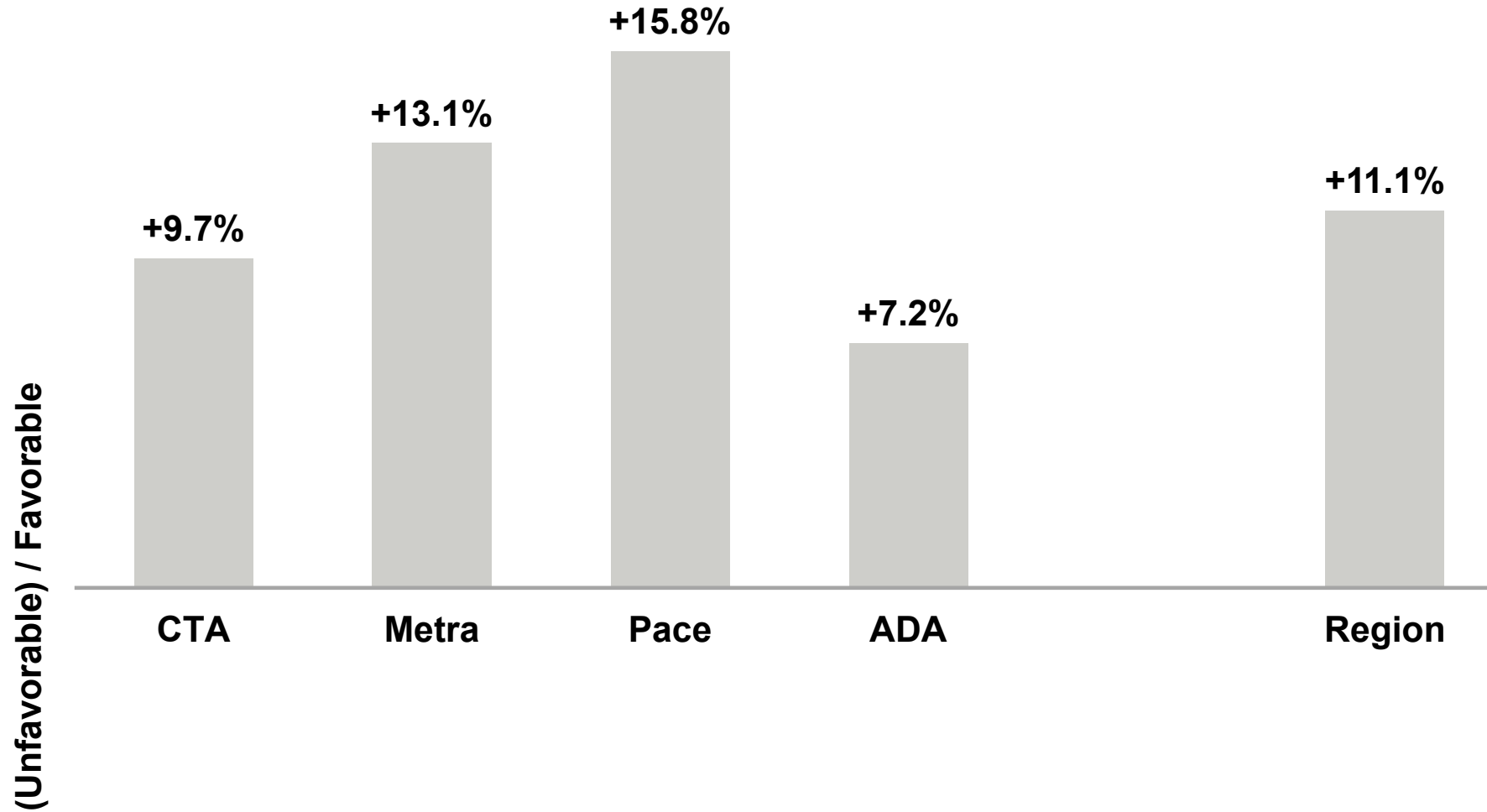




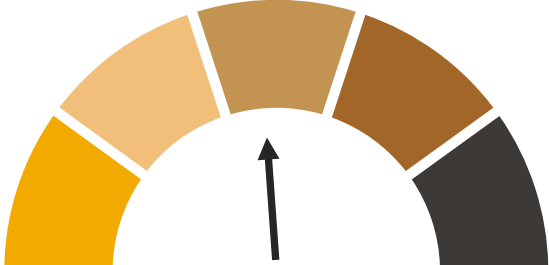
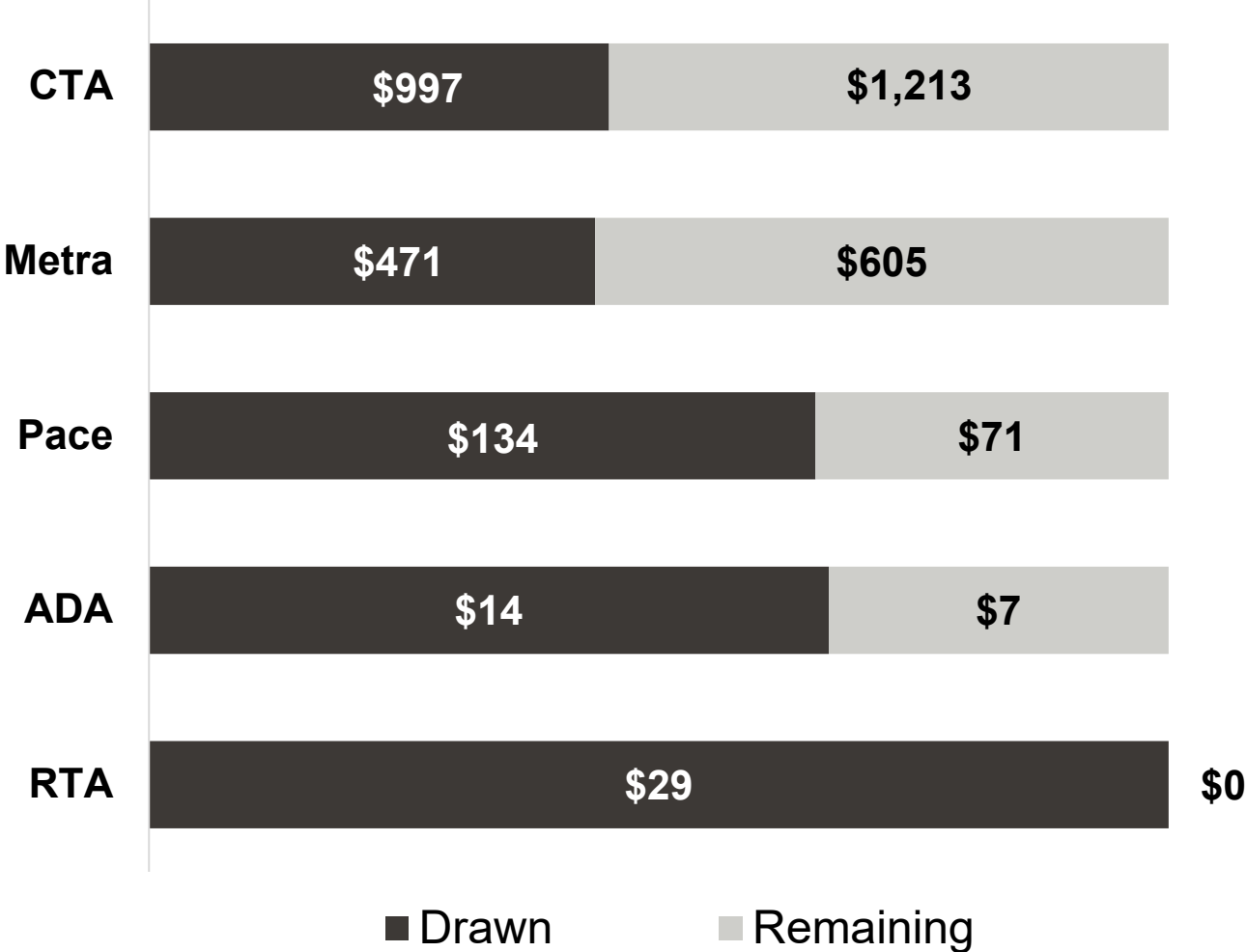
**FINANCE**



# Operating deficit variances from budget YTD through March



# Relief funding drawn (in millions)



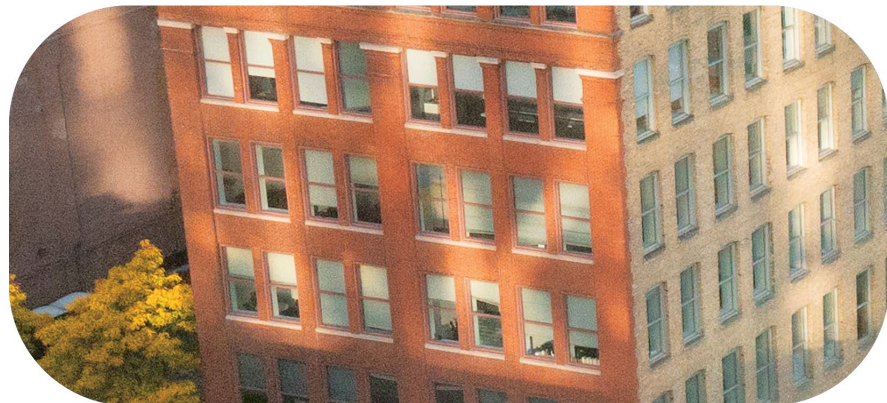
**Region Total Drawn = 46.4%**

**\$1.644B  
of  
\$3.540B**





**LEGISLATIVE**



**UPDATE**

# Legislative and stakeholder engagement update

- Working with partners at every level to implement *Transit is the Answer* Advocacy and Action Agenda
  - Chicagoland Chamber board presentation
  - End of session in Springfield
  - Kane / Kendall County Council of Mayors
  - Pace and Metra board and CAB presentations



# City of Chicago mayoral transition

- Key issues for transportation subcommittee
  - Promote transit to residents and visitors
  - Advocate for sustainable funding for regional transit system
  - Advance network of bus rapid transit





# ENGAGEMENT

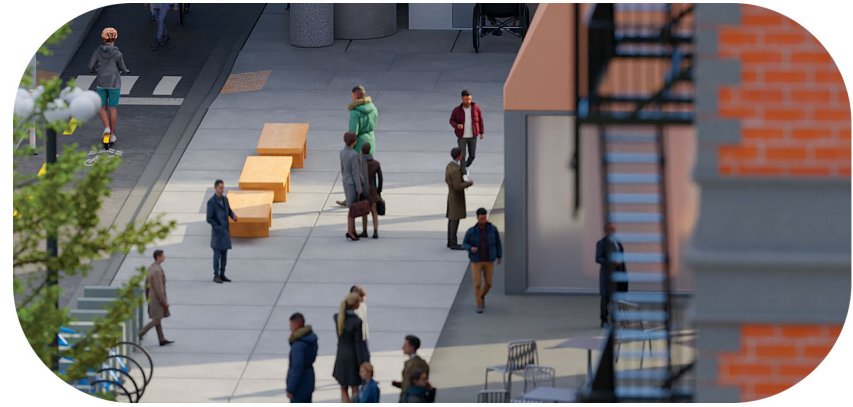




# Coalition kickoff and first meeting

- More than 100 initial members
  - 37 stakeholder groups represented
  - Staff from nearly every county and council government, and several municipalities
  - All Service Boards participated
  - 50+ riders and volunteer advocates





# PROJECT UPDATE



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# Deep-Dive

**Project Description:** Secure funding to expand the existing regional free or reduced fare program to make it available to people experiencing low incomes; to make the system more affordable and advance our understanding about the barriers that fares present to riders.

# 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.



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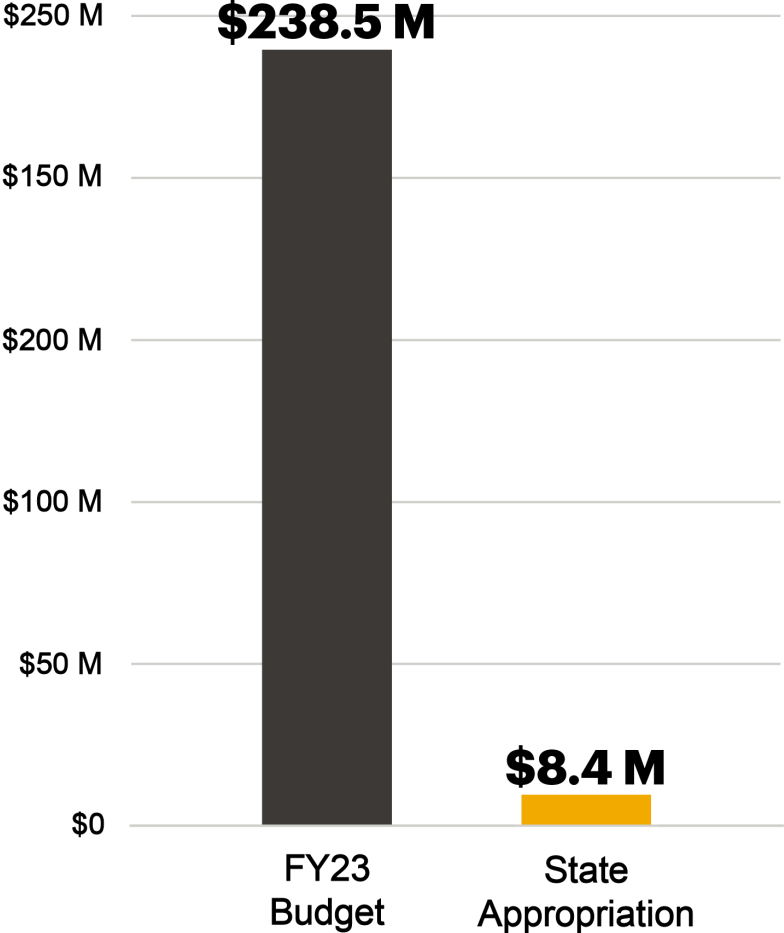
# Existing Programs for People with Disabilities, Seniors, and Students

- Pace ADA Paratransit Service
- RTA Free and Reduced Fare Programs for CTA, Metra, and Pace riders
- CTA, Metra, and Pace student fares

# Limited public funding

## Pace ADA Paratransit Services

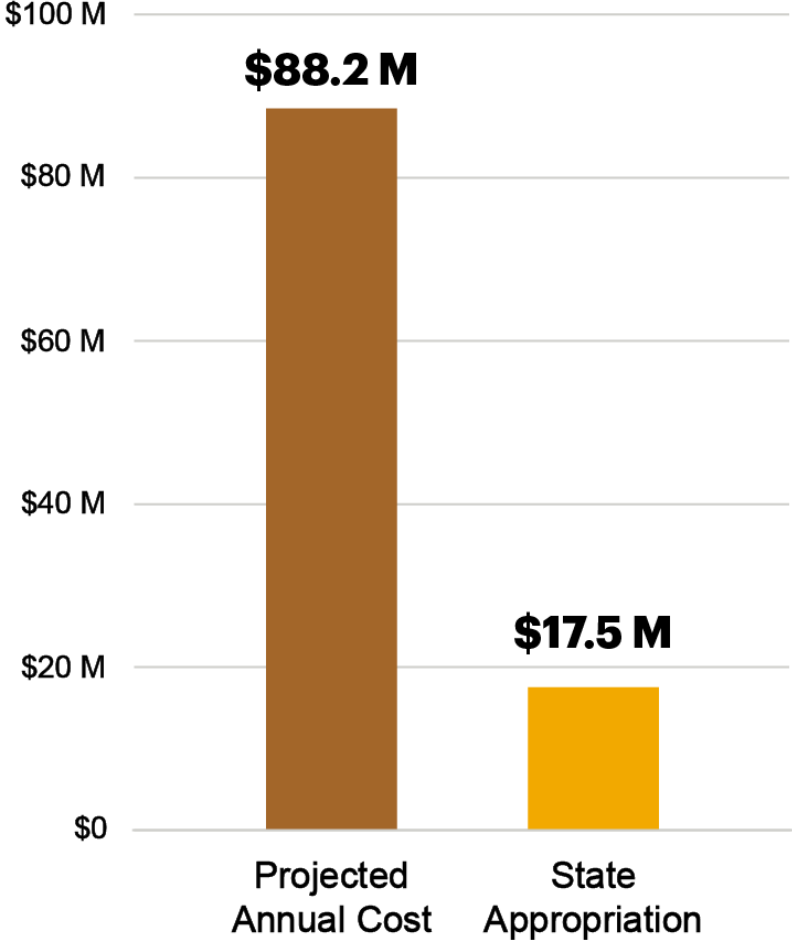
- Projected Annual Trips: 4 million (95% of pre-COVID trip demand)



# Limited public funding

## Free and Reduced Fare Programs

- People Enrolled: 325,000



# Legislative Strategy: fully fund before expanding

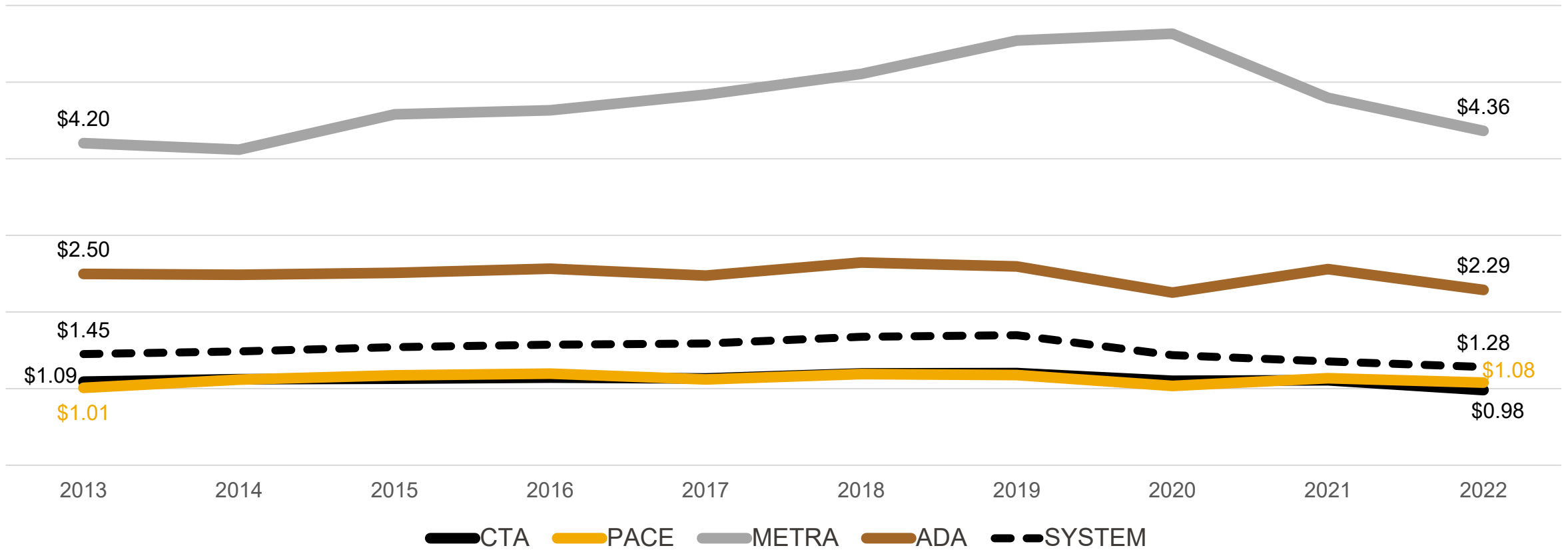
- Expanding popular free or reduced fare programs could allow more people to access essential service
- Any expansion should start with fully funding existing programs
- Additional state support to maintain and expand these programs would be important step towards a more sustainable and equitable operating budget





# Average fares: 10-year trend

## INFLATION-ADJUSTED AVERAGE FARE (2013-2022)



# Expansion options



- **Income Based Program**: Provide free or reduced fare rides to people experiencing low incomes.



- **Geography Based Program**: Provide free or reduced fare rides to people on select train lines or bus routes in parts of the region where people experiencing low incomes frequently ride.



- **Free for Select Riders Program**: Provide free rides to select groups of residents, like students or youth.



- **Universal and Modal Programs**: Make all transit trips fare-free or make all trips on certain modes (e.g., all bus trips) fare-free.

# Factors to consider

- Equity/impact
- Ease of implementation
- Cost
- Ridership and operations impacts



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# What we heard

- Income based programs would be most equitable
- Geography based can address historic disinvestment
- Build on success of Fair Transit South Cook
- Consider burden of proving eligibility

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# Questions, comments & next steps

- Continued engagement
- Internal planning and preparation
- Products: white paper

# 7. Action items

# **7a. Resolutions certifying financial results – First Quarter 2023**



# **7b. Amendment of the 2023-2027 Capital Program**





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# 2023-2027 Funding changes (in millions)

<b>2023-2027 Capital Program Funding Changes</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Chicago Transit Authority	\$2,937.09	\$11.19	\$2,948.28
Metra	\$2,028.11	\$77.07	\$2,105.18
Pace	\$381.73	\$0.00	\$381.73
<b>2023-2027 Capital Program Total Available</b>	<b>\$5,346.92</b>	<b>\$88.26</b>	<b>\$5,435.19</b>

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# Capital funds added (in millions)

<b>2023-2027 Capital Program</b>	<b>New Funds</b>	<b>Reprogrammed Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Chicago Transit Authority	(\$0.83)	\$12.02	\$11.19
Metra	\$68.10	\$9.38	\$77.07
Pace	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>2023-2027 Capital Program Total</b>	<b>\$67.27</b>	<b>\$21.40</b>	<b>\$88.26</b>

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# Federal formula funds

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## Timeline

July: Estimated Allocations are shared with the Service Boards and region

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Fall: Service Boards propose projects for public and board review and board adoption

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Winter: FTA releases actual formula fund allocations

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March: RTA suballocates funding to Northwest Indiana and Southeast Wisconsin

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March: RTA calculates service board allocations

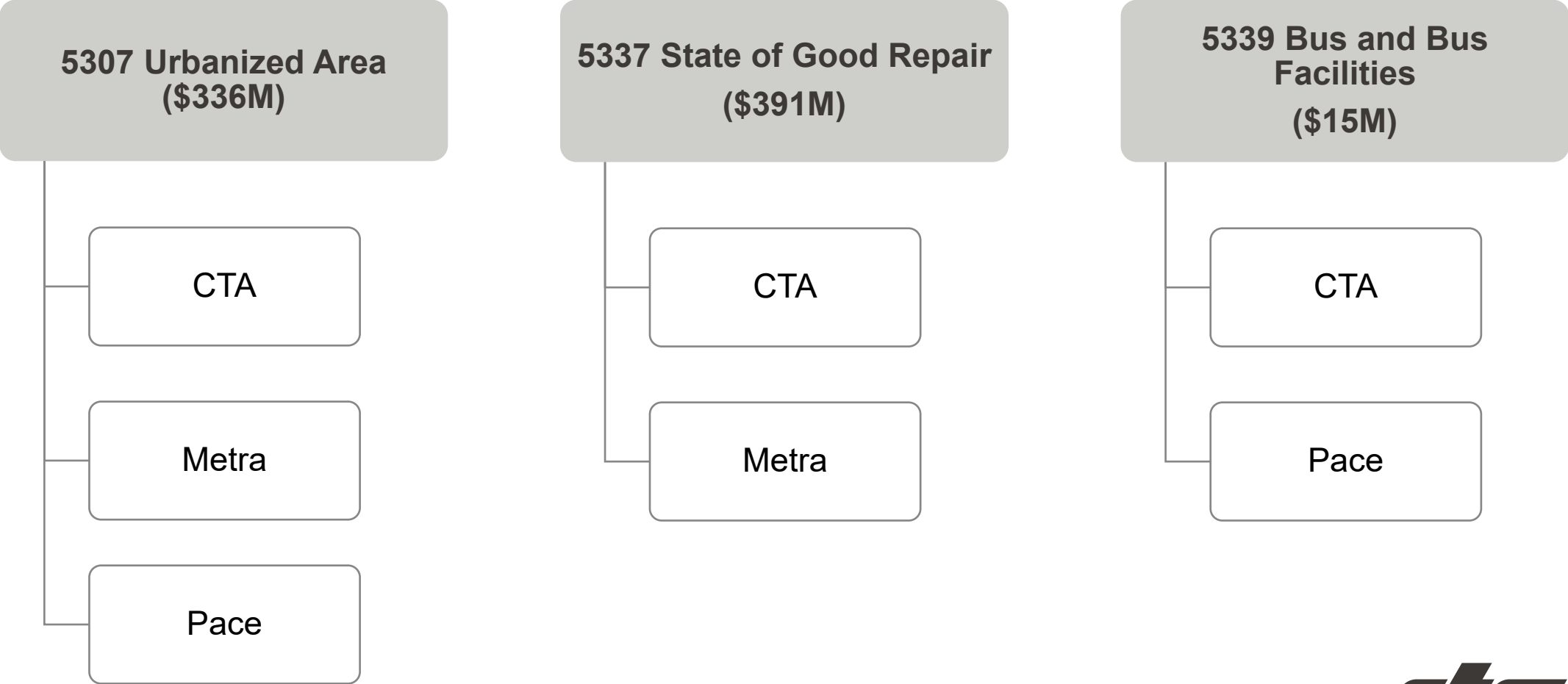
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May/June: Service Boards amend the capital program based on the actual allocation

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# Federal formula funds – region total \$741M



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# Metra: 59<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> Street Station – University of Chicago

- \$37.6M All Stations Accessibility Grant
- Improvements include:
  - Accessibility Improvements including new elevators
  - Platform and headhouse replacements
  - New lighting, speakers and signage



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# Metra: 95<sup>th</sup> Street Station – Chicago State University

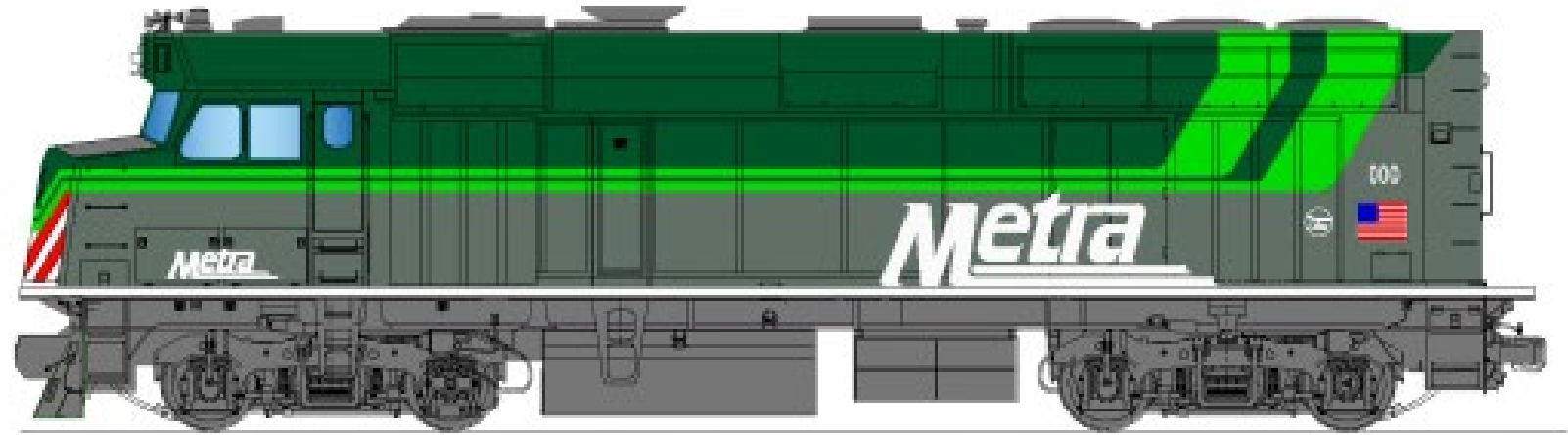
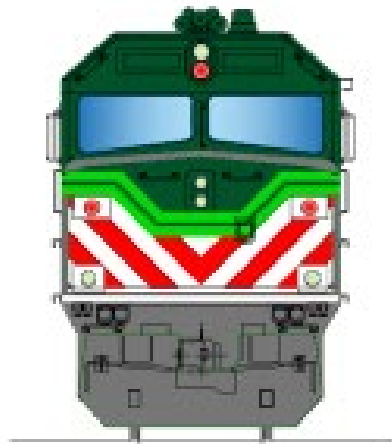
- \$29.0M All Stations Accessibility Grant
- Improvements include:
  - Accessibility improvements including 2 new elevators
  - Platform and stairway replacements
  - Heated waiting areas



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# Metra: battery powered locomotives

- \$1.5M Transit Investment Grant
  - Pilot program for zero-emission locomotives on the Rock Island Line
  - Plans to convert existing locomotives to battery power



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## **Proposed Ordinance for approval**

- Amendment to the 2023-2027 Capital Program



**7c. Ordinance approving  
the 2024 Budget Call for  
the Annual Operating  
Budget, Two-Year  
Financial Plan, and Five-  
Year Capital Program**



# Budget Call - purpose

- Defines budget and program development process
- Identifies statutory and other requirements
- Sets budget calendar and deadlines
- Conforms to budget criteria set forth in the RTA Act
- Supports the adopted regional Strategic Plan



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# Budget Call – key components

- Regional economic outlook
- Statement of revenues and expenses
- Operating statistics
- Recovery ratio calculations
- Federal funding utilization
- Capital program projects



# New considerations for 2024-2028

- Adopted Strategic Plan is in place
- Temporary recovery ratio relief only thru 2023
- Two-year Financial Plan now includes 2026
- Federal relief funding longevity
- New capital project evaluation process
- Earlier deadline for draft capital projects



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# 2024-2028 Capital Program Call

- Projects will continue to be grouped based on the 10-year priorities submitted by the Service Boards
- PAYGO and FTA formula funds allocated based on board approved performance-based capital allocation process for 2025 and beyond
- Projects to be evaluated using new measures included in Transit is the Answer
- Capital submittals are due September 29 to allow for RTA review of project evaluations



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# Evaluation themes and metrics



## Access to key destinations

The degree to which a project improves regional access to the region's key destinations. Including jobs, retail, healthcare, recreation, and education.



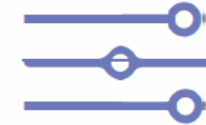
## Equity based on residential geography

The distribution of project benefits to location(s) identified under the USDOT Justice40 Program.



## Benefits to riders

The project's minor or major benefits to riders and what proportion of the agency's riders will benefit from it.



## Capacity benefit and need

The project impact on overall capacity, reflecting current and planned levels of utilization.

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# Evaluation themes and metrics



## **Economic impact**

Project impacts on land use and development, construction, and long-term jobs.



## **Service speed and reliability**

Project impact on maintenance or improvement of service speed and reliability, considering both direct and indirect impacts.



## **Regulatory impact**

If required, whether or not the project complies with federal, state, local, or other regulatory mandates.



## **Operating costs**

The project impact on operating costs.

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# Evaluation themes and metrics



## **Accessibility for people with disabilities**

The project improvements to existing assets to make them partially or fully accessible. Including station/stop and area improvements, vehicle accessibility, and accessible communications.



## **Safety and security**

The project impact to maintenance or improvement of exposure to risk for riders/employees and the project impact to security enhancement.



## **Climate impact**

Ridership/mode shift impacts — the project impact to climate benefits, such as a reduction in emissions, generated from mode shift to transit and away from private auto-use.

Agency operating impacts — the project impact on reductions or offsets to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated from transit operations.



## **State of good repair**

Asset condition — the project impact to ratings from the FTA Transit Economic Requirements Model (TERM).

Vehicle useful life — the project impact to average vehicle ages, compared with Service Board benchmarks to prioritize replacing vehicles that are beyond their useful life.



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# Proposed budget calendar

- May 18 Board Adoption of Budget Call
- Early July Release of Preparatory Funding Amounts
- July 14 Service Board Submittals of Capital Funding Estimates
- Aug 4 Preliminary Capital Funding Amounts Released
- Sep 14 RTA Board Considers Adoption of 2024-2028 Funding Amounts
- Sep 29 Early Deadline for Capital Projects Draft (Exhibit G)
- Oct 13 Deadline for Service Board Budget Submittals to RTA
- Oct/Nov Service Board Budget and Capital Program Public Hearings
- Nov 15 Statutory Date for Service Board Adopted Budget Submissions
- Nov 16 Service Boards Present Budgets at RTA Board Meeting
- Nov/Dec RTA Regional Budget and Capital Program Public Hearings (date TBD)
- Dec 14 Budget and Capital Program Considered for Adoption

**7d. Ordinance  
Authorizing the  
Purchase of Excess  
Liability Insurance  
Policies by the RTA's  
Loss Financing Plan /  
Joint Self-Insurance  
Fund**



# **7e. Approval of travel expense reimbursement(s)**



# 8. New business

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# Adjournment

The next meeting of the RTA Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, June 15.

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## Stay connected

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 [Youtube.com/RTAChicagoLand](https://www.youtube.com/RTAChicagoLand)