

# Meeting of the RTA Board of Directors

February 15, 2024

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

- Roll call
- Approval of minutes

## 4. Public comment





# **5. Executive Director's report**



# Legislative update





# Today's agenda





# 6. Information items

# **6a. Presentation of the 2024 Audit plan**



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# Purpose

## Oversight Audits

Required by the RTA Act:

- Audits of Service Boards at least once every five years
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Audit every three years (last completed 2022)

Required by external funding agencies:

- E.g. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

## Internal Audits

- Objective and independent assurance activities designed to improve operations
- Review internal processes and programs to assess effectiveness and efficiency

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# Oversight audits

## Activities for All Service Boards

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## Schedule

Agency Verification Review

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Capital Grants Close Out

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Innovation Coordination & Enhancement (ICE) Grant Verification

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

Reduced Fare Reimbursement

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

IDOT Funded Requisitions

Quarterly



# Oversight audits continued

Activities for Pace	Schedule
ADA Paratransit Grant	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Activities for RTA and All Service Boards	Schedule
Additional Financial Assistance (AFA) Grant	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Additional State Assistance (ASA) Grant	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
Transparency Portal Compliance	Quarterly
Audit Follow-Up	Quarterly

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# Internal audits

## Activities

## Schedule

A-133 Report Analysis

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

Payroll Compensation & End of Year Testing

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

Personally Identifiable Information Protection (PII)

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

Credit Card Purchases/Expense Reports including all Senior Mgmt. Directors

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

Consolidated Technical Assistance Programs

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Pension Plan Internal Controls

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

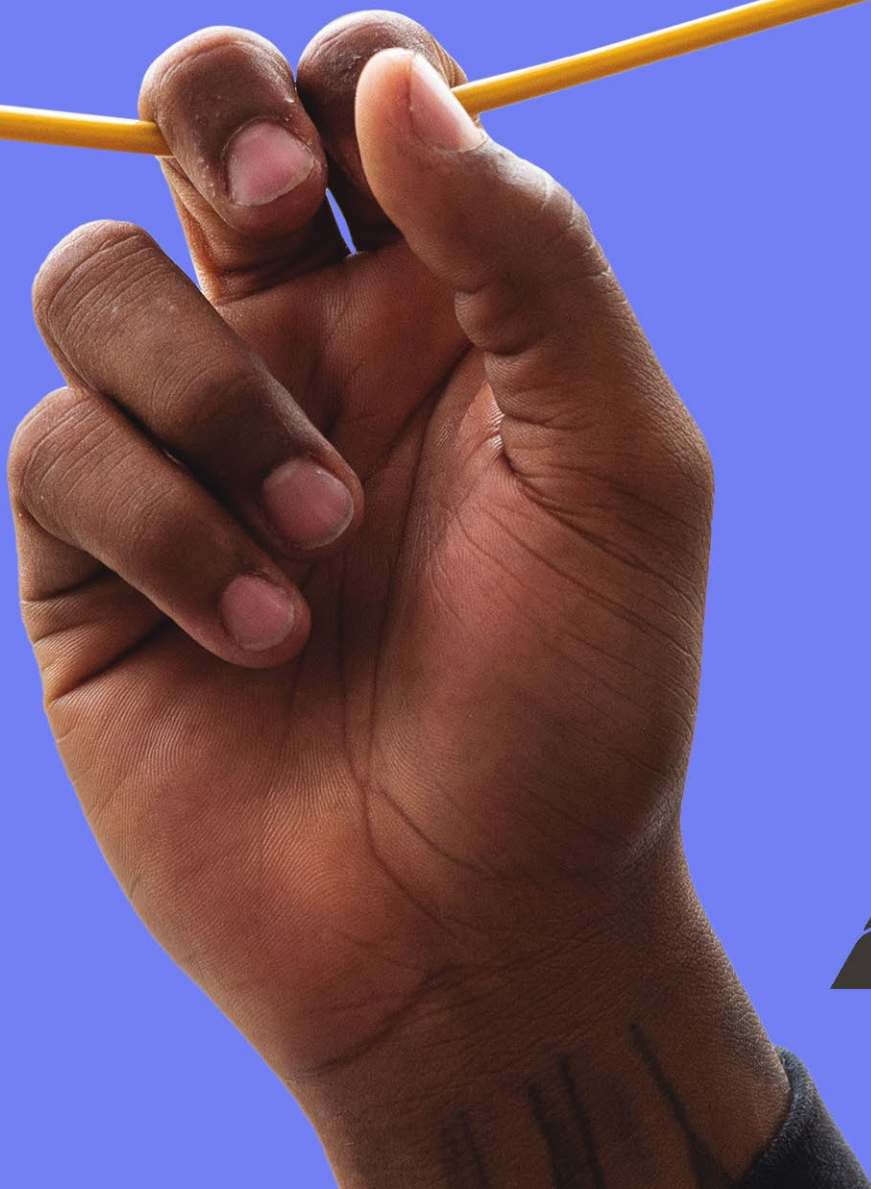
Contract Compliance

Quarterly

# **6b. Transit is the Answer update**



**TRANSIT  
IS THE  
ANSWER**





# **Build a coalition around the value transit brings to the Chicago region**



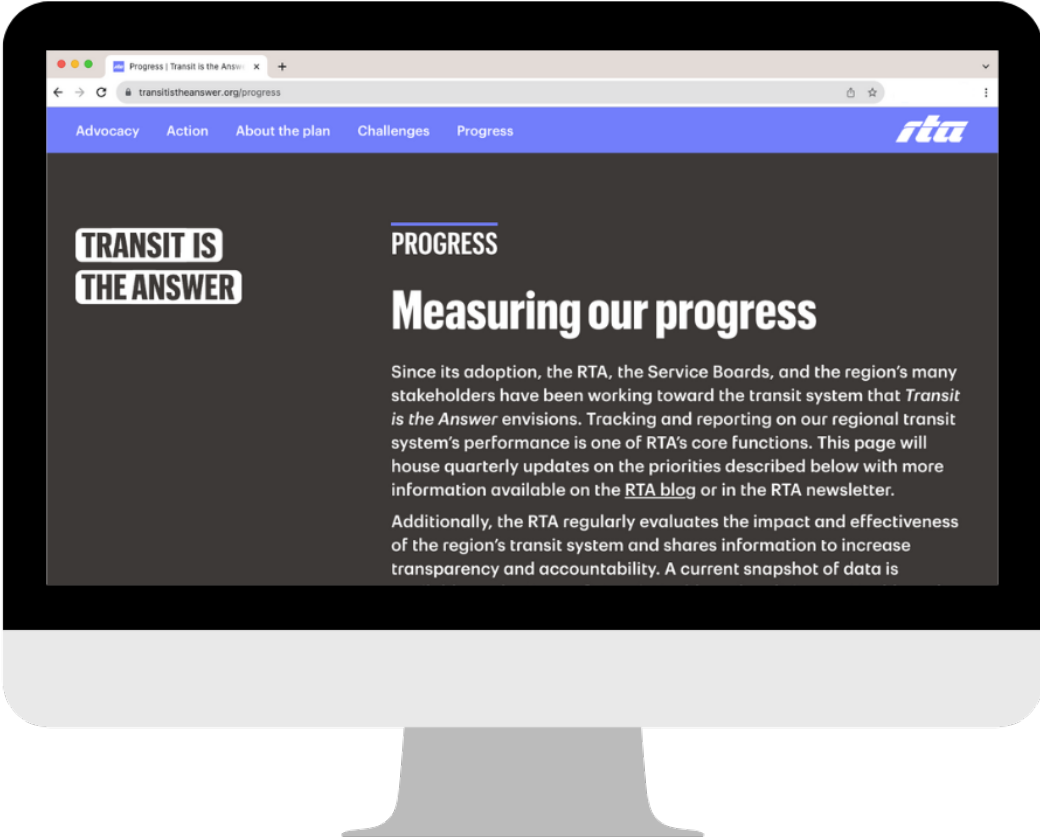
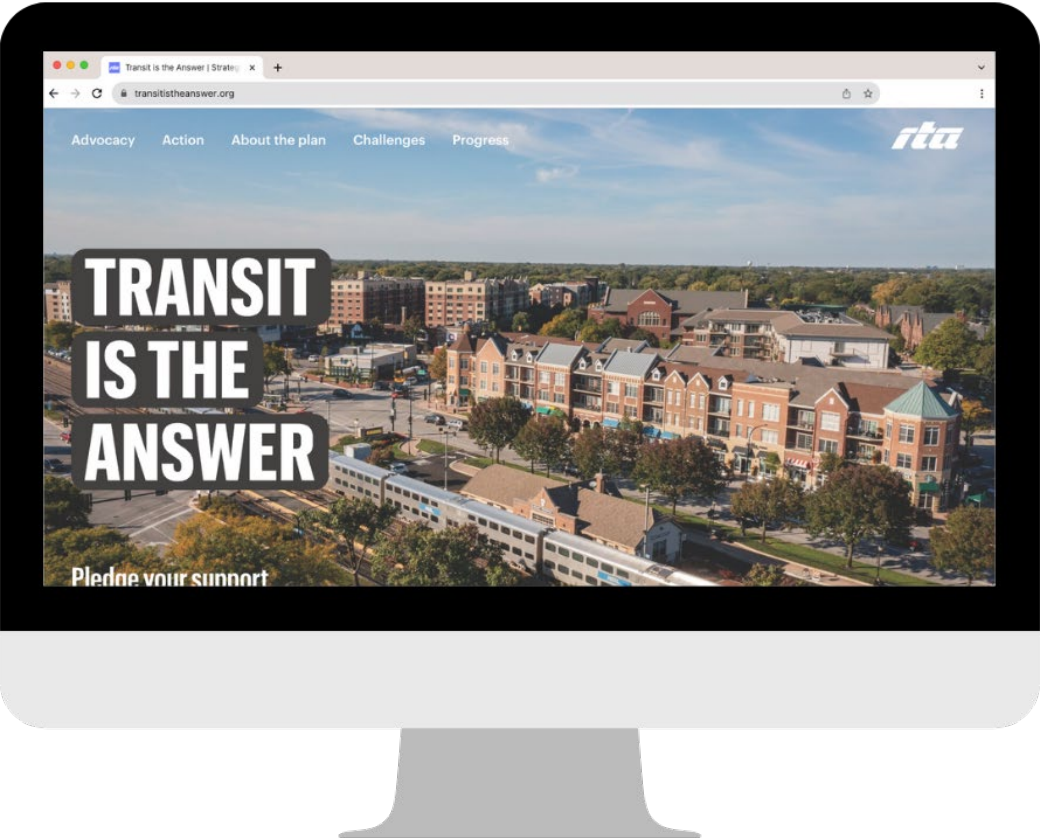
# Transit is the Answer Coalition

- May: Fully Funding and Expanding Programs for Vulnerable Populations
- August: Exploring Holistic Approaches to Improve Safety and Security on Transit
- December: Introduction of Access Pilot and Advancing 2024 Legislative Agenda





# Measuring Progress



# Transit is the Answer Anniversary

- Transit is the Answer public campaign
- Access Pilot
- Regional Transit Economic Impact Analysis
- Transit Friendly Communities Policy
- Transit Rider Information and Communication Study

**SNAP recipients  
can ride Metra  
for a reduced fare**

**Sign up at  
GetAccess.org**



**Access**



**Access Pilot Terms and Conditions**  
The holder of the Access Pilot permit is eligible to purchase an Access reduced fare Metra ticket. The Access Pilot permit must be displayed to a Metra Conductor when buying and/or using an Access reduced fare ticket onboard the train. Failure to display the permit will necessitate the purchase of a full fare ticket. All tickets are available to purchase through the Metra app, vending machines, and onboard the train. Access is a pilot program that ends on 7/31/2025. The Access Pilot permit will no longer be valid after that date.





# Look ahead

- February 27 at the Chicago Cultural Center
- Half day program will include:
  - Peer agency panel from LA and Minneapolis
  - Service Boards, local governments, non-profit partners, law enforcement, and coalition members
  - Focus on rider-informed issues and solutions:
    - Crime and perception of crime on transit
    - Inclusion of transit in social service initiatives
    - RTA's support for station activations



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# Community Planning Call for Projects

- Call open February 26 – March 22, 2024
- Call is launched jointly with CMAP's Technical Assistance Program
- Seeking applications for planning and implementation projects that support Transit is the Answer
- Piloting funds for Transit Station Activation projects to address personal safety and security concerns at transit stations and stops
- Priority given to applicants from high need communities
- Project awards in Summer 2024



# 7. Action items



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



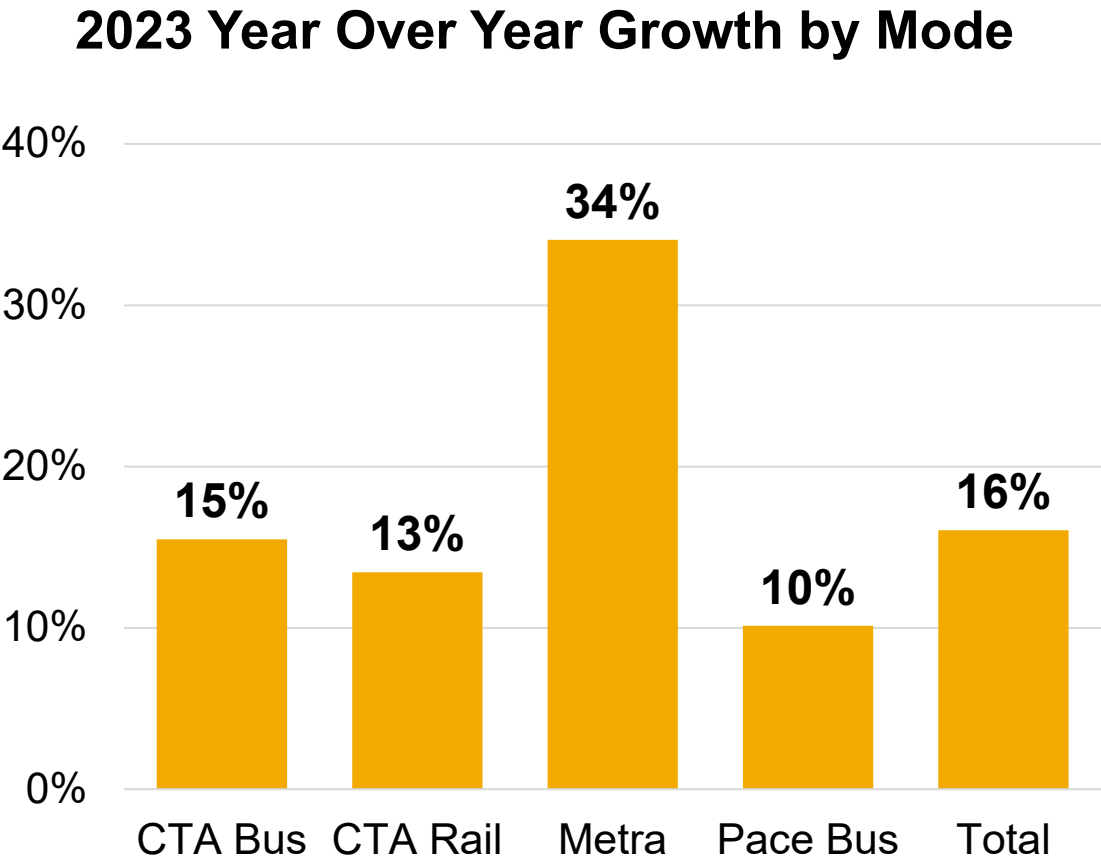
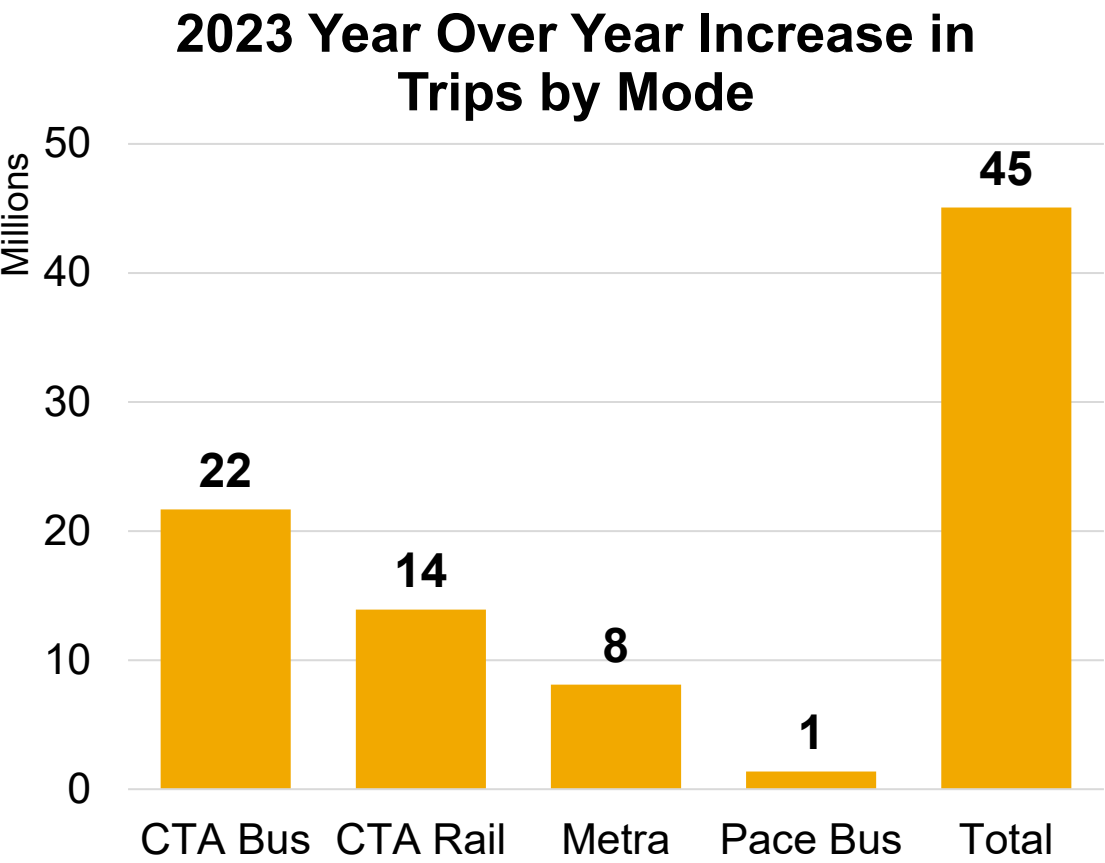
# Federal Discretionary Grants

- IIJA increased Federal Discretionary Opportunities
- Service Boards have grown annual awards since IIJA was enacted

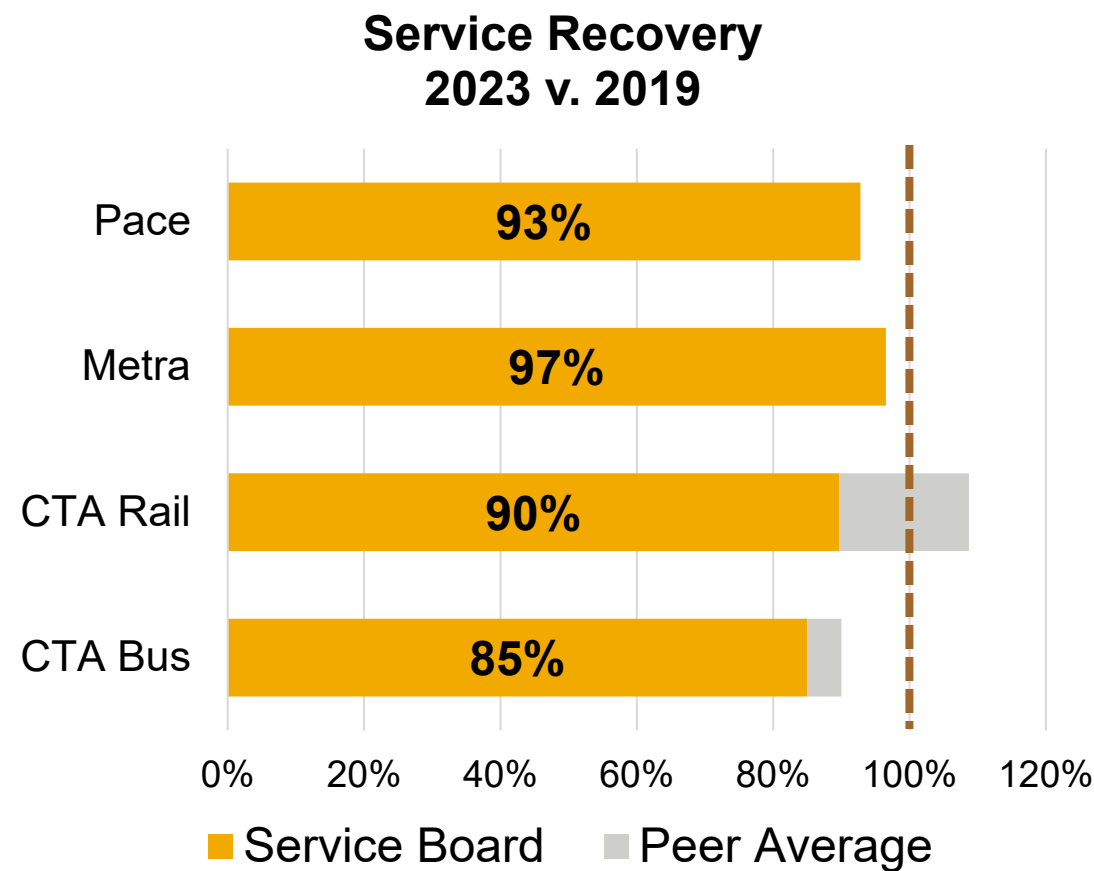
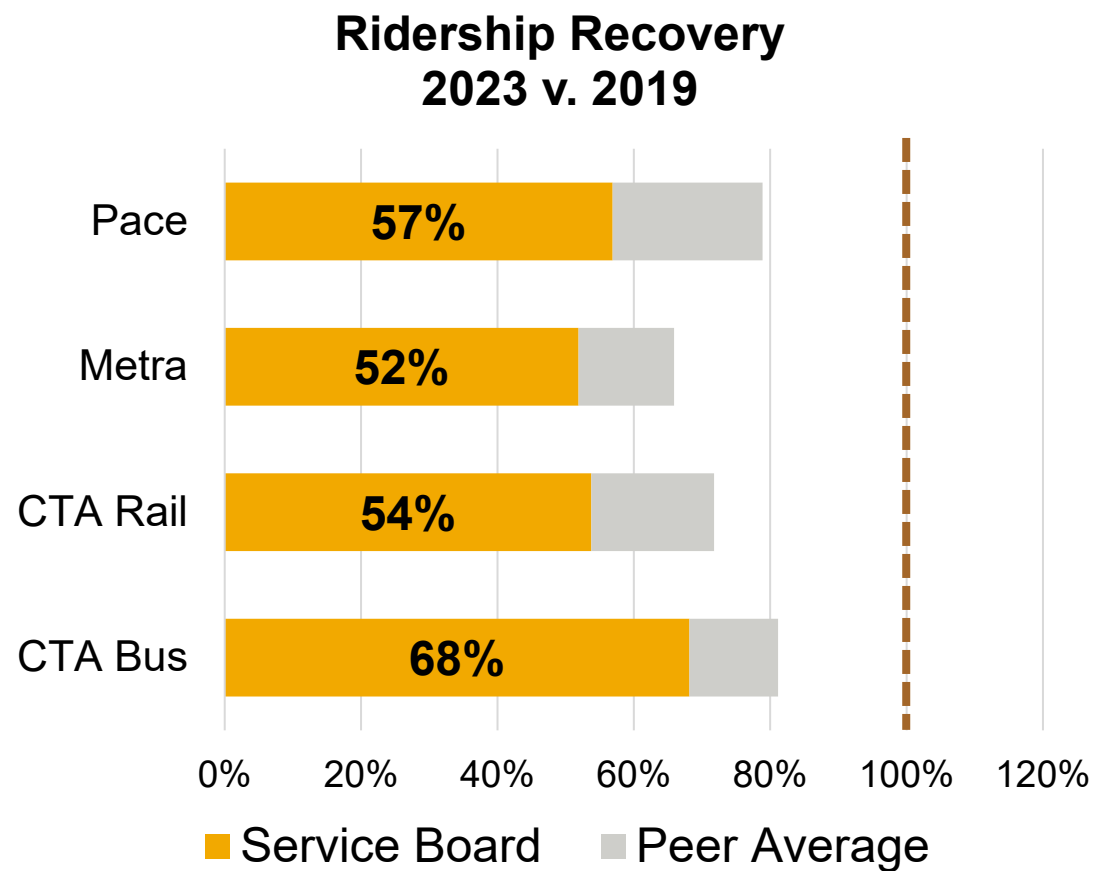
Year	Federal Discretionary Awards
2021	\$143M
2022	\$336M
2023	\$414M

- \$185M ASAP grants, 27% of the 2022 and 2023 programs funds
- \$55M in RAISE grants, which are awarded to both road and transit projects
- \$117M Mega grant, 1 of only 2 transit projects to be funded
- \$200M Rail Vehicle Replacement grant, 28% of 2022/2023 program funds

# 2023 Regional ridership continues to grow



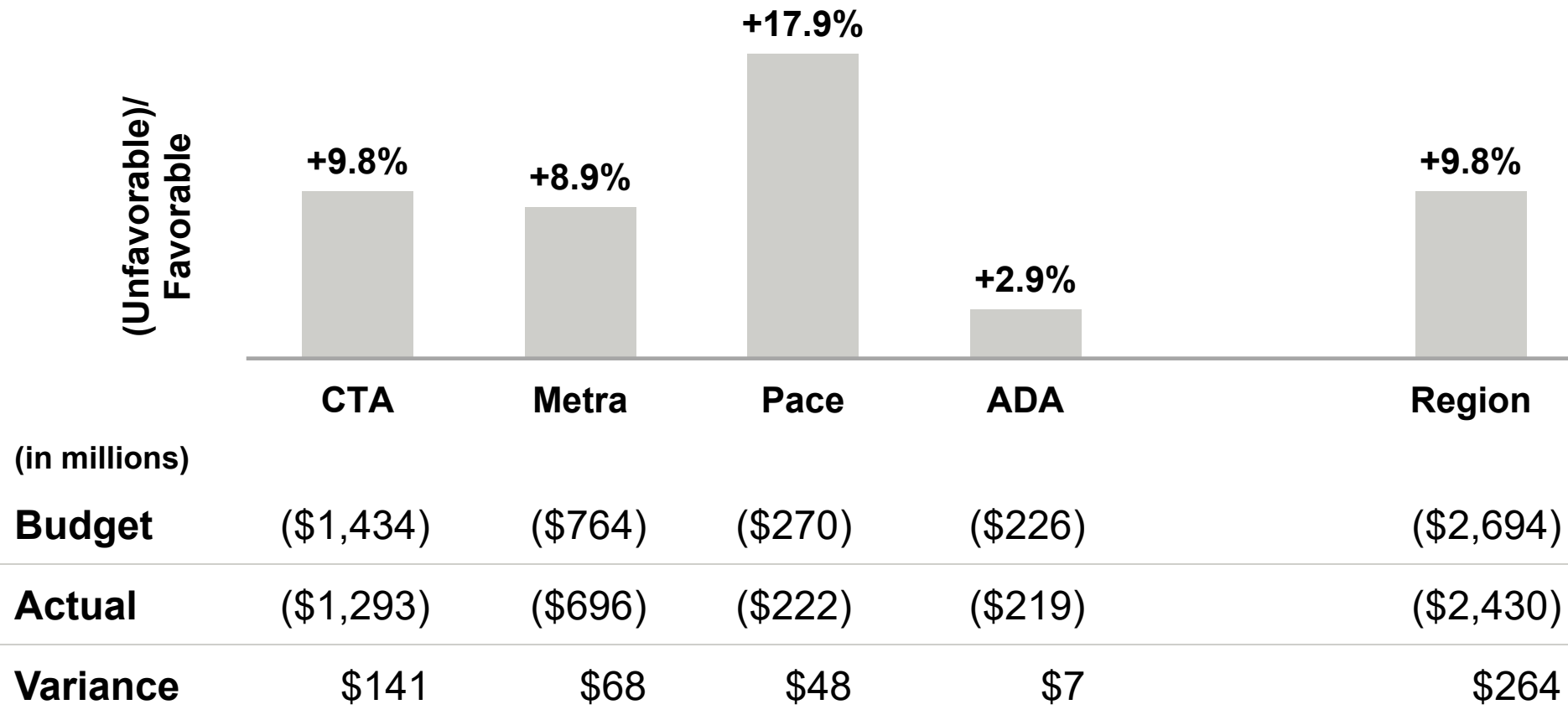
# Regional service and ridership recovery lags peers



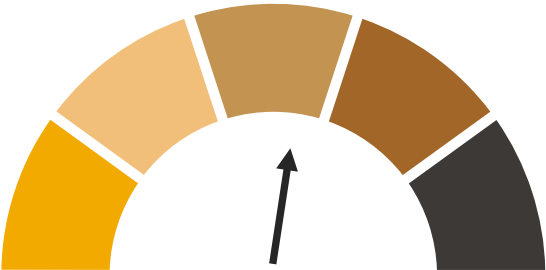
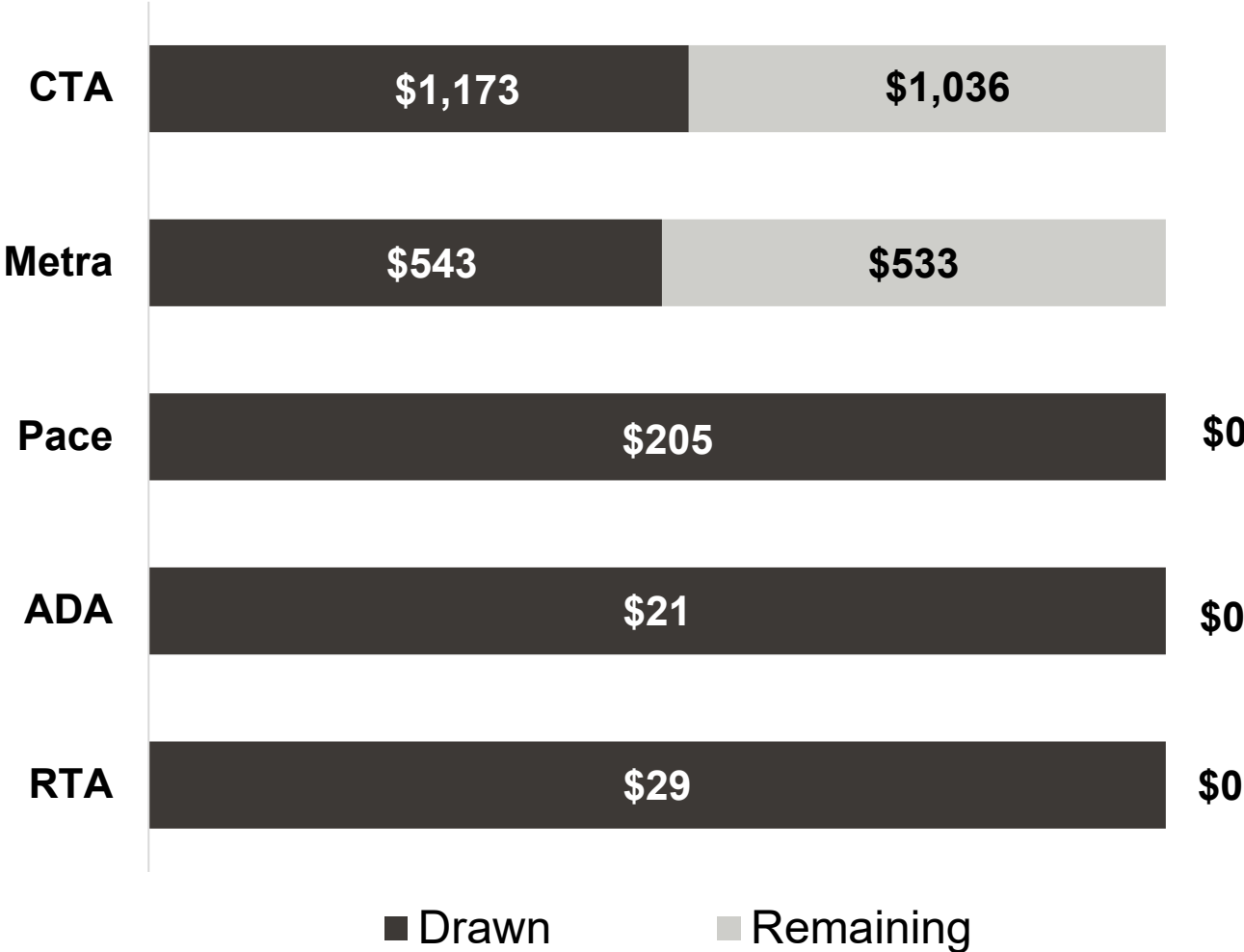
*\*2023 Service data are preliminary findings reported to National Transit Database*



# Operating deficit variances from budget YTD through December



# Relief funding drawn (in millions)



**Region Total  
Drawn = 55.7%**

**\$1.972B  
of  
\$3.540B**



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## Proposed Ordinances for approval

- Resolutions certifying financial results –  
Fourth Quarter 2023

# **7b. Ordinance adopting an amendment of the 2024-2028 Capital Program**





# City of Chicago added to 2024-2028 Capital Program

- City of Chicago received earmarked State of Illinois bond funds
  - Funds will pass through RTA
- Damen Avenue Green Line Station
- Location will create transit connectivity
  - United Center
  - Malcolm X College



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## **Proposed Ordinances for approval**

- Amendment to the 2024-2028 Capital Program

# **7c. Ordinance authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cook County for the Chicago Regional Mobility Hubs Framework**





# **7d. Ordinance approving a subscription to Bloomberg Anywhere**





## **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, March 21st.

# Stay connected

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