

2024 OPERATING & CAPITAL PROGRAM & BUDGET

Lake County

November 14, 2023



OPERATING BUDGET OF \$1.093 BILLION

- Metra has introduced a complete revamp of its fare structure for 2024, replacing the existing 10-zone distance-based structure with a simplified four-zone structure. Under the new structure, fares for most tickets will be lower than pre-pandemic levels. Promotional fares introduced during the pandemic will be discontinued.
- The operating budget is 11.5% higher than the 2023 budget. This increase includes \$65 million associated with improvements on the Metra Electric Line to increase capacity for a major service expansion by Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD). NICTD will reimburse Metra for these added costs.
- Operating expenses for providing commuter service, excluding the NICTD project, are budgeted at \$1.028 billion, which is \$48 million, or 4.9%, higher than the 2023 budget and largely driven by expected inflationary (general, medical premiums, fuel, insurance) and contractual (union agreements) increases.
- Operating expenses for providing commuter service in 2024 will be funded by:
 - \$243.9 million in system-generated revenue (mostly fares),
 - The budget projects Metra will provide 40 million rides in 2024 or about 54% of pre-pandemic (2019) ridership.
 - \$560.4 million in regional sales taxes.
- That leaves \$223.7 million to be covered with federal COVID-relief funding.
 - Metra received nearly \$1.1 billion in three rounds of relief funding.
 - We estimate that we will have \$487.1 million remaining at the start of 2024.
 - We anticipate relief funding will run out in 2026, requiring additional funding or budget actions.



CAPITAL BUDGET OF \$574.9 MILLION

- 2024 program funds 97 projects.
- Approximately 63% of the 2024 Capital Program will fund projects in four asset subcategories:
 - Bridge and retaining wall replacement and rehabilitation: \$143.8 million,
 - Stations & Parking Rehabilitations: \$77.5 million,
 - Yard Improvements, including facility acquisitions: \$71.1 million,
 - Railcar Rehabilitation \$67.6 million.
- The five-year capital plan includes \$1.947 billion in funding.
- 2024 Capital Program is funded by:
 - \$252.1 million in federal formula funding,
 - \$117 million USDOT Mega grant for Union Pacific North Line bridges,
 - \$73.8 million in Illinois PAYGO funds,
 - \$130 million in RTA bonds,
 - \$2 million in RTA Section 5310 funds.



RIDERSHIP FORECASTS

- Metra expects to provide approximately 32 million passenger trips in 2023, which is about 44% of pre-COVID ridership. Metra expects the modest and steady ridership growth seen in recent months to continue over the next year, as employers continue hybrid work schedules. Metra forecasts ridership to reach 40 million in 2024, which is about 54% of pre-COVID levels. Beyond 2024, due to the uncertainty of hybrid work schedules and the rate employees will be traveling to their workplace, Metra assumes 10% ridership growth to occur in 2025 and 2026, resulting in 44 million and 49 million rides, respectively. Exhibit 1 shows annual ridership trends back to 2017 and forecasted ridership through 2026.

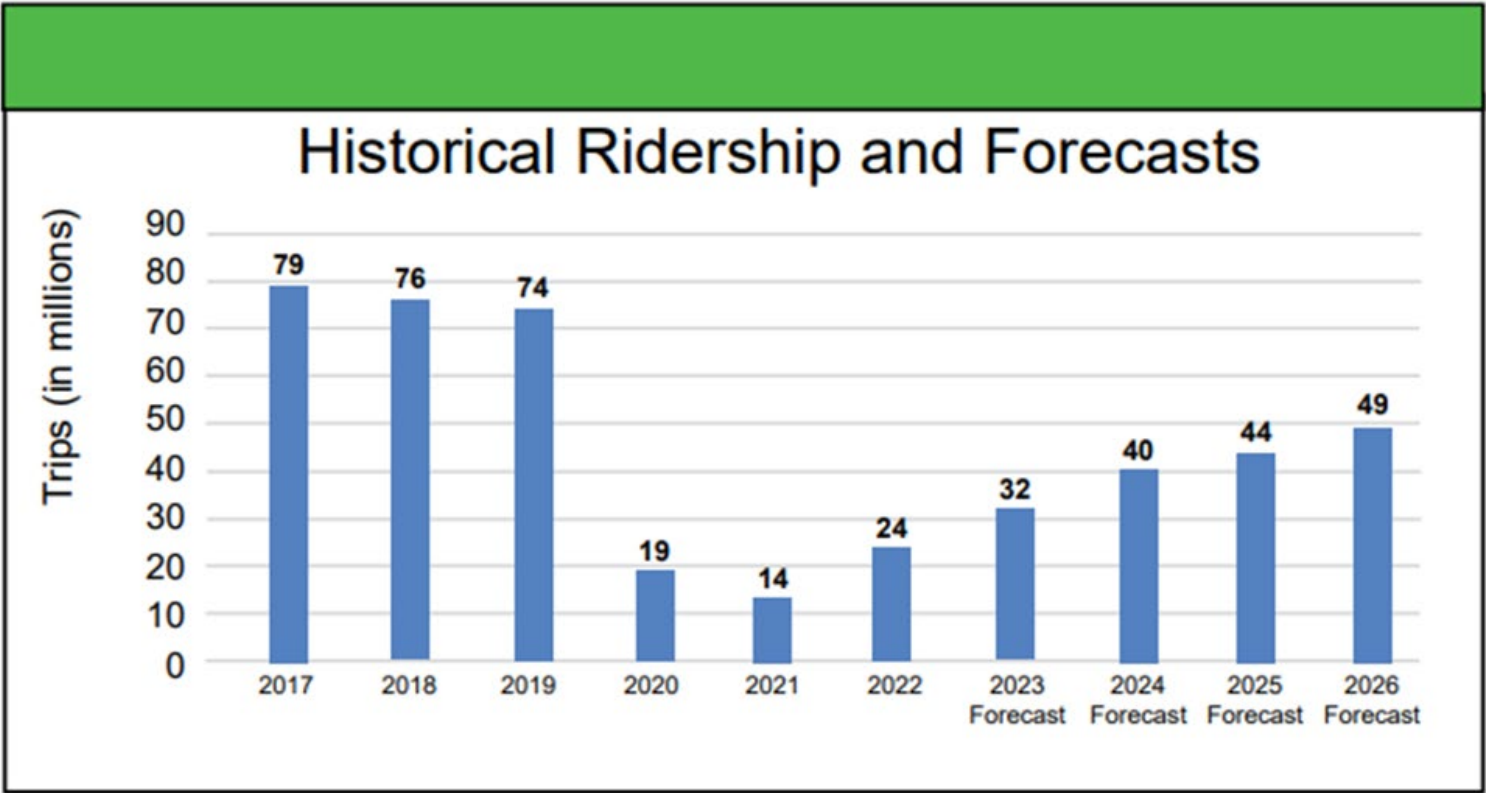


Exhibit 1



FARES

Metra has introduced a complete revamp of its fare structure for 2024, replacing the existing 10-zone distance-based structure with a four-zone structure.

Under the new structure, the following changes will be implemented:

- The existing 10 fare zones would be discontinued and replaced with four zones for One-Way Tickets, weekday Day Passes and Monthly Passes. Downtown stations would be assigned to Zone 1 and outlying stations would be assigned to Zones 2 through 4 based on a combination of distance from downtown, service patterns and ridership characteristics specific to each line. Trips not originating or terminating downtown would receive the lowest fare in an attempt to grow new types of ridership.
- The 10-Ride Ticket will be replaced with a new fare product, a Day Pass 5-Pack. The 5-Pack would only be available on the Ventra app and priced the same as the 10-Ride Ticket (9.5 times the cost of a One-Way Ticket). The passes in the 5-Pack would not need to be used on consecutive days; they could be used on any five days within a 90-day period after purchase. Passes in the 5-Pack could be shared by up to five people traveling together.
- Incremental Fares, which are a surcharge to travel beyond the zones indicated on the ticket, would be discontinued. Riders would now be required to buy a ticket valid for the trip they are taking.
- The changes to the fare structure will not change the following fare products and prices:
 - The \$30 Regional Connect Pass would be available to Monthly Pass buyers for unlimited rides on CTA and PACE.
 - The \$7 Saturday, Sunday, or Holiday Day Pass would be available, and the \$10 Weekend Pass would be available on the Ventra app only.





Ticket Options and Fares

Full Fare Pricing by Zone				Reduced Fare* Pricing by Zone				Purchase Options		
Trips not going to Zone 1 should use the pricing listed in the 2-3-4 column.										



Riding Today Only?	Zone 1-2	Zone 1-2-3	Zone 1-2-3-4	Zone 2-3-4	Zone 1-2	Zone 1-2-3	Zone 1-2-3-4	Zone 2-3-4	AT Station	ON Phone	ON Train
One Way A one-way, single ride ticket between selected zones. Expires three hours after purchase.	\$3.75	\$5.50	\$6.75	\$3.75	\$1.75	\$2.75	\$3.25	\$1.75	•	•	•
Day Pass Unlimited rides all day between selected zones. Expires at 3 a.m. the next day.	\$7.50	\$11.00	\$13.50	\$7.50	\$3.50	\$5.50	\$6.50	\$3.50	•	•	
Savings for Frequent Riders!											
Day Pass 5-Pack <i>Save 5%</i> Ventra app only. Five Day Passes that can be used on any five days within 90 days of purchase. Each Day Pass expires at 3 a.m. the next day. Can be shared by up to five people traveling in a group.	\$35.75	\$52.25	\$64.25	\$35.75	\$17.50	\$26.00	\$32.00	\$17.50		•	
Monthly Pass <i>Save 15% or more if you ride more than 2 days per week.</i> Unlimited rides for a calendar month between selected zones. Available from the 20th to the 12th. Expires at noon on the first business day of the next month.	\$75.00	\$110.00	\$135.00	\$75.00	\$37.50	\$55.00	\$67.50	\$37.50	•	•	
Savings for Weekend Riders!											
Saturday, Sunday, or Holiday Day Pass Unlimited rides systemwide on either Saturday or Sunday or major holidays. Expires 3 a.m. the next day.	\$7.00				Not Applicable (\$7.00)				•	•	•
Weekend Pass Ventra app only. Unlimited rides systemwide on Saturday and Sunday. Expires at 3 a.m. the next day following the weekend.	\$10.00				Not Applicable (\$10.00)					•	
Frequent Rider also using CTA or Pace?											
Regional Connect Pass Must be purchased with a Monthly Pass. Valid for unlimited trips on CTA buses and trains and Pace buses for a calendar month. Expires at 12 p.m. the first business day of the following month.	Cost of Monthly Pass + \$30.00				Cost of Monthly Pass + \$30.00					•	

CAPITAL PROJECTS HAPPENING IN LAKE COUNTY

- Shelter Project
 - This project funds the installation of shelters at stations across the entire Metra System to provide passengers with protection from the elements.
- Station ADA Improvements
 - Americans with Disabilities Act infrastructure deficiencies will be addressed by this project.
 - Specific work will be identified to bring the key stations into compliance.
 - Existing platforms will be rehabilitated and deteriorated tactile surfaces will be replaced with ADA-compliant truncated dome type surfaces.



THANK YOU

For more information, please visit metra.com

