

# Meeting of the RTA Ad Hoc Committee on NITA Transition

August 13, 2026

Welcome! Meeting Starts at 9 a.m.

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



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# RTA Ad Hoc Committee on NITA Transition

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of minutes from July 22, 2026
4. Public comment

# 5. NITA Transition Report



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# Transition Update

Ad-Hoc Committee will discuss topics related to substantial changes in transit governance, including shifts in responsibilities, planning, funding mechanisms, accountability, and oversight between the agencies.

## Today's Agenda:

- Transition Update: Maulik Vaishnav, Chief Transition Officer
- NITA Act's Requirements for Public Safety and Customer Experience
- Current State of Public Safety Response on Transit
  - Rider Survey Results
  - Service Board Updates
  - Discussion

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# Recap

- Recap from previous ad-hoc meeting
  - NITA Act requirements – impact on the agency to hire key roles
  - Public Funding Estimates will be presented to the RTA Board on Aug 20 for approval
  - Transit supportive development policies, studies, and programs will incorporate committee feedback

# Introducing NITA



**RGB:** 24, 29, 59  
**HEX:** #181d3b  
**CMYK:** 94, 87, 46, 54  
**PMS:** 282 XGC

**RGB:** 109, 207, 246  
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**PMS:** Blue 0821 C



**RGB:** 239, 249, 254  
**HEX:** #eff9fe  
**CMYK:** 5, 0, 0, 0  
**PMS:** 663 XGC



### Quick Links

I would like to get more information about:

Select an option ▾

# Digital channels



## Regional Transit Update

Sept 01, 2026

### Study lays groundwork for more coordinated regional transit service under NITA

A new regional transit service coordination study will help bridge between current service planning practices and the first Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA)-led regional service planning process, which will begin late next year.



Learn More

← nita\_chicago ⚙️



Northern Illinois Transit Authority

1005 posts

2960 followers

587 following

#### Public & Government Service

NITA is operated by CTA, Metra, and Pace. Together they deliver one unified transit system that works for everyone and connects the Chicago region. [more](#)

[nita.illinois.gov](https://nita.illinois.gov)

Follow Message +

Engagement Planning Ridership Events



**How's your ride?**

NITA, CTA, Metra, and Pace are engaging riders on key transit routes to better understand and improve the customer experience.

Use the attached QR code or link to take a quick survey. Thank you for your feedback.



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# Early NITA Engagement

- **Shaping the NITA Era: A Regional Transit Workshop Series**
- In-person and virtual events in September/October
- Goal: Introduce NITA and begin building public trust in the new agency.
- Key Message: NITA begins a new era for regional transit where all four agencies will plan and invest as one. New funding unlocks opportunities to improve the rider experience, and we need your input to help shape the future of NITA.
- Events will include updates and engagement activities around:
  - Regional service planning
  - 2027 budget priorities
  - Capital investments
  - Safety and security
  - NITA's role and identity

# 6. Information Items

# **6a. NITA Act's Requirements for Transit Public Safety and Experience**



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# NITA Act Transit Public Safety Initiatives

## Coordinated Safety Response Council

- Led by NITA Office of Transit Safety and Experience, includes police, social service providers, labor, and other transit stakeholders
- Work reviewed by the mandated, Board-created Safety Subcommittee
- Collaborates on long-term safety strategy for NITA, provides input on safety standards as required in NITA Act
- Ongoing committee, no end date, no required meeting schedule

## NITA Law Enforcement Task Force

- Led by Cook County Sheriff, membership only includes transit, state, county police officials. Additional police units can be included upon request.
- Responsible for coordination among law enforcement, preventing and responding to violent crime on transit
- December 1, 2026: Preliminary report on recommendations for law enforcement strategies
- Disbands on June 1, 2029, at the latest, per statute



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# Membership

## Coordinated Safety Response Council

- NITA Chief Transit Safety Officer
- Representatives from each Service Board
- Chairs of Rider and ADA Advisory Councils
- Cook County State's Attorney
- Cook County Sheriff
- NITA Law Enforcement Task Force Member
- Chicago Police Department
- Law enforcement agencies whose jurisdictions includes transit facilities
- Labor organizations (2)
- Social service organizations (3)
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

## NITA Law Enforcement Task Force

- Cook County Sheriff (Chair)
- Chicago Police Department
- Metra Police
- Illinois State Police
- County Sheriffs in DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties
- Additional law enforcement agencies upon request



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# Deliverables

## Coordinated Safety Response Council

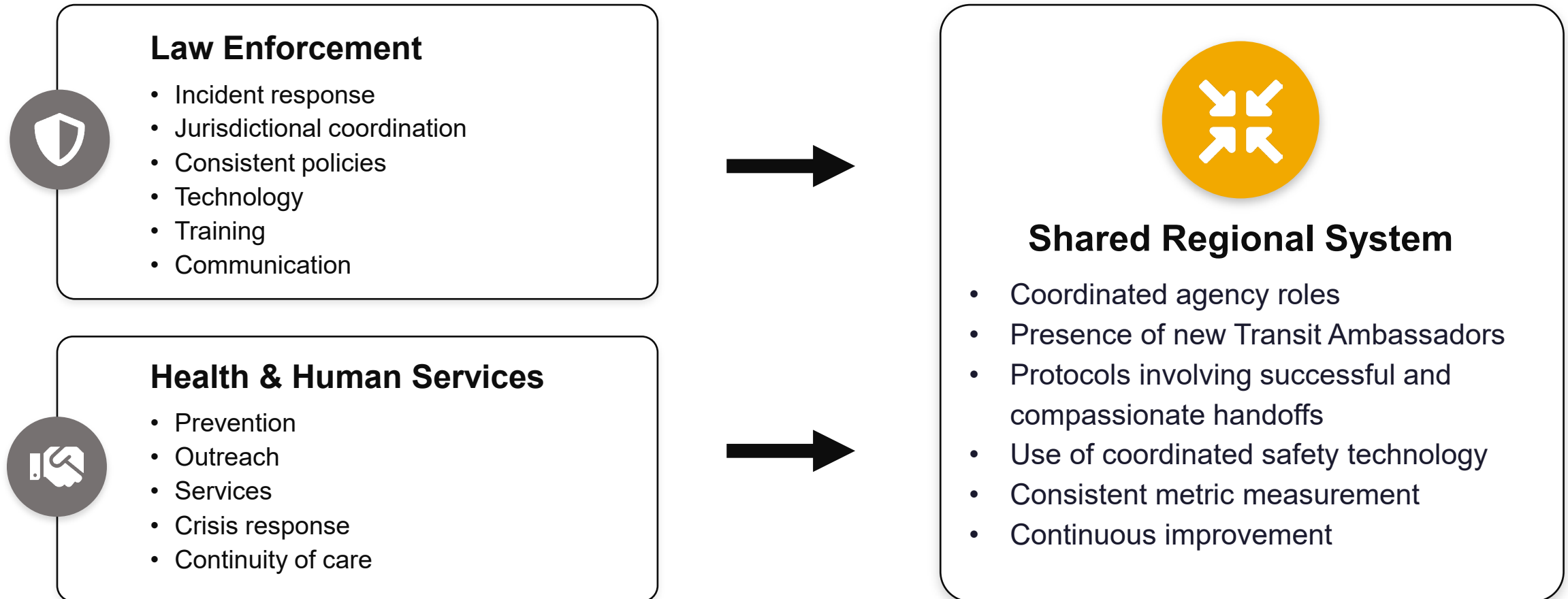
- March 2027: Develop report on using sworn law enforcement on public transit, other transit safety initiatives, independent of Task Force requirements
- June 2027: Report on using social service providers to assist riders who are unhoused or in need of social services
- No deadline: Long-term incident response and safety strategy, reevaluated every 3 years, completed in coordination with NITA Office of Transit Safety and Experience

## NITA Law Enforcement Task Force

- January 1, 2027: Preliminary report on recommendations for law enforcement strategies
- March 1, 2027: Final report on recommendations for law enforcement strategies due to Coordinated Safety Response Council



# Each aspect brings a broad continuum of services, strategies, and supports



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# Progress so far

- \$60M in new funding approved in May for additional support across the system
- Cook County Sheriff's Office is leading the law enforcement taskforce
- Health and Human Services working group is convening with interagency partners
- IDHS has increased support on the transit system
  - More street outreach through Thresholds
  - Additional shelter beds through Housing Forward
  - 15 shelter beds through the Phoenix Foundation
  - Expansion of DFSS – CTA partnership

# **6b. Current State of Public Safety on the Transit Network**



# Security Budget Overview

| (in millions)                 | 2026 Amended Budget |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>CTA</b>                    |                     |
| Purchase of Security Services | \$112.1             |
| <b>Metra</b>                  |                     |
| Security Expense              | \$49.3              |
| <b>Pace Suburban Service</b>  |                     |
| Security Expense              | \$0.5               |
| <b>NITA</b>                   |                     |
| Cook County Sheriff           | \$12.5              |
| Task Force/Security Office    | \$2.5               |
| Cook/State HHS assistance     | \$3.0               |
| Incident reporting app        | \$0.5               |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$216.5</b>      |

## Additional funding in the 2026 Budget Amendment

### CTA

- Security Services: \$30M
- Outreach/Alternatives: \$2.0M

### Metra

- Metra Police: \$3.8M
- Body cameras: \$1.4M
- BNSF late-night: \$0.5M

### Pace

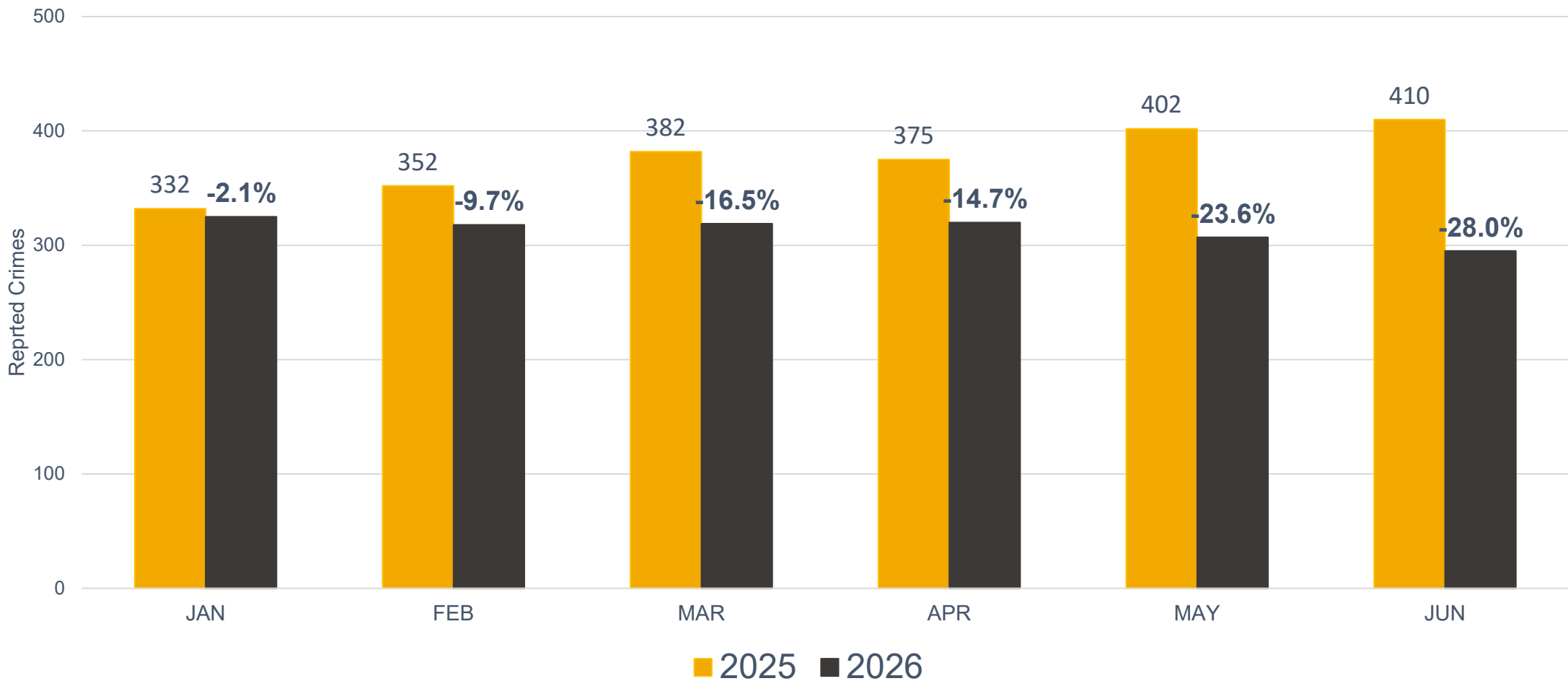
- Bus shields: \$3.0M

- Excludes Chicago Police Mass Transit Unit and other services provided by municipal police forces.
- Excludes technology investments (e.g., cameras) and other internal support



# Chicago Police Department Reports

Total Reported Crimes on CTA Property by Month and Year



# Rider Survey Results

# Q2 Panel: public safety

On a scale of 1-10, please indicate how strongly you would agree with the statements below using your primary mode of travel?

| Scores of six or higher                                                              | Q2 2026 | Q1 2026 | Q4 2025 | Q3 2025 | Q2 2025 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| I feel safe when traveling from home to my first station                             | 78%     | 74%     | 68%     | 70%     | 71%     |
| I feel safe when waiting at stations/stops                                           | 70%     | 66%     | 61%     | 62%     | 64%     |
| I feel safe on the bus or train                                                      | 68%     | 62%     | 57%     | 62%     | 64%     |
| I feel safe when traveling to my final destination from where I get off my bus/train | 77%     | 74%     | 69%     | 70%     | 72%     |

n varies



# “Tell Us About Your Ride” survey results

- Starting in early June 2026, riders have been surveyed regarding their perceptions of increased law enforcement presence on the CTA rail system
- Email and station intercepts
- Focus on Red, Blue, Green lines in coordination with targeted law enforcement deployments
- Format is adaptable to Metra, Pace, and other CTA locations

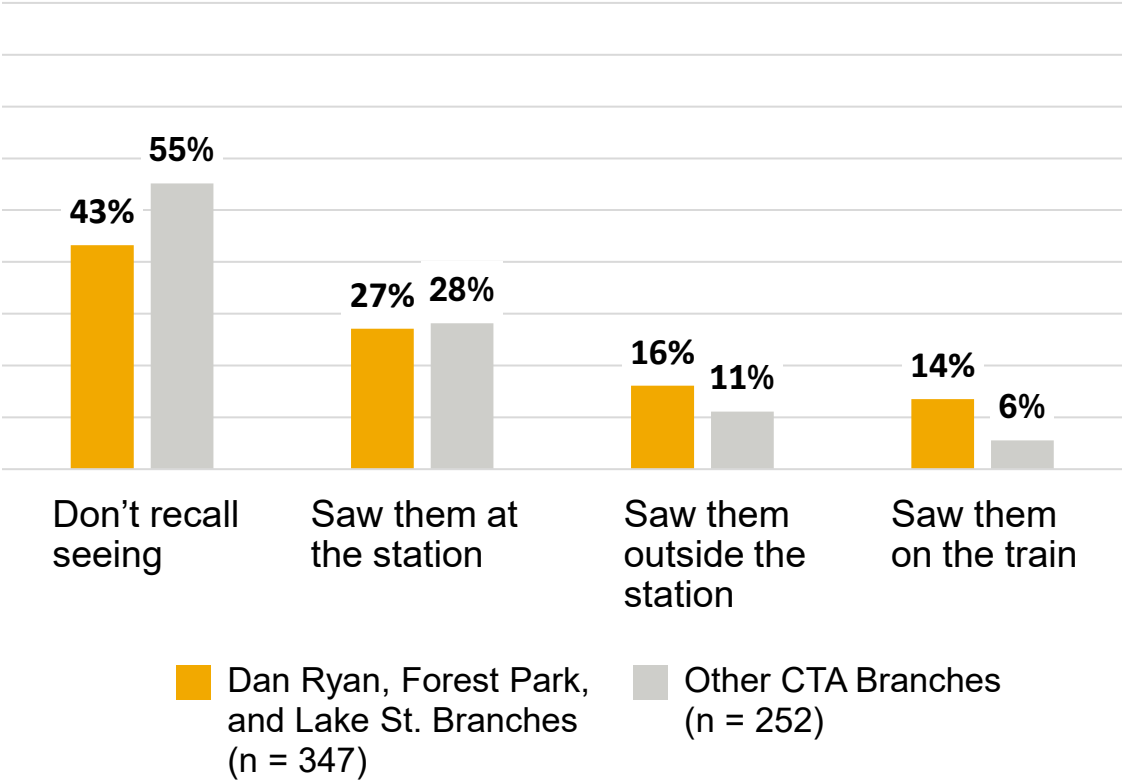


**Note that the following results are only preliminary**

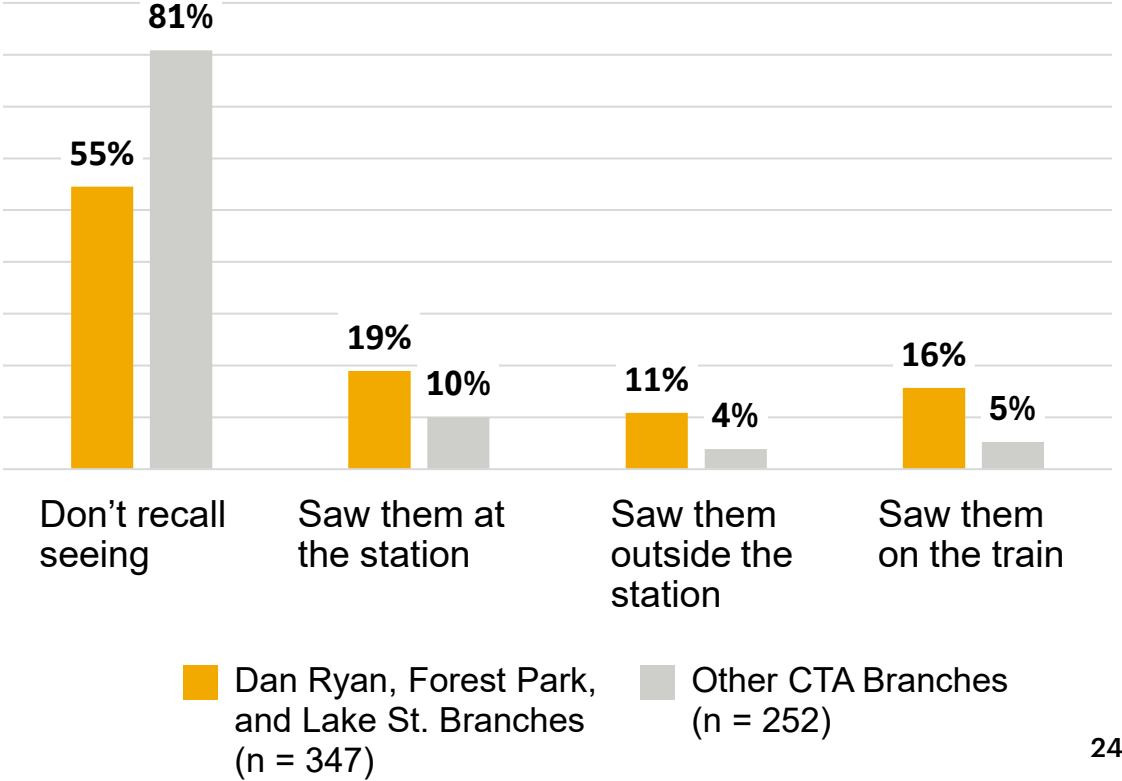
# Presence of law enforcement

A majority of riders surveyed on these branches reported seeing Chicago police on patrol, and 45% reported seeing Cook County sheriffs.

Do you recall seeing Chicago police on your last CTA trip?

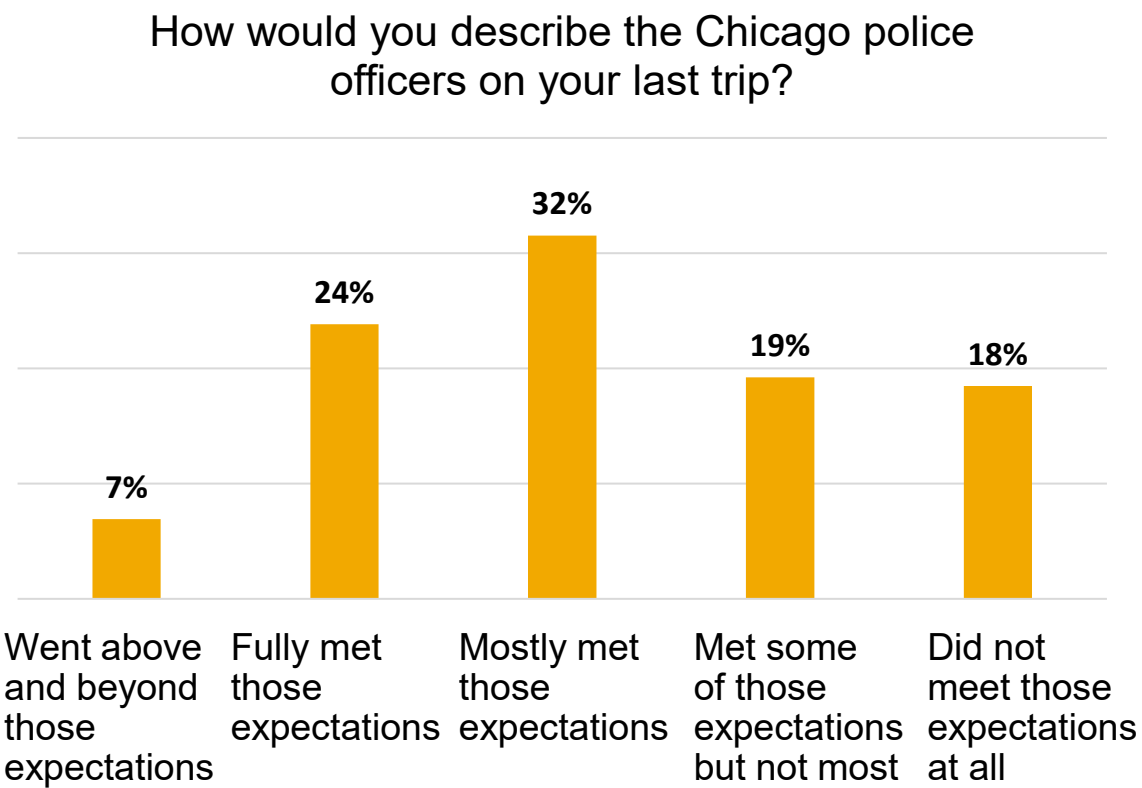


Do you recall seeing Cook County sheriffs on your last CTA trip?

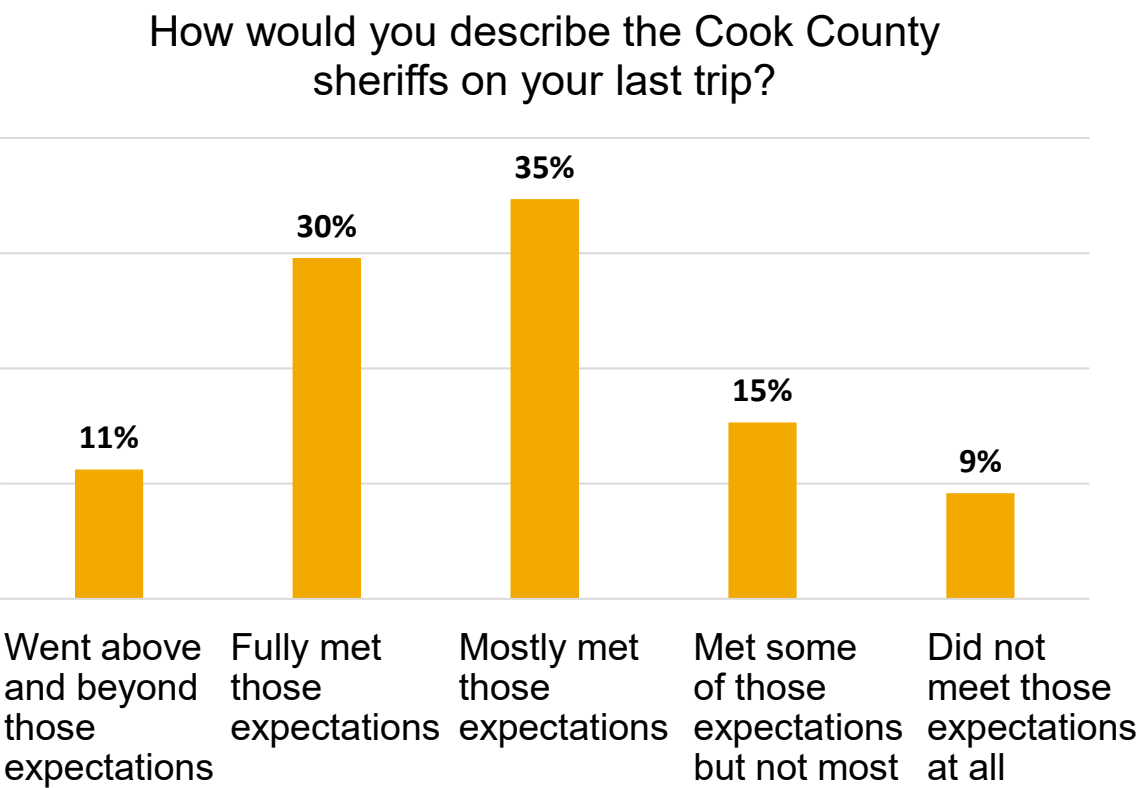


# Did officers meet expectations?

Riders who reported seeing officers were asked whether those officers met expectations that they be aware of their surroundings and appropriately respond to incidents.



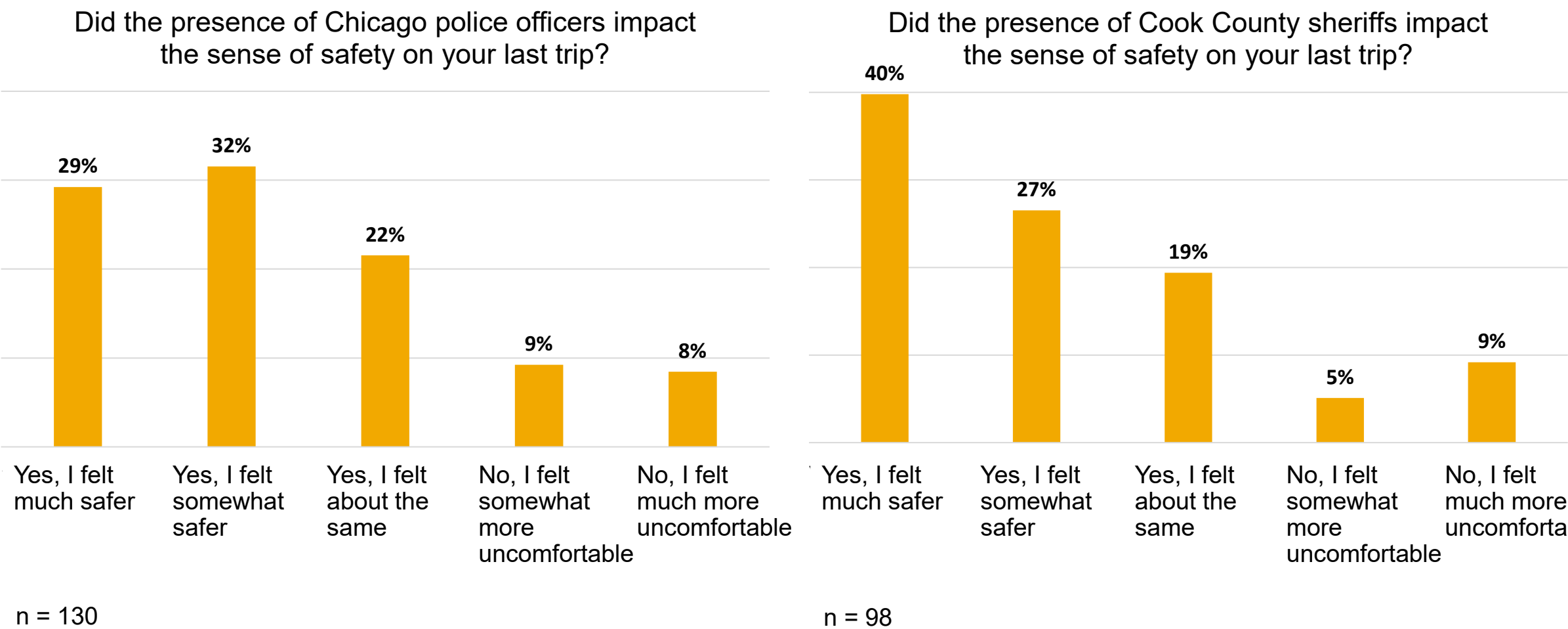
n = 130



n = 98

# Did officers make you feel safer?

While a majority of riders report that the presence of officers makes them feel safer, a sizeable minority of riders report feeling much more uncomfortable.



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# Summary

- The current data and reporting infrastructure for regional metrics is scattered
- Rider surveys show targeted law enforcement presence is felt by riders
- Public safety satisfaction is improving across the system – highest quarterly panel rating in 12+ months
- As other strategies are launched, our survey efforts will continue to help measure effectiveness of key initiatives

# Service Board Update and Discussion

# CTA Background

## Incident Statistics:

- [Crime Dashboard](#) published on CTA performance website.
- NTD Major Security incidents posted in CTA [performance dashboard](#).
- Ongoing tracking of transit worker assaults through Safety Management process and security coordination.

## Budget and Staffing:

- VSEP Program: \$53.1M (99% for CPD)
- Private Security: \$59.1M
  - Action K-9: \$48.8M
  - Other security: \$10.3M
- Safe Ride: \$4.7M

## Staffing Targets (CTA funded security):

- VSEP: 180/day
- K-9: 200/day
- Safe Ride: 35/day + supervision



# CPD Incident Dashboard (as of 8/9/26)

| YTD FBI Index Crimes at CTA Locations, by Location Description: |          |          |                   |                 |                    |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                                                 | 2026 YTD | 2025 YTD | Annual Net Change | Annual % Change | % Change from 2024 | % Change from 2023 |
| Grand Total                                                     | 723      | 1,020    | -297              | -29.1%          | -32.0%             | -28.5%             |
| Bus                                                             | 168      | 220      | -52               | -23.6%          | -20.8%             | -2.3%              |
| Bus Stop                                                        | 92       | 100      | -8                | -8.0%           | -20.7%             | -17.1%             |
| Garage/Lot/Property                                             | 28       | 39       | -11               | -28.2%          | -26.3%             | -61.1%             |
| Platform/Station/Tracks                                         | 154      | 216      | -62               | -28.7%          | -32.8%             | -35.3%             |
| Train                                                           | 281      | 445      | -164              | -36.9%          | -40.1%             | -32.8%             |
| YTD FBI Index Crimes at CTA Locations, by Crime Type:           |          |          |                   |                 |                    |                    |
|                                                                 | 2026 YTD | 2025 YTD | Annual Net Change | Annual % Change | % Change from 2024 | % Change from 2023 |
| Grand Total                                                     | 723      | 1,020    | -297              | -29.1%          | -32.0%             | -28.5%             |
| 01 Homicide                                                     | 1        | 4        | -3                | -75.0%          | -75.0%             | -50.0%             |
| SHOT Shooting Incidents                                         | 4        | 10       | -6                | -60.0%          | -50.0%             | -60.0%             |
| 02 Criminal Sexual Assault                                      | 23       | 15       | 8                 | 53.3%           | 35.3%              | 35.3%              |
| 03 Robbery                                                      | 171      | 303      | -132              | -43.6%          | -47.7%             | -31.3%             |
| 04A Agg. Assault                                                | 77       | 94       | -17               | -18.1%          | -14.4%             | -2.5%              |
| 04B Agg. Battery                                                | 136      | 158      | -22               | -13.9%          | -5.6%              | 3.8%               |
| 05 Burglary                                                     | 0        | 0        | 0                 |                 | -100.0%            |                    |
| 06 Larceny - Theft                                              | 306      | 438      | -132              | -30.1%          | -34.9%             | -37.3%             |
| 07 Motor Vehicle Theft                                          | 5        | 6        | -1                | -16.7%          | -44.4%             | -88.6%             |
| 09 Arson                                                        | 4        | 2        | 2                 | 100.0%          | 300.0%             | 300.0%             |

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# CTA Background

## Rider Data and Surveys:

- Quarterly/Biannual Customer Survey (12 since 2020)
  - Security satisfaction factors deep dive and preferences ranking since 2024
- CTA/RTA Security Interventions Survey (Summer 2026)

## Outreach Contracts & Outcomes:

- DFSS (\$2M/yr): Thresholds (Red Line), Haymarket (Blue Line), **15,000+ interactions** per year, **500 riders in active case management** and **220 placed in permanent stable housing**.
  - Expanding to add 30 dedicated non-congregate shelter beds for transit riders (\$1.65M/yr)
- Safe Ride Specialists (\$4.7M budgeted in 2026): Pilot program with 4 organizations focused on CVI and crisis response. Approximately 35 specialists per day.

## Labor Reports/Communication

- Rap sessions, Biannual Employee Survey, Reports to manager, Executive coordination



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# Metra

- Metra Police is responsible for providing security on the system
  - 2024 – 65,755 calls for service
  - 2025 – 85,006 calls
  - 2026 Year to Date – 59,667 calls
- 177 sworn police positions and 23 civilian positions are in Metra Police Budget after RTA budget amendment increased funding in May 2026 to \$38.45M (yearly total)
- Metra utilizes the COPS app for rider incident reporting of security incidents that can be leveraged to meet the regional incident reporting app requirement of the NITA Act
- Metra Supportive Services Unit is led by a Police Social Worker who aligns social service initiatives addressing the needs of vulnerable populations through strategic partnerships:
  - 63 cases resulting in 21 placements

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# Pace

**Background:** Pace operates through 274 communities and currently works with all local police departments

## **Security Resources:**

- Currently there is not any dedicated staff for security services
- Pace utilizes contracts for security services with an annual spend of approximately \$450,000

## **Rider Outreach:**

- Pace conducts outreach through customer satisfaction surveys which addresses personal security on the bus and at bus stops.
  - For 2025, personal security on the bus was at 82% up 2% over the previous survey
  - For 2025, personal security at the bus stop was at 75% which remained consistent over the previous survey

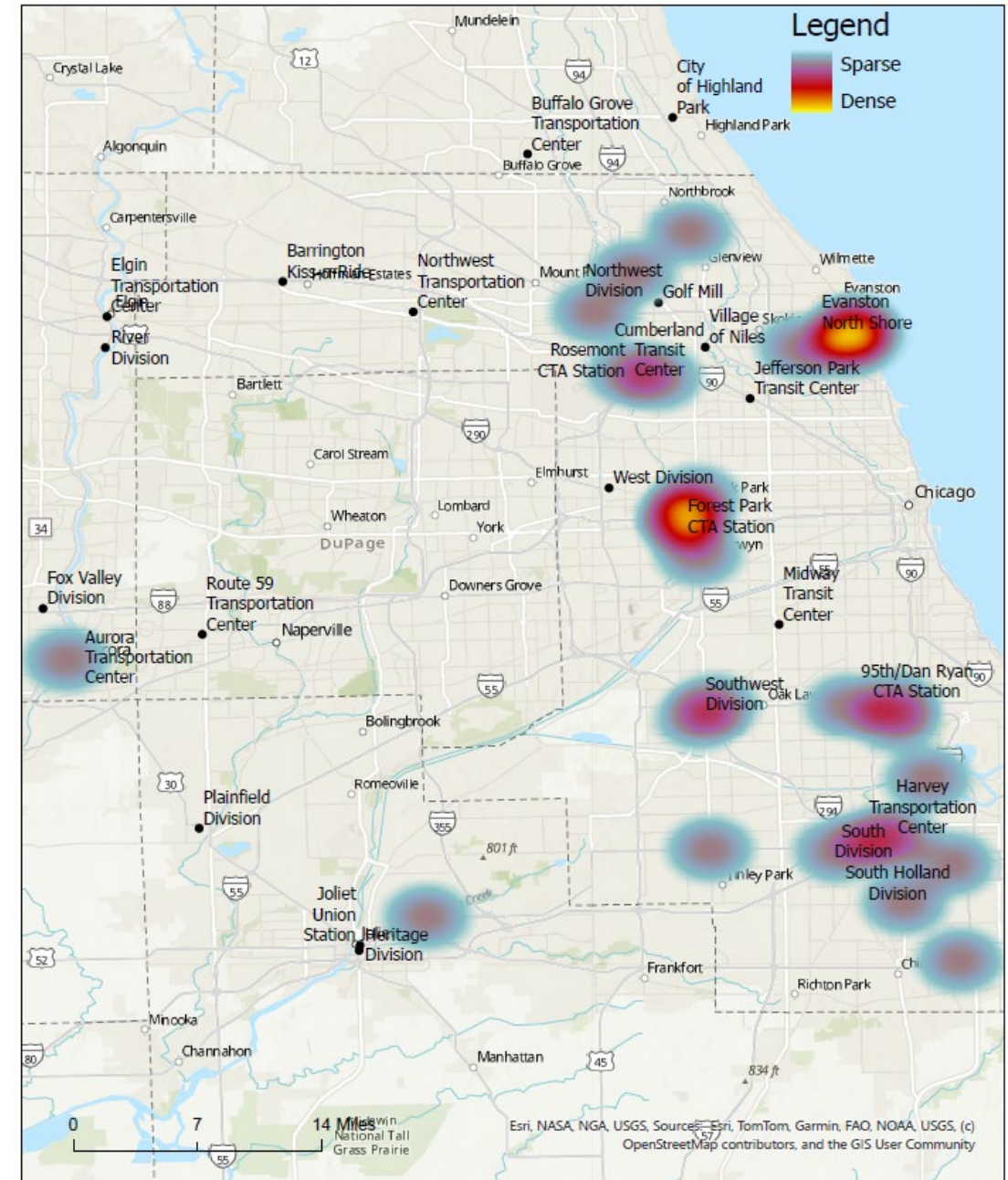
## **Labor Communication:**

- Pace continues to communicate and coordinate with various labor unions and safety committee

## Incident Reporting:

- Covert/Over Alarms
- Coordination with local, county, and state law enforcement
- TSA Reporting

|          | IBS Calls | Reportable Incidents |
|----------|-----------|----------------------|
| 2024     | 374       | 21                   |
| 2025     | 372       | 41                   |
| YTD 2026 | 211       | 30                   |



# 7. New Business

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## Adjournment

The next meeting of the RTA Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, August 20.

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# Stay connected

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

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