

MEETING OF THE RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Welcome!

Meeting Starts at 9 a.m.

Meeting Agenda

@ RTAChicago.org/about-us/board-meetings



MOVING YOU

RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Please feel free to listen to the meeting and view slides related to it here.

*The meeting agenda can be found at
www.rtachicago.org/about-us/board-meetings*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. PUBLIC COMMENT



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5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATES



TODAY'S AGENDA



FARE PORTAL



Welcome to RTA Fare Programs Online

On this portal, you can do the following:

- Replace your lost/stolen or damaged Ride Free, Reduced Fare, or ADA paratransit permit card
- Apply for the Ride Free Program for low-income adults over the age of 65 or low-income people with disabilities
- Apply for the Reduced Fare Program for adults over the age of 65 or people with disabilities
- Renew your expiring Ride Free or Reduced Fare permit card

Click next to begin

NEXT

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

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6a. UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RTA TRANSIT ACCESS CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD



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6b. WHAT WE'VE HEARD: A FOCUS ON OUTCOMES WILL DRIVE THE NEXT REGIONAL TRANSIT STRATEGIC PLAN



MOVING YOU

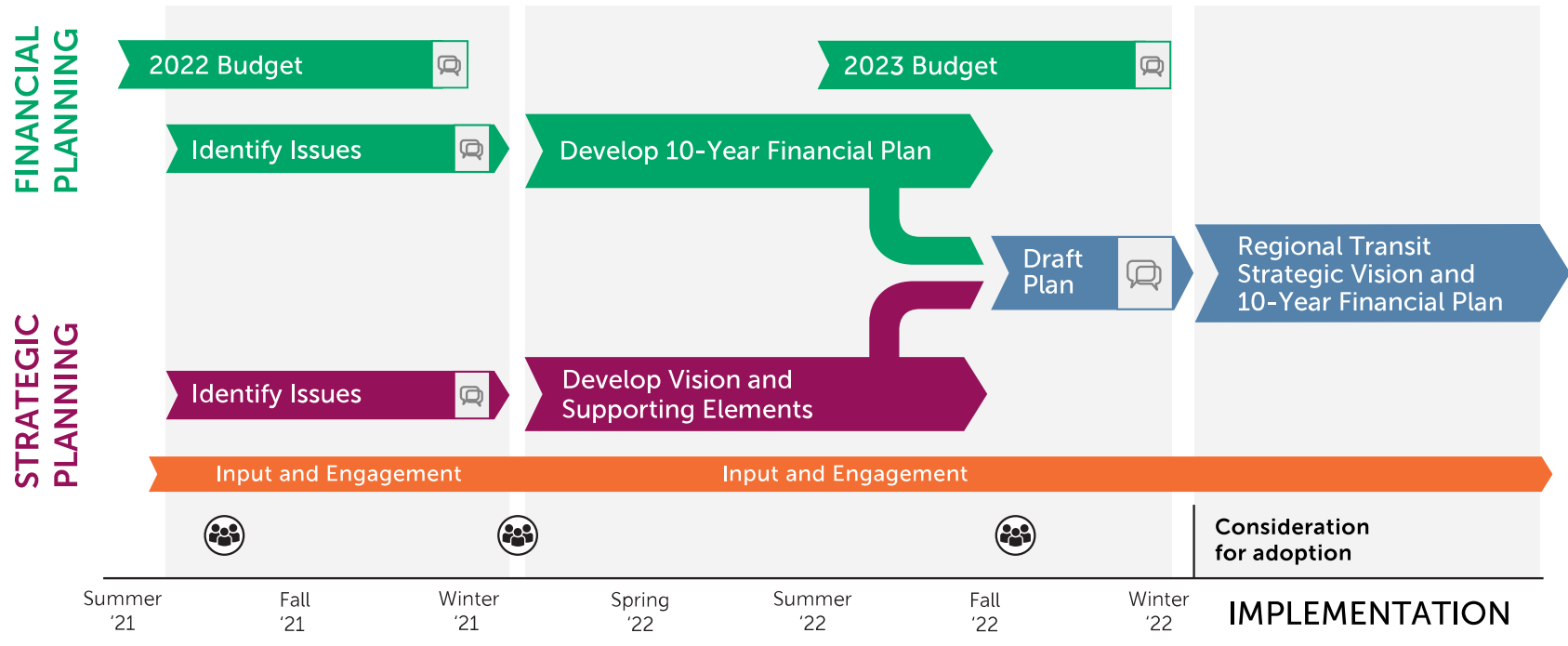
The background of the slide features a blue-toned image of the Chicago skyline, including the Willis Tower. In the foreground, there are stylized, semi-transparent images of transit vehicles: a Metra train, a CTA bus, and a CTA 'D' car. The text 'MOVING YOU' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, with a reflection effect below it.

AGENDA

- *Making a Plan*
- What we've heard
- Where we're headed: *An Emerging Vision for the Chicago Region's Transit System*
- Next Steps for plan development
- Next Steps for engagement

Regional Transit Strategic Plan Timeline

Collaborative development of a new strategic direction for the region's transit system will occur along three tracks and consist of multiple overlapping activities.



ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Making a Plan

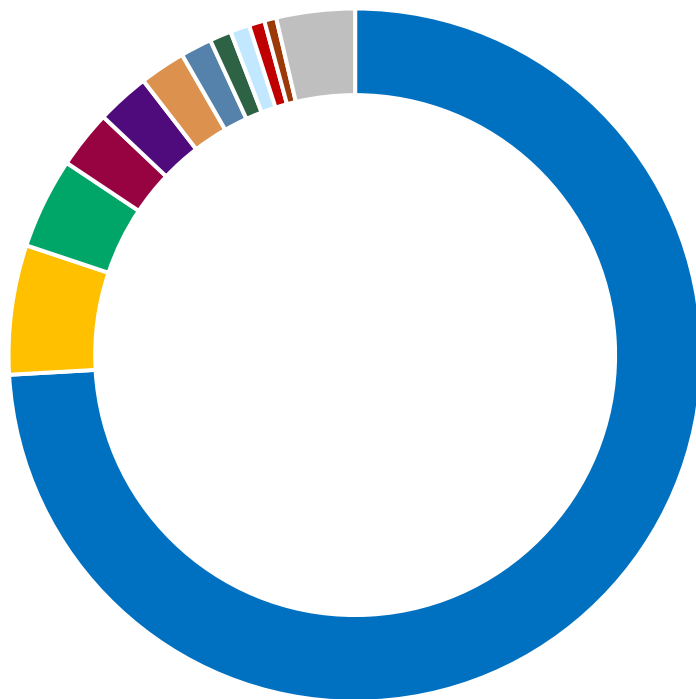
- **RTA Board Workshop** (Aug)
- **Connections** guest blogger series (Aug-Feb)
- **RTA Board speakers** (Aug-Dec)
- **Emerging From Crisis Wiser Public Forum** hosted by the Urban Transportation Center at UIC (Nov)
- **Public Survey** (Nov-Feb)
- **Stakeholder Workshops** (on going)
- **Working Groups** (more to come)

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

SURVEY

- Opened Nov. 11, 2021
- Closed Feb. 4, 2022
- 1,400+ responses

SURVEY RESPONSE



Affiliation

-  **75% - Transit rider/general public**
-  Private sector employee
-  Transit agency staff or board member
-  Non-profit or advocacy organization employee
-  Suburban municipal employee
-  State or County employee
-  Education or researcher
-  CMAP staff or board member
-  RTA staff or board member
-  Elected official
-  City of Chicago employee
-  Other

SURVEY RESPONSE

In three words, what is your vision for the future of the region's public transit system?



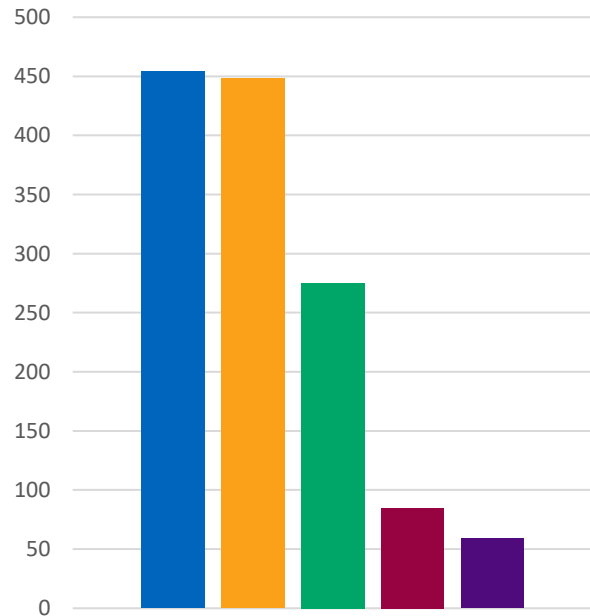
TOPIC: OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

What is the greatest opportunity for impact right now that the Strategic Plan process should address?



SURVEY RESPONSE

What is the greatest opportunity for impact that the strategic plan process should address?



Responses

-  The RTA should invest in a state of good repair for the system, strengthening the region's broader transportation system.
-  The RTA should work with local communities to improve transit accessibility and advance transit-oriented development and other transit friendly policies.
-  The RTA should prioritize the fight against climate change.
-  The RTA should focus on societal benefits of transit outside of mobility such as improving health and education outcomes.
-  The RTA should work with the business community to improve economic growth of the region.

WHAT WE HEARD:

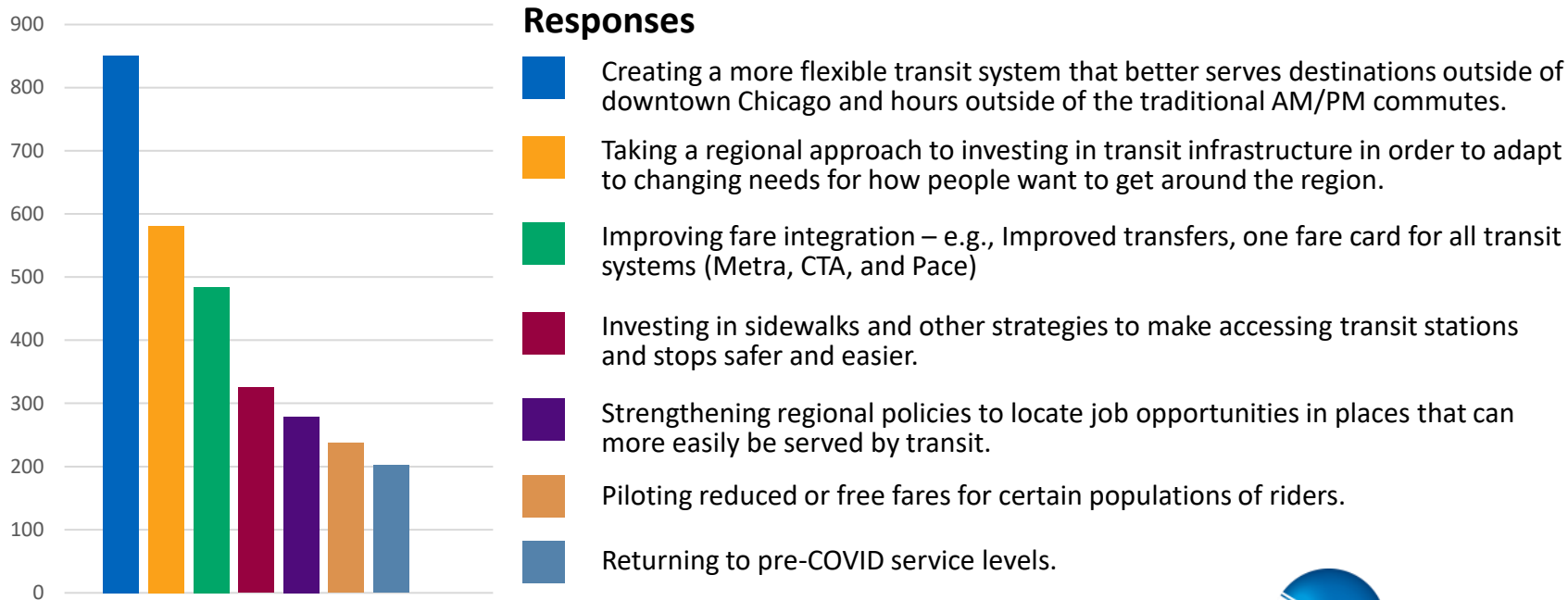
- **Climate - Mode Shift:** transit is the best tool to reduce the impact private automobiles have on the environment (i.e. reducing GHG, VMT, Particulate Matter, Auto-Oriented Development and Land Use)
- **Rider Centered Approach:** Make transit more available and easier to use
- **Assess & Communicate Outcomes:** Be transparent in planning and process, prioritize communities of greatest need
- **Articulate the Value of Transit in New Terms:** Ridership is not the most important metric
- **Climate - Resilience:** Advance Green Transit initiatives including fleet electrification and building a network that is more resilient to climate change impacts

TOPIC: TRANSIT SYSTEM ADAPTATION

What types of transit system changes should be the focus of this process?

SURVEY RESPONSE

Of possible changes to the transit system, which of these options should the RTA prioritize?



WHAT WE HEARD:

- Adaptation and Flexibility
- Integration and Coordination
- Fare Integration
- Fare Discounts
- Safety and Security
- Mobility Management
- First/Last Mile
- Community Development & ETOD
- Economic Growth
- Regional Business Partnerships
- Reliability & Quality of Service
- Physical Expansion
- Speed
- Automation

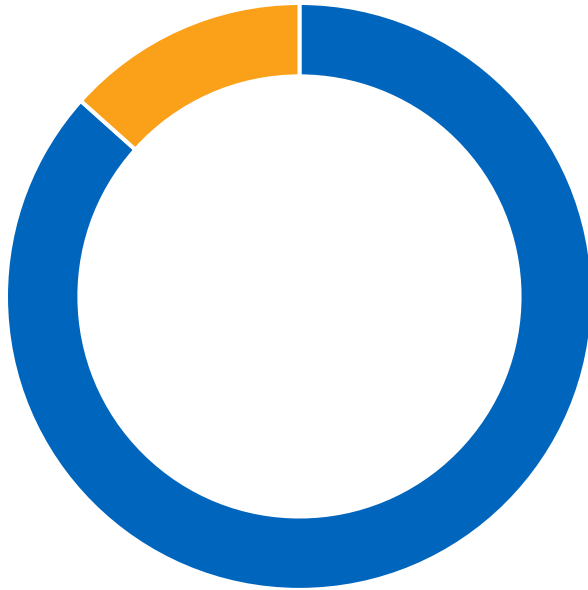


TOPIC: FUNDING SUSTAINABILITY

Which key financial issues should be addressed through this process?

SURVEY RESPONSE

In the future, if COVID relief funding runs out before ridership fully recovers, the transit system should...

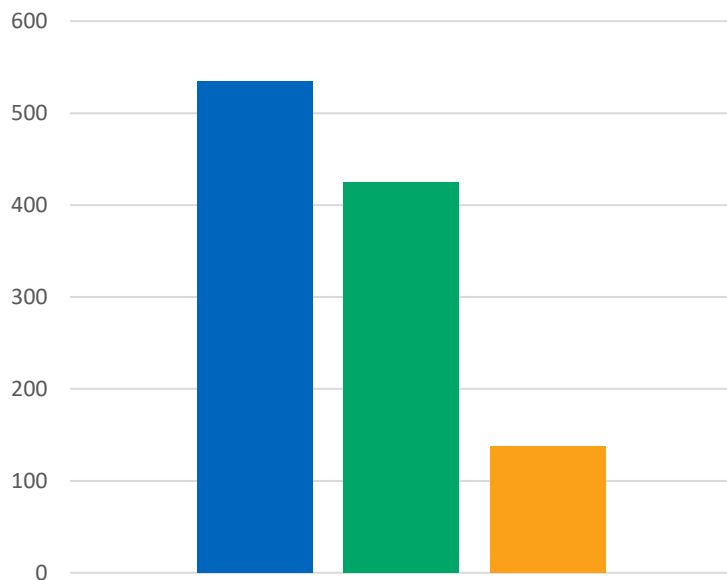


Responses

-  Pursue additional funding sources for transit.
-  Scale back service to “live within its means.”

SURVEY RESPONSE

How should the RTA focus its efforts in addressing funding?



Responses

-  **Seek New Revenue:** Identify new sources of revenue at the federal, state, and/or local level.
-  **Capital Investment:** Advance a regional, performance-based approach to improving transit infrastructure.
-  **Operating Funds:** Prepare for a future deficit by weighing trade-offs between service levels and funding.

WHAT WE HEARD:

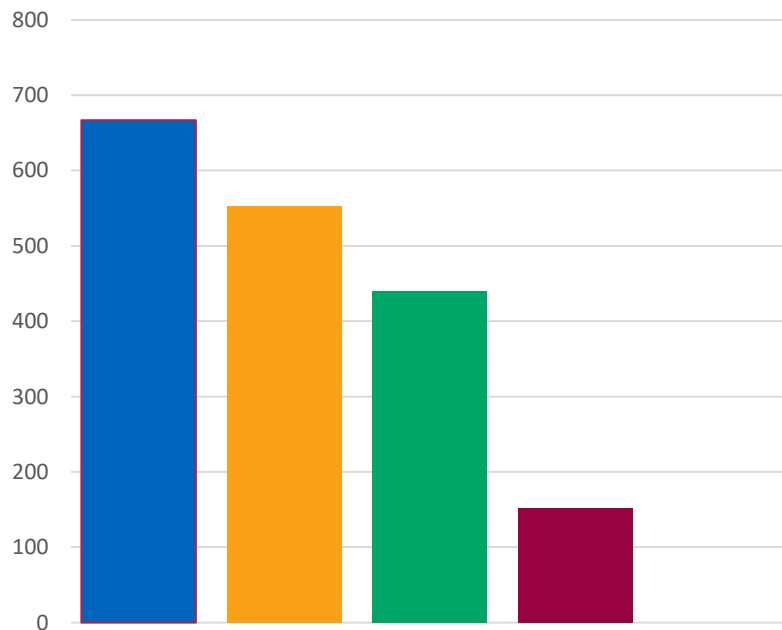
- Change funding distribution
- Rely less on fares
- Rethink fares and funding
- New funding sources
- Leverage partnerships
- Communicate the value of transit
- Investment: State of good repair, rethink, more
- Funding parity
- Control costs
- Road pricing to fund transit

TOPIC: EQUITY

What are some productive ways for RTA to define, understand, and incorporate equity during this process?

SURVEY RESPONSE

What should the RTA do to define, understand, and incorporate equity into its work?



Responses

-  Leverage transit's inherent advantage towards equitable mobility by advocating for increased federal and state transit funding.
-  Rethink transit funding and service distribution to prioritize equity at the regional level.
-  Establish goals and performance measures tied to equity.
-  Develop a shared regional equity statement.

WHAT WE HEARD:

- Operationalize a racial equity lens
- Establish goals and performance measures for equity
- Prioritize access to those who need it most: income, employment, communities of color
- Equity in the transit system starts with a strong system (i.e. federal funding parity with highways)
- Provide robust service throughout the region
- Acknowledge history of structural racism and inequitable outcomes of the region's transportation system
- Consider low-income and communities of color, beyond Cook County

WHERE WE'RE HEADED

VISION

Safe, reliable, accessible public transportation that connects people to opportunity, empowers equity, and combats climate change.

PRINCIPLES

- Open to change
- Equity
- Stewardship

OUTCOMES

In the future our region's transit system will be...

- Safe, accessible, reliable, and useful for riders
- In a state of good repair
- Financially stable

OUTCOMES

In the future our region will be...

- Connected
- Healthy and Resilient
- Thriving

COMBINED OUTCOMES FOR FUTURE

Our transit system will be...

- Safe, accessible, reliable, and useful for riders
- In a state of good repair
- Financially stable

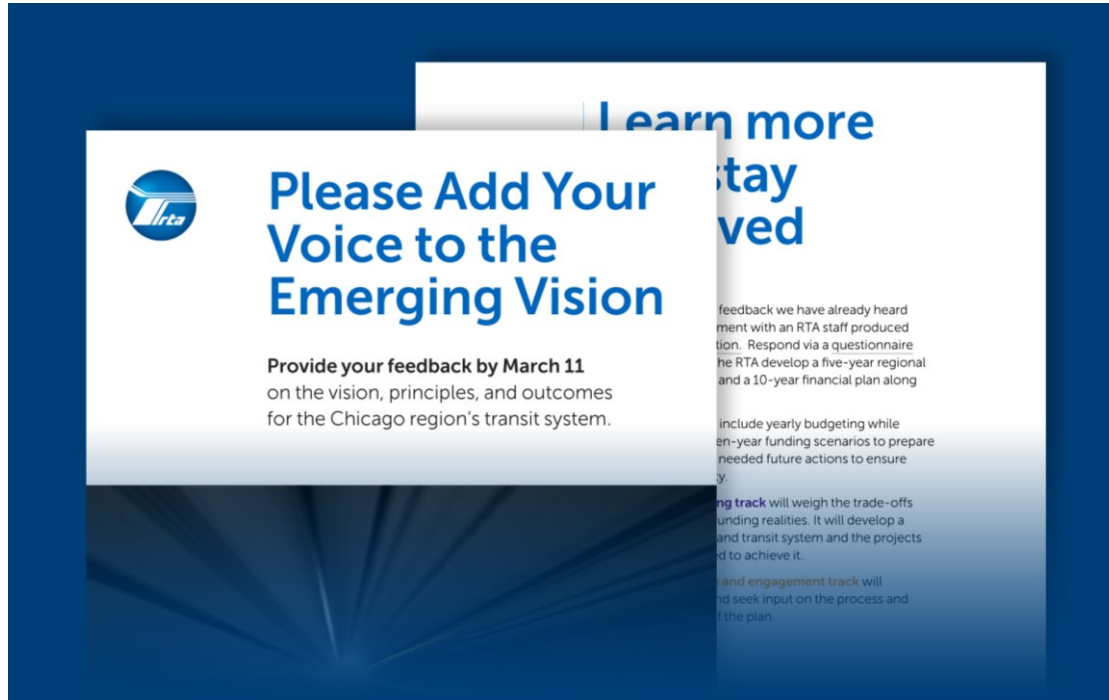
Our region will be...

- Connected
- Healthy and Resilient
- Thriving

NEXT STEPS FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- Working groups organized around outcomes
 - Led by RTA with 10-15 stakeholders each
 - Starting in March with regular meetings over 3 months
 - Tasked with recommending goals and measures
- RTA/Service Board collaboration to advance 10-year Financial Plan, Capital Priority Projects

SEEKING FEEDBACK NOW - MARCH 11



 **Please Add Your Voice to the Emerging Vision**

Provide your feedback by March 11
on the vision, principles, and outcomes for the Chicago region's transit system.

Learn more
stay
ved

feedback we have already heard
ment with an RTA staff produced
tion. Respond via a questionnaire
the RTA develop a five-year regional
and a 10-year financial plan along

include yearly budgeting while
ten-year funding scenarios to prepare
needed future actions to ensure
y.

ing track will weigh the trade-offs
funding realities. It will develop a
and transit system and the projects
ed to achieve it.

y and engagement track will
and seek input on the process and
of the plan.

BUILDING ON EARLY ENGAGEMENT

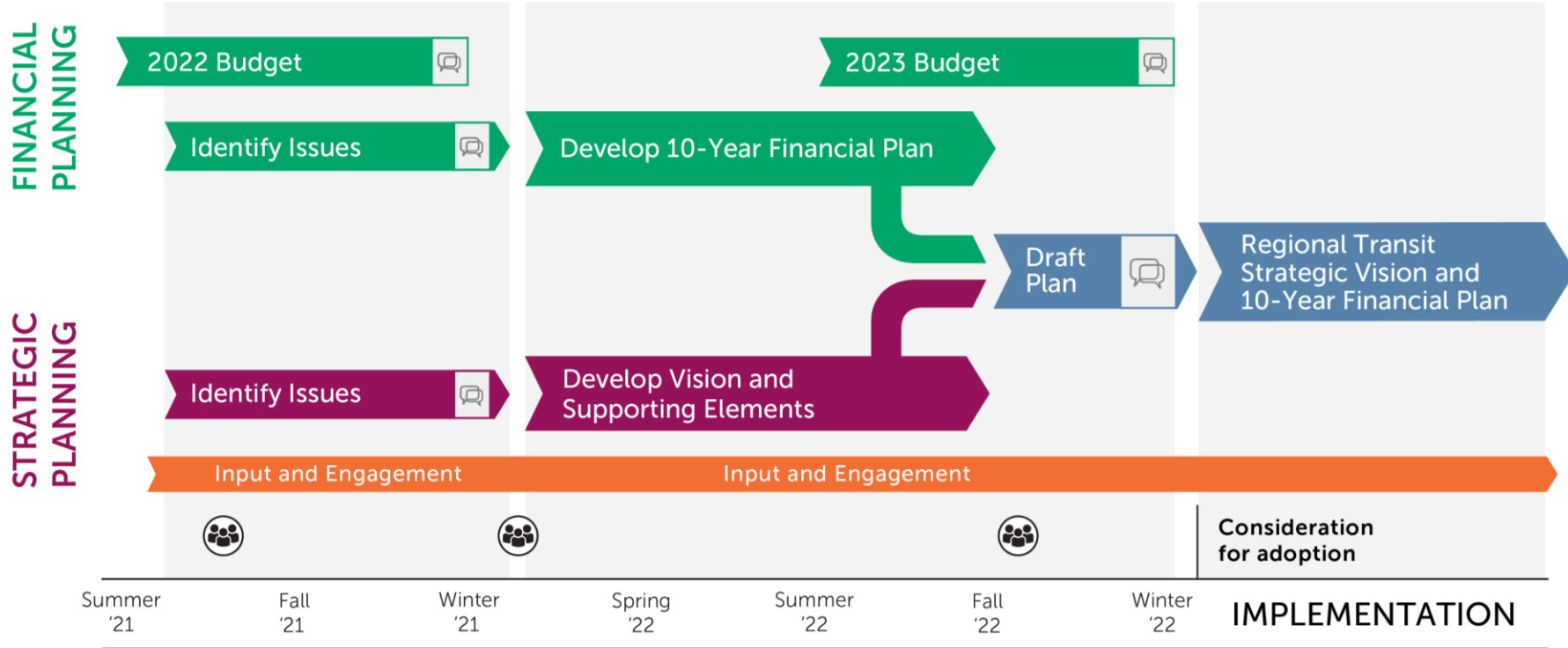
Vision

Safe, reliable, accessible public transportation that connects people to opportunity, empowers equity, and combats climate change.

Principles

Open to change
Equity
Stewardship

BUILDING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



THANK YOU!

6c. PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 AUDIT PLAN



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PURPOSE

- **Oversight Audit**
 - RTA Act provides that we must perform:
 - Audits of Service Boards at least once every five years
 - ADA Paratransit Audit conducted every three years
 - Required by external funding agencies such as IDOT, FTA, CMAP
- **Internal Audit**
 - Provides objective and independent assurance
 - Review internal processes and programs
 - Assess effectiveness and efficiency

OVERSIGHT AUDITS

Category	Title	Timeline
Annual Audits	Capital Grants Close Out – CTA, Metra, Pace	2 nd Quarter
	Reduced Fare Reimbursement – CTA, Metra, Pace	3 rd Quarter
	ADA Grant – Pace	3 rd Quarter
	Additional Financial Assistance (AFA) Grants – RTA Additional State Assistance (ASA) Grants – RTA	3 rd Quarter
	Innovation, Coordination, and Enhancements (ICE) Grant Funding Verification	3 rd Quarter
	Agency Verification Audits – CTA, Metra, Pace, RTA	4 th Quarterly

OVERSIGHT AUDITS - CONTINUED

- IDOT Funded Requisitions Audit
 - New requirement
 - Funded by Rebuild Illinois and the 2009 Capital Bill
- ADA Paratransit Triennial Audit
 - Required by RTA Act since 2008
 - Covering FY 2018, 2019, 2020

Category	Title	Timeline
Annual Audits	IDOT Funded Requisitions	Quarterly
Required Audit	ADA Triennial Audit	1 st Quarter

INTERNAL AUDITS

Category	Title	Timeline
Annual Reviews	Credit Card Purchases/Expense Reports including all Senior Management/Directors	1 st Quarter
	Payroll Compensation & End of Year Testing	1 st Quarter
	Pension Internal Controls	2 nd Quarter
	A-133 Report Analysis	1 st Quarter
	Contract Compliance – Quarterly	Quarterly
	Audit Follow up	Quarterly
Close Out	Consolidated Technical Assistance Program Grants	2 nd Quarter

INTERNAL AUDITS - CONTINUED

Category	Title	Timeline
Rotational Audit	Personally Identifiable Information Protection (PII)	3 rd Quarter
	HR COVID 19 FMLA and Absence Impact	4 th Quarter
Program Assessment Audit	Vendor Quality Mobility Management Program Implementation	2 nd Quarter
	New Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System Implementation	2 nd Quarter
	Cybersecurity Program Assessment	3 rd Quarter
Special Audit	Transparency Portal Compliance	4 th Quarter

6d. PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 COMMUNITY PROGRAM OF PROJECTS

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COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM

- Began in 1998
- Technical assistance and funding
- Invested over \$22.7 million (RTA, local & federal) for 219 projects
- Program adaptations



Bensenville



Evanston

2021 LOCAL PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION STORY MAP

- Highlights implementation of the RTA's Community Planning and Access to Transit Programs.
- Interactive story map
- Ten projects highlighted in seven municipalities
- Look for "Implementation Report" on our website:
www.rtachicago.org/cp



2022 CALL FOR PROJECTS GOALS

- Deliver value on our transit investment
- Build on the strengths of our transit network
- Stay competitive

2022
**CALL FOR
PROJECTS**

2022 CALL FOR PROJECTS PRIORITIES

- Benefits disadvantaged populations
- Support existing relationships
- Emerging topics
- Community empowerment

2022
**CALL FOR
PROJECTS**

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

PLANNING FOCUSED



**Transit-Oriented
Development (TOD)
Plans**



**Transit Neighborhood
Mobility
Improvement Plans**



**Transit Corridor
Plans**



**Curb
Management
Studies**

IMPLEMENTATION FOCUSED



**TOD Zoning Code
Updates**



**Developer
Discussion Panels**



**Special Funding
Districts**

2022 CALL FOR PROJECTS PROCESS

- October 8-28, 2021
- Application review
- Service board feedback

2022
**CALL FOR
PROJECTS**

2022 COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM

TOD Plans

- Village of Homewood
- Village of LaGrange
- Village of Richton Park

Transit Corridor Study

- Pace – Far South Halsted Corridor
- Village of Sauk Village

TOD Developer Discussion Panels

- Village of Cary
- Town of Cicero

QUESTIONS?

Find RTA's Community
Planning Program online at:
rtachicago.org/cp



6e. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – FOURTH QUARTER 2021



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An aerial photograph of Chicago, showing the city skyline in the background with numerous skyscrapers. In the foreground, there are elevated train tracks with several trains, including a silver commuter train and a red and blue train. The scene is set during the day with some clouds in the sky.

INVEST IN TRANSIT

The 2018-2023 Regional Transit Strategic Plan
for Chicago and Northeastern Illinois

An aerial photograph of a large industrial rail yard, likely in Chicago, showing numerous tracks, freight cars, and surrounding urban buildings. The image is used as a background for a presentation slide.

1

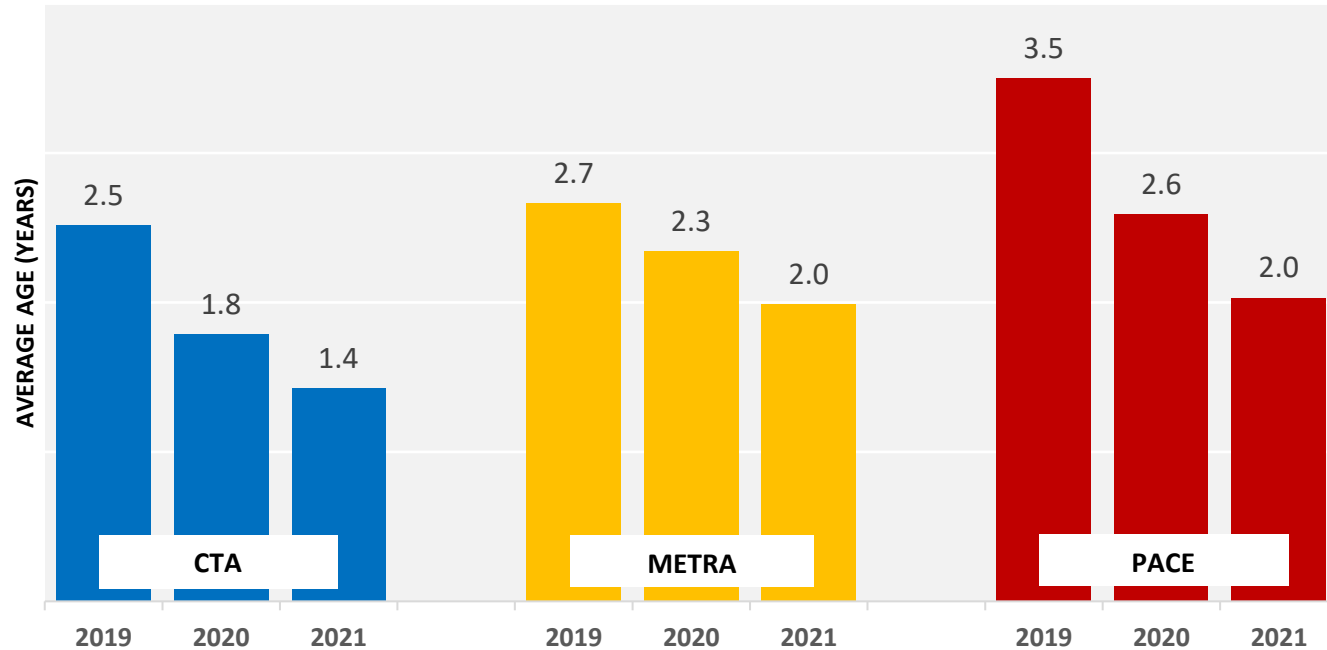
DELIVER VALUE ON OUR INVESTMENT

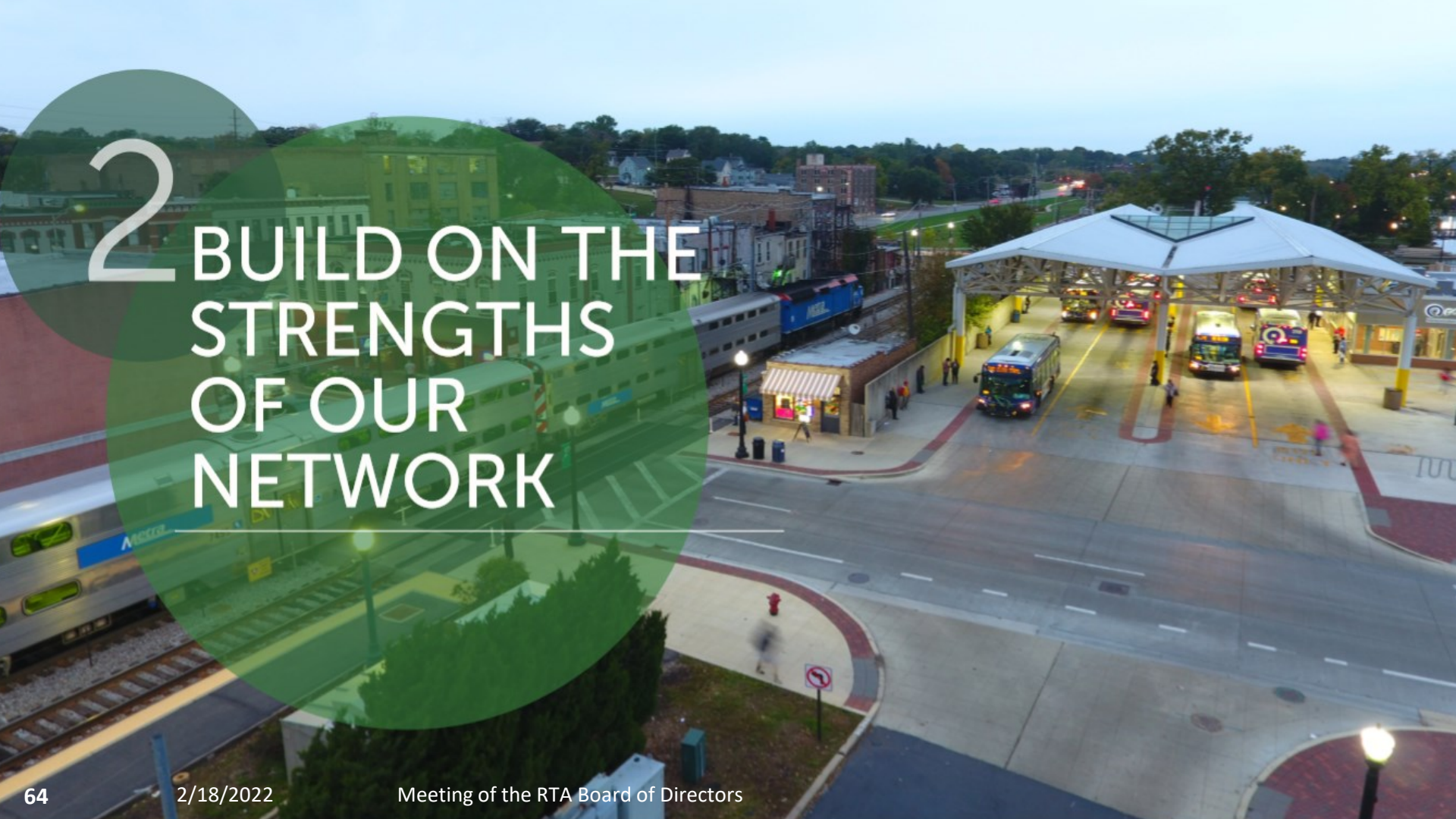
ANNUAL 2021 REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

Indicator/Measure	2021 Value	% Change	Trend
Annual Capital Funding	\$2,133,672,150	-22%	↓
Capital Expenditures	\$1,104,443,942	-2%	↓
Operating Cost per Passenger Trip	\$11.68	1.2%	↑
Fare Revenue per Passenger Trip	\$1.54	0.7%	↔

SPOTLIGHT: CAPITAL PERFORMANCE

Average Age of Funds

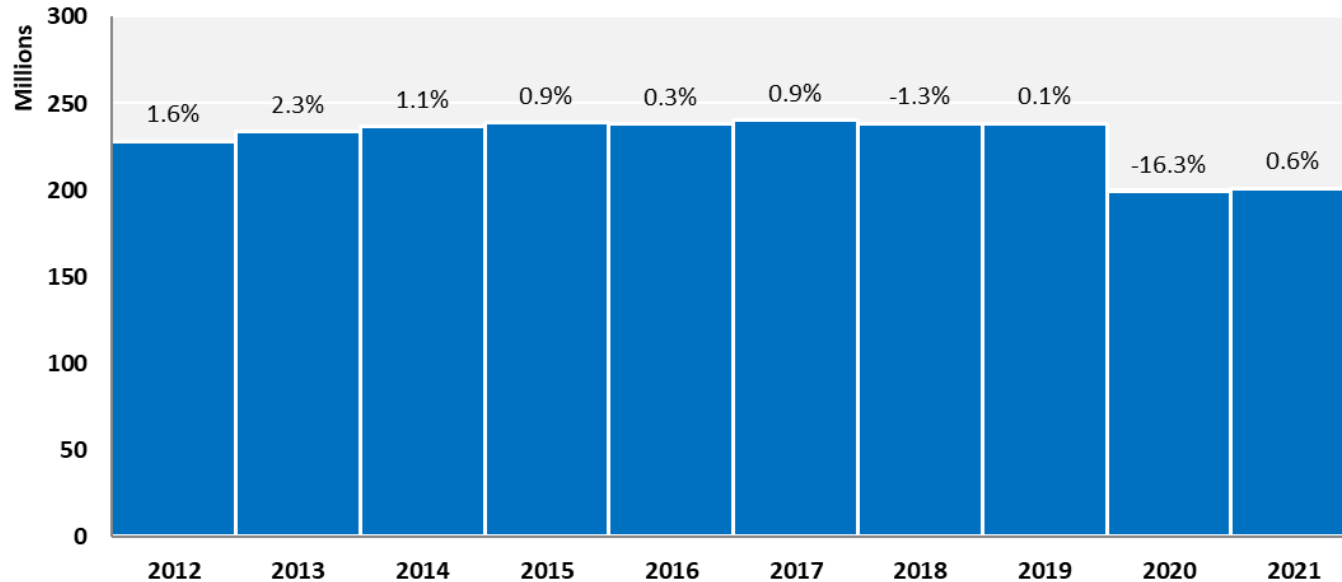


An aerial photograph of a transit station at dusk. A large green circular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the text '2 BUILD ON THE STRENGTHS OF OUR NETWORK'. The background shows a train on tracks, a bus stop with several buses, and a city street with buildings and trees in the distance.

2 BUILD ON THE STRENGTHS OF OUR NETWORK

ANNUAL 2021 REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

**Annual Regional Vehicle Revenue Miles
(2012-2021)**



SPOTLIGHT: ADA PARATRANSIT INNOVATION STUDY

You qualify for **FREE** Uber rides!

- Resident of DuPage County
- RTA-certified to ride ADA paratransit



An aerial night photograph of a city, likely Chicago, showing a highway with light trails, a train passing through a tunnel, and various city buildings and parks. A large purple circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the number '3' and the text 'STAY COMPETITIVE'.

3

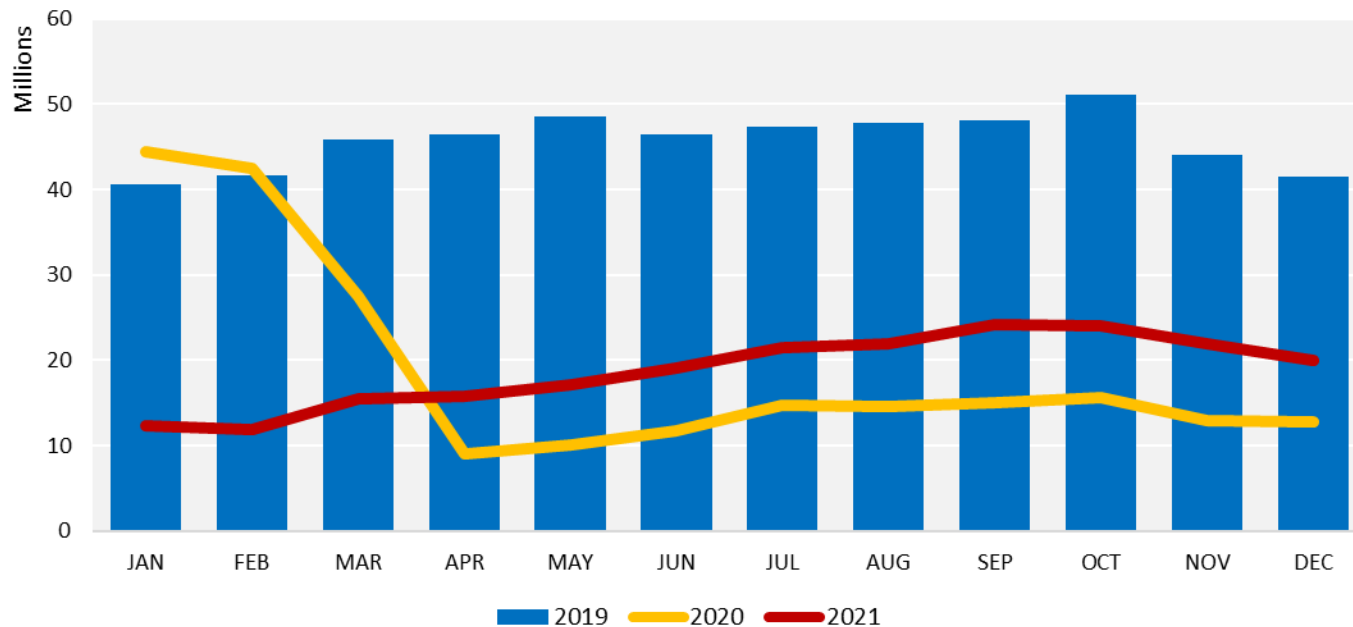
STAY
COMPETITIVE

ANNUAL 2021 REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

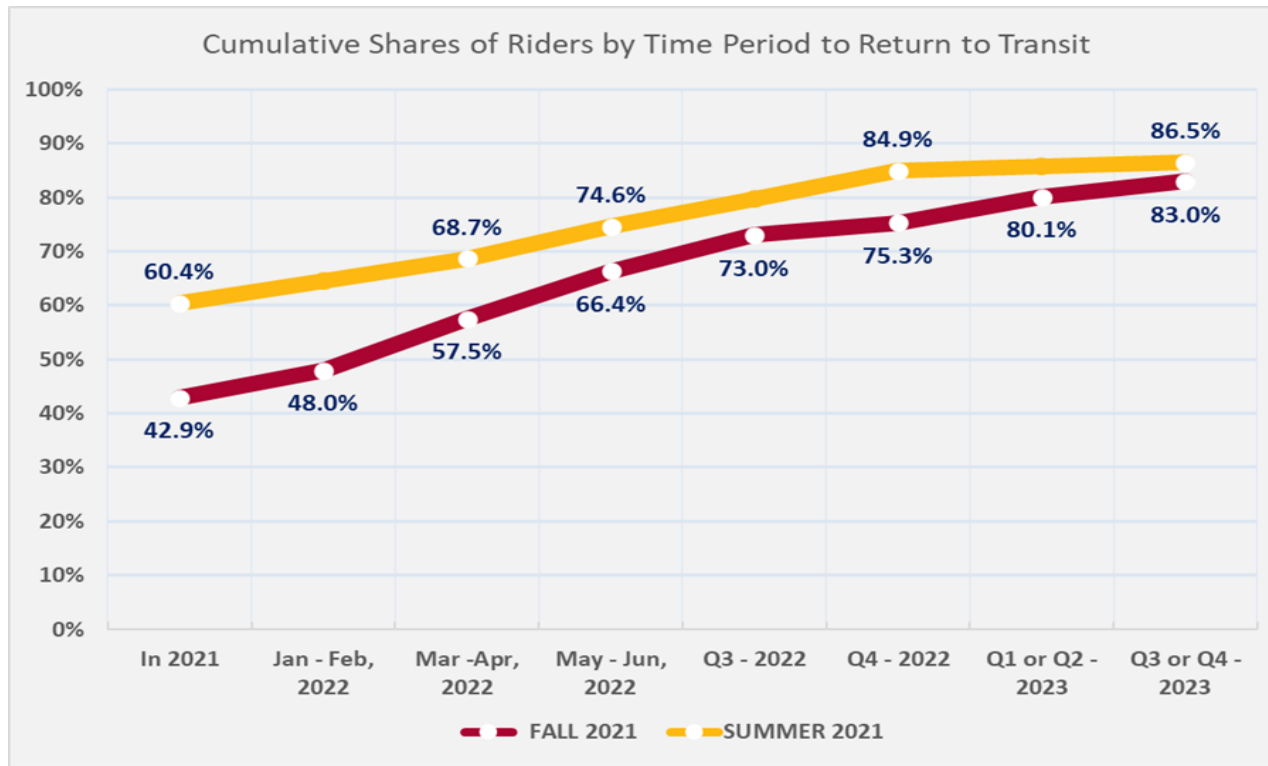
Indicator/Measure		Value	Trend
Ridership		225,496,620	↓
Average speed		14.8 mph	↑
On-Time Performance	CTA Bus	79.5%	↓
	CTA Rail	58.4%	↑
	Metra	95.5%	↓
	Pace bus	N/A	

RIDERSHIP

SYSTEMWIDE RIDERSHIP (2019 - 2021)



SPOTLIGHT: CUSTOMER PANEL SURVEY



SUMMARY

- Increased efficiency at spending capital dollars
- Pace DuPage Access Program
- December customer panel indicates a slower return to transit than revealed in August

7. ACTION ITEMS



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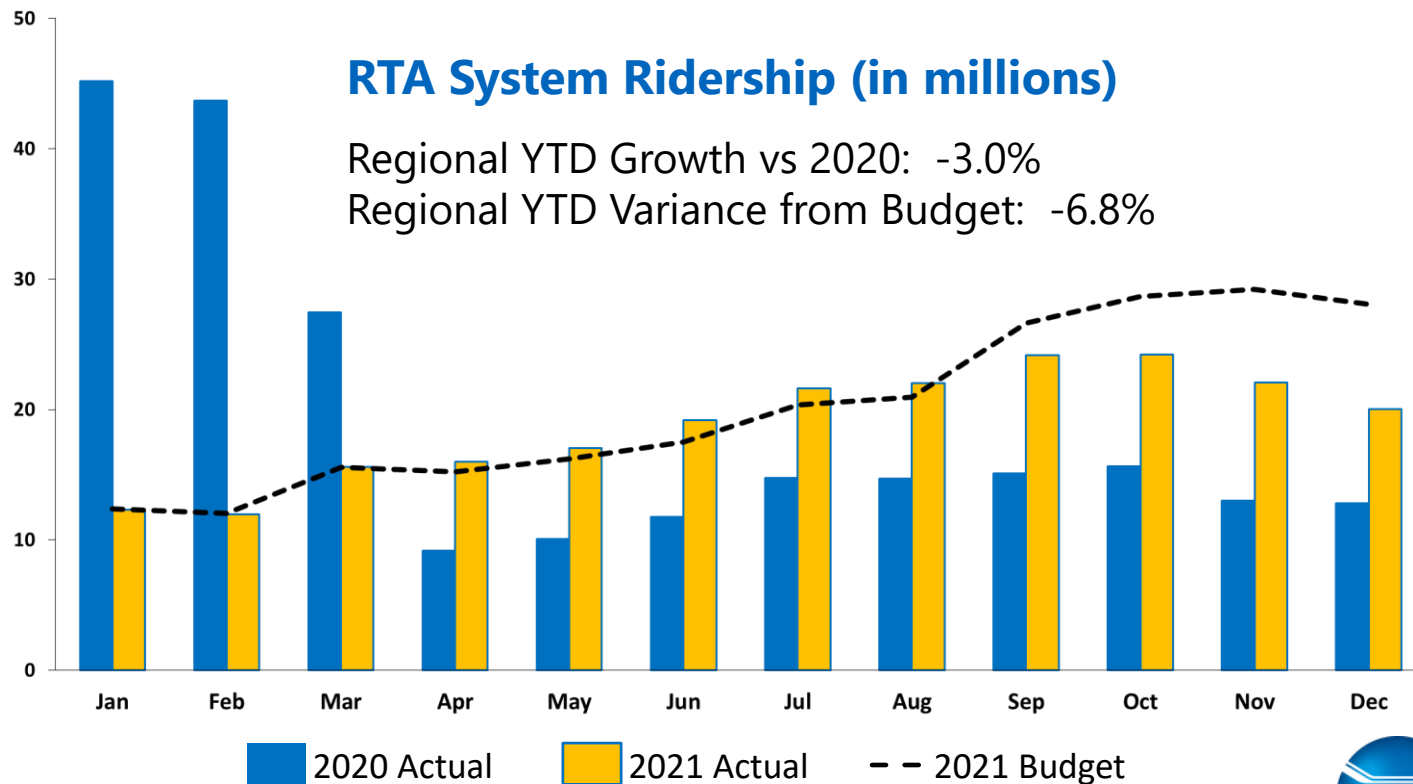
The background of the slide features a stylized, blue-tinted image of the Chicago skyline, including prominent skyscrapers like the Willis Tower. Below the skyline, a Metra train is visible, and the entire scene is overlaid with a faint grid pattern. The text 'MOVING YOU' is prominently displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

7a. RESOLUTIONS CERTIFYING FINANCIAL RESULTS – FOURTH QUARTER 2021



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RIDERSHIP RECOVERY STALLED IN THE FALL



RELIEF FUNDING DRAWDOWNS IMPACT OPERATING REVENUE

OPERATING REVENUE (IN MILLIONS)				
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% Variance</u>
CTA	\$548.5	\$726.2	(\$177.7)	(24.5%)
Metra	\$252.7	\$391.3	(\$138.6)	(35.4%)
Pace	\$31.9	\$57.8	(\$25.9)	(44.8%)
<u>Pace ADA</u>	<u>\$11.0</u>	<u>\$11.0</u>	<u>\$0.0</u>	<u>0.4%</u>
Total	\$844.1	\$1,186.2	(\$342.1)	(28.8%)

SERVICE BOARDS KEPT OPERATING COSTS UNDER CONTROL

OPERATING EXPENSES (IN MILLIONS)				
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% Variance</u>
CTA	\$1,585.4	\$1,637.7	\$52.4	3.2%
Metra	\$730.2	\$800.0	\$69.8	8.7%
Pace	\$221.0	\$240.8	\$19.8	8.2%
<u>Pace ADA</u>	<u>\$184.9</u>	<u>\$193.5</u>	<u>\$8.7</u>	<u>4.5%</u>
Total	\$2,721.4	\$2,872.1	\$150.7	5.2%

REGIONAL RECOVERY RATIO FINISHES WELL BELOW 50% REQUIREMENT

RECOVERY RATIOS					
	Without <u>Relief \$</u>	Federal <u>Relief \$</u>	With <u>Relief \$</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
CTA	31.2%	\$218.7	47.1%	54.8%	(7.7)
Metra	20.3%	\$115.9	37.4%	53.0%	(15.7)
Pace	19.5%	\$0.0	19.5%	30.3%	(10.8)
<u>Pace ADA</u>	<u>10.8%</u>	<u>\$4.5</u>	<u>18.2%</u>	<u>10.0%</u>	<u>8.2</u>
Total	26.1%	\$339.1	40.7%	50.8%	(10.1)

OPERATING DEFICITS LAGGED BUDGET

YEAR-TO-DATE OPERATING DEFICITS				
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% Variance</u>
CTA	(\$1,036.8)	(\$911.5)	(\$125.3)	(13.7%)
Metra	(\$477.5)	(\$408.7)	(\$68.8)	(16.8%)
Pace	(\$189.1)	(\$183.0)	(\$6.1)	(3.3%)
<u>Pace ADA</u>	<u>(\$173.9)</u>	<u>(\$182.6)</u>	<u>\$8.7</u>	4.8%
Total	(\$1,877.3)	(\$1,685.9)	(\$191.4)	(11.4%)

FUNDING AMENDMENT MOVED TO APRIL

- 2022 budget ordinance anticipated 1Q funding amendment
- Staff recommends delaying amendment to April
 - Final 2021 sales tax results will be available
 - More time to assess 2022 financial and ridership trends
- RTA board will consider revised Service Board 2022-2024 budgets and plans in May

2022 FINANCIAL REPORTING

- Moving away from current dashboard format
 - Fewer tables of numbers, more visuals, charts, and graphs
- Quarterly Certifications still required
 - May, August, November, and February Board meetings
 - Interim months will focus on specific areas of interest, e.g., operating revenue components, recovery ratio calculation, seasonality, etc.

7b. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR TRANSIT SIGNAGE, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES



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7c. ORDINANCE APPROVING STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTANT SUPPORT SERVICES

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7d. ORDINANCE APPROVING WEB DEVELOPMENT DESIGN AND ADMINISTRATION



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7e. APPROVAL OF TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT(S)



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8. NEW BUSINESS



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NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the RTA Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2022. We will advise you of the location or virtual nature of this meeting as the date approaches and the status of the COVID-19 situation is updated.

STAY CONNECTED



RTAChicago.org



[Connections blog – Blog.RTAChicago.org](https://Blog.RTAChicago.org)



Facebook.com/ChicagoRTA



[@RTA_Chicago](https://twitter.com/RTA_Chicago)



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Youtube.com/RTAChicagoland