

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BUDGET AND STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE



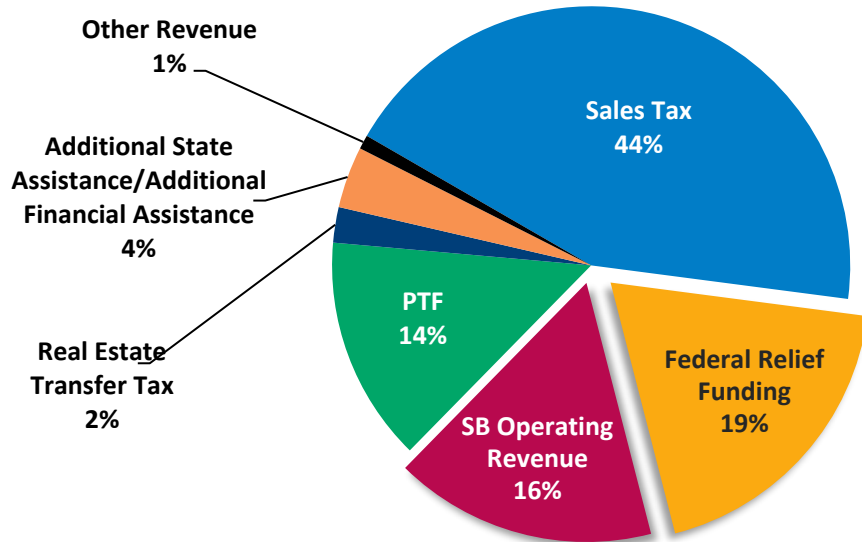
MOVING YOU

Transit Continues to Recover, Adapt

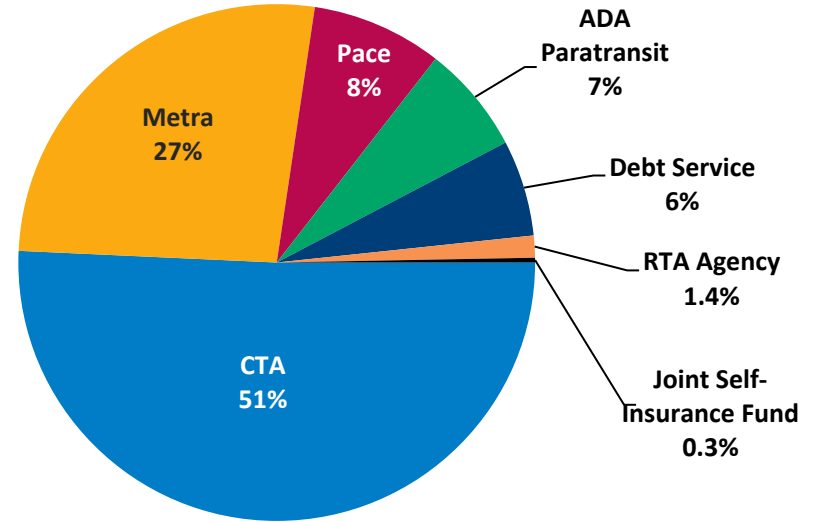
- Transit continues to be a lifeline for region's most vulnerable travelers
- Currently providing one million rides per weekday regionwide
- Transit partners are adapting already:
 - Service modifications and optimizations
 - Modernization projects
 - Piloting new fare offerings



Transit Budget Still Being Stabilized by Federal Relief



Revenue by Source (2022 budget)



Expense by Agency (2022 budget)

Heavy Reliance on Fare Revenue Not Sustainable as \$730 Million Transit Budget Deficit is Possible by 2026

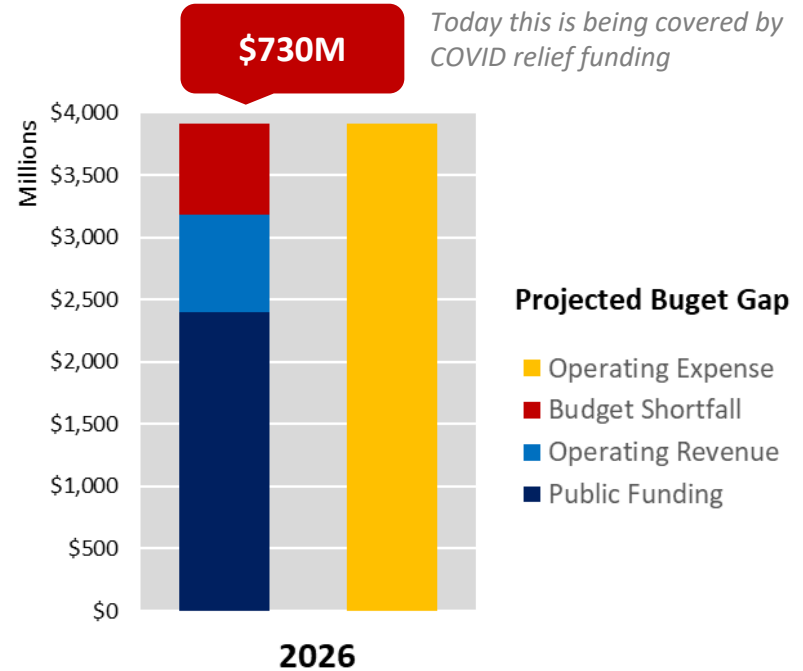
Public Funding stable due to strong sales tax receipts

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Operating Revenue very low due to fewer riders and less fare revenue

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Not enough to cover expenses in 2026



Co-Created with Stakeholders and Based on Feedback

- Five stakeholder working groups held over summer
- Three public surveys
- Over 50 individual meetings with government officials, business leaders, labor groups, transit advocates, and riders
- In-person engagement with riders at events in all six counties



Advocacy Areas

- **Secure increased funding** for transit operations
- **Develop a budget less reliant on rider fares**, but instead focused on expanding access to opportunity.
- **Build a coalition** around the value transit brings to the Chicago region.
- **Support communities' efforts** to improve the area around their transit stations and stops and pursue equitable transit-oriented development.
- **Engage with communities in an inclusive and transparent way** about how transit dollars are spent in the Chicago region.
- **Secure increased funding** for transit infrastructure.
- **Partner with roadway agencies** to build more transit-friendly streets and advance bus rapid transit.

Action Areas

- Make the transit system **safer and more secure** for everyone.
- Use new funding as a catalyst to create a **fully accessible transit system**.
- Provide **more accurate, real-time travel information** for riders.
- Make paying for transit **more seamless and more affordable**.
- Accelerate the transition to a **near-zero emission regional transit system** and prioritize communities burdened by poor air quality.
- Assess the **regional capital program** in a new way including considerations for racial equity and mobility justice.
- Adapt bus and rail service to **meet the changing needs of riders**.

Next Steps

- Stakeholder meetings to continue
- Strategic Plan
 - Virtual Public Hearing December 7
 - Final plan to RTA Board in February 2023
 - Immediate implementation actions to include advocacy campaign
- RTA Budget
 - Virtual Public Hearing December 7
 - November 17 agencies present to RTA Board
 - December 15 considered for adoption



Proposed 2023 Regional Operating Budget

- Total regional expenses projected at \$3.583 billion
 - 6% increase from 2022 Regional Budget
 - Continued service restorations, exacerbated by inflation
- No general fare increases but some price and pass adjustments to stimulate ridership
 - System ridership assumed at 56% of pre-COVID (2019) levels
 - Metra monthly pass pricing structure (zone vs flat rate) still under discussion
- Federal relief funding now expected to last through most of 2025
 - 2026 first budget year without relief funding
 - New funding sources needed; options identified in draft Strategic Plan
- Recovery ratio relief required beyond 2023, either permanent relief or extension of waiver