

October 18, 2013

Dear Legislator:

Metra's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 budget has recently been released for public comment. Our budget document, which is available on our website at www.metrarail.com/budgetrelease, contains information about our operating budget as well as our capital budget.

This preliminary budget document includes a \$935.9 million baseline budget that covers next year's operating and capital costs **without raising fares**. This total includes \$728.6 million for operations and \$207.3 million for capital. Metra staff was able to accomplish this by concentrating on identifying efficiencies and constraining expense growth where possible, resulting in a 2014 budget that has total operating expenses that are only 1.7 percent higher than the FY 2013 budget. The FY 2014 budget, while constrained in its overall expense growth, fully funds operating, maintenance, support, and other activities critical to providing train service.

Public hearings on Metra's 2014 budget have been scheduled for November 6th and 7th at locations throughout the six-county region. A listing of locations dates and times for the hearings can also be found on Page 77 of the enclosed budget document.

If you are unable to attend any of the hearings, we encourage you to submit written comments to: Assistant Secretary to the Metra Board of Directors, 547 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60661 or e-mail to: metra_feedback@metrarr.com.

Please do not hesitate to contact Metra's Government Affairs Officer Sam Smith (312-322-7077; ssmith@metrarr.com) if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Donald Orseno
Interim Executive Director/CEO

Enclosure