

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10 am THURSDAY, OCT. 9, 2014**

## **Metra's 2015 budget includes 10.8 percent fare increase**

*Proposal also would restore discount on 10-ride tickets and grace period on monthly passes*

CHICAGO (Oct. 9, 2014) – Metra today outlined a proposed 2015 budget that calls for an average fare increase of 10.8 percent across all fare types to help fund a modernization plan and pay for other rising costs of doing business. The proposal also will restore the discount on 10-ride tickets, bring back the first-day-of-the-month grace period on monthly tickets and extend the life of one-way tickets.

Metra's proposed 2015 budget includes \$749.1 million for operations and \$328.9 million for capital needs. The budget plan will be the subject of a series of public hearings before the board votes on a final budget on Nov. 14. (Please see attached schedule. Public comments can also be sent to [2015budgetcomments@metrarr.com](mailto:2015budgetcomments@metrarr.com).)

A portion of the fare increase will be used to cover debt service on a bond issue of \$100 million, which would be the first in Metra history, or similar financing. The financing, combined with additional financing proposed for future years, will be used to help fund a \$2.4 billion modernization plan that was also announced today. The rest of the fare increase will be used primarily to cover a growth in expenses, outlined below.

As part of the 2015 budget proposal, Metra would restore a discount on 10-ride tickets that was eliminated in 2013. The 10-ride ticket would now be priced at the cost of nine one-way fares, instead of the current 10 one-way fares. All the changes, including the fare increase, would begin Feb. 1, 2015.

Other proposed fare policy changes include:

- The grace period on monthly tickets would be restored, so that they would be valid on the first business day of the following month until noon.
- One-way tickets would be good for 90 days, instead of the current 14.
- The extra charge for buying a ticket onboard the train would increase to \$5 from \$3 (The surcharge is not applied if no ticket agent is available at the boarding station.)
- The price of a weekend pass would only increase to \$8 from \$7.
- A general no refund policy will be adopted, but exceptions could be outlined in the future.

Metra expects its expenses to grow by \$51.5 million next year. That includes \$18.5 million for labor and fringe benefits, \$6 million in added maintenance expenses due to the age of its equipment, \$9.6 million in other expense growth, \$8.4 million for the financing proposal and \$3 million for the added costs to our operating budget for the federally mandated Positive Train Control system. It also includes a \$6 million increase in the amount of farebox revenue that Metra is setting aside for capital needs.

Metra is expecting an increase in funding from external sources of \$18 million. That includes a \$12.3 million increase from the regional transportation sales tax, \$6 million from the RTA and a \$700,000 increase in the state reduced fare subsidy, minus \$1 million in security grant funding. The deficit is further reduced by \$6.2 million from an accounting change, a projected increase in non-fare revenue and grants from the RTA's Innovation, Coordination and Enhancement program.

That leaves a \$27.3 million deficit to be funded by the fare increase.

The price of full-fare, one-way tickets would increase between 10.8 and 18.2 percent, depending on the zone. Full-fare 10-ride tickets would change from a reduction of 0.3 percent to an increase of 6.4 percent. Full-fare monthly passes would increase between 10.9 percent and 18.6 percent. The price of reduced-fare, one-way tickets would increase between 11.1 and 22.3 percent, depending on the zone. Reduced-fare 10-ride tickets would increase between 0 and 10 percent. Reduced-fare monthly passes would increase between 11.1 percent and 22.2 percent. (Please see attached fare charts.)

The capital budget includes \$156.6 million in federal formula capital funds, \$4 million in federal Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality funds, \$45 million in RTA State of Good Repair bond funds, \$13.3 million from the RTA Innovation, Coordination and Enhancement program, \$10 million in Metra farebox capital funds and \$100 million in Metra bonds or similar financing.

The capital budget will allocate \$92 million to rolling stock, \$36.9 million to tracks and structure, \$131.6 million for signal, electrical and communication work (including \$123 million for PTC), \$44.5 million for facilities and equipment, \$9.4 million to stations and parking and \$14.5 million to support activities.

###

**FY2015 Metra Proposed Program and Budget  
Public Hearing Schedule**

**November 5 & 6 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**November 5**

**South Suburban Cook County**

Homewood Village Hall  
Village Board Room  
2020 Chestnut Road  
Homewood, Illinois

**North Suburban Cook County**

Hanover Park Police Department  
Community Room  
2011 W. Lake Street  
Hanover Park, Illinois

**Kane County**

Kane County Government Center  
Building A – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Auditorium  
719 South Batavia Avenue  
Geneva, Illinois

**Lake County**

Mundelein Village Hall  
Village Board Room  
300 Plaza Circle  
Mundelein, Illinois

**November 6**

**DuPage County**

Clarendon Hills Village Hall  
Village Board Room  
One North Prospect Avenue  
Clarendon Hills, Illinois

**Will County**

Will County Office Building  
County Board room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
302 N. Chicago Street  
Joliet, Illinois

**McHenry County**

Woodstock Village Hall  
City Council Chambers  
121 W. Calhoun Street  
Woodstock, Illinois

**City of Chicago**

Metra  
Board Room  
547 W. Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois

### Proposed 2015 Adult Fare Schedule

Ticket	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	M
Monthly	92.75											
<b>A</b> Ten-Ride	29.25											
One-Way	3.25											
Monthly	99.75	92.75						Weekend: \$8.00 On-Board Surcharge: \$5.00				
<b>B</b> Ten-Ride	31.50	29.25										
One-Way	3.50	3.25										
Monthly	135.50	99.75	92.75									
<b>C</b> Ten-Ride	42.75	31.50	29.25									
One-Way	4.75	3.50	3.25									
Monthly	156.75	135.50	99.75	92.75								
<b>D</b> Ten-Ride	49.50	42.75	31.50	29.25								
One-Way	5.50	4.75	3.50	3.25								
Monthly	171.00	156.75	135.50	99.75	92.75							
<b>E</b> Ten-Ride	54.00	49.50	42.75	31.50	29.25							
One-Way	6.00	5.50	4.75	3.50	3.25							
Monthly	185.25	171.00	156.75	135.50	99.75	92.75						
<b>F</b> Ten-Ride	58.50	54.00	49.50	42.75	31.50	29.25						
One-Way	6.50	6.00	5.50	4.75	3.50	3.25						
Monthly	199.50	185.25	171.00	156.75	135.50	99.75	92.75					
<b>G</b> Ten-Ride	63.00	58.50	54.00	49.50	42.75	31.50	29.25					
One-Way	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.50	4.75	3.50	3.25					
Monthly	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	156.75	135.50	99.75	92.75				
<b>H</b> Ten-Ride	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	49.50	42.75	31.50	29.25				
One-Way	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.50	4.75	3.50	3.25				
Monthly	235.25	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	156.75	135.50	99.75	92.75			
<b>I</b> Ten-Ride	74.25	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	49.50	42.75	31.50	29.25			
One-Way	8.25	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.50	4.75	3.50	3.25			
Monthly	249.50	235.25	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	156.75	135.50	99.75	92.75		
<b>J</b> Ten-Ride	78.75	74.25	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	49.50	42.75	31.50	29.25		
One-Way	8.75	8.25	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.50	4.75	3.50	3.25		
Monthly	263.75	249.50	235.25	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	156.75	135.50	99.75	92.75	
<b>K</b> Ten-Ride	83.25	78.75	74.25	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	49.50	42.75	31.50	29.25	
One-Way	9.25	8.75	8.25	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.50	4.75	3.50	3.25	
Monthly	292.25	278.00	263.75	249.50	235.25	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	156.75	135.50	92.75
<b>M</b> Ten-Ride	92.25	87.75	83.25	78.75	74.25	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	49.50	42.75	29.25
One-Way	10.25	9.75	9.25	8.75	8.25	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.50	4.75	3.25

### Proposed 2015 Special-User Fares

Ticket	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	M
Monthly	52.50											
<b>A</b> Ten-Ride	13.50											
One-Way	1.50											
Monthly	61.25	52.50										
<b>B</b> Ten-Ride	15.75	13.50										
One-Way	1.75	1.50										
Monthly	78.75	61.25	52.50									
<b>C</b> Ten-Ride	20.25	15.75	13.50									
One-Way	2.25	1.75	1.50									
Monthly	96.25	78.75	61.25	52.50								
<b>D</b> Ten-Ride	24.75	20.25	15.75	13.50								
One-Way	2.75	2.25	1.75	1.50								
Monthly	105.00	96.25	78.75	61.25	52.50							
<b>E</b> Ten-Ride	27.00	24.75	20.25	15.75	13.50							
One-Way	3.00	2.75	2.25	1.75	1.50							
Monthly	113.75	105.00	96.25	78.75	61.25	52.50						
<b>F</b> Ten-Ride	29.25	27.00	24.75	20.25	15.75	13.50						
One-Way	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.25	1.75	1.50						
Monthly	122.50	113.75	105.00	96.25	78.75	61.25	52.50					
<b>G</b> Ten-Ride	31.50	29.25	27.00	24.75	20.25	15.75	13.50					
One-Way	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.25	1.75	1.50					
Monthly	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	96.25	78.75	61.25	52.50				
<b>H</b> Ten-Ride	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	24.75	20.25	15.75	13.50				
One-Way	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.25	1.75	1.50				
Monthly	140.00	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	96.25	78.75	61.25	52.50			
<b>I</b> Ten-Ride	36.00	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	24.75	20.25	15.75	13.50			
One-Way	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.25	1.75	1.50			
Monthly	148.75	140.00	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	96.25	78.75	61.25	52.50		
<b>J</b> Ten-Ride	38.25	36.00	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	24.75	20.25	15.75	13.50		
One-Way	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.25	1.75	1.50		
Monthly	157.50	148.75	140.00	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	96.25	78.75	61.25	52.50	
<b>K</b> Ten-Ride	40.50	38.25	36.00	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	24.75	20.25	15.75	13.50	
One-Way	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.25	1.75	1.50	
Monthly	175.00	166.25	157.50	148.75	140.00	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	96.25	78.75	52.50
<b>M</b> Ten-Ride	45.00	42.75	40.50	38.25	36.00	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	24.75	20.25	13.50
One-Way	5.00	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.25	1.50