

Meeting of the RTA Board of Directors

October 17, 2024

Welcome! Meeting Starts at 9 a.m.

Meeting Agenda: rtachicago.org



1. Call to order

Pledge of allegiance



RTA Board of Directors meeting

- Roll call
- Approval of minutes

4. Public comment



5. Executive Director's report



Legislative update



Today's agenda



6. Information items

6a. Presentation and discussion of the 2025 RTA Agency Budget



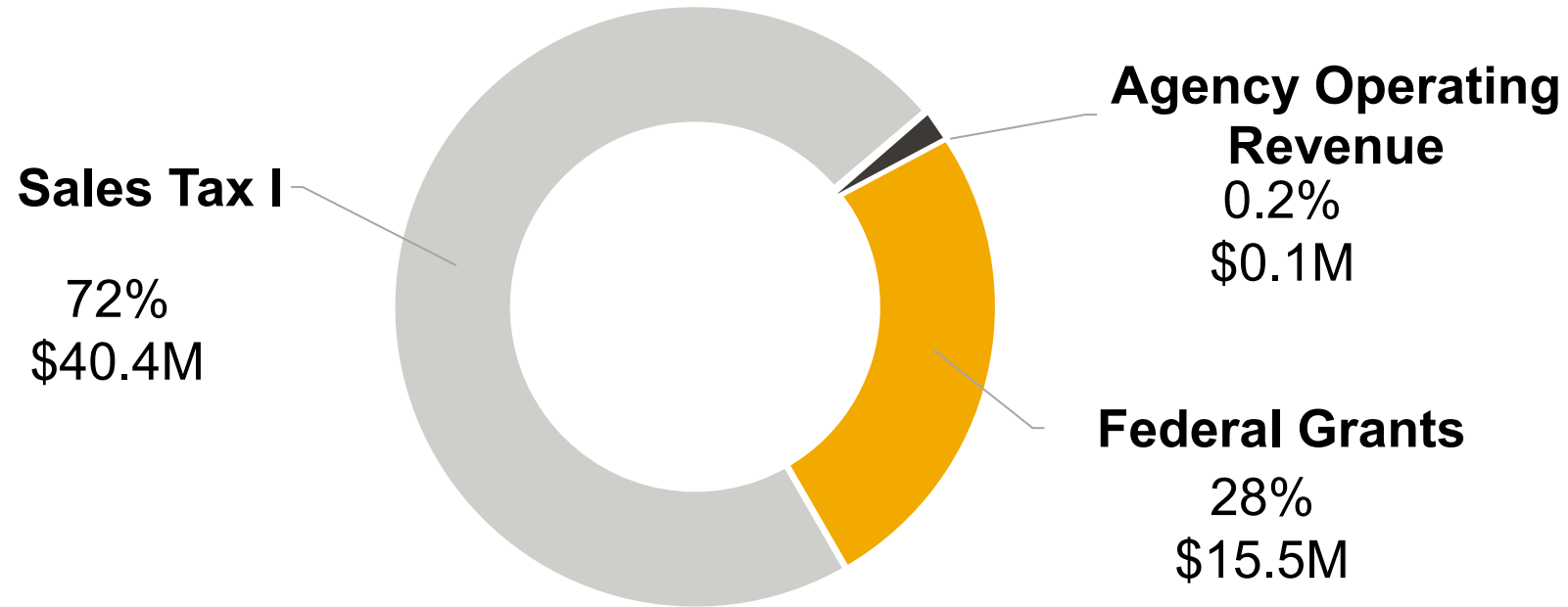
Overview – 2025 RTA Agency Budget

Primary initiatives:

- Reduced Fare and Ride Free Programs
- Community Planning and Access to Transit Grants
- Human Services Transportation Plan (federally funded)
- Transit Advocacy Campaign
- Cybersecurity and IT support

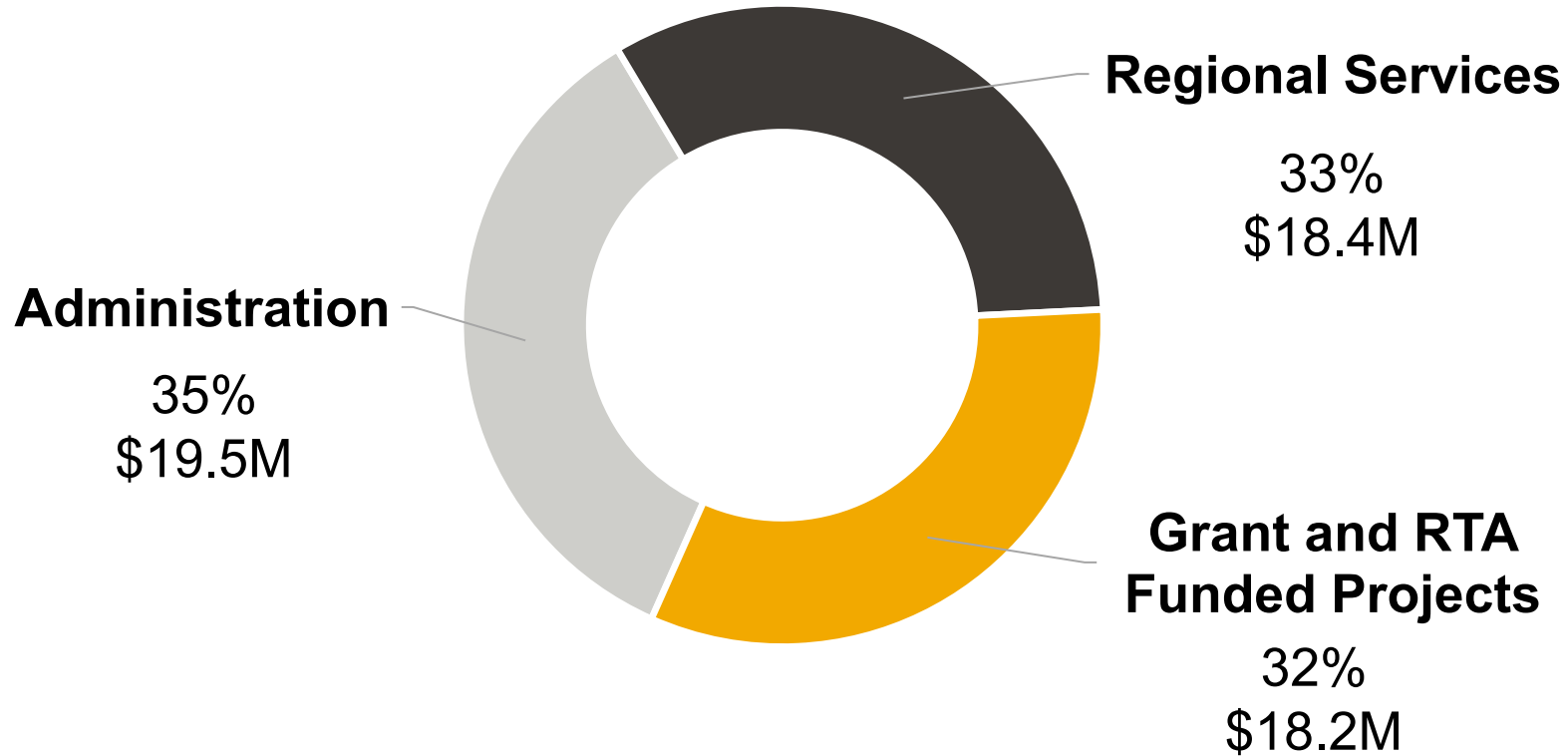
2025 RTA Agency budgeted revenues

2025 Revenues: \$56.0M



2025 RTA Agency budgeted expenses

2025 Expenses: \$56.0M



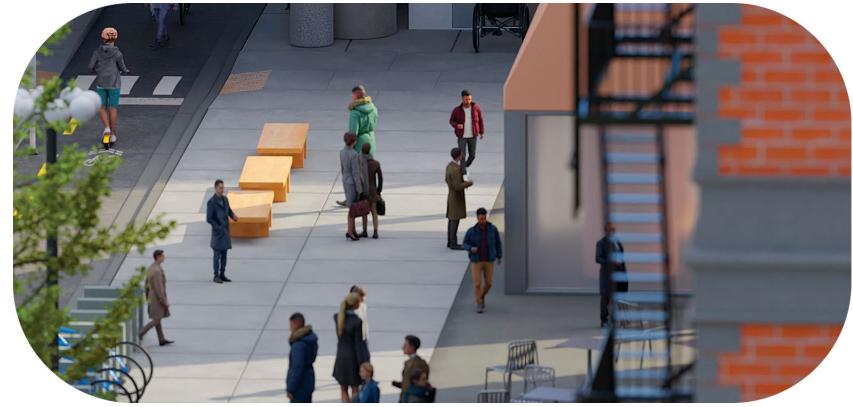
RTA Agency Budget Funding year-to-year comparison

(in millions)	2024 Adopted Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	% Change
Administrative	\$18.068	\$19.493	7.9%
Regional Programs	\$20.375	\$20.872	2.4%
Budget Total	\$38.443	\$40.366	5.0%



6b. Transit is the Answer update



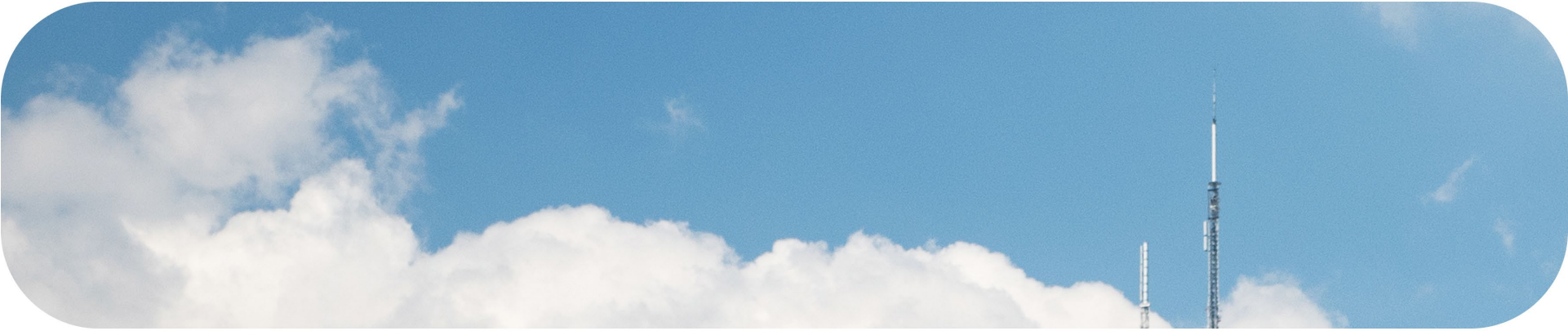


PROJECT UPDATE

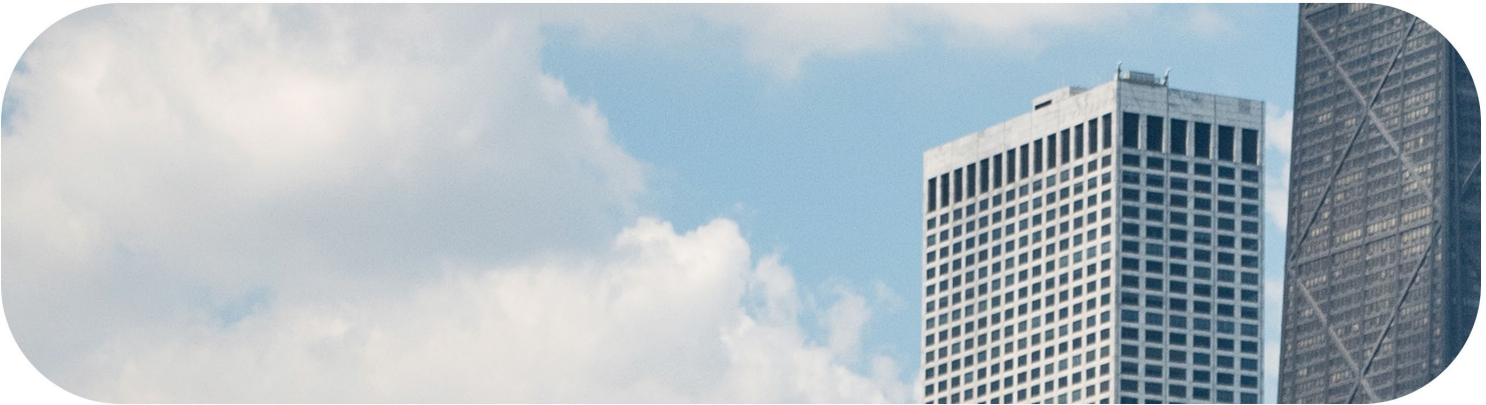
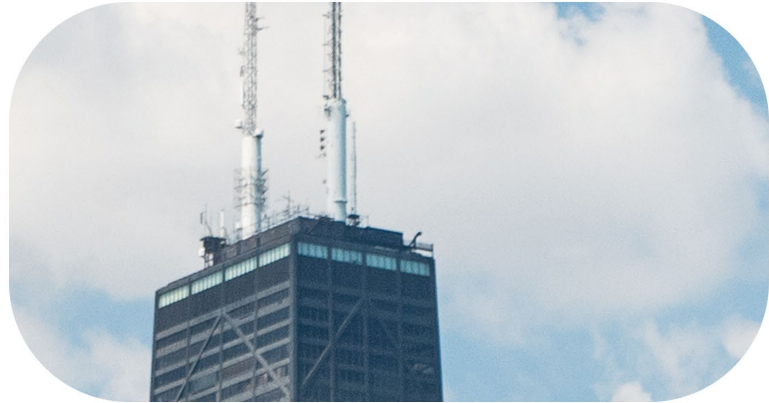


Chicago Region Transit Dashboard

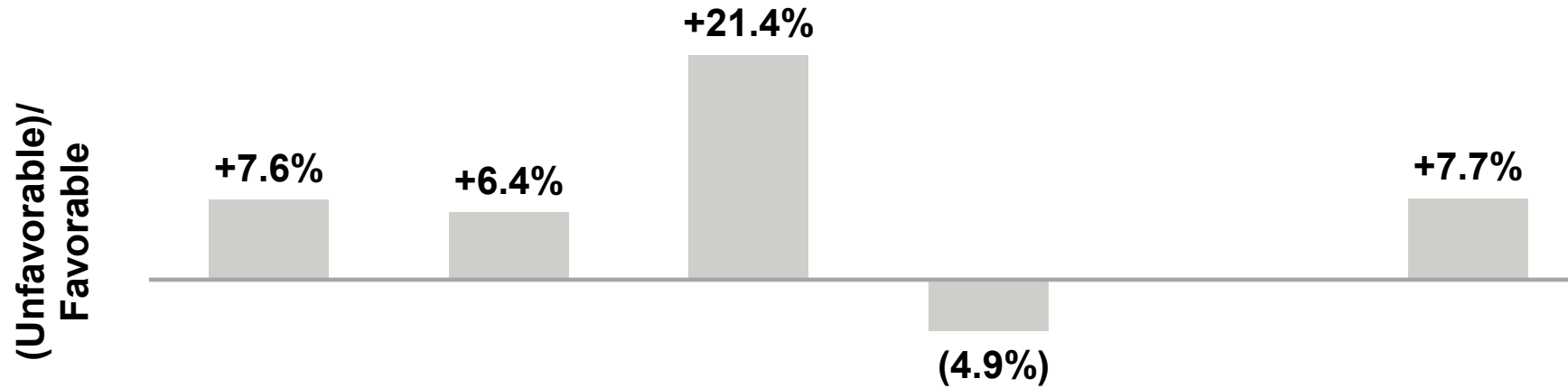
rtachicago.org/dashboards



FINANCE



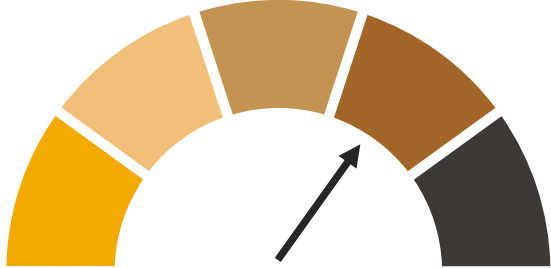
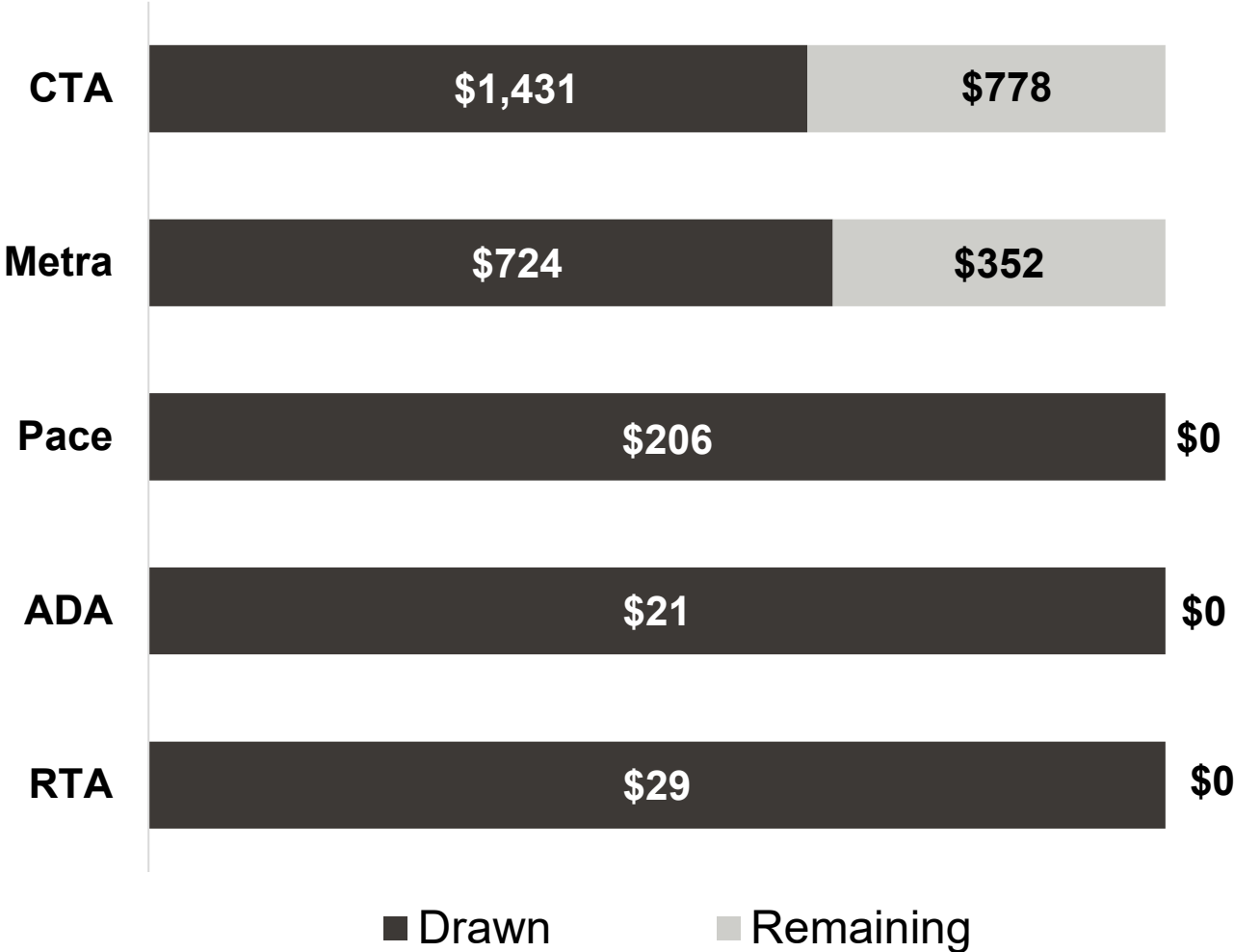
Operating deficit variances from budget YTD through August



(in millions)	CTA	Metra	Pace	ADA	Region
Budget	(\$1,050.8)	(\$524.1)	(\$195.4)	(\$155.1)	(\$1,925.4)
Actual	(\$971.0)	(\$490.5)	(\$153.6)	(\$162.7)	(\$1,777.7)
Variance	\$79.8	\$33.6	\$41.9	(\$7.6)	\$147.7



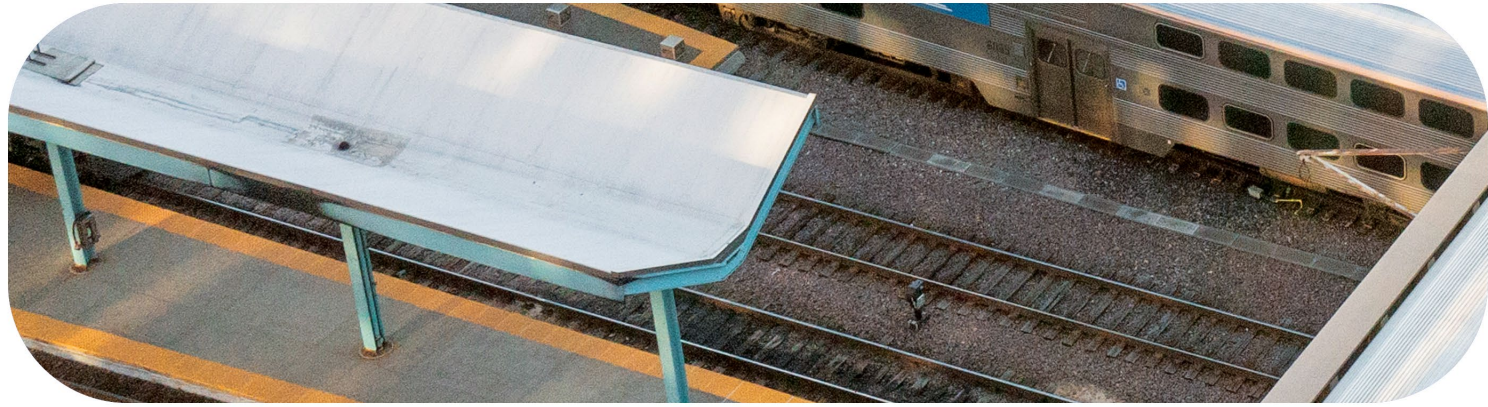
Relief funding drawn (in millions)



**Region Total
Drawn = 68.1%**

**\$2.411B
of
\$3.540B**





LEGISLATIVE



UPDATE

Preparing for major legislative action in 2025

- Outreach to Governor's Office, ILGA leadership, and individual members
- Senate Transportation Committee hearings
- House Public Transit Working Group
- Key Dates:
 - Election Day: November 5, 2024
 - Veto Session: November 12-14, 19-21
 - Lame Duck: Early January 2025
 - New Session: Late January – May 2025

Lesson from peer states: level of action matters

One-time funding patches (California, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C.)

- Need to come back next year to avoid cuts, if not sooner

Partial solutions (New York, New Jersey)

- Need to come back in 3-5 years, if not sooner

Sustainable revenue (Minnesota)

- Funds expansion and future growth

Lessons from past crises

Funding Lessons

1. Timing matters to avoid cuts
2. New revenue should be sustainable, diverse
3. Funding sources should incentivize transit ridership, reduce emissions

Reform Lessons

1. Advance opportunities to improve efficiency and accountability
2. Ensure governance reflects diversity of regional perspectives

Timing is urgent

- If no funding solution is found by June 30, 2025 (the end of the state fiscal year), the Service Boards must:
 - Pivot from service expansion to planning for severe cuts
 - Begin the Title VI-required equity analysis and public engagement around cuts and fare increases, which can last 10 months
- Any increased taxes will take a minimum of 3-6 months from consumer to being distributed to transit agencies
- RTA Act does not allow for the short-term borrowing at the levels needed to delay cuts and layoffs

2025 Legislative Agenda - Funding

Fully fund regional transit operations

- Fill projected operating budget gap
- Increase operations funding by at least \$1.5B annually
- Eliminate farebox recovery ratio requirement
- Fully fund free and reduced fare programs (\$150M annually) and ADA Paratransit service (\$250M annually)

2025 Legislative Agenda - Safety

Strengthen partnerships and investment to enhance personal safety and security on public transit

- Increase law enforcement presence
- Increase social services presence
- Advance a multi-layered approach using strategies identified at 2024 RTA Safety and Security Summit

2025 Legislative Agenda - Reform

Reform transit governance to establish a stronger RTA that improves service and accountability for riders and taxpayers

- RTA serves as rider hub for fares and customer service
- RTA sets service standards with mechanisms to monitor and enforce compliance
- RTA leads planning for major regional transit and transportation capital projects

7. Action items

7a. Resolution setting the 2025 RTA Board meeting schedule



7b. Ordinances authorizing the reappointment of two RTA Pension Trustees



7c. Ordinance authorizing a contract for media purchasing and strategy



7d. Approval of travel expense reimbursement(s)



8. New business

9. Executive Session

IOMA Section 2(c)(21)

Adjournment

The next meeting of the RTA Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, November 22.

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