

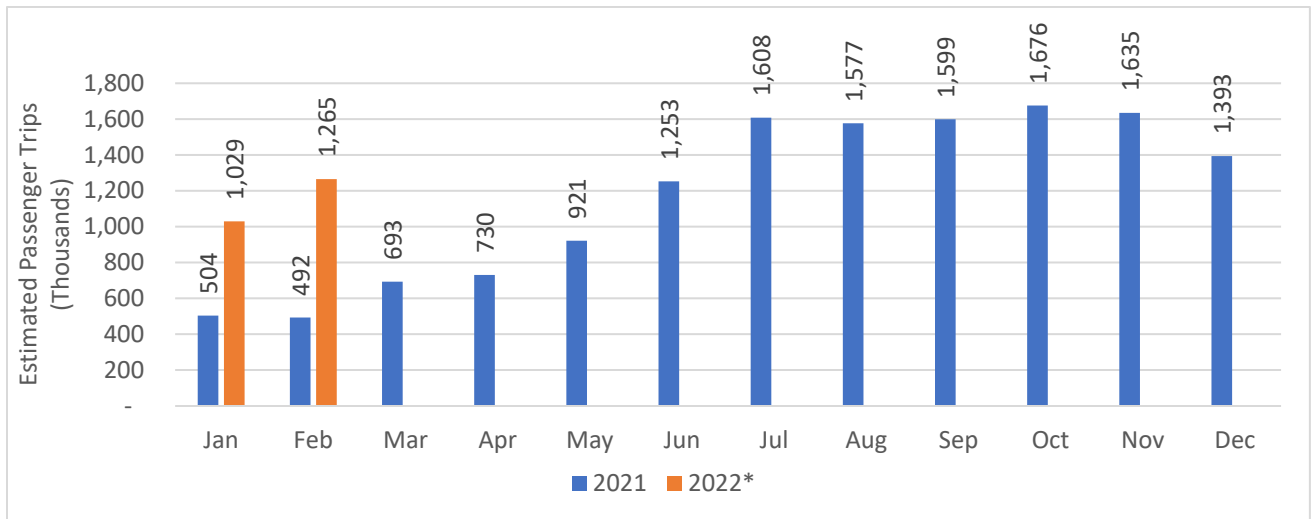


TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jim Derwinski, CEO/Executive Director
SUBJECT: February 2022 Ridership Trends

DATE: March 16, 2022

Metra provided an estimated 1.3 million trips in February 2022, more than twice as many trips as February 2021. It was the first time since 1988 that Metra provided more trips in February than in January. The average number of COVID cases decreased throughout the month. Daily temperatures were 6.5 degrees warmer in February compared to January. While several winter storms brought down average daily ridership, ridership generally increased as inclement weather cleared. From January 2021 to January 2022, regional gas prices increased by \$1.08 to \$3.50 per gallon. The State of Illinois lifted its indoor mask mandate on February 28.

Figure 1: Estimated Passenger Trips by Month

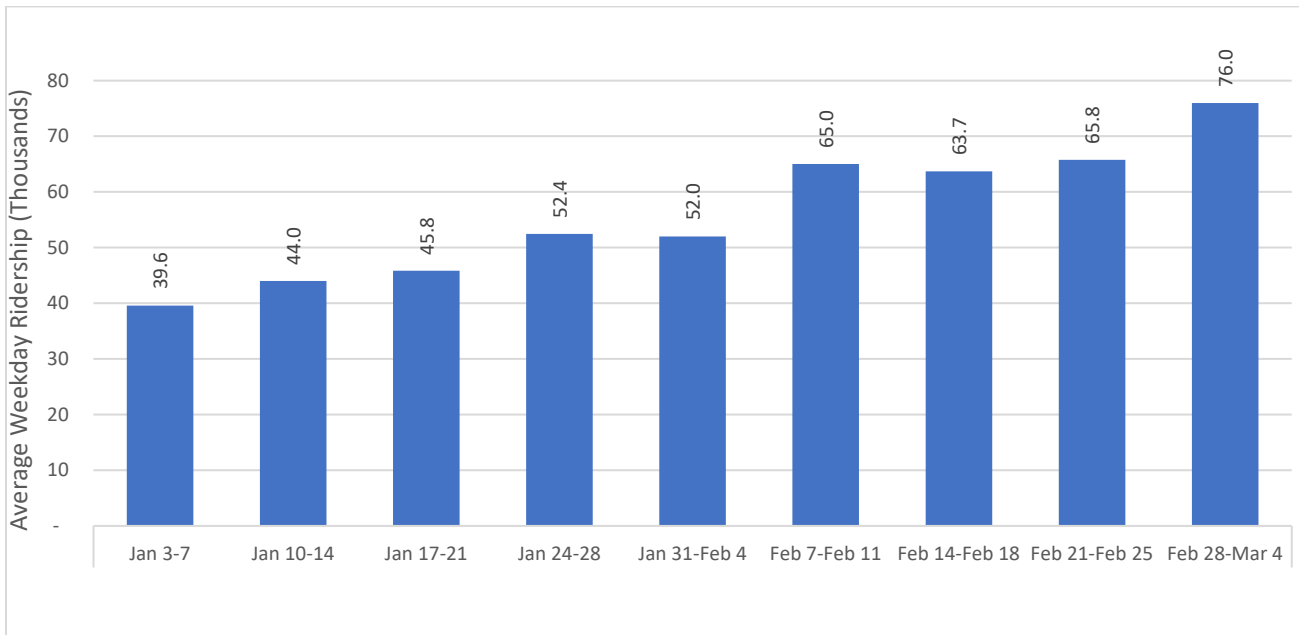


*2022 data are preliminary and subject to revision as data is continuously reviewed throughout the year

While Feb 1 started the month with 70,000 passengers, a winter storm produced 11 inches of snow that day and was followed by a 50.6 percent decrease in passenger loads on Feb 2. On Feb 17, 3.8 inches of snow fell at Midway and passenger loads decreased 16.2 percent the following day. The Thursday after Presidents' Day (Feb 24) was the highest ridership day of the month, with nearly 77,900 trips.

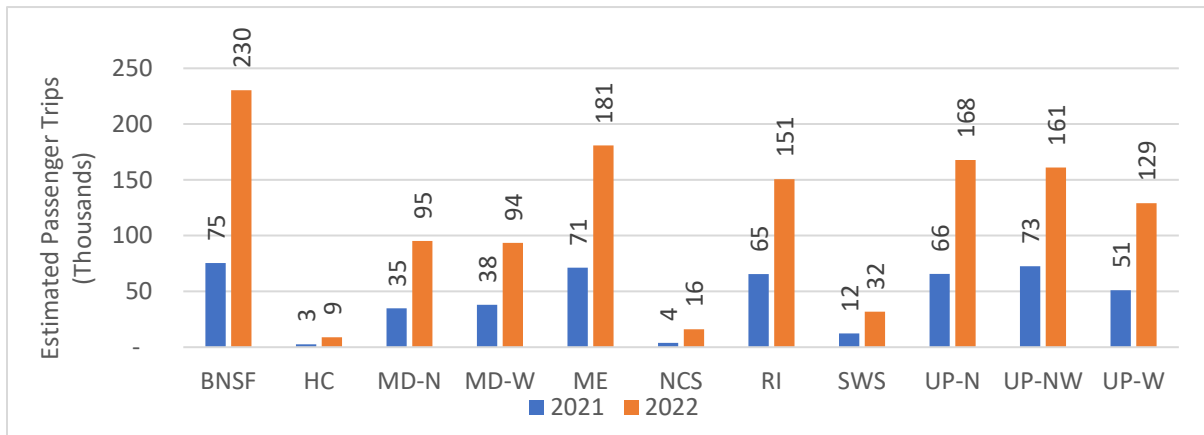
Metra carried an average of 21,600 passengers on Saturdays and 14,700 passengers on Sundays. The Chicago Auto Show was open to the public from Feb 11-20, with ME trains making extra stops at McCormick Place during the event. There were no special event trains or schedule changes in February.

Figure 2: Metra Average Weekday Ridership



Metra’s strongest performing lines were consistent from January to February, with the BNSF providing the greatest number of rides, followed by the Metra Electric, UP-N, UP-NW, and Rock Island.

Figure 3: Estimated Passenger Trips by Line (February 2021-February 2022*)



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Effective February 1, Metra transitioned from the special \$10 All Day Pass sold from conductors, ticket agents, and the mobile app, to the new Day Pass sold exclusively on the mobile app. The Day Pass is available at \$6 for three zone trips (or fewer) and \$10 for four zone trips (or greater). The Round Trip Plus pass was discontinued.

Ticket validity periods were adjusted on February 1, 10-Ride tickets sold after February 1 are valid for 90 days, while One-Way tickets are valid for 14 days. Tickets sold before February 1st retain their original expiration dates. Because several employers postponed their return-to-work plans during the Omicron surge, Metra announced on Feb 21st that tickets purchased since the local start of the pandemic (March 2020) would be valid for travel until June 1, 2022.

The new Day Pass discount and exclusive availability to the mobile app likely helped mobile app ridership to continue its growth in February 2022, with 69.5 percent of rides using the mobile app (Table 2), compared to 62.1 percent in January. Three out of every four tickets sold were purchased through the mobile app in February. 30.1 percent of ticket sold were for the Day Pass (Table 1). In their first month, \$6 Day Passes made up 16.4 percent of Day Pass sales and 4.9 percent of all ticket sales.

Table 1: Ticket Sales and Ridership by Ticket Type (thousands)

Ticket Type	Ticket Sales				Ridership			
	Feb 2019	Feb 2022	Feb 2019 Share	Feb 2022 Share	Feb 2019	Feb 2022	Feb 2019 Share	Feb 2022 Share
Monthly Pass	84	9	10.3%	1.9%	3,625	255	63.1%	20.1%
10-Ride Ticket	141	41	17.3%	8.7%	1,407	410	24.5%	32.4%
One-Way Ticket	554	246	68.0%	52.4%	563	246	9.8%	19.4%
Weekend Pass	36	-	4.4%	0.0%	90	-	1.6%	0.0%
One Day Weekend Pass	-	25	0.0%	5.4%	-	42	0.0%	3.3%
Two Day Weekend Pass	-	7	0.0%	1.5%	-	14	0.0%	1.1%
Day Pass	-	141	0.0%	30.1%	-	273	0.0%	21.6%
\$6 Day Pass	-	23	0.0%	4.9%	-	44	0.0%	3.5%
\$10 Day Pass	-	118	0.0%	25.1%	-	229	0.0%	18.1%
RTA Ride Free Permit	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	59	26	1.0%	2.0%
Total	815	469	100%	100%	5,744	1,265	100%	100%

Note: Values do not add to total ridership due to Group Sales, Marketing Sales, and Refund Adjustments; 2019 data may not match previously reported totals due to late-reporting sales and refunds; 2022 data are preliminary and subject to revision as data is continuously reviewed throughout the year. Sales of incremental tickets are not included.

Table 2: Ridership by Sales Channel (thousands)

Sales Channel	Ticket Sales				Ridership			
	Feb 2019	Feb 2022	Feb 2019 Share	Feb 2022 Share	Feb 2019	Feb 2022	Feb 2019 Share	Feb 2022 Share
Conductor	120	53	14.8%	11.3%	154	58	2.7%	4.6%
Commuter Benefit	36	4	4.4%	0.8%	1,213	67	21.1%	5.3%
Ventra App	429	352	52.6%	75.0%	2,476	879	43.1%	69.5%
Ticket Agent	205	54	25.1%	11.4%	1,658	220	28.9%	17.4%
Ticket Vending Machine	25	7	3.1%	1.5%	183	15	3.2%	1.2%
RTA Ride Free Permit	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	59	26	1.0%	2.0%
Total	815	469	100%	100%	5,744	1,265	100%	100%

Note: Values do not add to total ridership due to Group Sales, Marketing Sales, and Refund Adjustments; 2019 data may not match previously reported totals due to late-reporting sales and refunds; 2022 data are preliminary and subject to revision as data is continuously reviewed throughout the year. Sales of incremental tickets are not included.

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