



**TO: Board of Directors**

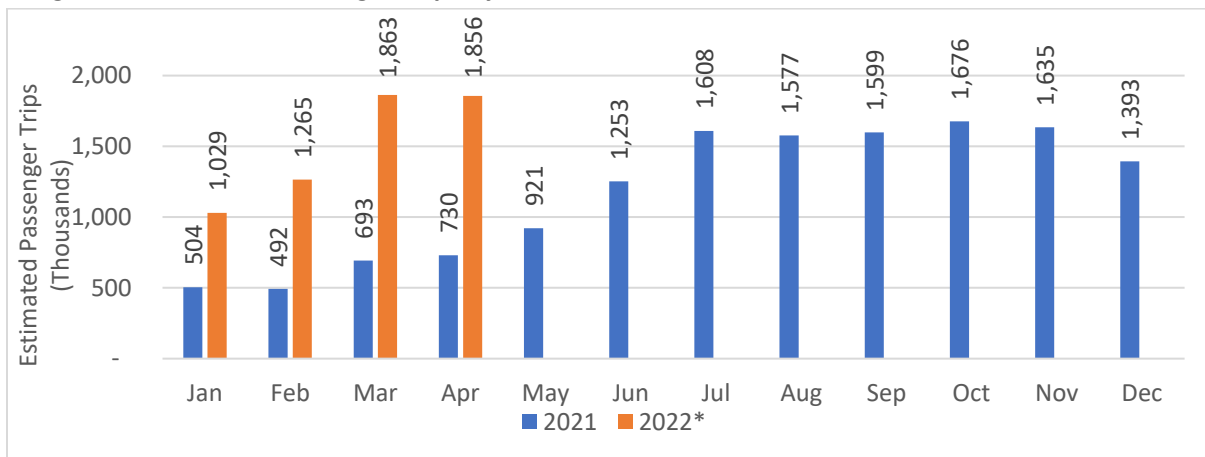
**DATE: May 18, 2022**

**FROM: Jim Derwinski, CEO/Executive Director**

**SUBJECT: April 2022 Ridership Trends**

Metra provided an estimated 1.9 million trips in April 2022, exceeding the budgeted forecast by 19 percent. Eight of Metra’s top ten highest ridership days since the start of the pandemic occurred in April. The mask mandate ended April 19. While total ridership was largely unchanged from the previous month, March had two additional weekdays compared to April.

**Figure 1: Estimated Passenger Trips by Month**



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

### **April Ridership Highlights**

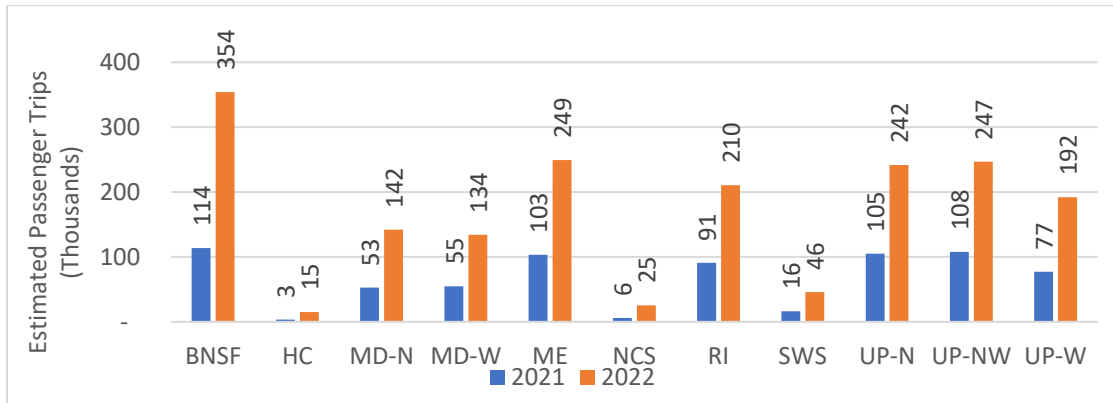
- On Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>, Ridership passed 100,000 trips for the first time in 2022 and the first time since the pandemic began (excluding Lollapalooza days)
- April 7<sup>th</sup> was opening day for the Chicago Cubs. The White Sox opening day was April 12<sup>th</sup>, which saw 4,100 more trips than Cubs opening day. The Rock Island saw an estimated 1,300 additional trips for White Sox Saturday home games in April, while for weekday home games the line saw an additional 900 trips.
- The highest ridership day of the month was Wednesday, April 27 with 105,500 trips.
- BNSF ridership continued to grow following the addition of 5 trains in March, from a midweek average of 19,200 trips the week before the schedule change to 23,600 riders the final week of April.
- O’Hare’s Airport Transit System resumed 24-hour service on April 18. In April, 4 percent of NCS trips began or ended in Zone D, which covers the Rosemont and O’Hare Transfer stations.
- Bicycle use on trains increased 19 percent in April compared to March. The UP-W saw more than double the number of riders with bikes on Saturdays in April compared to March.

## Ridership by Line

The Metra Electric was Metra’s second highest ridership line in April, followed by the UP-NW, with the ME increasing its ridership by 3 percent. The NCS saw the highest percentage growth at 4 percent. The ME, NCS, UP-N, and UP-W have all seen at least four consecutive months of growth. The Heritage Corridor and NCS are carrying over four times as many riders as they did in April 2021.

Effective April 25, the UP-NW added 21 trains to its weekday schedule. Four trains were removed from the weekday UP-N schedule. There were no other schedule changes.

**Figure 2: Estimated Passenger Trips by Line (April 2021-April 2022\*)**

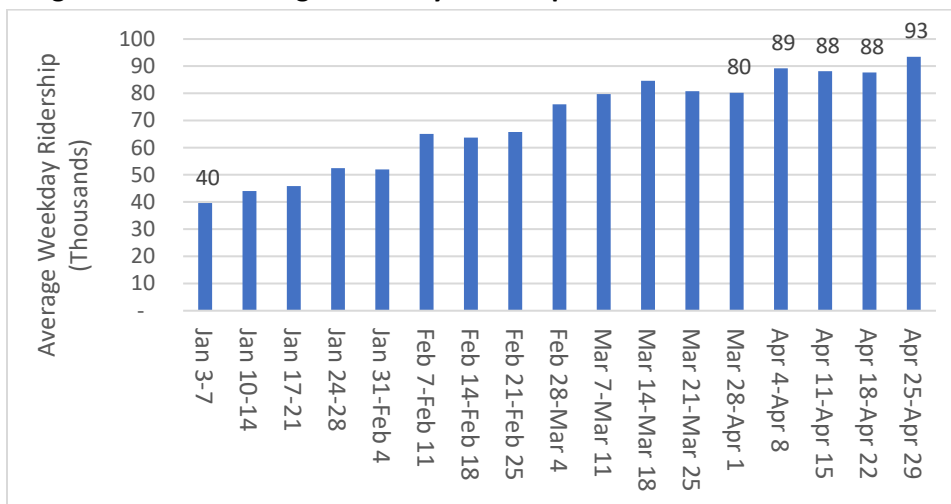


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## Special Events

There was no special event service in April.

**Figure 3: Metra Average Weekday Ridership**



## Ticket Sales

Overall ticket sales increased by 1.1 percent in April compared to March. Trends remained similar with slight growth for the Day Pass.

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

Ticket Type	Ticket Sales				Ridership			
	Apr 2019	Apr 2022	Apr 2019 Share	Apr 2022 Share	Apr 2019	Apr 2022	Apr 2019 Share	Apr 2022 Share
Monthly Pass	88	10	8.8%	1.4%	3,768	304	61.0%	16.4%
10-Ride Ticket	149	63	15.0%	8.8%	1,490	630	24.1%	33.9%
One-Way Ticket	693	359	70.0%	50.2%	693	359	11.2%	19.3%
Weekend Pass	61	-	6.1%	0.0%	152	-	2.5%	0.0%
One Day Weekend Pass	-	42	0.0%	5.9%	-	71	0.0%	3.8%
Two Day Weekend Pass	-	11	0.0%	1.6%	-	23	0.0%	1.2%
Day Pass	-	230	0.0%	32.1%	-	440	0.0%	23.7%
\$6 Day Pass	-	48	0.0%	6.6%	-	90	0.0%	4.9%
\$10 Day Pass	-	182	0.0%	25.5%	-	349	0.0%	18.8%
RTA Ride Free Permit	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	74	31	1.2%	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6,177</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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			
	Apr 2019	Apr 2022	Apr 2019 Share	Apr 2022 Share	Apr 2019	Apr 2022	Apr 2019 Share	Apr 2022 Share
Conductor	167	73	16.8%	10.3%	210	82	3.4%	4.4%
Commuter Benefit	35	5	3.6%	0.7%	1,204	87	19.5%	4.7%
Ventra App	503	537	50.9%	75.2%	2,669	1,311	43.2%	70.6%
Ticket Agent	250	85	25.2%	11.9%	1,819	318	29.4%	17.1%
Ticket Vending Machine	34	13	3.4%	1.8%	205	27	3.3%	1.4%
RTA Ride Free Permit	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	74	31	1.2%	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6,181</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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