



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jim Derwinski, CEO/Executive Director
SUBJECT: January 2023 Ridership Trends

DATE: February 15, 2023

This memo describes ridership patterns in 2023, including ridership and service recovery by line and service period. Data in this report is preliminary and will be finalized at the end of the year.

In January 2023, Metra reached 2.2 million trips, over twice as many as were provided in January 2022.

Estimated Passenger Trips by Month

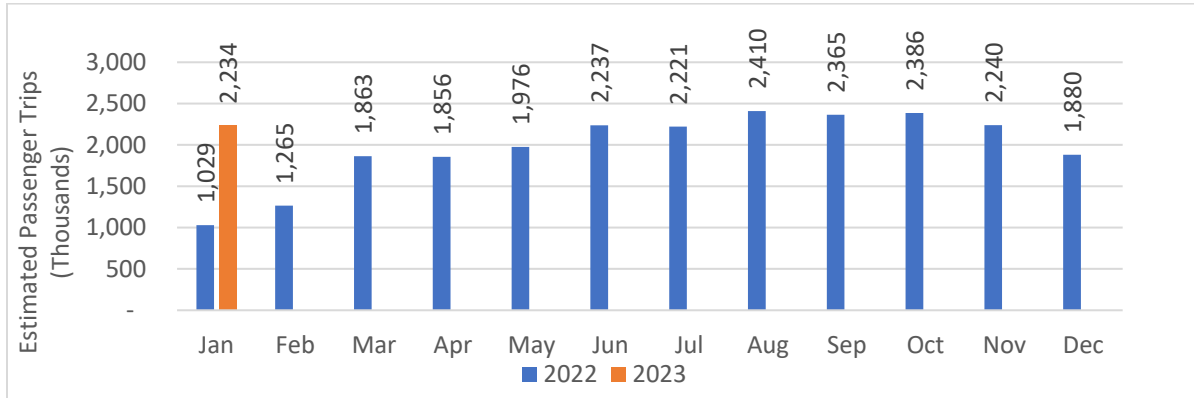


Exhibit 1

Estimated Passenger Trips by Line (January 2022 vs. January 2023)

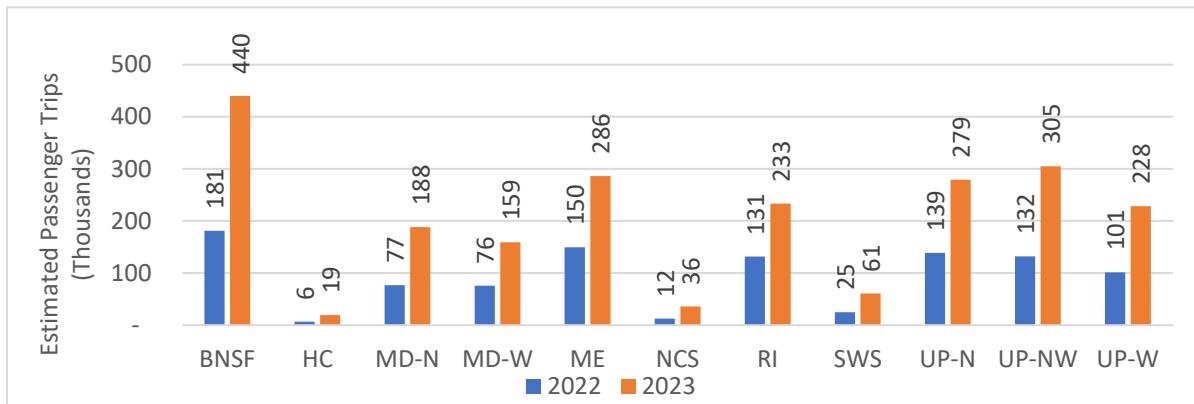
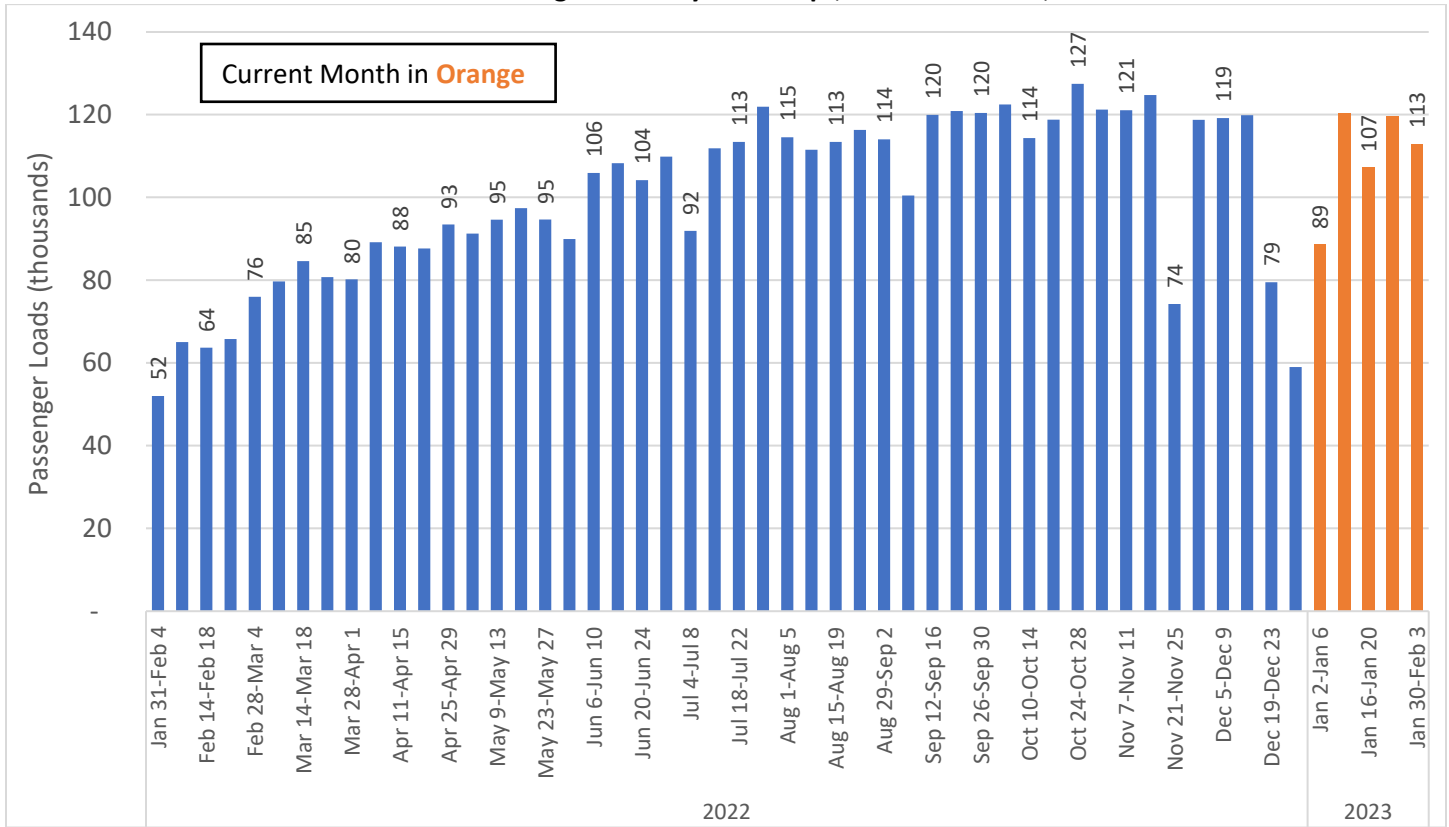


Exhibit 2

Weekday Ridership

Average weekday ridership in January was 113,600, which was 10% higher than December. January’s average weekday ridership averaged 46% compared to 2019 levels. Sixteen of 21 weekdays in January had over 100,000 rides per day.

Metra Average Weekday Ridership (Feb 2022-Jan 2023)



Metra Average Weekday Ridership

	2022											2023
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Weekday Avg Chg. from Prior Month	+34%	+30%	+9%	+10%	+11%	+4%	+1%	+3%	+1%	-2%	-12%	10%

Exhibit 3

Weekday Passenger Loads for Month (Fridays shown with grey bars)

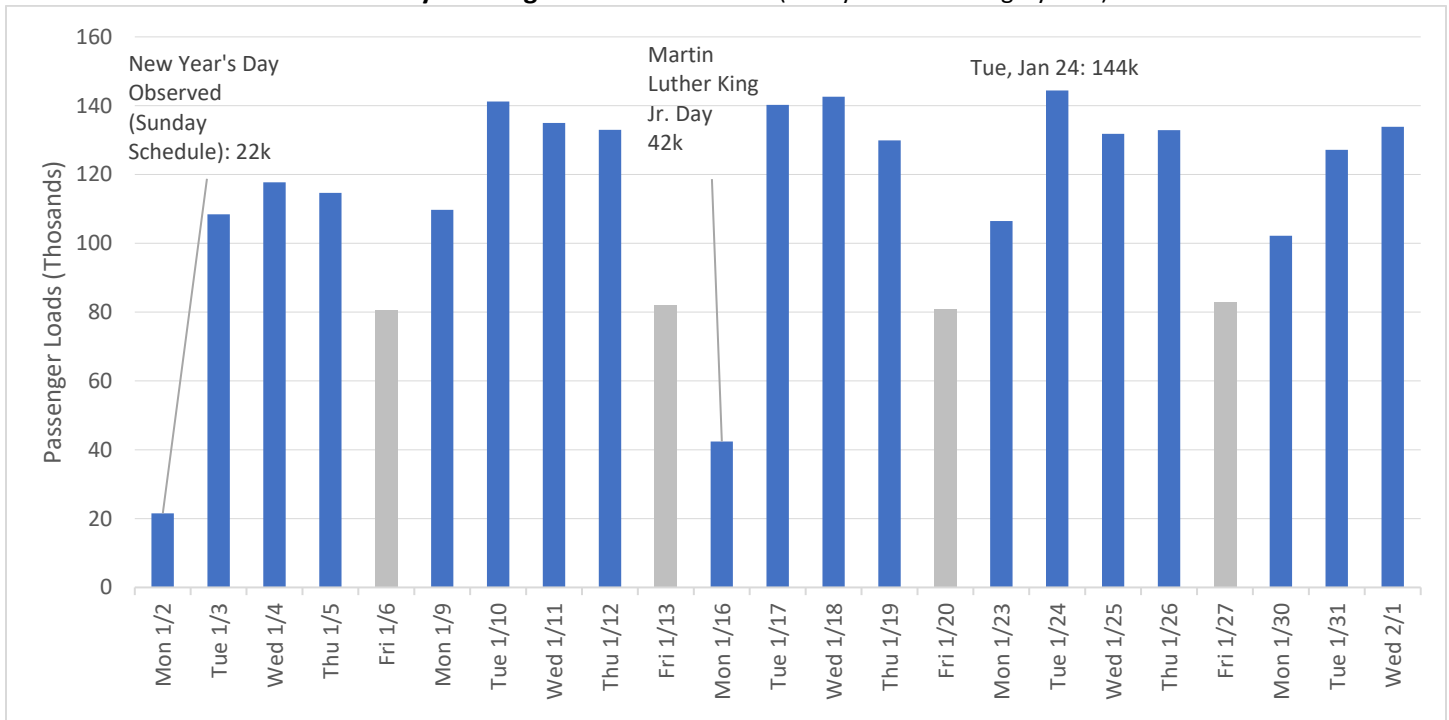


Exhibit 4

January Ridership Highlights

- The SouthWest Service returned to a pre-COVID service level with 30 trains per day on January 16, more than doubling its previous schedule. It carried 3,950 riders on January 24, the highest since the start of the pandemic.
- Schedule changes in December continued to influence January ridership. Compared to December, the NCS saw an average 198 additional weekday riders per train added to the schedule (2), more than double the number of any other line with a schedule change last month.
- Milwaukee District-North saw the highest total number of additional weekday riders, with an estimated 1,330 new weekday riders brought into the system.

Service Status

Metra continues to restore service in different capacities on its lines, as ridership recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Schedules for four lines (BNSF, Metra Electric, Rock Island, and Union Pacific North) were redesigned to standardize stopping patterns and to increase midday service as part of a pilot schedule initiative. These lines demonstrate a stronger midday recovery compared to the overall recovery of those lines and compared to the system’s midday as a whole. For example, the Union Pacific North and Metra Electric has a recovery of 66% and 81%, respectively, during the midday compared to the system’s recovery of 60%.

In January 2023, Metra increased the number of weekday trains on the SouthWest service from 12 to 30, restoring the line to its weekday pre-COVID total. The schedule has evening service, more consistent headways, and allows for easier transfer between other lines at Union Station. The SouthWest service does not operate on Saturdays. This follows the December addition of service to the Milwaukee District North, Milwaukee District West, North Central Service and Union Pacific West lines. Metra staff monitors ridership and operations on these schedule enhancements to determine if future adjustments are necessary.

Ridership Recovery by Line & Service Period (Jan 2023 as a percentage of Jan 2019)

Line	Peak	Rev Peak	Midday	Evening	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
BNSF	45%	44%	57%	36%	46%	67%	61%
HC	41%	-	-	-	39%	-	-
MD-N	46%	35%	53%	33%	45%	53%	70%
MD-W	35%	48%	56%	47%	38%	58%	67%
ME	41%	145%	81%	78%	52%	103%	108%
NCS	37%	22%	48%	0%	36%	-	-
RI	42%	74%	76%	61%	46%	62%	65%
SWS	37%	13%	24%	6%	34%	-	-
UP-N	51%	54%	66%	56%	54%	85%	81%
UP-NW	43%	54%	52%	46%	45%	73%	73%
UP-W	53%	45%	47%	44%	51%	51%	60%
Total	44%	54%	60%	45%	46%	70%	72%

Exhibit 5

Monthly Pass Sales

Metra continues to offer its Monthly Pass at the flat-rate \$100 rate, which began in July 2022. Compared to November and January, there were nearly 5,000 fewer monthly passes sold in December.

Monthly Pass Sales

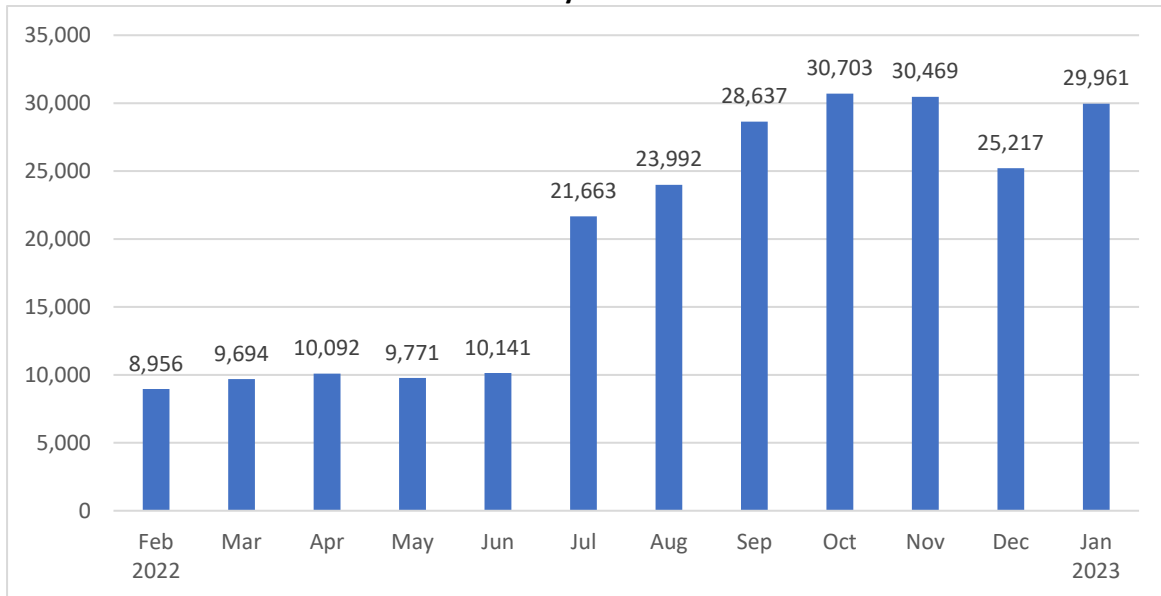


Exhibit 6

Ridership by Ticket Type

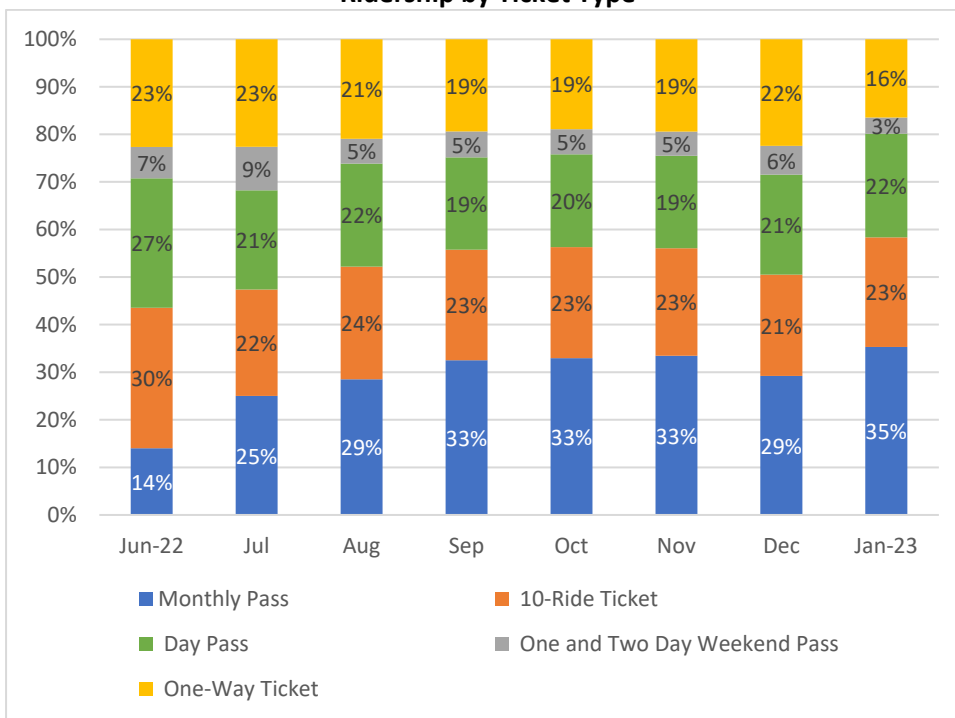


Exhibit 7

Ticket Sales

Metra sold nearly 30,000 Monthly Passes in January, accounting for nearly 35% of monthly ridership. Over three out of every four Metra riders used the Ventra app in January.

Ticket Sales and Ridership by Ticket Type (thousands)

Ticket Type	Ticket Sales					Ridership					
	Jan 2019	Jun 2022	Jan 2023	Jan 2019 Share	Jan 2023 Share	Jan 2019	Jun 2022	Jan 2023	Jan 2019 Share	Jun 2022 Share	Jan 2023 Share
Monthly Pass	83	10	30	9%	4%	3,553	308	778	60%	14%	35%
10-Ride Ticket	146	65	51	16%	7%	1,459	649	508	25%	29%	23%
One-Way Ticket	623	498	363	68%	49%	632	498	363	11%	22%	16%
Weekend Pass	60	-	-	7%	0%	154	-	-	3%	0%	0%
One Day Weekend Pass	-	67	35	0%	5%	-	113	58	0%	5%	3%
Two Day Weekend Pass	-	15	9	0%	1%	-	32	17	0%	1%	1%
Day Pass	-	312	249	0%	34%	-	599	480	0%	27%	21%
\$6 Day Pass	-	55	76	0%	10%	-	134	146	0%	6%	7%
\$10 Day Pass	-	257	172	0%	23%	-	465	334	0%	21%	15%
RTA Ride Free Permit	-	-	-	0%	0%	63	37	30	1%	2%	1%
Total	912	967	736	100%	100%	5,861	2,237	2,234	100%	100%	100%

Exhibit 8

Ridership by Sales Channel (thousands)

Sales Channel	Ticket Sales				Ridership			
	Jan 2019	Jan 2023	Jan 2019 Share	Jan 2023 Share	Jan 2019	Jan 2023	Jan 2019 Share	Jan 2023 Share
Conductor	166	67	18%	9%	230	74	4%	3%
Commuter Benefit	36	5	4%	1%	1,217	94	21%	4%
Ventra App	458	582	50%	79%	2,469	1,700	42%	76%
Ticket Agent	224	71	25%	10%	1,693	316	29%	14%
Ticket Vending Machine	28	10	3%	1%	195	20	3%	1%
RTA Ride Free Permit	-	-	0%	0%	63	30	1%	1%
Total	912	736	100%	100%	5,826	2,234	100%	100%

Exhibit 9

Note: Values in Exhibits 8 and 9 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; 2023 data are preliminary and subject to revision as data is continuously reviewed throughout the year. Sales of incremental tickets are not included.

Prepared by: Daniel Miodonski, Senior Manager, Operations Planning & Analysis
 Steven Mannella, Manager, Transportation Planning, Operations Planning & Analysis
 Cody Wolcott, Principal Transportation Planner, Operations Planning & Analysis