
Metra Media Relations 312-322-6776

Metra proposes \$1.06 billion budget for 2017

Proposed increase in fare revenue to fund huge capital needs

CHICAGO (Oct. 14, 2016) – Metra today proposed a \$1.06 billion budget that provides \$781.2 million for operating costs and \$279.5 million for capital improvements in 2017. The budget would increase fare revenue by 5.8 percent and spend the resulting \$16.1 million on the agency's huge capital needs.

The 2017 Preliminary Operating Budget, which covers the day-to-day costs of running the railroad, increases costs by \$21.4 million or 2.8 percent over 2016. Key drivers of 2017 operating cost changes include a projected savings of \$9 million in diesel fuel prices locked in in 2016, a projected \$11.6 million increase in employee health care costs and an average 3 percent increase in employee wages. Metra also anticipates a \$4.7 million increase in training and mechanical costs, a \$2.6 million increase in Positive Train Control (PTC) operating costs, a \$2.8 million increase in materials and services costs and a \$1.2 million increase for the Safety and Police Departments.

Fares cover about half of the operating budget, with the rest primarily coming from the RTA sales tax collected in the six-county region (partially matched by state). The \$21.4 million in operating cost increases will be offset by an additional \$21.8 million Metra is expected to receive from the RTA sales tax in 2017.

The 2017 Preliminary Budget includes a 5.8 percent increase in fare revenue from changes that, if approved, will take effect on February 1, 2017. In summary:

- Customers who buy One-Way Tickets will pay 25 cents more per ticket, or 2.4 percent to 7.1 percent more depending on the Metra zone. If these customers take the train 30 times a year, they will pay an additional \$7.50 annually to ride Metra.
- Customers who buy 10-Ride Tickets will pay \$2.75 more per ticket, or 2.9 percent to 8.9 percent more. That works out to an additional 27.5 cents per trip.
- Customers who buy Monthly Passes will pay \$11.75 more per month, or 4 percent to 12.3 percent more. That works out to about 27 cents more per trip and \$141 more annually to ride Metra.
- Other proposed fare increases include an additional 25 cents on the reduced fare One-Way Ticket, an additional \$1.50 on the reduced fare 10-Ride Ticket and an additional \$7.50 on the reduced fare Monthly Pass.

A full schedule of proposed fare increases by Metra zone is attached to this news release.

The fare increase will generate an additional \$16.1 million in revenue in 2017, 100 percent of which will be used to fund capital improvement projects. Metra has an extensive backlog of capital projects requiring \$11.7 billion or \$1.2 billion annually over the next decade just to achieve and maintain a state of good repair. Yet, in each of the next four years, Metra

projects that it will have less than \$300 million annually available to spend on capital projects – about \$900 million less than the agency needs to spend each year.

Metra's 2017 Preliminary Capital Budget totals \$279.5 million, with funded projects representing the bare minimum investment the agency can make in 2017 to keep the system functioning reliably. The capital budget includes \$90.5 million for rolling stock to continue our program to rehabilitate 18 locomotives and 43 railcars annually and a portion of funding to purchase 21 new railcars. Other major capital investments include: \$23 million to continue the multi-year effort to replace aging Union Pacific North Line bridges over 22 streets on the north side of Chicago and rebuild Ravenswood Station; \$20 million to expand the 49th Street rehabilitation facility to increase by 30 percent the number of railcars Metra can rehab each year; and \$30.5 million to continue to install PTC.

For 2017, Metra is expecting to receive \$175 million from federal sources and \$72.4 million from the RTA for its capital needs. It is anticipating no new capital money from the state of Illinois.

“Last year, we said that without a new state bond program, we may need to raise fares even higher than we had projected to fund our capital budget,” said Executive Director/CEO Don Orseno. “By finding budget efficiencies and carefully prioritizing our capital needs, we are proposing a 5.8 percent increase in fare revenue for 2017 – with 100 percent of the proceeds going toward capital improvements.”

As it does each year, Metra began the budget process by finding \$5.3 million in cuts to the current operating budget, including: \$1.8 million in reduced insurance and claims costs; \$1.7 million from the elimination 27 vacant positions; \$700,000 in reduced website hosting and content management costs; \$600,000 from lower-priced software maintenance contract for revenue accounting and less expensive data storage; \$300,000 from reduced maintenance costs as older locomotives are remanufactured; \$100,000 in reduced maintenance costs as old Highliner cars are retired; \$100,000 in reduced media consulting services, and \$100,000 in reduced in rental expenses. These budget cuts bring the total efficiencies achieved by Metra in the past seven years to \$24.8 million.

The proposed 2017 Budget will be the subject of a series of eight public hearings throughout the Chicago area, with the city of Chicago hearing webcast live on Metra's website. The schedule accompanies this release. Metra customers and members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide comments on the proposed 2017 Budget.

Comments on the proposed budget can also be emailed to 2017budgetcomments@metrarr.com, faxed to 312-322-7094, shared via facebook.com/MetraRail beginning October 19, 2016 and mailed to the Assistant Secretary to the Metra Board, Room 1300, 547 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL, 60661.

Metra will also include a budget comment form in a special budget issue of the “On The Bi-Level” commuter newsletter. Completed newsletter forms may be mailed to the above address or dropped in one of Metra's Ticket by Mail receptacles located at Chicago Union Station, LaSalle Street Station, Ogilvie Transportation Center, Van Buren Street Station or Millennium Station. All comments received will be presented to Metra's Board of Directors prior to voting on the final budget in November 2017.

For more information about Metra's proposed 2017 Budget, please visit metrarail.com.

About Metra

Metra is one of the largest and most complex commuter rail systems in North America, serving Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake, Kane and McHenry counties in northeastern Illinois. The agency provides service to and from downtown Chicago with 241 stations over 11 routes totaling nearly 500 route miles and approximately 1,200 miles of track. Metra operates more than 700 weekday trains, providing about 300,000 passenger trips each weekday.

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2017 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing Schedule

November 2 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

South Suburban Cook County

Homewood Village Hall
Village Board Room
2020 Chestnut Road

North Suburban Cook County

Arlington Heights Village Hall
Village Board Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Road

DuPage County

Clarendon Hills Village Hall
Village Board Room
1 N. Prospect Avenue

Lake County

Mundelein Village Hall
Village Board Room
300 Plaza Circle

City of Chicago **Webcast Live

Metra
Board Room
547 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago

November 3 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Kane County

Kane County Government Center
Building A – 1st Floor Auditorium
719 S. Batavia Avenue
Geneva

Will County

Will County Office Building
County Board Room – 2nd Floor
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet

McHenry County

Crystal Lake City Hall
City Council Chambers
100 W. Woodstock Street

Proposed 2017 Adult Fare Schedule

Ticket	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	M
Monthly	107.00											
A Ten-Ride	33.75											
One-Way	3.75											
Monthly	114.00	107.00						<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Weekend: \$8.00 On-Board Surcharge: \$5.00 </div>				
B Ten-Ride	36.00	33.75										
One-Way	4.00	3.75										
Monthly	149.75	114.00	107.00									
C Ten-Ride	47.25	36.00	33.75									
One-Way	5.25	4.00	3.75									
Monthly	171.00	149.75	114.00	107.00								
D Ten-Ride	54.00	47.25	36.00	33.75								
One-Way	6.00	5.25	4.00	3.75								
Monthly	185.25	171.00	149.75	114.00	107.00							
E Ten-Ride	58.50	54.00	47.25	36.00	33.75							
One-Way	6.50	6.00	5.25	4.00	3.75							
Monthly	199.50	185.25	171.00	149.75	114.00	107.00						
F Ten-Ride	63.00	58.50	54.00	47.25	36.00	33.75						
One-Way	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.25	4.00	3.75						
Monthly	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	149.75	114.00	107.00					
G Ten-Ride	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	47.25	36.00	33.75					
One-Way	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.25	4.00	3.75					
Monthly	228.00	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	149.75	114.00	107.00				
H Ten-Ride	72.00	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	47.25	36.00	33.75				
One-Way	8.00	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.25	4.00	3.75				
Monthly	249.50	228.00	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	149.75	114.00	107.00			
I Ten-Ride	78.75	72.00	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	47.25	36.00	33.75			
One-Way	8.75	8.00	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.25	4.00	3.75			
Monthly	263.75	249.50	228.00	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	149.75	114.00	107.00		
J Ten-Ride	83.25	78.75	72.00	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	47.25	36.00	33.75		
One-Way	9.25	8.75	8.00	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.25	4.00	3.75		
Monthly	278.00	263.75	249.50	228.00	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	149.75	114.00	107.00	
K Ten-Ride	87.75	83.25	78.75	72.00	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	47.25	36.00	33.75	
One-Way	9.75	9.25	8.75	8.00	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.25	4.00	3.75	
Monthly	306.50	292.25	278.00	263.75	249.50	228.00	213.75	199.50	185.25	171.00	149.75	107.00
M Ten-Ride	96.75	92.25	87.75	83.25	78.75	72.00	67.50	63.00	58.50	54.00	47.25	33.75
One-Way	10.75	10.25	9.75	9.25	8.75	8.00	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.00	5.25	3.75

Proposed 2017 Special-User Fares

Ticket	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	M
Monthly	61.25											
A Ten-Ride	15.75											
One-Way	1.75											
Monthly	70.00	61.25										
B Ten-Ride	18.00	15.75										
One-Way	2.00	1.75										
Monthly	87.50	70.00	61.25									
C Ten-Ride	22.50	18.00	15.75									
One-Way	2.50	2.00	1.75									
Monthly	105.00	87.50	70.00	61.25								
D Ten-Ride	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75								
One-Way	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.75								
Monthly	113.75	105.00	87.50	70.00	61.25							
E Ten-Ride	29.25	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75							
One-Way	3.25	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.75							
Monthly	122.50	113.75	105.00	87.50	70.00	61.25						
F Ten-Ride	31.50	29.25	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75						
One-Way	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.75						
Monthly	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	87.50	70.00	61.25					
G Ten-Ride	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75					
One-Way	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.75					
Monthly	140.00	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	87.50	70.00	61.25				
H Ten-Ride	36.00	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75				
One-Way	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.75				
Monthly	148.75	140.00	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	87.50	70.00	61.25			
I Ten-Ride	38.25	36.00	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75			
One-Way	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.75			
Monthly	157.50	148.75	140.00	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	87.50	70.00	61.25		
J Ten-Ride	40.50	38.25	36.00	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75		
One-Way	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.75		
Monthly	166.25	157.50	148.75	140.00	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	87.50	70.00	61.25	
K Ten-Ride	42.75	40.50	38.25	36.00	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	22.50	18.00	15.75	
One-Way	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.75	
Monthly	183.75	175.00	166.25	157.50	148.75	140.00	131.25	122.50	113.75	105.00	87.50	61.25
M Ten-Ride	47.25	45.00	42.75	40.50	38.25	36.00	33.75	31.50	29.25	27.00	22.50	15.75
One-Way	5.25	5.00	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.50	1.75