2023 Regional Transit Strategic Plan

Memo Summarizing
Work of Infrastructure
Investment Stakeholder
Working Group

August 2022



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Introduction

The Chicago region's transit system is at a pivotal moment. The system has faced some disruption in the recent past – driven by changes in how people get around, changes in where people work, and shifts in demographics. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic many of these trends have accelerated. This is a challenge because transit in the Chicago region is funded in part by rider fares, which have not fully recovered. Transit spurs economic growth, mitigates climate change, and enables opportunity in ways and at a scale that no other transportation mode can. The next Regional Transit Strategic Plan will guide how Chicago's regional transit system will adapt to the impacts of the pandemic to provide safe, reliable, accessible public transportation that connects people to opportunity, advances equity, and combats climate change.

Beginning in the summer of 2021, RTA launched a six-month period of listening, titled *Making a Plan*, to hear and learn from transit riders, community members, and stakeholders about our regional transit system's future, including opportunities for impact, transit system adaptation, funding, equity, and engagement. Based on the input received, RTA staff developed a vision and three guiding principles that will be used to guide and test all activities of the plan. Additionally, staff used the input to identify six outcomes that describe what the region aims to achieve over the five years of the plan period.

Vision

Safe, reliable, accessible public transportation that connects people to opportunity, advances equity, and combats climate change.

Principles

- Commitment to change. Public transit is the core of the region's mobility network.
 Being committed to change means that the Strategic Plan will acknowledge that the
 mobility needs of the region are changing rapidly while many long-standing community
 mobility needs and expectations for transit are still unmet. In committing to change, the
 Strategic Plan process will empower the transit agencies and systems to adapt,
 innovate, and re-think regional transit options to better meet the needs of people and
 communities we serve across the region today and into the future.
- Equity. Advancing equity through the Strategic Plan means that the planning process will acknowledge, identify, and seek to change policymaking, planning, and distribution of resources to better meet the transit needs of historically under invested and overburdened people and communities in our region across agencies, community types, and political boundaries. Our working definition of equity begins with racial equity by improving transit options and outcomes for people and communities of color as well as people who are from low-income households, possess limited English proficiency, have a disability, and/or are Seniors.



Stewardship. Being good stewards of the Chicago region's transit system means that we
are committed to using public funding wisely and maximizing our shared resources. In
seeking to be stewards, we will continually consider how the Strategic Plan process will
ensure the financial health of the transit agencies while also advancing the purpose of
transit as a public good, regional economic development catalyst, and tool for climate
action.

Outcomes

In the future our region's transit system will be:

- Safe, accessible, reliable, and useful for riders
- In a state of good repair
- Financially stable

In the future our region will be:

- Connected
- Winning the fight against climate change
- Thriving

About the Stakeholder Working Groups

As the next step in the plan development process, the RTA convened three stakeholder working groups to involve a diverse group of individuals and organizations to develop goals for the regional transit system, identify strategies and actions, and craft performance measures to track progress.

The stakeholder working groups were comprised of approximately 30-40 people each and were designed to include diverse perspectives and experiences, with representatives from the Service Boards, partner agencies, non-profits, community groups, civic organizations, and academia. In addition to developing ideas and content for the plan, the RTA also aimed for the stakeholder working groups to create a forum for mutual learning and discussion. The goal was to cultivate a group of stakeholders knowledgeable about transit issues and invested in potential solutions, in anticipation of needing to call upon these and other stakeholders to help with implementation after the plan is completed in 2023. Each of the working groups focused on two of the outcomes described above—one related to the future of the transit system and one related to the future of the region overall. The groups met six times between April and June of 2022. The working group process is described in greater detail below and additional information is available at RTA's Stakeholder Working Group Hub, including the Stakeholder Group Participant Guide.





Outcomes

A transit system that is safe, accessible, reliable, and useful for riders.

A region that is winning the fight against climate change.



Outcomes

A transit system that is in a state of good repair.

A region of thriving communities.



Outcomes

A transit system that is financially stable.

A region that is connected.

The RTA recognizes that the transit system serves many people and communities of color, those experiencing lower incomes, and those possessing fewer mobility options to suit their needs for travel. The RTA's own data shows that this is even more true among essential riders who continued to ride transit during the worst of the pandemic. We also acknowledge that the transit system is planned by professionals who are statistically more likely to be white, come from higher-income households, and possess more mobility options to suit their needs such that we cannot assume that professional planner perspectives alone are representative of the rider base.

The RTA believes that the best outcomes can be achieved by convening a diversity of riders and stakeholders to listen and learn from each other and to work together toward solutions. As a result, the RTA seeks to create and support meaningful engagement that centers the voices of those who most rely on transit within the discussion, bringing communities to the table and incorporating their experiences, perspectives, and expertise into decision making for the 2023 Regional Transit Strategic Plan.

The RTA also compensated group members and organizations who requested it for their participation in recognition of the time, effort, and expertise brought to the process by people who are not full-time transit professionals.



Infrastructure Investment Stakeholder Working Group's Focus

The Infrastructure Investment Stakeholder Working Group focused on developing goals, strategies, and performance measures related to two of the plan's desired outcomes:

- A transit system that is in a state of good repair.
- A region of thriving communities.

The overarching theme throughout the process was to identify ways to maximize the benefits of infrastructure investments and use limited resources effectively, while working with communities to improve access and support equitable transit-oriented development. The group's discussions throughout the stakeholder working group process covered a wide range of topics, but key topics included asset condition, capital funding levels and stewardship, equity in investment, multimodal access around stations, and the value of transit's presence in the community.

Infrastructure Investment Stakeholder Working Group Members

Members of the Infrastructure Investment Stakeholder Working Group are listed below. In some cases, organizations sent an alternative representative to attend meetings when there were conflicts.

- Dominick Argumedo, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Kevin Artl, American Council of Engineering Companies
- Christina Bader, Chicago Transit Authority
- Jeremy Cuebas, Northwest Center
- John Donovan, Federal Highway Administration
- Peter Fahrenwald, Regional Transportation Authority
- Jackie Forbes, Kane County
- Michael Fricano, West Central Municipal Conference
- Rick Harnish, High Speed Rail Alliance
- Nadine Lacombe, Regional Transportation Authority
- Jill Leary, Regional Transportation Authority
- Juan Carlos Linares, Association House
- John Loper, DuPage County
- Deloris Lucas, Golden Gate Homeowners Association; We Keep You Rollin'



- Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
- Clare McGuire, Chicago Transit Authority
- Cindy McSherry, Urban Land Institute
- Martin Menninger, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Heather Mullins, Regional Transportation Authority
- Jamie Osborne, Chicago Department of Planning and Development
- Heidy Persaud, Center for Neighborhood Technology/Transportation Equity Network (TEN)
- Shoun Reese, Illinois Department of Transportation
- Katelyn Renteria, Metra
- Roberto Requejo, Elevated Chicago
- J.D. Ross, Regional Transportation Authority Board
- Kimberly Saunders, Barrington Area Council of Governments
- Kris Skogsbakken, Pace Suburban Bus
- Jonathan Snyder, North Branch Works
- P.S. Sriraj, University of Illinois, Chicago
- Brian Stepp, Metra
- Pamela Tate, Climate Reality Project Chicago Metro Chapter
- Melvin Thompson, Endeleo Institute
- Dave Tomzik, Pace Suburban Bus
- Audrey Wennink, Metropolitan Planning Council
- Kyle Whitehead, Active Transportation Alliance
- Bethany Williams, Lake County Partners

Working Group Process

The working group process included the following phases: (1) Setting the Stage; (2) Goal Development & Refinement; (3) Strategy Development & Refinement; and (4) Performance Measures & Next Steps. At the end of each meeting, RTA solicited feedback from the participants about their satisfaction with the meeting format, facilitation, and any additional comments they had about the process. This feedback was then used to adjust subsequent meetings and provide an improved experience for members. Many of the meetings utilized breakout groups to enable greater discussion; however, time constraints may have curtailed



certain discussions that could have continued past the allotted time. RTA made all documents that were used to catalogue ideas during breakout groups available for several days following the meetings to allow for additional comments. RTA also worked to synthesize and refine ideas between meeting to aid in the group's collective progress.

Meeting #1 Meeting #2 Setting The Stage Understand strategic planning framework and current conditions Goal Development Brainstorm potential goals for strategic plan outcomes Goal Refinement Refine potential ideas into final list of plan goals strategy Development Brainstorm potential strategies to achieve goals Strategy Refinement Strategy Refinement

Refine and prioritize potential

0000

Performance Measures Identify strengths/weaknesses of existing measures and set direction

strategies into final list

June

STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP PROCESS

Phase I: Setting the Stage

April

Meeting #5

Meeting #6

In the first Phase, the working groups convened in Meeting #1 to lay the groundwork for how the groups would be conducted and to get better acquainted with participants. This was mainly a listening session for members, with an overview of procedural information. Working Group members participated in a series of polling questions using the Menti polling platform; these served both as feedback for the RTA team as well as practice for Working Group members to become more comfortable with different engagement tools.

May

The working groups were informed that the final product of the process would be a recommendations memo for consideration by RTA staff. Members were encouraged to let all ideas flow; the memo would include a summary of where there was consensus, as well as where there was not. Facilitators reminded members that their participation and support of a goal, strategy, or measure did not represent an endorsement from their organization.

Phase II: Goal Development & Refining

In the second Phase, the Working Groups focused on Goal Development (Meeting #2) and Goal Refinement (Meeting #3). The RTA team provided members in Meeting #2 with examples of peer agency goals and provided a structure for developing a goal. Beginning with Meeting #2, the members were divided into breakout groups to better facilitate small group discussion. The discussion around refining goals in Meeting #3 breakout groups was structured on confirming



that (1) the intent of the goal was clear; (2) the goal was not in conflict with any of the plan's three core principles; and (3) nothing was missing.

Phase III: Strategy Development & Refining

In preparation for Meeting #4, the RTA team reviewed the draft goal statements, particularly looking for where there may be some overlap or duplication. The team assembled and shared a complete list of goals across all three working groups.

In Meeting #4, working group members were divided into breakout groups and used the refined ideas for their goals as the framework for developing strategies. Participants reviewed, modified, and discussed draft strategies and generated more strategies by responding to the prompt, "What are the specific actions that can be implemented to answer the question of how to achieve this goal?" This step was also a good opportunity to look back at the draft goal statements and consider if there were any changes that need to be made.

Ahead of Meeting #5, the RTA team refined and categorized each strategy according to its status: Refine, Reconcile, Ready, Remove, and Reassign. In the meeting, breakout groups focused on goals that needed to be (1) **Refined** ("talked about in more detail") and those that need to be (2) **Reconciled** ("have conflicting strategies that must be talked through").

During Meeting #5, discussion around the Refine and Reconcile strategies included whether they were clear and within RTA's jurisdiction to act upon; attainable in the timeframe of this plan; aligned with the plan's principles; and not in conflict with each other or practical reality. The groups noted where recommendations should be either tweaked to better articulate RTA's specific role or included in requests to the appropriate implementing agencies.



Working Group Guest Speaker Presentations

Thank you to guest speakers who joined the working groups to share their expertise and experience.

Meeting #4

Jesse Elam, Director of Strategic Planning for Cook County Dept of Transportation and Highways, presented on fare integration and the Fair Transit South Cook pilot. Jesse detailed current legislative requirements related to fares, transfers, and integration, as well as examples from the San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, and Dallas. Watch a video of his presentation.

Brian Lowenberg, Principal Analyst with RTA Capital Planning, presented on the work of the Capital Priority Projects Technical Working Group. Watch a video of his presentation.

Doug Anderson, Manager of Operating Budgets and Analysis at the RTA, presenting on the work of the 10 Year Financial Plan Technical Working Group, including their identification of a more than \$700 million per year budget gap when COVID relief funding runs out. Watch a video of his presentation.

Meeting #5:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning presented about CMAP's Mobility Recovery work. More information can be found here:

https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/mobility-recovery

Phase IV: Performance Measures

Heading into Meeting #6, some unanswered questions remained about whether some strategies were ready to advance as recommendations in the plan, or whether they needed additional refinement. The RTA team issued a survey to all working group members to gauge the level of support for draft strategies at this point. Draft strategies that received conflicting levels of support were prioritized for discussion in the upcoming meeting.

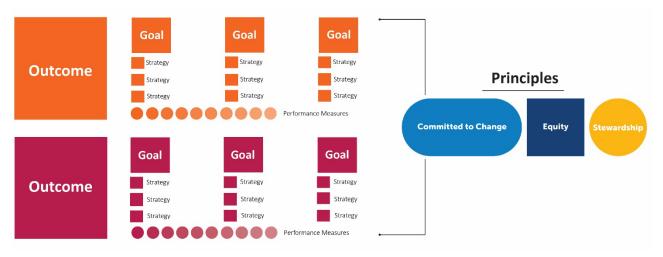
Meeting #6 took a slightly different format in which all members participated in a deeper dive discussion on strategies. It resulted in some strategies being deemed fit to proceed with recommended tweaks, while others were flagged as not having consensus to move forward.

Following this discussion, the group was asked two questions using an in-meeting Zoom poll: one on their overall satisfaction with the goals and strategies, and one on their satisfaction with the overall working group process. Breakout groups then discussed both existing and proposed performance measures for a handful of draft strategies that needed the most input. The presentation concluded with a round of appreciation as well as next steps such as the development and review of the working group memos, and opportunities for further engagement in the overall RTA Strategic Plan process.



Working Group Recommendations

Working group members were tasked with developing goals, strategies, and performance measures related to their group's two key outcomes. Throughout the process, the plan's principles—equity, stewardship, and commitment to change—were used to evaluate and refine ideas that were generated by the group.



RTA provided the following definitions to working group members to guide idea generation and refinements.

- Goals—represent a broad set of actions necessary to achieve our desired outcomes.
- Strategies—discrete actions that support the delivery of each goal.
- **Performance Measures**—data points that are tracked over time to determine if we are achieving our goals.

Goals and Strategies

Over the course of the working group process, members generated ideas for 10 goals and 42 strategies, which are listed below and organized by the group's two outcomes. The goals and strategies were collaboratively refined throughout the process. The strategies will be further refined and prioritized based on public input and RTA staff technical expertise.

Outcome: A transit system that is in a state of good repair.

Goal: Invest in a complete transit experience to achieve a state of good repair across the system.

- For state of good repair projects, identify options for enhancement and modernization to improve the user experience.
- Use innovative techniques, materials, and practices during state of good repair projects.



- Increase access to the system for all riders by ensuring sidewalks, curb cuts, elevators, stairs, crosswalks, and any assets within a half-mile radius of the station / stop are in good repair and ADA compliant.
- Utilize customer feedback, including crowdsourcing, to understand what riders want in infrastructure projects in project development.
- Transparently communicate the magnitude of capital needs along with the value to riders of these investments.

Goal: Increase and diversify capital funding sources.

- Advance legislation to equitably distribute transit value capture mechanisms.
- Lobby for legislation for the RTA service area that requires transit infrastructure to be provided by employment centers.
- Establish project development practices and policies which foster early coordination between highway and transit agencies at county and regional levels to leverage roadway funds to provide transit improvements.
- Lobby Federal agencies to include set-asides for cooperative projects so that transit is integrated into projects more often.
- Cooperate across agencies to pursue and secure formula and discretionary federal funding.

Goal: Ensure projects of different scales are able to compete for funding opportunities.

- Advocate for relaxing grant minimum and maximum dollar values to give more flexibility across projects and sponsors.
- Advocate for increased transit set-asides in transportation funding.
- Broaden highway congestion programs to include transit infrastructure.
- Provide technical assistance for governments and agencies seeking transit-related funding.
- Lobby with funding agencies to streamline application processes to lower barriers to competing for funding.

Goal: Facilitate collaboration between agencies, businesses, and public stakeholders on capital projects.

 Examine benefits of joint procurement activities not already being performed and, if favorable, establish joint procurement practices and policies for administrative consolidation.



• Establish a regional mobility manager role to coordinate infrastructure investments with county-level mobility managers.

Goal: Distribute capital funding across the region in a manner that prioritizes the communities with the greatest need.

- Publish a joint statement of four transit agencies and CMAP that specifies commitment to this goal, identifies the strategies that will be utilized, and identifies the communities that have been historically harmed by past decisions.
- Identify what strategies USDOT and IDOT are using to distribute funding to communities that have been historically harmed by inequities in past transportation and infrastructure decision-making.
- Identify funding opportunities specifically available to projects with high equity impact.
- Create committee of IDOT, CMAP, Service Boards and RTA to collaborate, coordinate and advance best practices for providing new equity requirements in capital funding decisions.
- Create mechanisms and process revisions to make project selection transparent and understandable.

Goal: Revise capital programming to ensure that we equitably balance the needs of different markets and communities to increase ridership.

- Create an equity advisory group to ensure equity is integrated into capital investment and measured as a regional outcome.
- Identify and evaluate projects with an equity lens to serve markets where demand for transit is not being satisfied so as to grow ridership.
- Make equitable access to opportunity, accessibility, and zero emissions transit core requirements of the capital program.

Goal: Increase transparency and communications with communities regarding transit spending and funding.

- Articulate key messages on transit investments in easily understood language and formats accessible to each audience.
- Evaluate the current outreach process across transit planning and implementation to identify areas of improvement.
- Build a panel survey of residents that are representative of the region and can be calledon more often to provide input.
- Develop community advisory groups to provide input on investment and build capacity for providing substantive feedback on project prioritization.
- Evaluate and refine the prioritization process with a focus on transparency and communication.



Outcome: A region of thriving communities.

Goal: Increase community engagement and communication during project selection, planning, and service changes.

- Employ a variety of tailored outreach and engagement methods to reach all community members and stakeholders and use the input to inform planning and decision making.
- Maximize or supplement service board capacity to lead engagement with community members.

Goal: Reduce first/last mile barriers to using transit.

- Promote partnerships to develop mobility hubs that support community quality of life, connectivity, and pride in place.
- Clearly and accurately communicate real-time modal options to riders through both digital and traditional signage.
- Directly engage residents on how to improve space in and around transit stations and stops.
- Pilot innovative mobility options to address system gaps.
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian access and facilities at and around transit stations.
- Increase connectivity for employment and industrial centers that are close to but disconnected from transit.

Goal: Support communities pursuing equitable transit-oriented development (eTOD).

- Work with municipalities to increase affordable, accessible, multi-family housing options and prevent displacement of current residents near transit.
- Provide guidance and technical assistance to local governments and agencies to finance eTOD.
- Establish an eTOD office at the RTA to institutionalize eTOD and better coordinate transit investments and land use development patterns.
- Give precedence in project selection for communities whose policies align with eTOD recommendations.
- Educate local governments and communities on eTOD benefits, best practices, and tools for alignment and implementation.

Performance Measures

During the final working group meeting, members began the process of generating ideas for new performance measures that can be used to track RTA and the Service Boards' progress



against the plan's goals. RTA conducted an inventory of existing measures the agency's tracks related to the working group's goals to help inform this conversation. Potential new measures will be evaluated by the RTA team over the summer to determine data availability and feasibility.

Outcome: A transit system that is in a state of good repair.

Existing Measures

Goal: Invest in a complete transit experience to achieve a state of good repair across the system.

Potential New Measures

Agency Measures:	 Ridership, disaggregated by equity elements as defined in goal implementation. Customer feedback by market/community, as defined in goal implementation.
Goal: Increase and diversify capital funding s	sources.
Existing Measures	Potential New Measures
	Number of revenue sources
	Share of funding from non-traditional
	sources, as defined in goal
	implementation.
Goal: Ensure projects of different scales are	able to compete for funding opportunities.
Existing Measures	Potential New Measures
	 Percent of projects under specified dollar threshold, as defined in goal implementation. Percent of projects that include multiple modes.
Goal: Facilitate collaboration between agend	cies, businesses, and public stakeholders on
capital projects.	
Existing Measures	Potential New Measures
	Number of multi-agency projects
Goal: Distribute capital funding across the re	
communities with the greatest need.	·
Existing Measures	Potential New Measures
Regional and/or Agency Measures:	Dollars invested by market/community, as
 capital expenditure per capita; 	defined in goal implementation.
capital expenditure per passenger trip	



	 Percent of assets in poor condition by market/community, as defined in goal implementation.
Goal: Revise capital programming to ensure	
different markets and communities to increa	ise ridership.
Existing Measures	Potential New Measures
Regional and/or Agency Measures: • Ridership	 Current and projected ridership, disaggregated by equity elements as defined in goal implementation. Dollars invested by market/community, as defined in goal implementation.
Goal: Increase transparency and communication	tions with communities regarding transit
spending and funding.	
Existing Measures	Potential New Measures
	 Customer feedback by market/community, as defined in goal implementation.

Outcome: A region of thriving communities.

Goal: Increase community engagement and	communication during project selection,
planning, and service changes.	
Existing Measures	Potential New Measures
	 Share of budgets allocated to community- based organizations.
	 Engagement events per impacted community.
Goal: Reduce first/last mile barriers to using	transit.
Existing Measures	Potential New Measures
	 Average walkability score within half mile of each station/stop.
	 Share of rail stations with high-quality bike infrastructure, as defined during goal implementation.
Goal: Support communities pursuing equital	ole transit-oriented development (eTOD).
Existing Measures	Potential New Measures
	 Transportation as a share of household costs within half mile of stations, disaggregated by stations with and without eTOD.
	 Local governments served by RTA SBs that allow eTOD.
	 Jobs within half mile of rail stations
	 Residents within half mile of rail stations, disaggregated by equity elements as defined in goal implementation.



Other Topics Discussed

Working group members also discussed strategies that are important to transit but are in the purview of other agencies and partners or are included in topical areas that are covered by the other two working groups. As such, RTA staff indicated a limited number of strategies for Removal, Reassignment (to another working group), and Off-Ramping.

Local governments are key partners in many of the strategies. Strategies for station area land use development, particularly for eTOD, were discussed by working group members and primarily rely on local governments for actual implementation.

CMAP plays a critical role as a partner in many of these in terms of coordination, planning, integration, and funding. IDOT, the Illinois Tollway, and local government transportation departments such as CDOT also serve in this role for several strategies, and often may be the implementor of a project resulting from the implementation of one of these strategies.

Next Steps

The goals, strategies, and performance measures developed by the working group comprise the initial plan development elements of the next Regional Transit Strategic Plan. The contents of this memo will be shared in a variety of formats and settings over the summer and fall of 2022 as RTA staff continue to refine these ideas with input from stakeholders, partners, and the general public and work towards the draft plan document and the adoption of the plan in early 2023. Next steps will include:

- Public input survey on goals and strategies from working group memos
- Virtual, public webinar and workshop on working group process and outcomes
- Transit rider interviews
- Presentation of working group memos at an RTA Board meeting
- Draft Regional Transit Strategic Plan public comment: late 2022
- Regional Transit Strategic Plan adoption: early 2023



Appendix

Results from Strategy Support Survey

At the culmination of the working group process, members were surveyed to better understand their level support for each strategy developed by the working group (working group members could also review and provide feedback on other groups' strategies). Results from the survey are included in the tables below and will be one key element used by the RTA to prioritize strategies for implementation, along with public and stakeholder feedback to be gathered over the summer. The survey results cover strategies developed by all three working groups and represent the groups' strategies following Meeting 5 (some strategies were removed through discussion in prior meetings). All strategies included in the survey are listed below.



Transit Service Working Group

Outcome: A transit system that is safe, accessible, reliable, and useful for riders.

Goal: Invest in stations and stops to create comfortable, accessible, and safe waiting environments, prioritizing historically underserved communities.

Strategies		Working 4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Create regional standard practices regarding cleanliness and safety at stations and stops.	6	6	4	1	0	llı.
Install and maintain human-scale lighting and safe sidewalks in and around stations/stops.	10	3	3	0	1	l
Provide public restrooms at all major transit centers.	6	3	6	0	2	



Goal: Increase safety and security for everyone using the system.

Strategies	Working Group Member Survey Responses 5 - I like this strategy a 4 - I am good with this 3 - I like some of this 2 - I don't agree with 1 - I do not support					
	lot. I would champion this strategy	strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	= -	this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	= highest value)
Develop the capability to report safety issues within the Ventra app.	8	3	6	0	0	
Increase training provided to frontline staff to recognize and properly address crises and safety issues.	7	3	6	1	0	ıl.
Pilot a regional transit ambassador program.	5	4	4	3	1	
Partner with communities on justice-centered approaches to violence reduction, such as affordable housing, mental health care, and living wages.	4	2	8	1	2	
Provide targeted, on-demand micro-mobility and last-mile options in areas of low density and/or high safety concerns.	6	4	4	3	0	



Goal: Ensure full accessibility of the transit system and its communications for all riders, regardless of ability.

Strategies		4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Evaluate and prioritize ADA accessibility needs across the system.	11	4	2	0	0	l
Establish a dedicated funding source for ADA improvements.	10	7	0	0	0	
Make door-to-door solutions accessible to all, including those who cannot transfer from their mobility devices.	7	6	4	0	0	



Goal: Adapt transit service to meet riders' changing needs and provide a competitive alternative to driving.

Strategies		4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Regularly engage with partners and communities to identify service adjustments needed to better serve community's mobility needs.	7	8	2	0	0	II.
Implement service adjustments needed to better serve post-covid travel patterns.	7	8	2	0	0	1.
Develop regional service standards by mode and geography.	4	8	3	1	1	



Goal: Improve the reliability and speed of transit trips to better compete with driving.

Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	4 - I am good with this	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Advocate for the prioritization of transit over cars when allocating street space.	13	3	0	0	0	l.
Lobby for updating state laws to allow camera-enforced transit lanes.	10	4	1	1	0	l
Launch a campaign to communicate and make the regional case for the benefits of Bus Rapid Transit.	6	7	2	1	0	1.
Build a coalition of governmental, business, and community support for Bus Rapid Transit projects.	9	5	2	0	0	



Goal: Improve the reliability and speed of transit trips to better compete with driving. (continued)

Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	Working 4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Study new funding options and opportunities to increase funding for implementing Bus Rapid Transit projects.	6	7	3	0	0	ll.
Invest additional funds in transit signal priority and other technologies to maximize transit speeds and improve the bus travel experience.	5	8	2	0	0	
Expand funding for technology and staffing to help Service Boards meet bus reliability goals.	8	6	0	0	2	
Expand opportunities to prioritize transit during long- term construction projects/disruptions.	7	8	1	0	0	



Goal: Increase the quantity and quality of consistent, real-time, easy-to-understand travel information that meets the needs of visitors and infrequent customers.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses					Survey
Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest
Review the existing methods used to communicate transit schedules and develop recommendations to make them more understandable for infrequent transit users.	5	9	2	0	0	
Review agency approaches to providing visual and audio communications in multiple languages, such as Spanish, and develop recommendations to expand multilingual communications.	3	12	1	0	0	
Test all manual announcement systems to ensure that all announcements are made with sound quality matching the automated systems.	9	6	1	0	0	1.
Review placement of all real-time service information displays, on all buses and trains, so that they are visible for all standing and seated riders.	8	7	1	0	0	
Develop additional methods to communicate elevator outage information to customers.	4	10	2	0	0	



Goal: Increase the quantity and quality of consistent, real-time, easy-to-understand travel information that meets the needs of visitors and infrequent customers. (continued)

	Working Group Member Survey Responses					
Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy		strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but		1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Responses (fa left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest
Train current frontline employees and provide additional part-time staff to help riders navigate the system and ensure safety.	3	5	7	1	0	1.
Update trackers to accurately reflect arrival times on all systems.	11	5	0	0	0	
Develop a system to communicate with Metra customers with easy to use information onboard indicating what train car exits will be usable at stations.	7	6	3	0	0	l.
Develop a method for Metra to provide better information to customers identifying on what track a train stops at.	5	9	2	0	0	ıl.



Goal: Expand and improve the coordination and connections between transit services in the region.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
		4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but		1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Create a regionwide consortium of local dial-a-ride and on-demand services in order to provide service coverage across and between communities so that areas of the region that have too little demand for fixed-route service are served with some type of transit.	9	4	1	2	1		
Identify a lead agency and system to integrate service information of transit agencies and external service providers operating and connecting to the region.	5	7	2	1	1		
Study a new regionwide program to provide a guaranteed-ride-home program to complement all transit services.	4	7	2	1	2	II	
Better integrate suburban dial-a-ride and paratransit transportation systems so that service area boundaries can be more easily crossed.	6	10	0	0	0		



Goal: Simplify and integrate the payment system across CTA, Metra, and Pace to improve the transit experience for all riders.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.	= -	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Provide a single-ride regional fare instrument.	11	5	0	0	0		
Provide regional fare instruments for those without a smartphone.	7	5	3	1	0	lı.	
Provide reduced fares for customers transferring to/from Metra.	8	6	1	1	0	I	
Conduct a study within the next year on how to enable and pay for seamless transfers between CTA, Metra, and Pace.	9	1	6	0	0		
Coordinate with other transportation providers (such as Divvy, Uber, or Lyft) to integrate fares and payment and support first-last mile connections to transit.	6	5	1	3	1		



Goal: Create equitable fare policies that ensure transit is affordable and accessible to all.

		4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Study the possibility of distance-based fares that reduce prices for short trips.	5	6	1	1	3	
Offer reduced fares for households that have no automobile registered.	4	2	3	5	2	
Offer regional reduced or fare-free programs for low-income individuals.	6	7	2	0	0	



Outcome: A region that is winning the fight against climate change.

Goal: Achieve near-zero emissions for the region's transit buses, trains, and other operations, and prioritize equity in the transition.

Strategies		Working 4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Eliminate the use of all fossil fuel-burning buses and fleet vehicles by 2040 or earlier, starting with areas of poorest air quality.		4	5	2	2	Ш
Create a zero-emissions commission to coordinate decarbonization efforts, including electric charging and purchasing as well as innovative propulsion, across the service boards.	4	6	4	3	0	
Better promote transit benefit programs with large employers located near transit	7	5	5	0	0	
Market and promote improvements that impact choice riders.	4	11	0	2	0	



Goal: Develop and implement plans to ensure the system (physical, financial, labor) can withstand disruptions, including infrastructure emergencies and labor shortages, to maintain service levels for all riders.

Strategies		Working 4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Make stations and stops comfortable year-round, even during extreme temperatures.	6	4	7	0	0	h
Establish a funding program or incentive for Service Boards and local governments to implement green infrastructure solutions near transit.	5	5	4	2	0	
Create a climate preparedness fund for use in extreme weather events.	3	5	6	2	1	1.



Infrastructure Investment Working Group

Outcome: A transit system that is in a state of good repair.

Goal: Invest in a complete transit experience to achieve a state of good repair across the system.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	0,	1-I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
For state of good repair projects, identify options for enhancement and modernization to improve the user experience.	6	2	8	2	1		
Use innovative techniques, materials, and practices during state of good repair projects.	4	7	6	0	2	١.	
Increase access to the system for all users by ensuring sidewalks, curb cuts, elevators, stairs, crosswalks, and any assets within a half-mile radius of the station / stop are in good repair and ADA compliant.	7	7	3	1	1		
Utilize customer feedback, including crowdsourcing, to understand what riders want in infrastructure projects in project development.	4	9	3	1	2	l	
Transparently communicate the magnitude of capital needs along with the value to users of these investments.	9	6	4	0	0		



Goal: Increase and diversify capital funding sources.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.	need major changes in	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Advance legislation to equitably distribute transit value capture mechanisms.	4	9	6	0	0		
Lobby for legislation for the RTA service area that requires transit infrastructure to be provided by employment centers.	5	8	5	0	1	=	
Establish project development practices and policies which foster early coordination between highway and transit agencies at county and regional levels to leverage roadway funds to provide transit improvements.	12	6	1	0	0	l.	
Lobby Federal agencies to include set-asides for cooperative projects so that transit is integrated into projects more often.	8	8	3	0	0		
Cooperate across agencies to pursue and secure formula and discretionary federal funding.	8	9	2	0	0		



Goal: Ensure projects of different scales are able to compete for funding opportunities.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.		1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Advocate for relaxing grant minimum and maximum dollar values to give more flexibility across projects and sponsors.	3	10	4	1	0		
Advocate for increased transit set-asides in transportation funding.	9	7	3	0	0		
Broaden highway congestion programs to include transit infrastructure.	11	7	1	0	0	l.	
Provide technical assistance for governments and agencies seeking transit-related funding.	8	11	0	0	0		
Lobby with funding agencies to streamline application processes to lower barriers to competing for funding.	7	9	3	0	0		



Goal: Facilitate collaboration between agencies, businesses, and public stakeholders on capital projects.

		4 - I am good with this	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Examine benefits of joint procurement activities not already being performed and, if favorable, establish joint procurement practices and policies for administrative consolidation.	3	6	10	0	0	.1
Establish a regional mobility manager role to coordinate infrastructure investments with county-level mobility managers.	7	4	8	0	0	



Goal: Distribute capital funding across the region in a manner that prioritizes the communities with the greatest need.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	~	3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.		1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Identify what strategies USDOT and IDOT are using related to distributing funding to communities that have been historically harmed by inequities in past transportation and infrastructure decision-making.	3	11	3	0	1		
Identify funding opportunities specifically available to projects with high equity impact.	4	13	1	0	1		
Create committee of IDOT, CMAP, Service Boards and RTA to collaborate, coordinate and advance best practices for providing new equity requirements in capital funding decisions.	4	7	7	1	0	ıII.	
Create mechanisms and process revisions to make project selection transparent and understandable.	8	4	4	2	1		
Publish a joint statement of four transit agencies and CMAP that specifies commitment to this goal, identifies the strategies will be utilized, and identifies the communities that have been historically harmed by past decisions.	3	7	6	0	2		



Goal: Revise capital programming to ensure that we equitably balance the needs of different markets and communities to increase ridership.

	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy		Group Member Survey 3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Create an equity advisory group to ensure equity is integrated into capital investment and measured as a regional outcome.	4	6	6	2	1	
Identify and evaluate projects with an equity lens to serve markets where demand for transit is not being satisfied so as to grow ridership.	6	7	5	0	0	
Make equitable access to opportunity, accessibility, and zero emissions transit core requirements of the capital program.	4	5	5	2	2	



Goal: Increase transparency and communications with communities regarding transit spending and funding.

		Working	Group Member Survey	Responses		Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	
Articulate key messages on transit investments in easily understood language and formats customized to each audience.	5	11	3	0	0	
Evaluate the current outreach process across transit planning and implementation to identify areas of improvement.	4	12	2	1	0	
Build a panel survey of residents that are representative of the region and can be called-on more often to provide input.	2	12	4	1	0	
Develop community advisory groups to provide input on investment and build capacity for providing substantive feedback on project prioritization.	5	7	6	1	0	
Evaluate and refine the prioritization process with a focus on transparency and communication.	4	9	6	0	0	



Outcome: A region of thriving communities.

Goal: Increase community engagement and communication during project selection, planning, and service changes.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses					
Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	strategy, but not a	3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.	0,	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Employ a variety of tailored outreach and engagement methods to reach all community members and stakeholders and use the input to inform planning and decision making.	5	9	4	1	0	
Maximize or supplement service board capacity to lead engagement with community members.	3	8	7	1	0	



Goal: Reduce first/last mile barriers to using transit.

		Working	Group Member Survey	Responses		Survey
Strategies	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.		1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Promote partnerships to develop mobility hubs that support community quality of life, connectivity, and pride in place.	5	11	3	0	0	
Clearly and accurately communicate real-time modal options to riders through both digital and traditional signage.	8	8	2	0	0	
Directly engage residents on how to improve space in and around transit stations and stops.	3	10	5	1	0	
Pilot innovative mobility options to address system gaps.	8	5	5	1	0	11.
Increase connectivity for employment and industrial centers that are close to, but disconnected from transit.	10	5	3	1	0	



Goal: Support communities pursuing equitable transit-oriented development (eTOD).

		Working	Group Member Survey	Responses		Survey
Strategies		4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.		1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Work with municipalities to increase affordable, accessible, multi-family housing options and prevent displacement of current residents near transit.	3	14	1	0	1	
Provide guidance and technical assistance to local governments and agencies to finance eTOD.	6	10	2	0	0	
Establish an eTOD office at the RTA to institutionalize eTOD and better coordinate transit investments and land use development patterns.	2	10	3	2	1	
Give precedent in project selection for communities whose policies align with eTOD recommendations.	4	7	6	0	2	=
Educate local governments and communities on eTOD benefits, best practices, and tools for alignment and implementation.	6	8	4	1	0	



Financial Responsibility Working Group

Outcome: A transit system that is financially stable.

Goal: Control, innovate, and plan for cost growth to maximize delivery of service that responds to the needs of the region.

Strategies	lot. I would champion	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it.	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would need major changes in order to	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Identify new methods to share and reduce costs across Service Boards.	9	8	4	1	0	lı.
Pursue opportunities to reduce costs through technology.	8	13	1	0	0	
Pilot new service and partnership models that address communities' mobility needs and decrease costs for the system.	11	4	5	2	0	11.



Goal: Increase and improve community engagement and transparency with diverse groups during planning and budgeting for transit projects.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
	5 - I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy	_	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	strategy. It would need major changes in order	1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	(far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Standardize practices for working with and compensating community groups' involvement in outreach and engagement on transit projects.	6	8	5	1	2	II 1.	
Develop standards for fully accessible community meetings (and other engagement platforms) and budget resources needed to engage people of all abilities.	9	8	4	0	0		
Build a broad, diverse coalition of stakeholders beyond traditional transit partners that will seek sustainable transit funding for the region.	11	9	2	0	0	l.	
Develop common standards to compensate individuals, community groups, and stakeholders for their participation in transit planning and budgeting processes.	8	6	4	1	2		



Goal: Communicate the value the transit system brings to the region.

	·		strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	2 - I don't agree with this strategy. It would need major changes in order to	this strategy at all. I	Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Quantify transit's diverse impact on equitable access, climate, safety, public health, and economic development.	9	9	2	0	0	
Develop an equitable access to opportunity tool for analysis across disaggregate population groups and regional geographies that captures the full spectrum of destinations while accounting for fare cost and temporal factors.	7	9	2	2	0	II
Benchmark regional transit performance against traditional and non-traditional peer agencies, seeking to identify best practices and opportunities for innovations to adopt.	9	6	4	1	0	lı.



Goal: Develop an equity-based operating funding structure to allow the Service Boards to enhance transit affordability while lowering reliance on fares to balance the operating budget.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
Strategies		4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	major changes in order to	this strategy at all. I	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Seek authority from state legislature for greater RTA autonomy in the distribution of capital and operations funding in a transparent, data-driven, equitable fashion.	7	8	4	2	1		
Study and pilot free transit routes, transit stops, and/or rider-targeted fare subsidy programs to support fare affordability.	4	9	6	3	0		
Better promote and make it easier for individuals to take advantage of existing fare subsidies.	9	11	2	0	0	1	
Expand fare subsidies to other populations for whom fare cost is a barrier to transit usage.	7	10	3	1	1	1	
Make transfers between modes of transit, including bike- share and scooters, more affordable, seamless, and easier to access.	11	9	1	1	0	I	



Goal: Develop an equity-based operating funding structure to allow the Service Boards to enhance transit affordability while lowering reliance on fares to balance the operating budget. (continued)

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
Strategies		4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	major changes in order to	this strategy at all. I	Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Fully fund the development of an integrated fare system.	15	7	0	0	0		
Work with social service organizations to better understand and respond to riders' unmet mobility needs and use that information to make decisions.	10	8	2	1	1		
Invest in and create tools to better track and create data on emerging and currently unmet rider needs.	9	8	3	2	0	I	
Advocate for permanent relief from the legislatively mandated fare box recovery ratio.	11	7	3	1	0	I	



Goal: Increase and diversify operating funding sources to fund a robust system that provides equitable and high-quality service across our region.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses						
	'	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	major changes in order to	this strategy at all. I	left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Increase local funding through expansion of sales tax base to support equitable transit service.	7	9	5	0	0		
Develop value capture methods for development around transit.	10	7	4	0	0		
Evaluate joint development models that share costs with municipalities/counties.	8	8	5	0	0		
Advocate for increased taxes and fees on private automobiles and commercial trucks including fuel, registration, vehicle size and weight, VMT taxes and fees, high-occupancy toll lanes, congestion pricing, and parking.	9	8	3	0	1		



Goal: Increase and diversify operating funding sources to fund a robust system that provides equitable and high-quality service across our region. (continued)

	lot. I would champion	Working Group Member Survey Responses 5 - I like this strategy a bt. I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it. 3 - I like some of this strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but It can move forward but It can move forward. 2 - I don't agree with this strategy it would need major changes in order to move forward.					
Expand the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) to suburban Cook and collar counties and have the state provide PTF on that expanded RETT similar to what CTA receives now for Chicago real estate sales.	5	8	5	1	1		
Advocate for more State funding through increased Public Transportation Fund and new, dedicated funding streams.	11	10	0	0	1		



Goal: Maximize system-generated, non-farebox revenue.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses					
	'	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	strategy. It would need major changes in order to	this strategy at all. I	left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Adopt innovative approaches to generating advertising revenue within transit vehicles and facilities.	8	10	2	1	0	1.
Adopt innovative approaches to generating revenue through facilities including: rental for concessions such as lockers for package delivery, fiber optic cables, and placemaking.	7	12	1	2	0	1
Study opportunities for enhanced transit power generation for example solar panel installations at transit facilities.	11	8	2	1	0	l
Study opportunities for transit to integrate with distributed energy systems.	10	8	2	0	1	I



Goal: Maximize system-generated, non-farebox revenue. (continued)

Churchania	Working Group Member Survey Responses					
	'	4 - I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but	major changes in order to	this strategy at all. I	left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Increase partnerships with employers to increase utilization of transit benefit programs and align transit benefit programs with changing mobility needs of commuters and focusing on lower-paying and part-time jobs.	11	8	2	0	0	I .
Partner with tourism and entertainment entities to include transit fare passes in ticketed events, hotel stays, and other modes of travel.	7	12	2	1	0	1
Deploy land disposition and joint venture strategies to generate revenue from real estate and joint development.	6	10	4	1	0	



Outcome: A region that is connected.

Goal: Improve responsiveness, including better serving off-peak and non-work trips, to high need corridors while ensuring coverage throughout the region.

	Working Group Member Survey Responses					
	lot. I would champion		strategy but not all of it. It can move forward but		1 - I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	(far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)
Provide complementary bus transit in Metra corridors when trains are not currently operating to make transit travel in these corridors more useful across all times of day and days of the week.	6	10	3	1	2	
Develop and be held accountable to regional service standards so that transit resources are allocated to high-need (e.g. transit-dependent) and transit-receptive (e.g. dense) populations and communities across the region.	5	9	6	1	1	
Modify Metra rail schedules to operate more like regional rail in order to capture new and changing regional travel markets.	12	7	3	0	0	-
Adjust CTA and Pace bus service levels to better serve non-traditional riders, especially during offpeak hours.	7	10	3	2	0	



Goal: Increase access to opportunities via transit, focusing on connecting underserved communities to the resources they need.

	5 - I like this strategy a 4 - I am good with this 3 - I like some of this 2 - I don't agree with this 1 - I do not support				Survey Responses (far left = 5, far right = 0, blue = highest value)	
Prioritize increased frequency and speed for buses, targeting communities with a demonstrated transit need.	11	5	5	0	0	Ш
Improve transit service in lower-income neighborhoods and suburbs so there is better access to jobs, healthcare, and other important destinations.	9	11	1	0	0	



Working Group Process Details

Meeting #1

Goals

- Building team relationships
- Understanding working group objectives and how they fit into the overall strategic planning process
- Set a common base of knowledge, issues, and current state
- Homework to think about project goals

Agenda

- Welcome + Getting to Know Each Other
- Overview of Plan Process
- Review Meeting Charter
- Past Plans and Current State Review
- Reflection on Information Presented
- Q+A/Close-out

Polling Questions (Menti)

- What did you find notable from the briefing booklet and/or the data presentation?
- Is there anything that needs additional clarification from the briefing booklet and/or the data presentation?
- What is your greatest hope for this process?
- What is your biggest concern for this process?
- Are you open to meeting in person?

Inputs

• Briefing Books – update all participants on background information



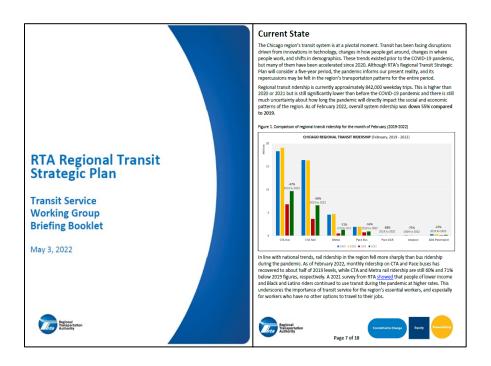


Figure 1. Pages from the Briefing Books developed for working group participants.

Outputs

• Issues that need clarification

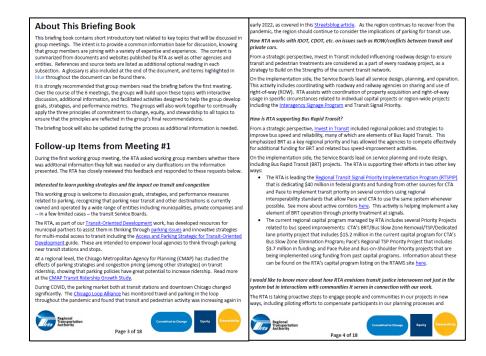


Figure 2. Questions from working group members were addressed in an updated Briefing Book following Meeting #1.



Meeting #2

Goals

- Building team relationships
- Developing potential goals

Agenda

- · Welcome + meeting ritual
- Meeting 1 recap
- Building Collaboration
- Developing goals + peer examples
- Breakout groups and report out
- Q&A/closeout

Inputs

- Additional information on issues that needed clarification
- Google Doc that lists outcomes and offers topics from the briefing books to organize goal brainstorming; working group members can edit the doc during the meeting

Outputs

• Completed Google Docs with proposed goals from Working Group Members



Figure 3. Example of Google Docs used during Meeting #2 to develop draft goal statements.



Inter-Meeting Steps:

- Used Miro to organize comments from Meeting #2 (grouped feedback by theme); draft goal statements that were developed/synthesized directly from WG-generated content)
- Categorized Draft Goals that need in-meeting refinement

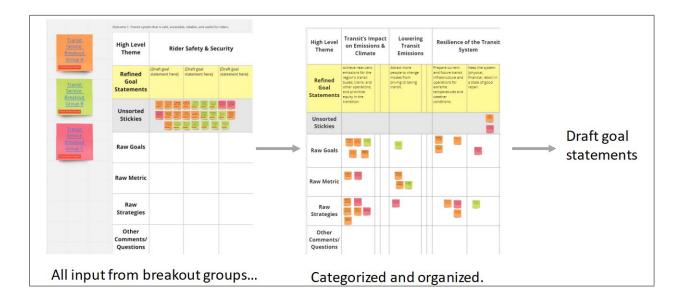


Figure 4. Example of how the RTA team used a Miro board between Meetings #2 and #3 to organize, categorize, and synthesize all comments from the Transit Service Working Group.





Figure 5. Screen capture of the Miro board used by the RTA team between Meetings #2 and #3 to organize, categorize, and synthesize all comments from the Transit Service Working Group.

Meeting #3

Goals

- Continuing to build team relationships
- Understanding the draft goal statements refining process that happened between meetings and how participants can access this documentation
- Refining draft goal statements into a list of goals that will move to the next stage

Agenda

- Welcome + Meeting Ritual
- Building Collaboration
- Recap of Meeting #2



- Synthesis Process
- Small Groups to Refine Goals
- Report-Out & Discussion of Refined Goals
- Q&A + Close Out

Inputs

 Google Docs with lists of draft goal statements and room to write a refined goal statement for each

Outputs

Completed Google Docs with suggested refined goal statements

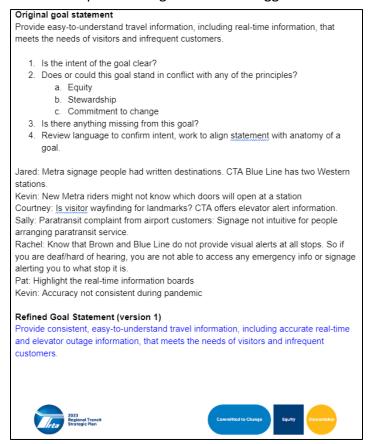


Figure 6. Example of Google Docs used during Meeting #3 to refine draft goal statements.

Inter-Meeting Steps:

- Used Miro to organize and categorize comments brainstormed in the meeting
- Combined, separated, or reassigned goals as needed within and between Working Groups
- Took strategy-level content that was previously generated by WG members in earlier meetings and added it under the appropriate goal statement



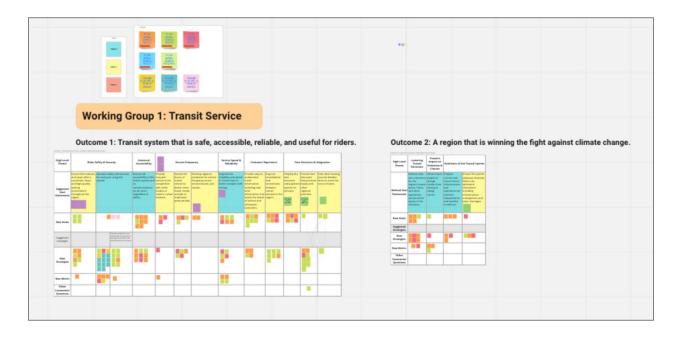


Figure 7. Screen capture of the Miro board used by the RTA team between Meetings #3 and #4 to organize, categorize, and synthesize all comments from the Transit Service Working Group.

Meeting #4

Goals

- Continuing to build team relationships
- Interdisciplinary learning across WGs and Technical Groups
- Brainstorming strategies

Agenda

- Welcome
- Process Overview + Recap of Meeting #3
- Technical Group Presentation
- Developing Strategies
- Breakout Groups: Strategy Creation
- Report-Out + Reflection
- Q&A + Close Out

Inputs

 Google Doc forms with refined goal statements; set up so that WG members can insert draft strategies as lists under each draft goal statement during the meeting

Outputs

• Completed Google Doc forms with lists of proposed strategies



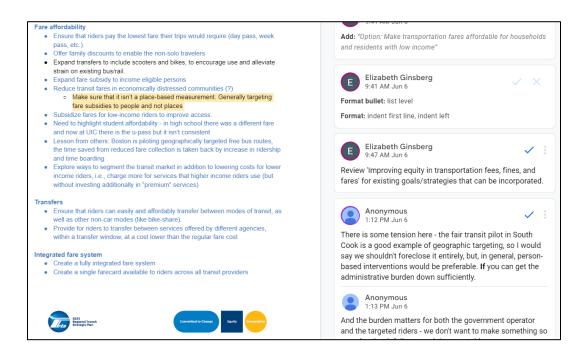


Figure 8. Example of Google Docs used during Meeting #4 to brainstorm potential strategies.

Inter-Meeting Steps:

- Developed Master Spreadsheet that included all goals/strategies
- Took proposed strategies and comments and synthesized draft strategy statements
- Vetted the draft strategy statements according to the three core principles (Equity, Stewardship, Commitment to Change), assigned each with an action needed in Meeting #5 (Refine, Reconcile, Ready, Remove, Reassign), and suggested discussion prompts/questions that needed to be answered by WG members for RTA to know how to move forward
- Breakout facilitators drafted possible refinements based on WG discussions and developed questions to ask so WG members could guide the direction needed for some strategies





Figure 9. Screen capture of the spreadsheet used by the RTA team between Meetings #4 and #5 to refine and categorize draft strategies in need of additional discussion.

Meeting #5

Goals

- Continuing to build team relationships
- Refining strategies

Agenda

- Welcome
- Where We Are in the Process
- CMAP Mobility Recovery Presentation
- Breakout Groups: Refine Strategies
- Report-Out + Discussion
- Q&A + Close Out

Inputs

• Breakout Group Google Spreadsheet with refined strategy statements, set up so that WG members can discuss goals flagged for refinement or reconciliation.

Outputs

- Completed Google Spreadsheet with lists of comments on refined strategies
- Content for survey to determine level of support for strategies

Please tell us your level of support for each strategy by using the following scale:						
5 — I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy. 4 — I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it. 3 — I like some of this strategy, but not all of it. I am okay with it moving forward but have reservations.						
2 — I don't agree wiit moving forward.1 — I do not suppor	-		,			
*Note that goals and order in which they	d strategies are n	umbered tempo	rarily for the purp	ooses of this sur		
Goal 1: Increase the information that mee		,		,	l travel	
	I like this strategy a lot. I would champion this strategy.	I am good with this strategy, but not a champion of it.	I like some of this strategy, but not all of it. It can move forward but I have reservations.	I don't agree with this strategy. It would need major changes in order to move forward.	I do not support this strategy at all. I think it should be removed.	
	5					
		4	3	2	1	



Figure 10. Screen capture of the Strategies Support Survey used by the RTA team between Meetings #5 and #6 to gauge working group member support for draft strategies.

Meeting #6

Goals

- Continuing to build team relationships
- Refining strategies
- Developing potential performance metrics
- Thanking all who participated, making clear the next steps and additional opportunities to stay involved in the process

Agenda

- Welcome
- Strategy Updates + Discussion
- Performance Measures
- Next Steps in Strategic Plan Process

Polling Questions (Zoom Poll)

- How do you feel about the goals and strategies overall?
- Overall, did the working group process make you feel heard and listened to?

Inputs

- Lists of refined strategies that RTA flagged as needing additional clarification from WG members
- Google Doc spreadsheets with existing performance measures for each proposed strategy, and room for WG members to add new performance measures and/or provide general comments on metrics

Outputs

 Completed Google Doc forms with lists of comments on existing and potential new performance measures for each strategy



Goal	Existing Measures	Potential New Measures	Notes
mprove the reliability and speed of transit trips to petter compete with driving.	Regional and/or Agency Measures: on-time performance; average daily percent of fleet unavailable; miles between major mechanical failures; average speed; unlinked passenger trips Agency Measures: bus bunch/gap intervals; rail delays; slow zone %	v. car)	David: Transit ridership seems like a rather indirect measure of transit reliability and speed. Jared: reliability for the rider (bus show up on time) or the operator side (bus function properly)? Riders don't care about equipment. Greg: satisfaction of the SB operators - can affect service and reliability [Melissa - could fit somewhere else better?, re: fully staffing] Emily: customer satisfaction metric (i.e. busses are faster/more reliable in priority lanes) Rochelle: impact of weather on reliability (mostly in winter) Emily: CTA does track major weather events - impacts on ridership, including gas prices, etc. Jared: more likely to ride in the winter - better experience than driving. Service may be worse and expectations are lower. Melissa - connecting weather events to ridership and to reliability. W. Robert: Competitiveness is a major consideration - not sure how to measure, but that's why people drive Rochelle: lower speed limits (school zones) impacts speed/longer trips Greg: can we track from the time someone gets on and then transfer to identify total trip length. Emily: speed is a good metric Rochelle - you used to know when your transfer time ends, from a fare perspective

Figure 11. Example of Google Docs used during Meeting #6 to brainstorm performance measures.

