

The logo features a central dark blue circle with the letters 'UIC' in light blue. This circle is surrounded by a yellow ring, which is further enclosed by a red ring. Three thick lines radiate from the center: a yellow line extending towards the top right, a red line extending towards the bottom right, and a yellow line extending towards the bottom left. The background is a solid light blue.

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What's Down the Line: The Outlook for Public Transit in a Post-Pandemic Chicago

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- The value of public transit to society
- The changing travel behavior and mobility needs
- Impact of pandemic on ridership
- Why it is vital to restore public transit in the year ahead?

OUTLINE

THE VALUE OF PUBLIC TRANSIT

- Transit offers many benefits –
 - Improved access to jobs, healthcare, and fresh food,
 - Better health outcomes for people in neighborhoods.
 - A way to escape congestion and reduce delays on the road network
- From a dollars and cents perspective: APTA – for every \$1, around \$4 in generated economic returns



THE VALUE OF PUBLIC TRANSIT

From a bigger perspective, transit helps preserve equity:

Mobility to those who cannot drive or cannot afford to drive

During the peak of the pandemic, transit was the lifeline for many service sector and frontline workers

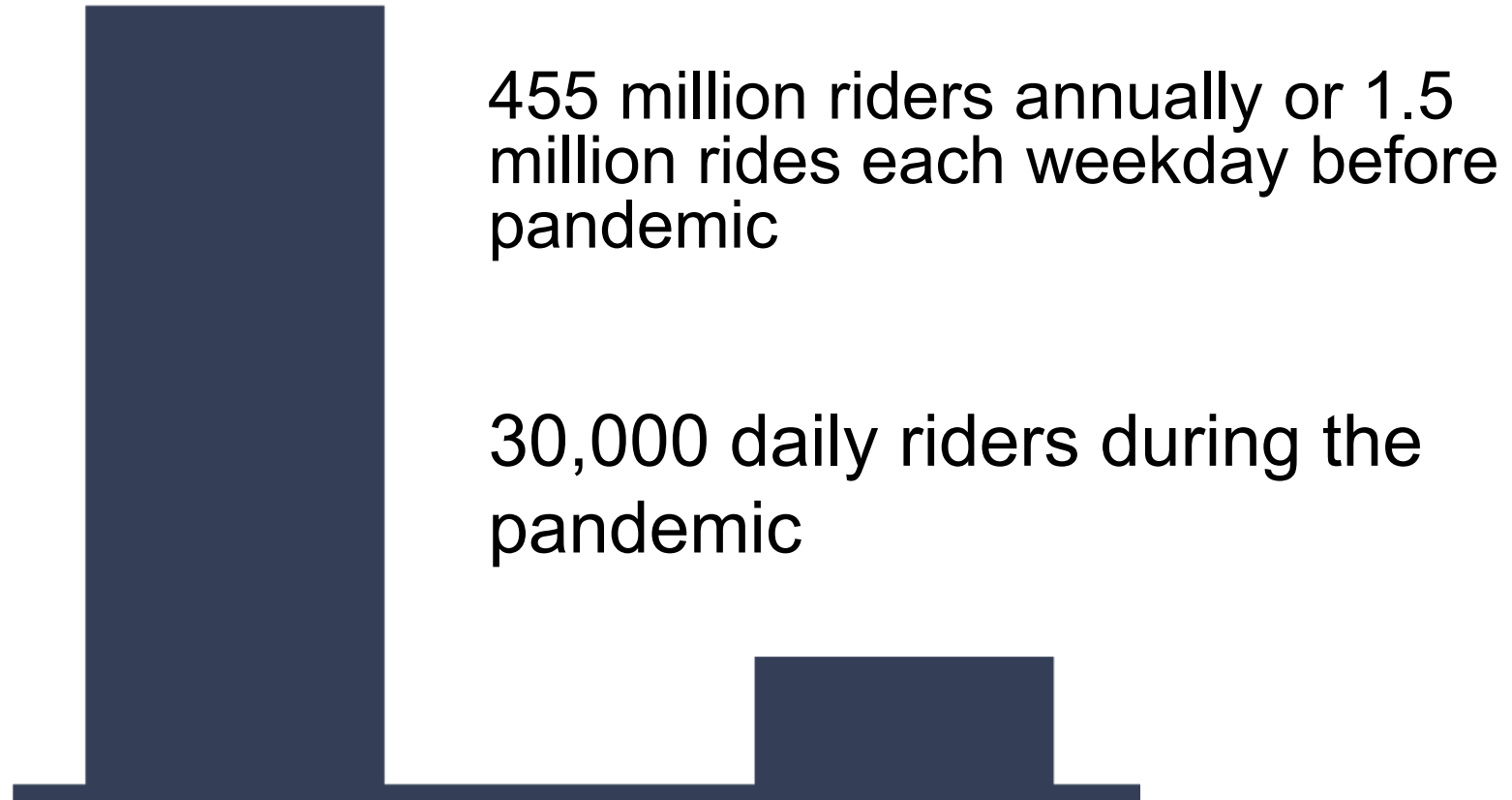


A photograph of a city skyline, likely Chicago, with a prominent red tint. In the foreground, there is a multi-level transit station with concrete pillars and walkways. A highway with several lanes of traffic, including cars and a truck, runs alongside the station. The background features various skyscrapers, with the Willis Tower being the most prominent. The sky is a uniform red color.

RIDERSHIP IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Chicago Transit Authority

8 rail and 140 bus routes



Drop of 80%

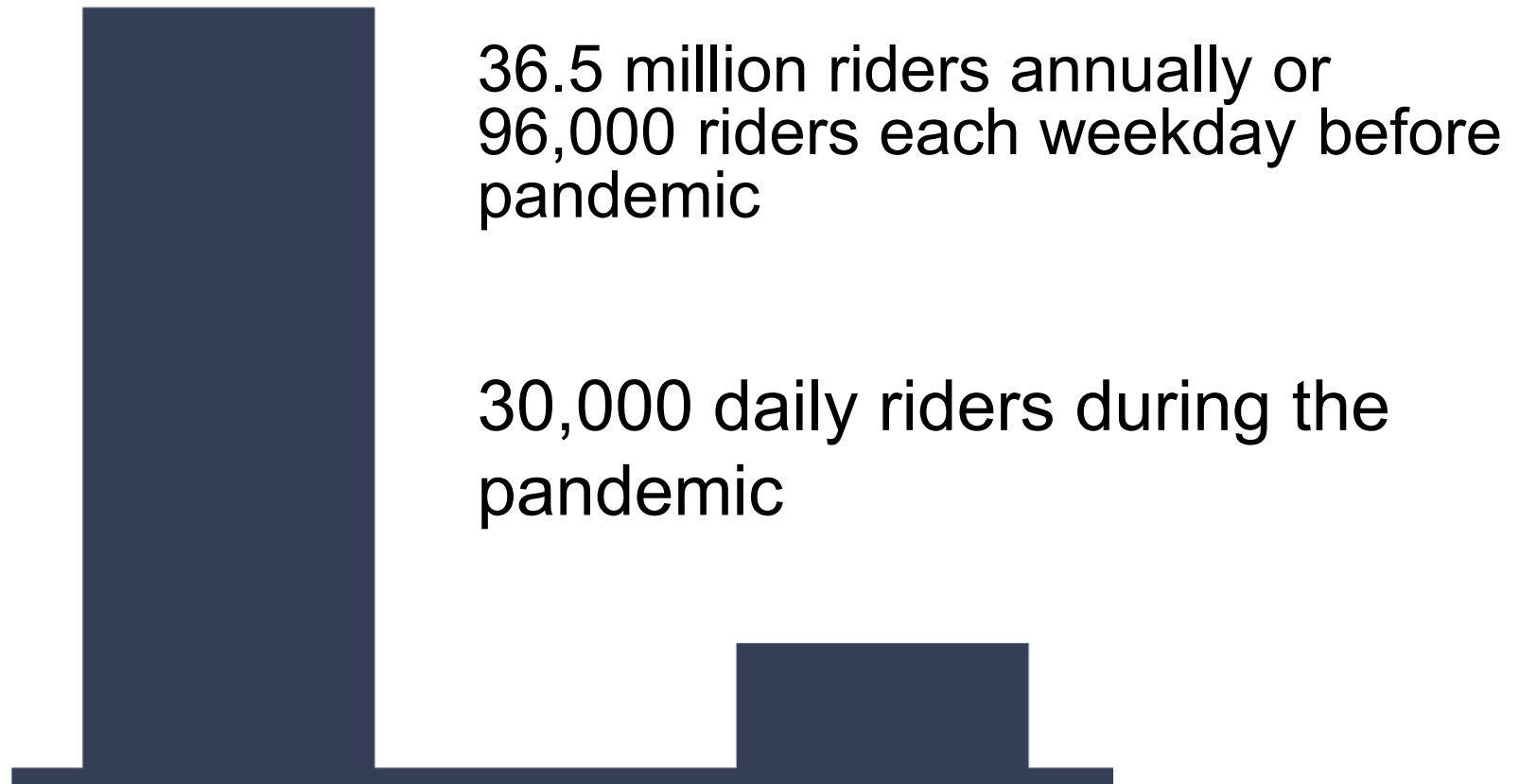


CTA Ridership during Pandemic

- Through November 2020, the CTA had lost about 56% of its ridership
- Rail ridership had reduced by 64.5% while bus dropped by 48%
- Not surprisingly, the weekday ridership numbers took the biggest hit (62% bus and 80% rail)
- Weekend ridership drop was almost the same for Saturdays and Sundays (54% bus versus 72% rail)

Pace Suburban Bus

218 routes

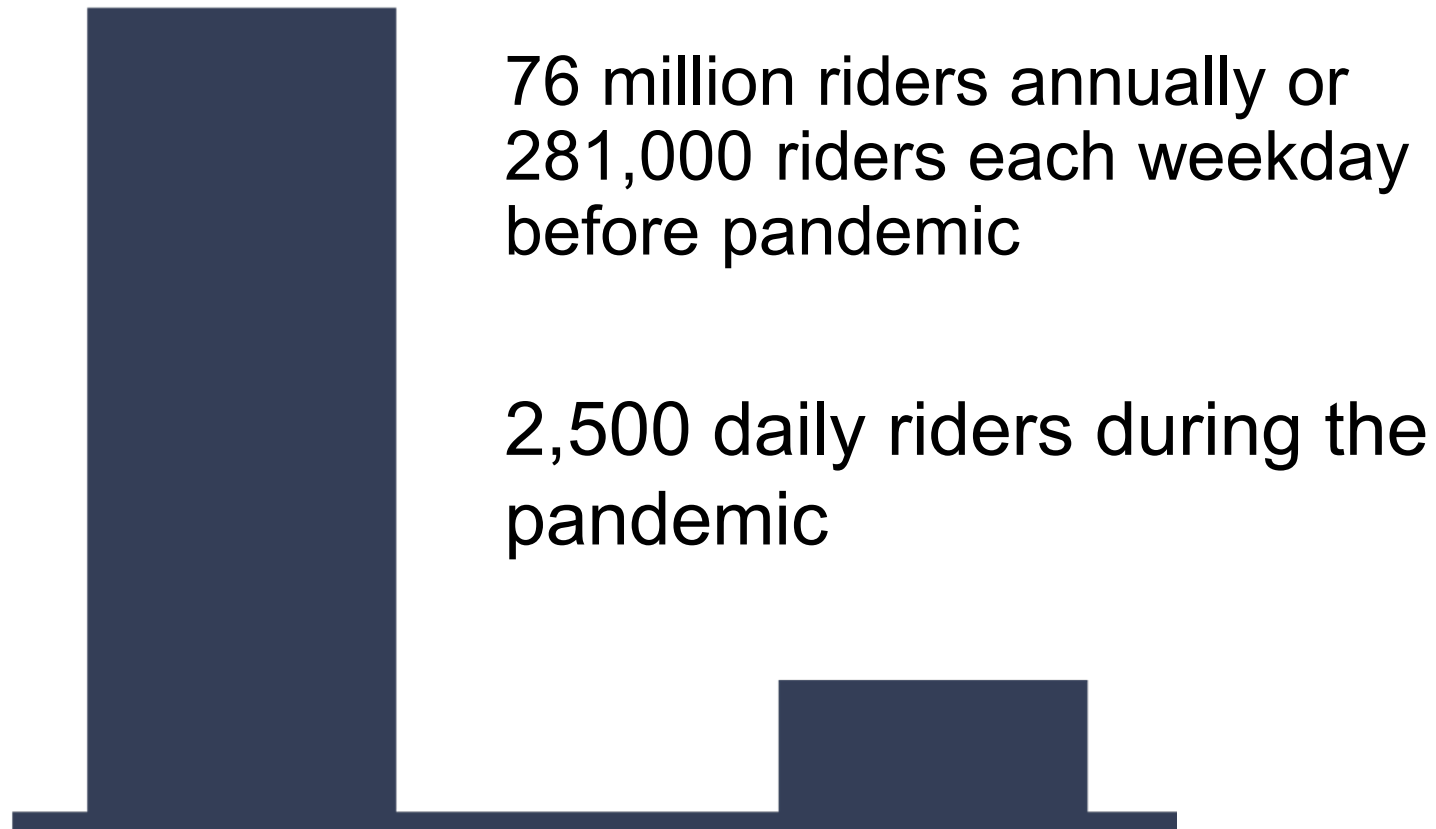


Drop of 70%



Metra Commuter Rail

619 rail runs



Drop of 90%



The image shows a panoramic view of the Chicago skyline, including the Willis Tower, under a red-tinted sky. In the foreground, there are several modern, multi-story buildings with a grid-like facade, partially obscured by trees. The text "SO, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

**SO, WHAT DOES THIS
MEAN?**

SOME INSIGHT TO CONSIDER



These statistics are fluid – and transit ridership has improved on all three systems since the peak of the pandemic



Without massive federal dollars – expect service cuts



Cuts in public transit service could impact essential workers, students, people without cars



This could hamper the economic recovery and Chicago's future

Chicago User Survey



Transit is perceived as having high risk or extremely high risk among all travel modes at 77%



Low-income workers (<\$30,000) were more likely (44%) to be temporarily laid off or lose their job due to the pandemic



Restaurant workers, and food service workers indicated that they were more likely to be in this category (66%)



CHALLENGES AND ISSUES



Significant state of good repair needs faced by the industry. \$89.7 billion is needed to revamp the nation's transit network and bring it to a state of good repair

The Chicago region (RTA) has projected a 10 year SGR and normal reinvestment in transit to the tune of \$37.7 billion



Even before the pandemic ridership was trending down (2014 to 2017 a loss of 600 million rides nationally)



Emerging competition from the shared mobility industry and pandemic induced remote work arrangements could affect not just travel behavior but transit use in particular



WHAT'S DOWN THE LINE?



RTA Plan 3-Step

RTA Proposed:

1

2021 budget that reflects realities

2

Execute the budget to sustain transportation services

3

Determine how to reinvent public transit looking to 2023



An aerial photograph of a large, multi-level highway interchange. The interchange features several curved ramps and overpasses. In the center, there is a significant construction site with various pieces of heavy machinery, including excavators and cranes, and piles of earth and materials. The surrounding area includes urban buildings, some with flat roofs and others with more modern glass facades. The overall scene depicts a major infrastructure project in an urban environment.

MORE FEDERAL MONEY?

U.S. Rep. Chuy Garcia's proposed Transit Parity Resolution – 50/50 split in federal dollars for transit and highways

A photograph of a city street scene, likely in New York City, featuring a bus in the foreground and several tall buildings in the background. The image is overlaid with a red tint. The text "WHAT THE TRANSIT AGENCIES ARE DOING" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

WHAT THE TRANSIT AGENCIES ARE DOING

The Next Time You Ride Public Transit



Increased cleaning of vehicles and stations (more than a 90% increase in budget for cleaning, according to APTA survey of transit agencies)



Mask and social distance requirements



Constrained capacity at the peak has been relaxed now



JUST OUT:



The \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package includes \$30.5 billion for transit agencies across the country



It also includes \$14 billion for airlines and \$1.5 billion for Amtrak.



THANK YOU

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