



**TO: Board of Directors**

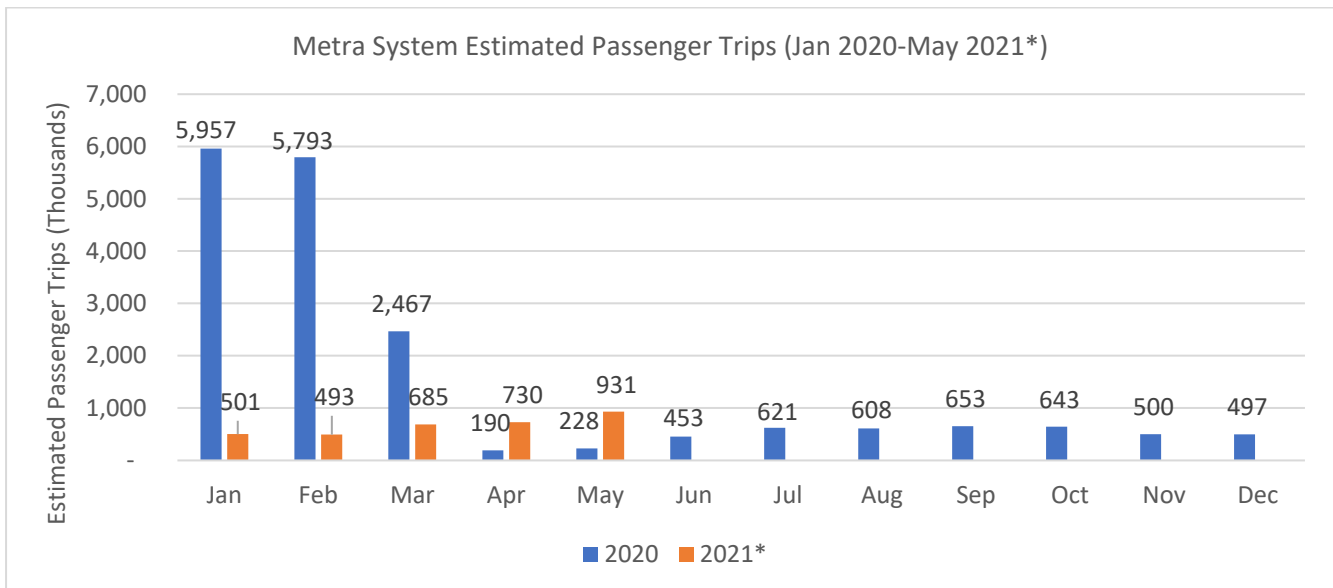
**DATE: June 16, 2021**

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

**SUBJECT: May 2021 Ridership Trends**

May 2021 showed continued growth in ridership over April 2021. Northeastern Illinois started the month in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois COVID-19 recovery plan, and transitioned to Bridge Phase on May 14, allowing 60 percent capacity in office buildings, excluding fully vaccinated individuals. On May 18, the CDC relaxed mask and social distancing guidelines for vaccinated individuals, while still requiring masks on public transportation.

Preliminary May 2021 estimated passenger trips were approximately 930,750, a 27.6 percent increase from the 729,650 estimated passenger trips in April 2021, and a 307.4 percent increase from May 2020. May 2021 had the same number of weekdays, Saturdays, and Sundays/holidays compared to May 2020.

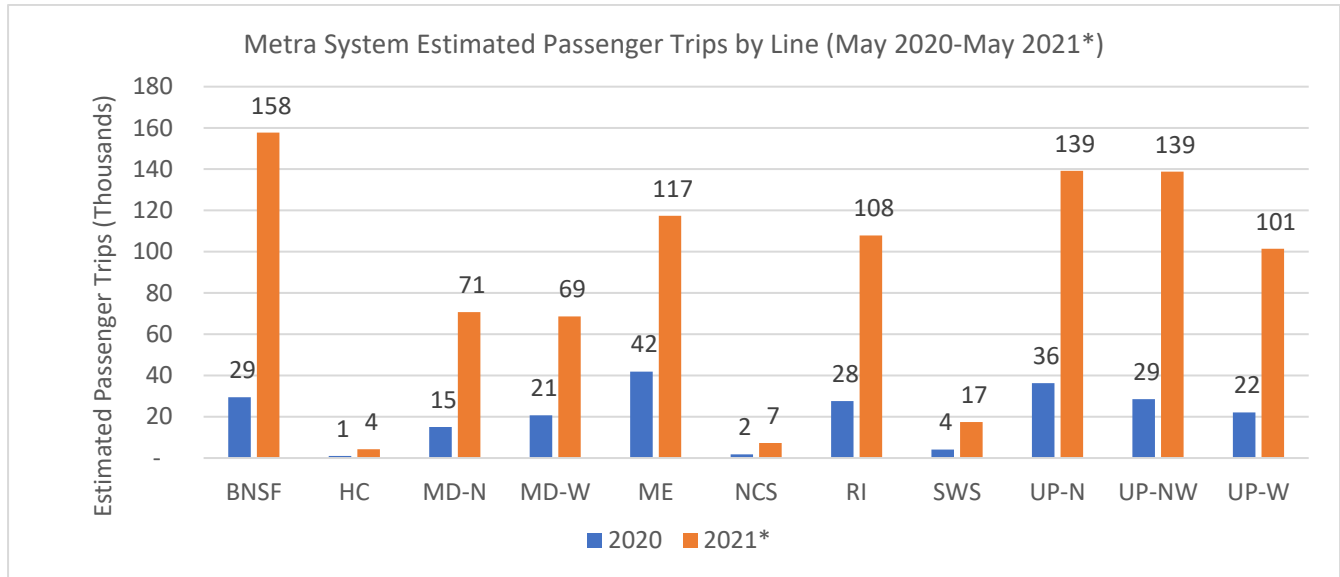


\* 2021 data are preliminary and subject to revision as data reported during the COVID-19 Pandemic is reviewed.

Effective May 10, four weekday trains were added to the Metra Electric line schedule to increase reverse commute options for workers at the new Amazon facility in University Park. This increase changed the systemwide weekday total from 418 trains to 422 trains. Five weekday trains on the ME line also received schedule adjustments. Effective May 15, four trains were also added to the Saturday and Sunday schedule on the ME line.

On May 29, Metra restored Saturday service to pre-pandemic levels on select lines increasing the total number of Saturday trains from 185 to 231. This change added 10 trains to the BNSF, 2 to the Milwaukee District-North, 8 to the Milwaukee District-West, 5 to the Rock Island, 8 to the UP-N, 13 to the UP-NW, and 2 to the UP-W, for a total of 46 additional Saturday trains. Saturday service on the SouthWest Service and Blue Island Branch of the Metra Electric remained suspended.

Sales of the special \$10 all-day pass continued in May. The \$7 One Day Weekend Pass was available on Memorial Day. The Fair Transit South Cook Pilot program continued in May, offering reduced fares on the Metra Electric and Rock Island lines.



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Systemwide passenger loads averaged 35,500 passengers per weekday in May. Wednesdays were the strongest performing weekday in May, carrying an average of 37,220 passengers. May Saturdays averaged 20,270 passengers per day while Sundays averaged 14,940. Average weekday ridership increased each week in May 2021, starting the month at 31,720 the week of May 3-7 and ending at 39,660 the week of May 24-28.

