

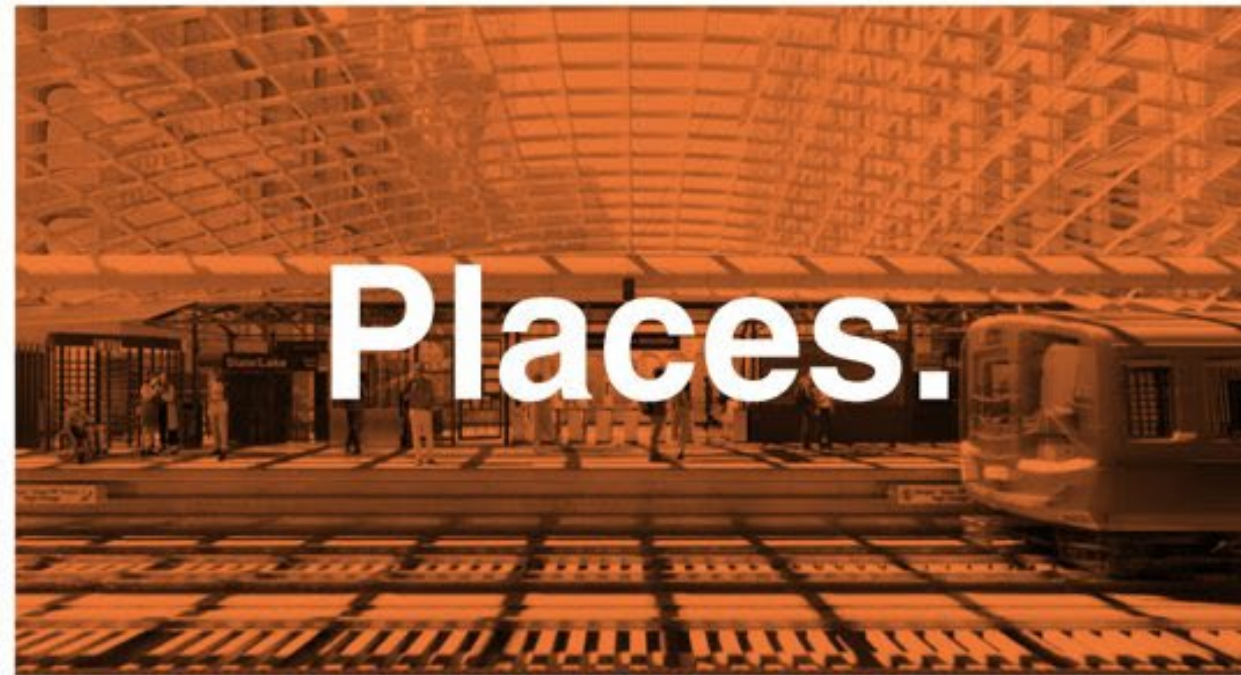
# 2026 Operating Budget & Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

November 12, 2025





**People.**



**Places.**



**Performance.**



**Partnerships.**

# 'CTA Chats' & Budget Town Halls

Riders Engaged at

CTA Chats!

**1,500** Riders at 18 different bus & rail locations

We heard most often that transit is not only a convenience but a necessity, and riders can't live or work in the city without it – without transit our riders would need to make serious changes



Safety, cleanliness & frequency are the most important concerns while riders are excited about new stations & modern features

Riders Engaged at Town Halls

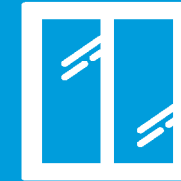
**400+** Attended across 3 different events

**6,000+** have completed our virtual survey

**61%** say they ride CTA because they don't have another transportation option

**55%** said they wouldn't make their most common trip without CTA

## Key Themes



Riders highlighted how critical CTA has been in their lives and valued our transparency in this climate

Riders mentioned significant perceptions of improvement in service



Riders stressed their needs for frequency & reliability and continued focus on security & cleanliness

Riders want to see continued investment in their communities and more funding for CTA



Riders that rely on critical features like elevators and boarding assistance stressed how critical they are to their mobility in the city

# 2026 Initial Budget

## Highlights

**CTA is seeking an amended regional budget to recognize additional funding from legislation and enable transit to begin delivering on additional key investments now**

- **No service cuts, no layoffs, no fare increases**
- **4.2M more rides expected in 2026 with existing service levels**
- **Operating Expense Updates**
  - **Maintains \$60M in efficiencies**
  - **No change to proposed 'Scenario 1' budget**
- **Operating Revenue Updates**
  - **Elimination of proposed 10% fare increase**
  - **Free rides for all ADA-certified riders as part of RTA's Paratransit Action Plan**
  - **Makes permanent Regional Day Pass**
  - **Additional Public Funding**
  - **SB2111 Allocation of \$142M to eliminate gap between revenue & expenses**

# Bintron

## 2026 Operating Budget Revenue are \$2.232

Operating	\$1,375.1M
Reserve	\$256.9M
ion	\$142M
ses	\$364.2M
Fare Reimbursement	\$19.2M
Advertising/Concessions Related	\$33.8M
the Owner	\$22.0M

Traditional Public-Transit
Designated Operating
SB 2111 Allocation
Fare & Pass
State F
A
0

Operating Expenses  
\$2.232 Billion

2026 Operating Budget Expenses are \$2.232 Billion

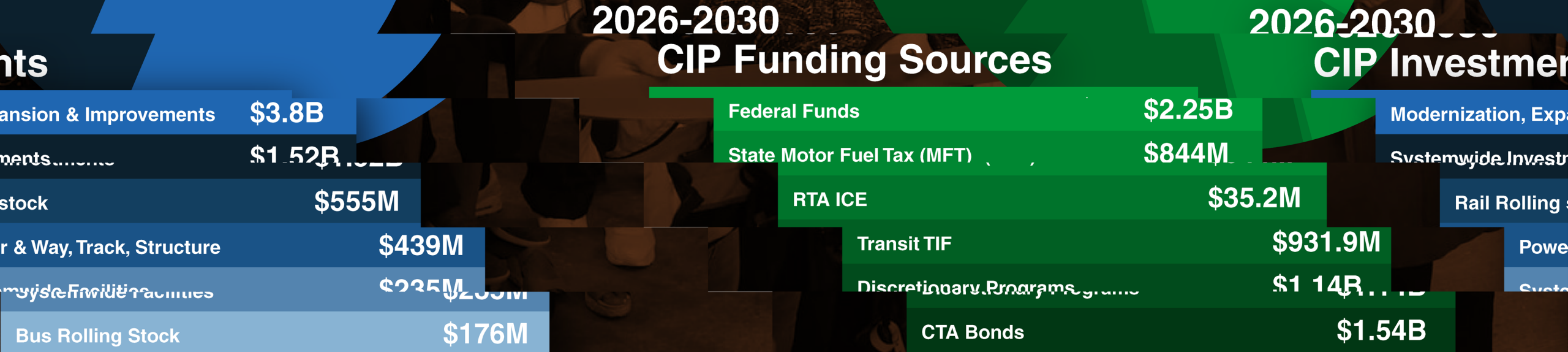


# 2026 Revised Operating Budget

(\$ in Thousands)

	<u>2026 Budget</u>	<u>Revised 2026 Budget</u>
<u>Operating Expenses</u>		
Labor	1,549,919	1,549,919
Material	151,772	151,772
Fuel	43,244	43,244
Power	48,094	48,094
Provision for Injuries and Damages	34,840	34,840
Purchase of Security Services	82,149	82,149
Other Expenses		
Pension Obligation Bonds (Net)	85,793	85,793
Contractual Services	181,715	181,715
Utilities, Non-Capital Grant, Travel, Leases, Other	33,580	33,580
Other Debt Service	20,460	20,460
Other Expenses Total	321,547	321,547
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,231,565</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,231,565</u></b>
<u>System Generated Revenue</u>		
Fare and Passes	393,986	364,214
Reduced Fare Subsidy	19,176	19,176
Advertising, Charter & Concessions	33,813	33,813
Investment Income	10,650	10,650
Statutory Required Contributions	5,000	5,000
Other Revenue	22,831	22,831
<b>System Generated Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$ 485,455</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 455,683</u></b>
<u>Public Funding</u>		
Sales Tax I	602,213	602,213
Sales Tax II	86,306	86,306
PTF II	110,904	110,904
RETT	67,043	67,043
PTF II on RETT	17,246	17,246
Non-Statutory Funding - PTF I	366,095	366,095
Non-Statutory Funding - Sales Tax I	109,769	109,769
ICE	17,390	17,390
SR 2111 Allocation		141,972
<b>Public Funding</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,376,965</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,518,938</u></b>
Relief/Reserve Funds	\$ 256,944	\$ 256,944
Balancing Actions	\$ 112,200	
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,231,565</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,231,565</u></b>

# CTA's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan is \$6.75B



# What's Happening Now, & Looking to the Future

**People**

**Places**

**Performance**

**Partnership**

## Gap Filled Budget

- Initial updates to the Chatbot
- Expanding Accessibility
- Blue Line Forest Park Branch Modernization Program
- Dedicated Staff to ETOD
- Keep Frequent Bus Network at 20 Routes
- Expand 'Refresh and Renew'
- Investments in some routes to improve overall reliability
- Safe Ride Ambassador Pilot
- Continued targeted security missions with CPD

## Funding Transit Growth

- Orange Line Owl/Overnight Service
- Expand on Chatbot features
- Create new connections & route expansions
- Wayfinding Improvements & Station Amenities
- More Accessibility Improvements & Staffing
- Further Investments in ETOD
- 2X Cleaning Efforts Across System
- Frequent Bus Network Expands up to 30 routes in 2026
- More Rail Frequency
- More Safe Ride Ambassador Pilot Opportunities
- Expansion of Second Chance Program