Ridership declined in February compared to January as Northeastern Illinois remained in Phase 4 of the State of Illinois Restore Illinois COVID-19 recovery plan. The city of Chicago maintained its Stay-at-Home advisory for the month of February. Vaccine distribution in February was open to individuals in category 1B, including frontline essential workers, and Illinois residents 65 and older. Preliminary February 2021 estimated passenger trips were approximately 492,910, a 1.7 percent decrease from the 501,490 estimated passenger trips in January 2020, and a 91.5 percent decrease from February 2020. February 2021 had the same number of weekdays, one less Saturday, and the same number of Sundays/holidays compared to February 2020. February 2020 had two days with temperatures below zero degrees.

On February 1, 10 weekday trains were added to the Rock Island line. This change brought the total number of trains Metra operates from 398 trains per weekday to 408.

In February, $7 Saturday or Sunday passes became available for purchase. The $10 two-day weekend pass was made available on the mobile app only. Sales for the special $10 all-day pass continued in February. The South Cook County Reduced Fare Pilot program was in effect in February, offering reduced fares on the Metra Electric and Rock Island lines.

The system averaged 21,400 riders per weekday in February. Thursdays were the strongest performing weekday in February, carrying an average of 23,000 passengers.
February 2021 is preliminary and subject to revision as data reported during the COVID-19 Pandemic is reviewed.

Prepared by Lynnette Ciavarella, Senior Division Director, Strategic Planning & Performance
Jason Osborn, Department Head, System Performance & Data
Cody Wolcott, Service Analyst, System Performance & Data

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