

COVID-19
Infrastructure
Program #015:
Transit Partnership

Regional Transportation Council

March 11, 2021

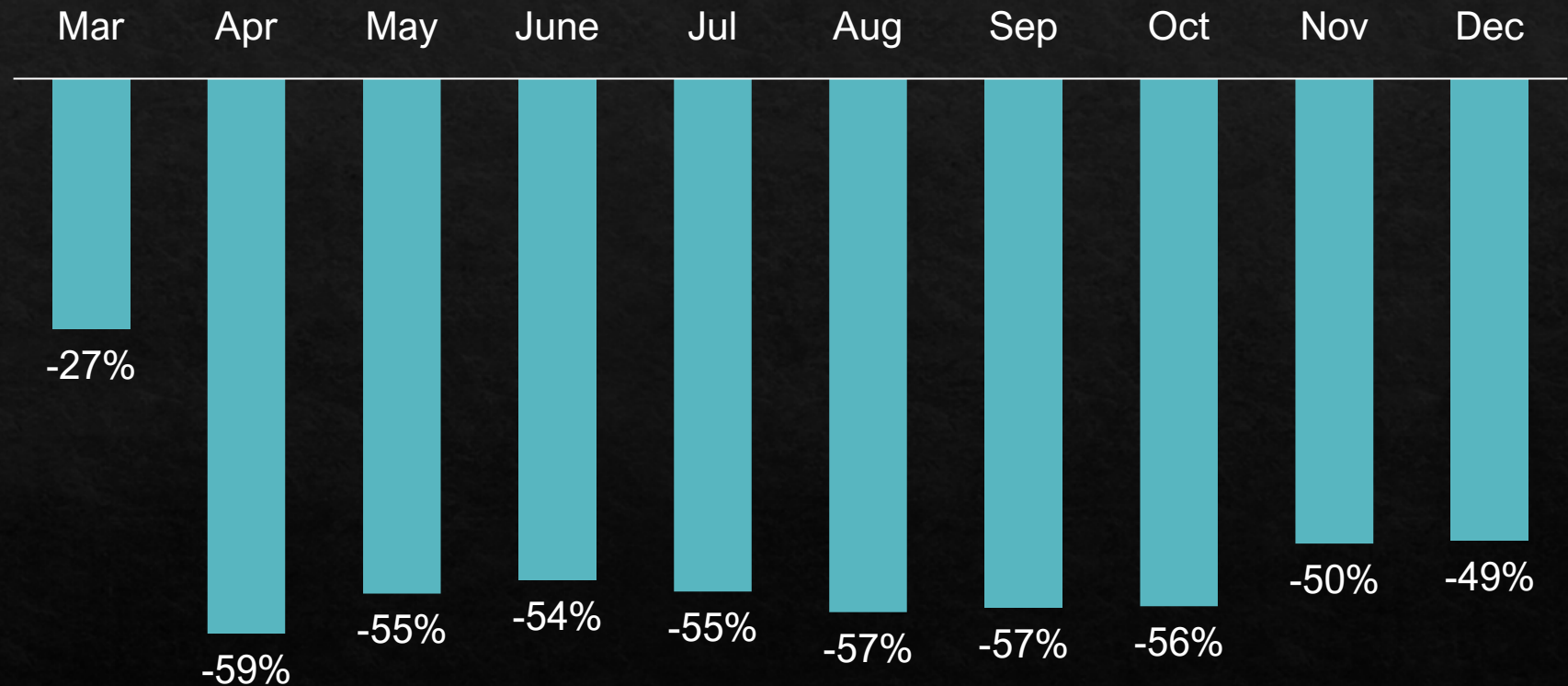
BACKGROUND

- Due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak, transit ridership has declined significantly.
- In response, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) approved \$25,000,000 in Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds for investments in transit in the COVID-19 Round 3 Infrastructure Program in November 2020.
- Since then, discussions have occurred regarding how the funding should be allocated at the project level.

TRANSIT IMPACTS

Passenger Decrease : 2019 vs 2020

Weekday
Ridership



ORIGINALLY IDENTIFIED PROJECT CATEGORIES

- Scope: Specific scopes to be determined, but will focus on these areas:
 - Response to COVID-19 impacts
 - Insurance for passenger rail integration onto freight lines
 - Engineering funds for passenger rail/roadway interfaces
 - Next generation high-intensity bus expansion
 - Review of bus stop amenities
 - Partnership(s) with Class 1 Railroads on passenger rail corridors
- RTC Policies/Federal Performance Measures Addressed: Transit, Air Quality, Freight

REGIONAL TRANSIT EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN PROGRAM

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, transit ridership has remained approximately 50% of what it was for the same period in 2019.
- Bringing riders back to the system will require targeted outreach.
- A two-phased education campaign is proposed:
 - Phase 1 - focus on growing consumer confidence
 - Phase 2 - focus on increasing ridership
- Program involves seeking out partnerships in the business community and local news networks.
- \$1,000,000 CMAQ/STBG funds proposed for the program (to be matched with Regional Transportation Development Credits (TDC))
- In order to expedite funding, this program may be implemented by a funding exchange with the transit agencies.



RIDE SAFE, STAY SAFE.

-  Mask Required
-  Enhanced Cleaning
-  Stay Updated

COMMUTE WITH CONFIDENCE WHEN YOU #RIDEDCTA
We're taking the necessary precautions to make sure our vehicles are safe so that when you're ready, you can hop back on board.

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Source: DCTA

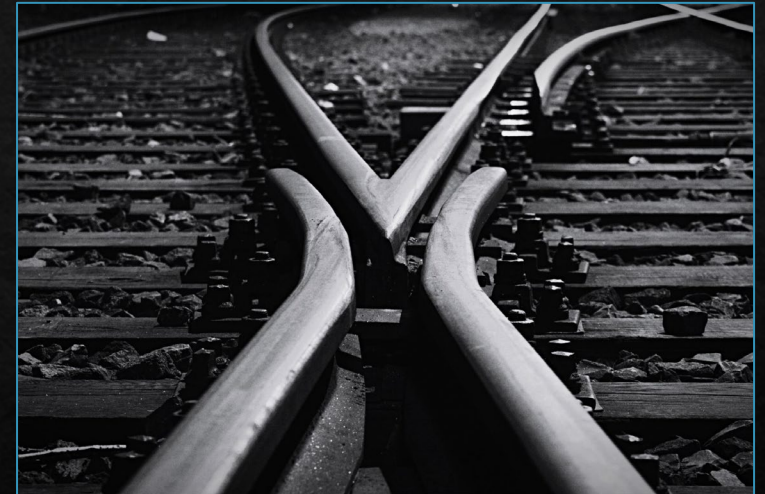
INSURANCE FOR PASSENGER RAIL INTEGRATION

- Transit authorities are required to have insurance for passenger operations on freight rail lines.
- Agencies in our region have previously had sufficient revenue for annual premiums, but revenue decreases have presented an issue.
- Additionally, premiums in the industry have increased dramatically.
- \$5,000,000 STBG funds are proposed to assist transit authorities in securing insurance until premiums level out.
- The funds would be matched with Regional TDCs.



REGIONAL RAILROAD DESIGN REVIEW

- In recent months, a need has been identified to facilitate the review of engineering plans for transportation projects crossing or utilizing Class 1 railroad lines.
- Proposed project/program involves:
 - Funding professional engineering agreements with railroads (e.g., Union Pacific, BNSF Railway, Fort Worth and Western Railroad, Kansas City Southern Railroad)
 - Agreements to expedite the design review of regionally significant projects throughout the region
 - \$7,000,000 of STBG funds (to be matched with Regional TDCs)



REGIONAL BUS STOPS

- Many bus stops leave transit riders waiting in the grass and dirt.
- Proposed project involves:
 - Funding concrete foundations and/or overhead shelters
 - \$1,000,000 STBG funds (to be matched with Regional TDCs) for bus stops in the Trinity Metro service area with specific locations to be identified by NCTCOG and Trinity Metro
- Stops in the DCTA and DART service areas to be identified for future improvement



NEXT STEPS

- Add projects to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide TIP
- Identify potential projects for the remaining \$11,000,000 of funding
- Bring proposals back to STTC and RTC for consideration

REQUESTED ACTION

- RTC approval of:
 - The proposed COVID-19 Infrastructure Program: Transit Partnership investments
 - Administratively amending the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and amending other planning/administrative documents to incorporate these projects.

CONTACT/QUESTIONS?

Christie J. Gotti
Senior Program Manager –
Transportation Project Programming
Ph: (817) 608-2338
cgotti@nctcog.org

Brian Dell
Senior Transportation Planner
Ph: (817) 704-5694
bdell@nctcog.org

Cody Derrick
Transportation Planner III
Ph: (817) 608-2391
cderrick@nctcog.org