



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

September 11, 2025

Ms. Nora Leerhsen
Acting President
Chicago Transit Authority
567 W. Lake Street
Chicago, IL 60661

Dear Ms. Leerhsen:

I am writing regarding the U.S. Department of Transportation's continued focus on ensuring safe travel in Chicago. To protect the safety of passengers and workers, and in turn, promote public confidence in transit, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) must ensure a secure and clean environment, reduce crime and fare evasion, and maintain a safe operating system.

Based on the Department's ongoing focus on safety and security, and pursuant to its oversight authority, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) directs CTA to provide the below information about the agency's practices and expenditures. *See* FTA Master Agreement Section 3(h)(2)(iii). Of key importance is documentation of actions and funding that ensure effective security for passengers and workers on the CTA system.

For this FTA review of CTA actions, please provide FTA with the following information:

1. CTA actions and plans to reduce crime and fare evasion on the transit system. Please include information about fare evasion trends and previous actions.
2. CTA funds from all sources that are programmed to improve the security of passengers and workers. This should include information about all CTA fiscal year 2025 budgeted and fiscal year 2026 planned funds allocated to reduce crime and fare evasion on the transit system, including a comparison to prior year funding for such expenses. Please also include:
 - a. Security - Expenditures and budgeted funds that meet the Federal transit program security capital projects set aside requirement for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5307(c)(1)(J)(i)).
 - b. Safety - Expenditures and budgeted funds that meet the Federal transit program safety set aside requirement for Urbanized Area Formula Grants (49 U.S.C. § 5329(d)(4)(B)).

- c. Non-FTA funds - Information about funds from other Federal government agencies directed to the safety and security of CTA passengers and workers. This should include any Department of Homeland Security funds.

Please provide this information to FTA's Region 5 Administrator, Kelley Brookins, no later than September 24, 2025.

In addition, please note that Federal transit law explicitly permits recipients to use capital grants for capital expenses related to crime prevention and security activities. *See* 49 U.S.C. § 5321. CTA should target Federal resources expeditiously and appropriately for these eligible activities.

People traveling on the CTA system to reach their jobs, education, healthcare, and other critical services need to feel secure and travel in a safe environment free from crime, and workers who operate the system need to be assured of a safe operating environment to provide transportation services. The transit riders and workers of Chicago deserve nothing less. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter to avoid further consequences, up to and including redirecting or withholding funding.

If I can provide further information or assistance, please reach out or contact Joe Delorenzo, Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight and Chief Safety Officer, at (202) 366-5080 or via email at joseph.delorenzo@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Sean P. Duffy