



To: Chicago Transit Authority Board

From: Tom McKone, Chief Financial Officer

Re: Financial Results for January 2025

Date: March 12, 2025

I. Summary

CTA's financial results for January show a favorable variance of \$4.3 million, mainly due to higher-than-budgeted investment income and lower-than-anticipated labor costs. Public funding collected for 2025 in January totaled \$81.3 million, which is \$6.3 million favorable to budget.

Ridership for the month was 22.9 million, which was 2.1 million lower than budget but an increase of 1.5 million over January 2024. CTA's continued improved service delivery is the primary driver behind the increased year-over-year ridership.

II. Revenue

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Fare & Pass Revenue	\$ 25,884	\$ 284	\$ 1,142	\$ 25,884	\$ 284	\$ 1,142

In January, fare and pass revenue was \$0.3 million favorable to budget, primarily due to higher 30-day pass revenue. Compared to prior year, this reflects a revenue increase of \$1.1 million, primarily attributed to higher 30-day and 1-day pass revenue. The average fare for the month was \$1.13 per ride, which was \$0.11 higher than the budgeted rate and \$0.03 lower than the average fare in the prior year. The favorability to budget was driven by higher average rate on pass revenues and 0.6 million lower free rides than budgeted.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Reduced Fare Subsidy	\$ 1,453	\$ -	\$ 132	\$ 1,453	\$ -	\$ 132

The Reduced Fare Subsidy was on par with budget for the month, and \$0.1 million favorable over January 2024 due to a higher expected reimbursement from the State in 2025 compared to 2024.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Advertising, Charter, Concession	\$ 2,508	\$ (315)	\$ (260)	\$ 2,508	\$ (315)	\$ (260)

Advertising, Charter, and Concessions Revenue was \$0.3 million unfavorable to budget for the month, primarily due to lower-than-expected vehicle and platform advertising revenue. January 2025 revenue was \$0.3 million lower than the prior year, primarily due to the timing of payments related to a revised payment schedule included in a recently executed advertising agency contract amendment.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Investment income	\$ 2,535	\$ 2,119	\$ 1,535	\$ 2,535	\$ 2,119	\$ 1,535

Investment income was \$2.1 million favorable to budget and \$1.5 million higher than prior year for the month due to an increase in the cash and investments balance and favorable fluctuations in the short-term market rates.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Other Revenue	\$ 2,410	\$ 216	\$ 530	\$ 2,410	\$ 216	\$ 530

Other Revenue was \$0.2 million favorable to budget for the month primarily due to increased non-capital grant revenue. For the month, Other Revenue was \$0.5 million higher than the prior year due to the increased non-capital grant revenue. The increase in non-capital grant revenue was balanced by a corresponding increase in non-capital grant expenses.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Total System Generated Revenue	\$ 34,790	\$ 2,304	\$ 3,079	\$ 34,790	\$ 2,304	\$ 3,079

Total System-Generated Revenue was \$2.3 million favorable to budget for the month due to higher-than-expected investment income and pass revenue. Compared to January 2024, revenue increased by \$3.1 million for the month primarily due to the growth in both investment income and pass revenue.

III. Expenses

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Labor	\$ 120,702	\$ 1,812	\$ (12,764)	\$ 120,702	\$ 1,812	\$ (12,764)

Labor expense was \$1.8 million favorable to budget for the month due to lower than budgeted filled positions for CTA exempt and union non-operator roles. Labor expense was \$12.8 million higher than January 2024 primarily due to contractual wage increases and increased staffing necessary for expanded service delivery, reflected by a 14% increase in union hours worked over the prior year.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Material	\$ 11,829	\$ 629	\$ (1,142)	\$ 11,829	\$ 629	\$ (1,142)

Material expense was \$0.6 million favorable to budget for the month due to the timing of vehicle part purchases. This was \$1.1 million higher than January 2024 due to the timing of vehicle part purchases and the increased material costs.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Fuel	\$ 4,009	\$ 146	\$ (478)	\$ 4,009	\$ 146	\$ (478)

Fuel for Revenue Equipment expense was \$0.1 million favorable to budget in January due to favorable fuel prices. Compared to prior year, fuel is \$0.5 million higher for January driven by higher usage due to additional service, with fuel increasing by 249k gallons over prior year.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Power	\$ 5,069	\$ 81	\$ (2,178)	\$ 5,069	\$ 81	\$ (2,178)

Traction Power for Revenue Equipment expense was \$0.1 million favorable to budget for the month due to lower-than-expected usage and ComEd rates. Traction power expense was \$2.2 million unfavorable to January 2024 due to higher ComEd rates.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Provision for Injuries & Damages	\$ 1,855	\$ -	\$ (201)	\$ 1,855	\$ -	\$ (201)

The Provision for Injuries & Damages expense was on par with budget for the month and \$0.2 million unfavorable to January 2024 due to funding requirements.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Purchase of Security Services	\$ 7,721	\$ 587	\$ (2,275)	\$ 7,721	\$ 587	\$ (2,275)

Purchase of Security Services was \$0.6 million favorable to budget for the month and \$2.3 million unfavorable to January 2024 due to additional private security deployments on the system and the timing of payments.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Other Expenses	\$ 28,362	\$ (1,257)	\$ (1,613)	\$ 28,362	\$ (1,257)	\$ (1,613)

Other expenses were \$1.3 million unfavorable to budget for the month due to higher-than-expected contractual services invoices. Other expenses were \$1.6 million higher than prior year due to increased costs for contractual services. The other expense category includes the pension obligation bond expense, utilities, maintenance contracts, services, and other expenses.

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 179,546	\$ 1,998	\$ (20,651)	\$ 179,546	\$ 1,998	\$ (20,651)

Operating Expenses were \$2.0 million favorable to budget for the month due to lower than anticipated labor costs. The unfavorable variance to prior year was primarily due to higher labor costs in addition to higher security and traction power expenses, which are detailed above.

IV. Recovery Ratio

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Recovery Ratio	55.43%	(0.83)		55.43%	(0.83)	

Recovery Ratio, which measures the percentage of operating expenses CTA funds from internally generated revenues, was 55.43% for the month. This was unfavorable to budget by 0.83 percentage points for the month but favorable to the RTA required recovery ratio of 42.00% by 13.43 percentage points. In 2021, the Illinois legislature granted temporary recovery ratio relief for fiscal years 2021 - 2023 due to the pandemic, which has been extended through 2025.

V. Ridership

Category	Current Month			Full Year		
	Actual	Variance to	Variance to	Actual	Variance to	Variance to
	Jan-25	Budget Jan-25	Prior Year Jan25 vs. Jan24	2025	Budget 2025	Prior Year 2024
Bus	13,762	(834)	879	13,762	(834)	879
Rail	7,864	(356)	600	7,864	(356)	600
Rail to Rail Transfers	1,288	(887)	-	1,288	(887)	-
Total	22,914	(2,078)	1,479	22,914	(2,078)	1,479

- Ridership for January was 22.9 million, 2.1 million lower than budget but 1.5 million higher than prior year. Excluding free rides and transfers, ridership was 600k lower than budget.
- Calendar adjusted ridership was up 5.7% from prior year due to increased ridership from CTA's continued expansion of service delivery.
- More details on ridership can be found in the January Ridership Report.

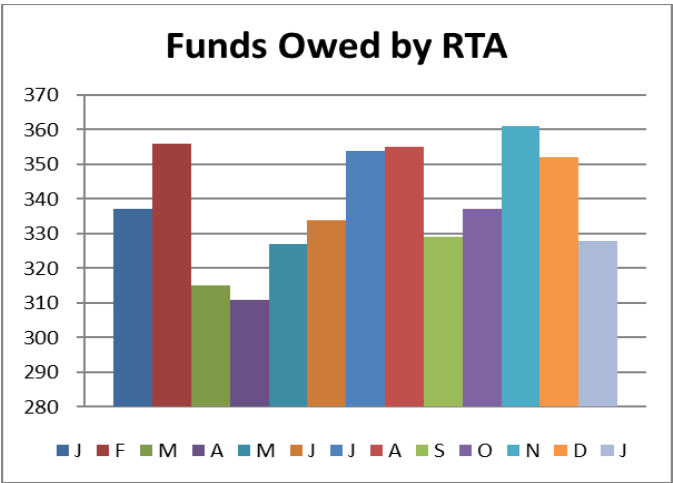
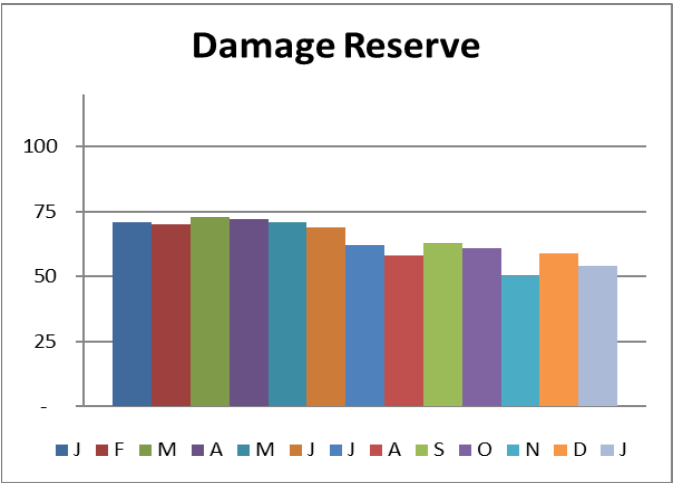
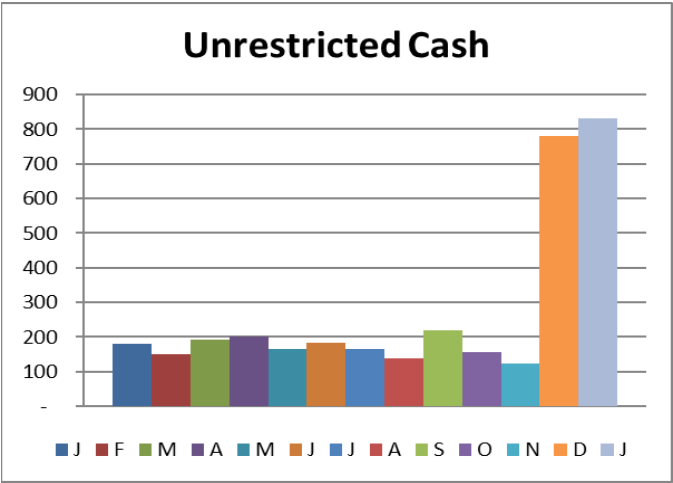
VI. Cash & Liquidity

The chart below highlights CTA's cash position in January 2025 compared to January 2024.

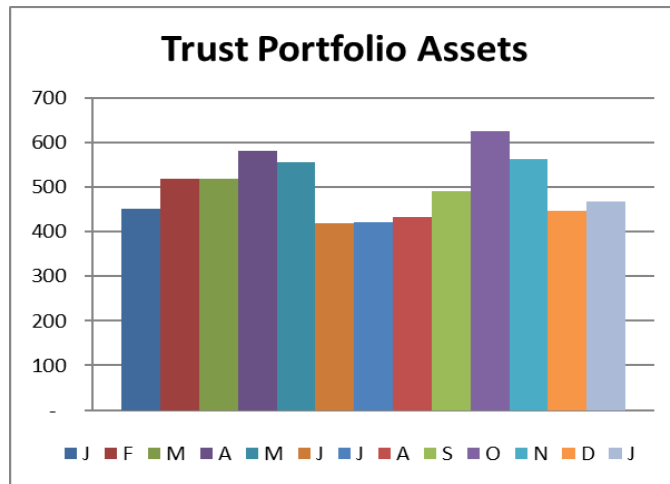
	January 2025	January 2024	Increase (Decrease)
Unrestricted Cash	\$ 830,481	\$ 180,157	\$ 650,324
Damage Reserve	53,913	71,310	\$ (17,397)
Funds Owed by RTA	327,646	334,699	\$ (7,053)
Trust Portfolio Assets	468,469	451,419	\$ 17,050
Total Cash and Receivables	\$ 1,680,509	\$ 1,037,585	\$ 642,924

CTA's total cash/receivables balance was \$1.7 billion. Unrestricted cash was \$650.3 million higher than the prior year due to the receipt of federal relief funding in addition to the timing of cash receipts and invoice payments. The Damage Reserve fund was \$17.4 million lower than last year due to settlement payments offset by deposits into the fund. Funds owed by the RTA were approximately \$327.6 million which was \$7.1 million lower than the prior year due to the timing of payments from the State. CTA continues to work closely with the RTA to monitor their receivable balance owed; Trust Portfolio Assets represent bond proceeds held in Trust for funding capital projects and making required debt service payments and therefore go down when payments are made.

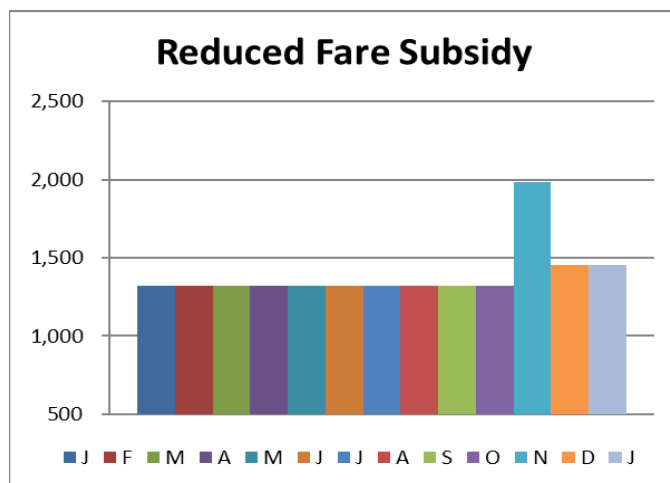
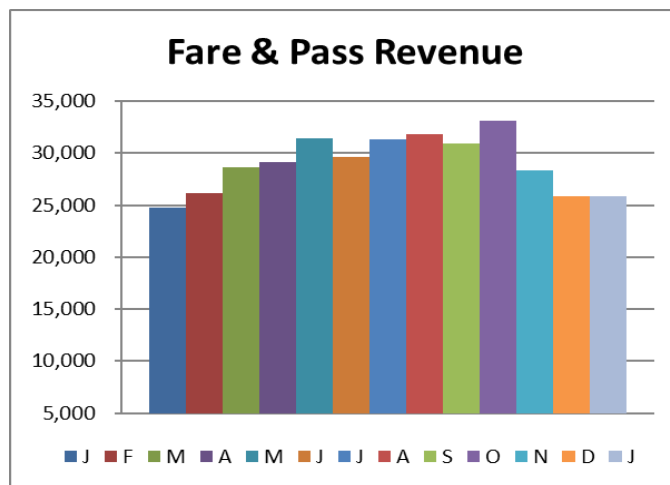
Cash & Liquidity



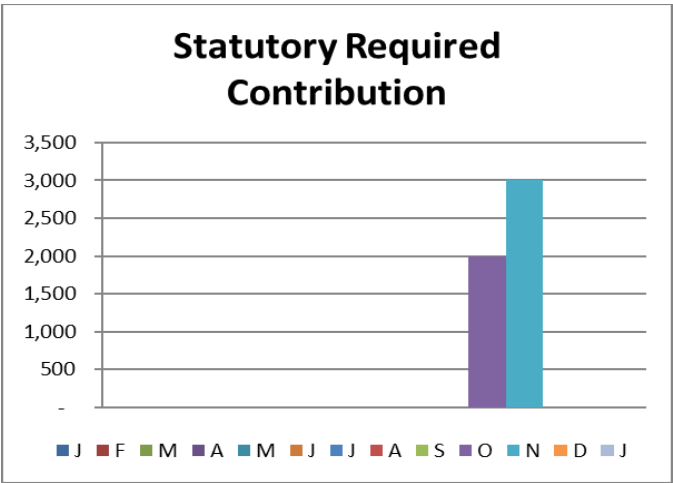
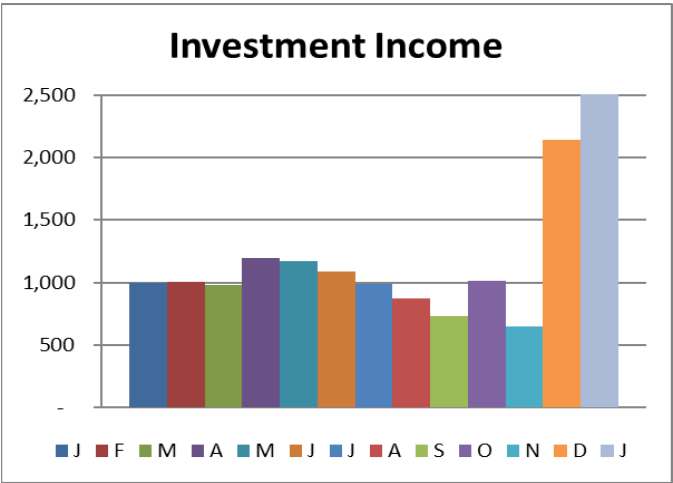
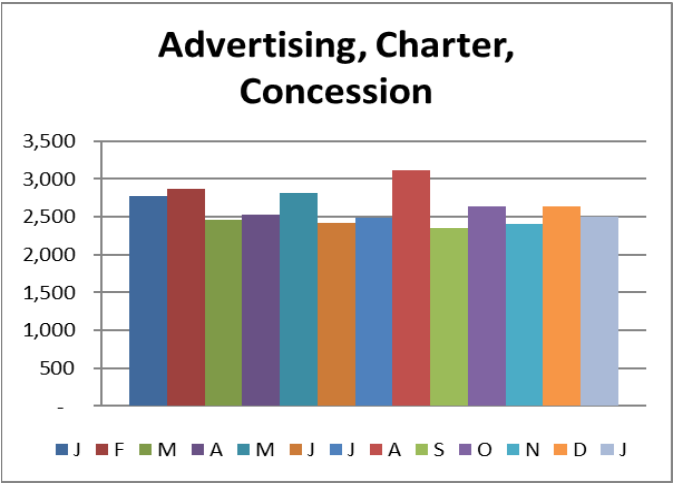
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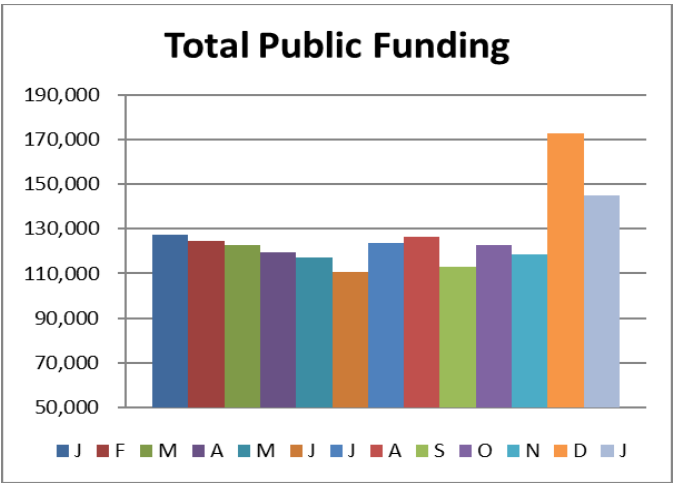
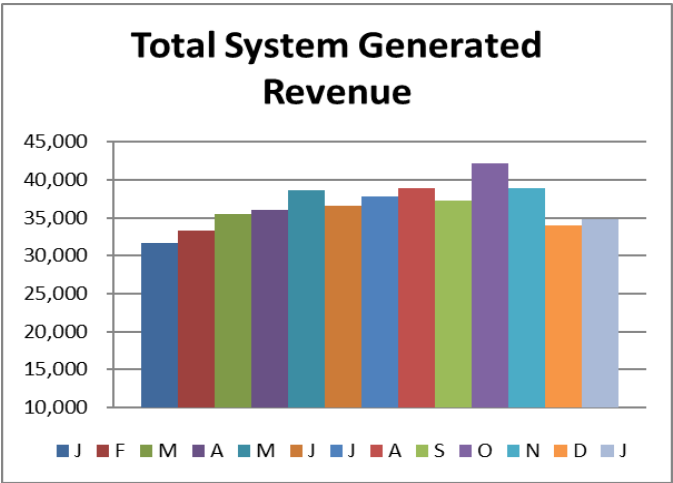
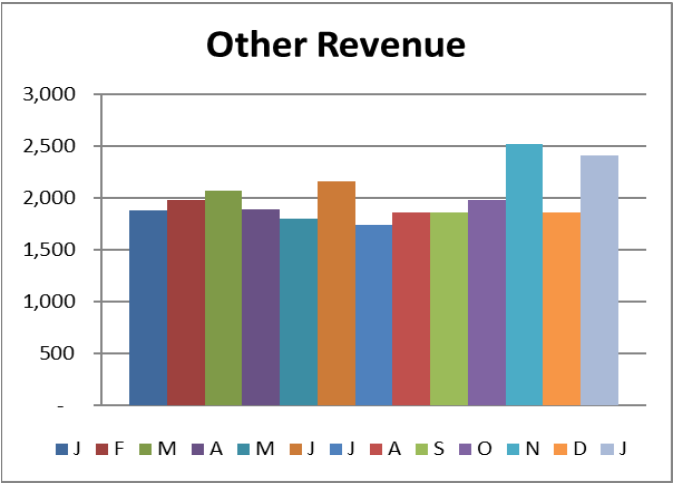
Revenue



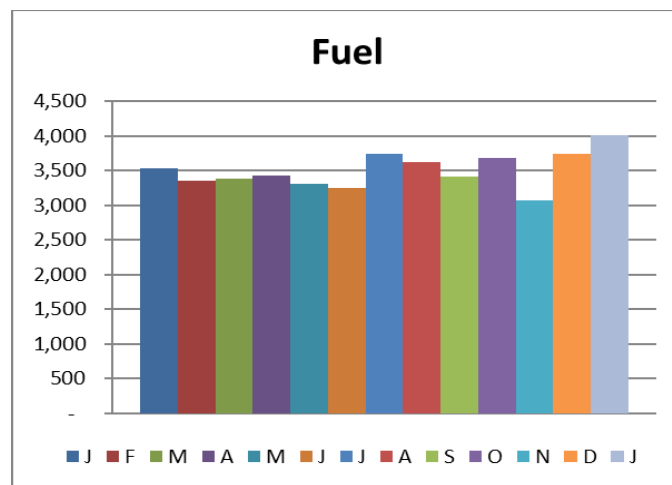
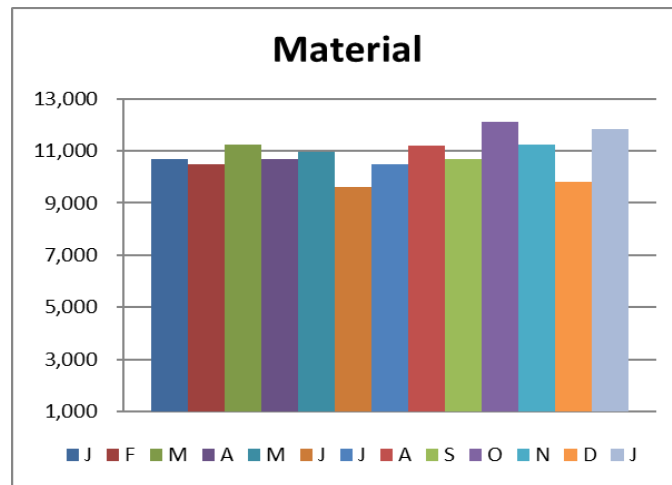
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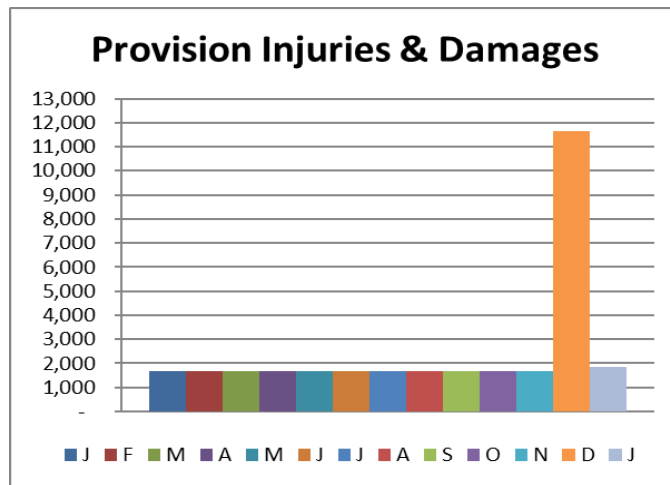
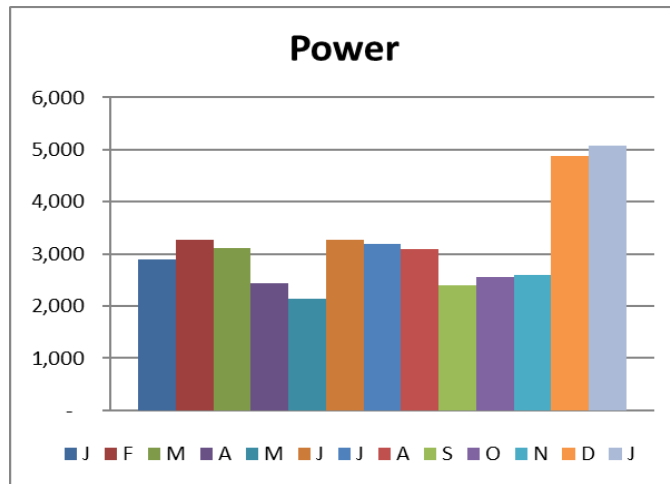
Revenue Cont'd



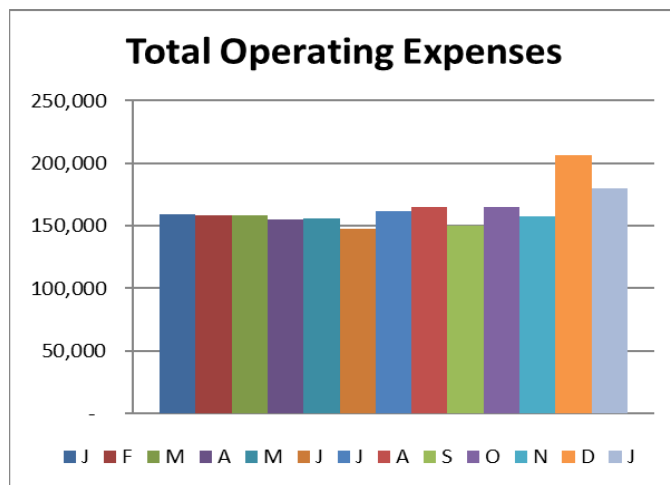
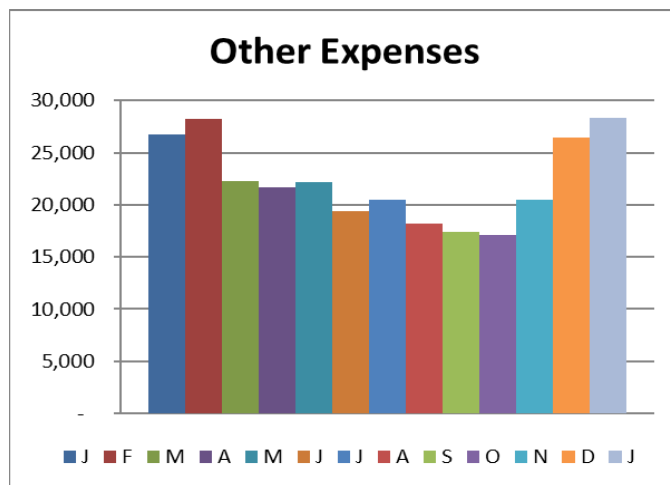
Expenses



Expense Cont'd



Expense Cont'd



Cash	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Unrestricted Cash	180	149	191	202	166	183	165	137	220	156	124	780	830
Damage Reserve	71	70	73	72	71	69	62	58	63	61	50	59	54
Funds Owed by RTA	337	356	315	311	327	334	354	355	329	337	361	352	328
Trust Portfolio Assets	451	518	520	581	556	420	421	434	491	625	563	447	468

Revenue	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Fare & Pass Revenue	24,741	26,187	28,640	29,108	31,448	29,650	31,275	31,786	30,946	33,156	28,303	25,857	25,884
Reduced Fare Subsidy	1,321	1,321	1,321	1,321	1,321	1,321	1,321	1,321	1,321	1,321	1,981	1,453	1,453
Advertising, Charter, Concession	2,768	2,869	2,463	2,531	2,821	2,415	2,494	3,116	2,352	2,645	2,410	2,638	2,508
Investment Income	1,000	1,003	981	1,194	1,174	1,087	986	869	733	1,011	645	2,138	2,535
Statutory Required Contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	3,000	-	-
Other Revenue	1,881	1,983	2,068	1,890	1,803	2,153	1,741	1,862	1,856	1,974	2,514	1,854	2,410
Total System Generated Revenue	31,711	33,362	35,474	36,044	38,567	36,626	37,816	38,954	37,208	42,107	38,853	33,940	34,790
Total Public Funding	127,184	124,632	122,524	119,222	116,989	110,613	123,433	126,373	113,043	122,671	118,427	172,770	144,756

Expenses	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Labor	107,938	103,653	106,363	107,678	108,087	102,882	114,387	120,283	107,699	120,244	111,144	139,683	120,702
Material	10,687	10,504	11,247	10,668	10,977	9,596	10,481	11,187	10,673	12,114	11,245	9,818	11,829
Fuel	3,531	3,346	3,379	3,423	3,314	3,247	3,738	3,616	3,405	3,675	3,068	3,736	4,009
Power	2,891	3,271	3,107	2,429	2,144	3,269	3,188	3,091	2,391	2,556	2,590	4,875	5,069
Provision Injuries & Damages	1,654	1,654	1,654	1,654	1,654	1,654	1,654	1,654	1,654	1,654	1,654	11,654	1,855
Purchase of Security Services	5,446	7,319	10,014	7,717	7,177	7,251	7,326	7,295	7,048	7,460	7,123	10,450	7,721
Other Expenses	26,748	28,248	22,234	21,697	22,202	19,339	20,474	18,200	17,381	17,075	20,457	26,492	28,362
Total Operating Expenses	158,895	157,994	157,998	155,266	155,556	147,239	161,249	165,327	150,250	164,778	157,280	206,709	179,546