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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

# July 2022 Financial Plan Presentation

7/25/2022

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## Recap of February Financial Plan

- Federal COVID relief funds were projected to cover operating deficits through 2025
- Ridership forecast was based on the McKinsey “Midpoint” from November 2020
- Regular biennial 4% fare and toll increases were included for 2023 and 2025
- 2021 fare increase was cancelled thanks to additional State appropriations
  - Bridge and tunnel toll increase of 6% occurred in 2021
- Fiscal cliff was expected to occur in 2026
  - \$2 billion+ deficit with federal aid fully exhausted in 2025

## Changes in the July Financial Plan

- Reforecast of ridership recovery, based on updated factors by McKinsey
- Re-estimated agency expense budgets and debt service projections
- No material changes in State dedicated revenue
- Additional ARPA discretionary grant
- No change in biennial 4% fare and toll increases in 2023 and 2025
- Congestion pricing remains a critical source of funding for the 2020-24 Capital Program
- Forecast period extends one year, giving a preliminary view of 2026 estimates

## Primary factors in revising the ridership forecasts

**Future of office work (“work from home”)**

**Fewer non-work trips**

**Customer sentiment**

**Employment levels**

**Population growth**

**Fare evasion**

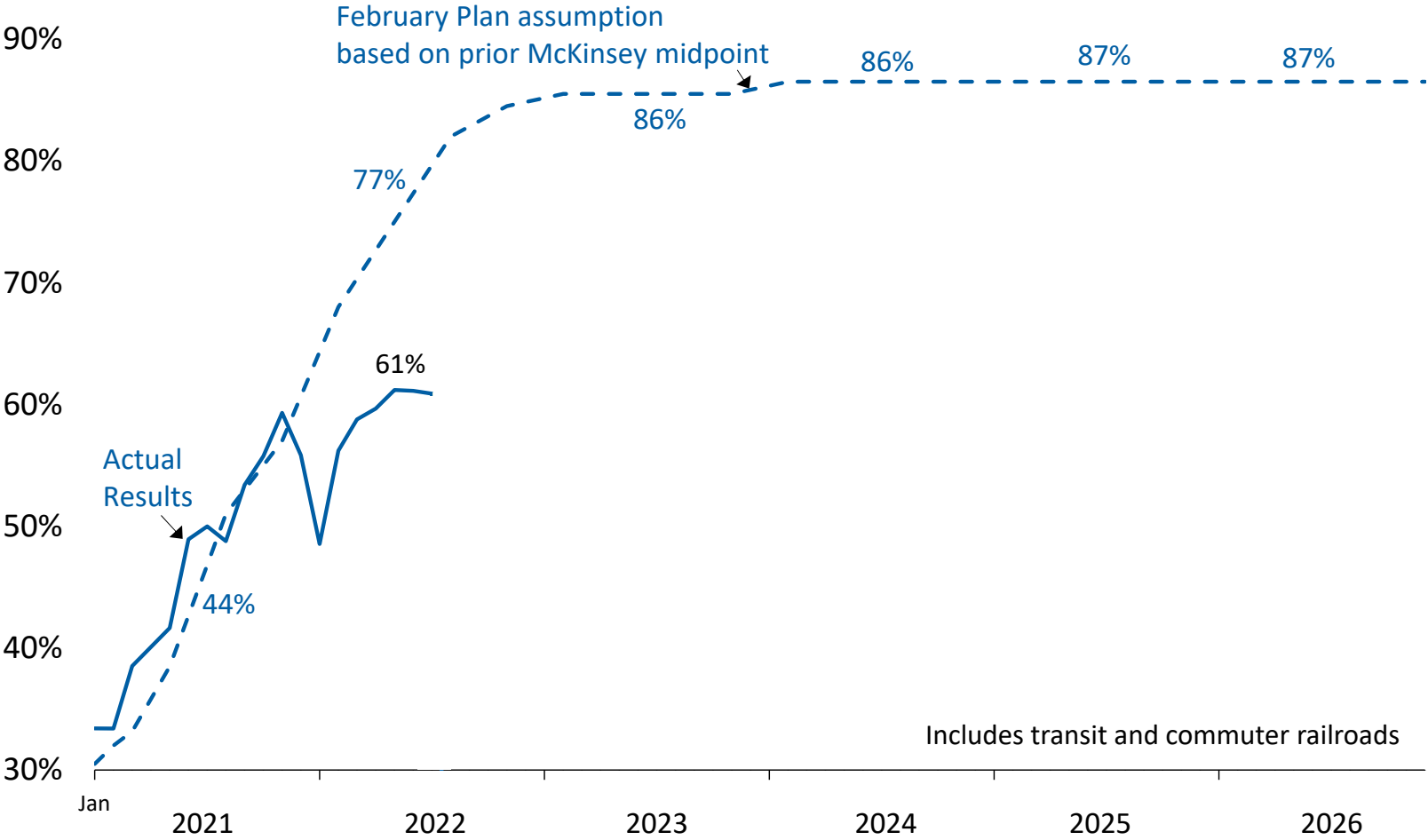
Shift to transit from Congestion Pricing

Network expansion

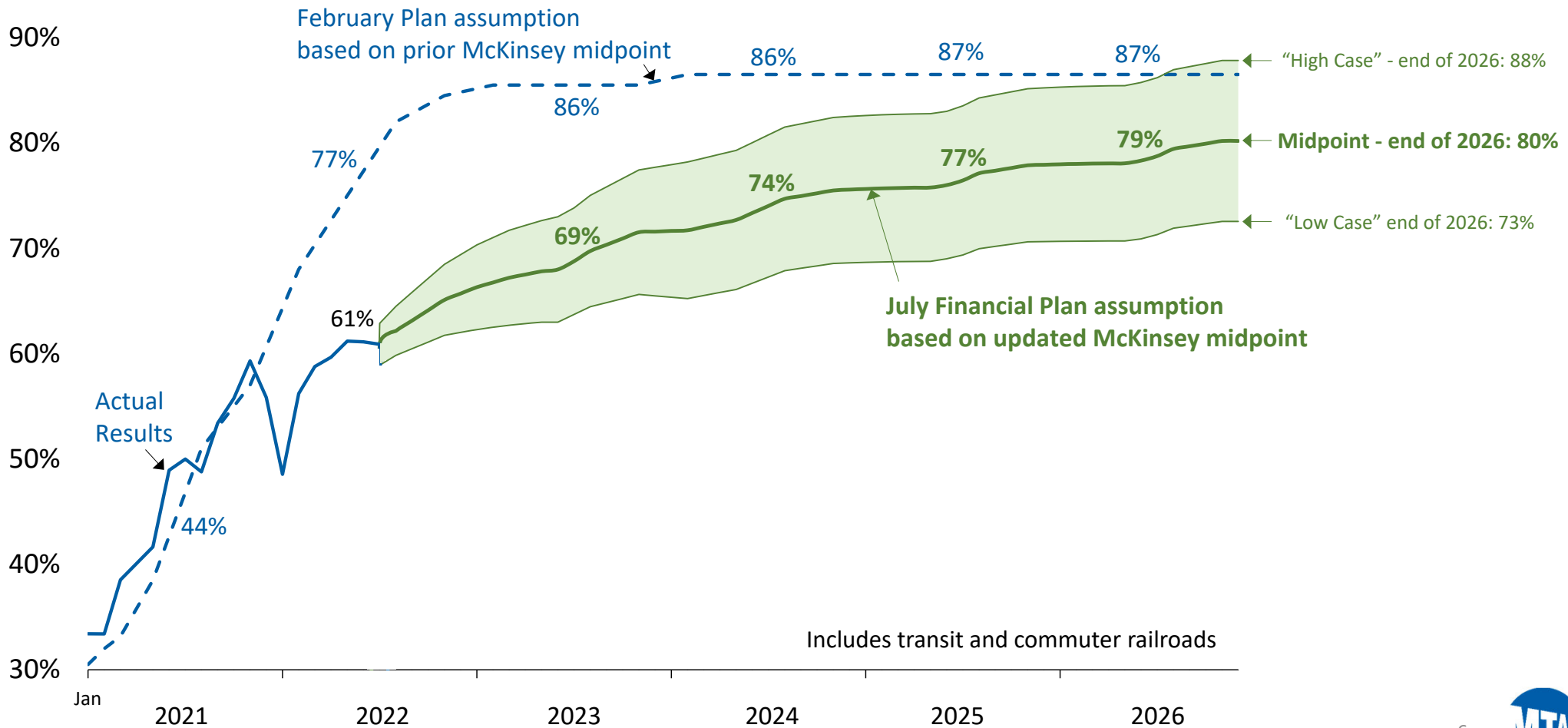
Mode shifts (bikes, etc.)

“High Case” and  
“Low Case”  
ridership scenarios  
created

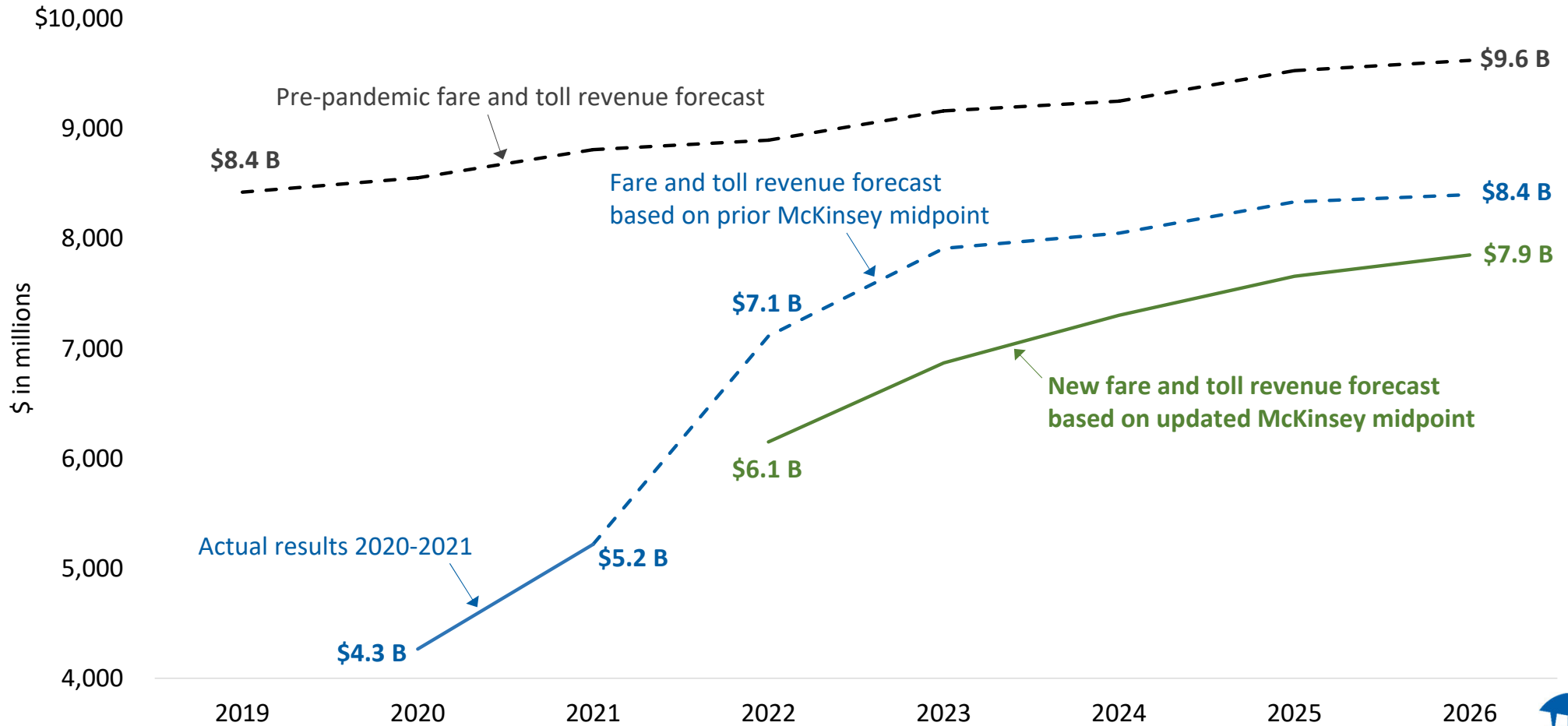
# Ridership tracked prior McKinsey midpoint until Omicron



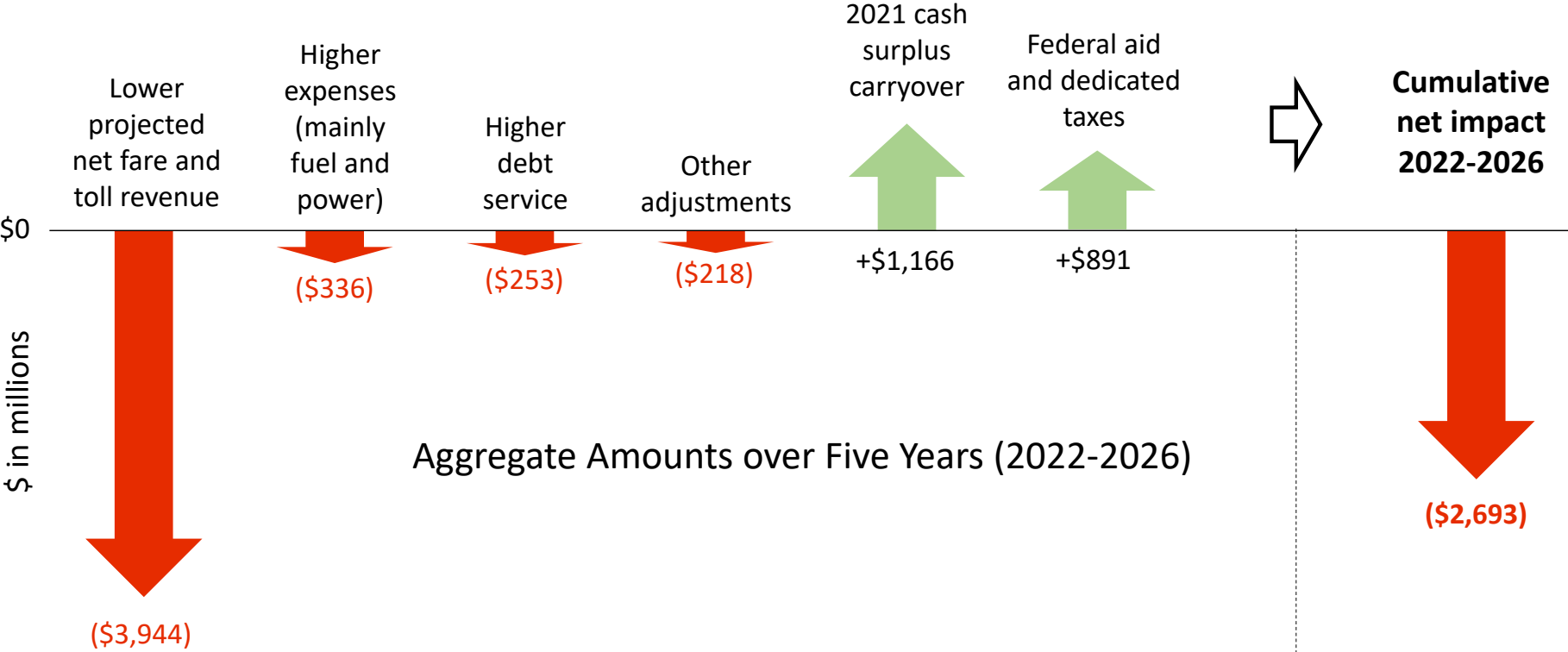
# McKinsey's ridership recovery forecasts have been lowered substantially



# Slower ridership recovery has lowered fare and toll revenue projections

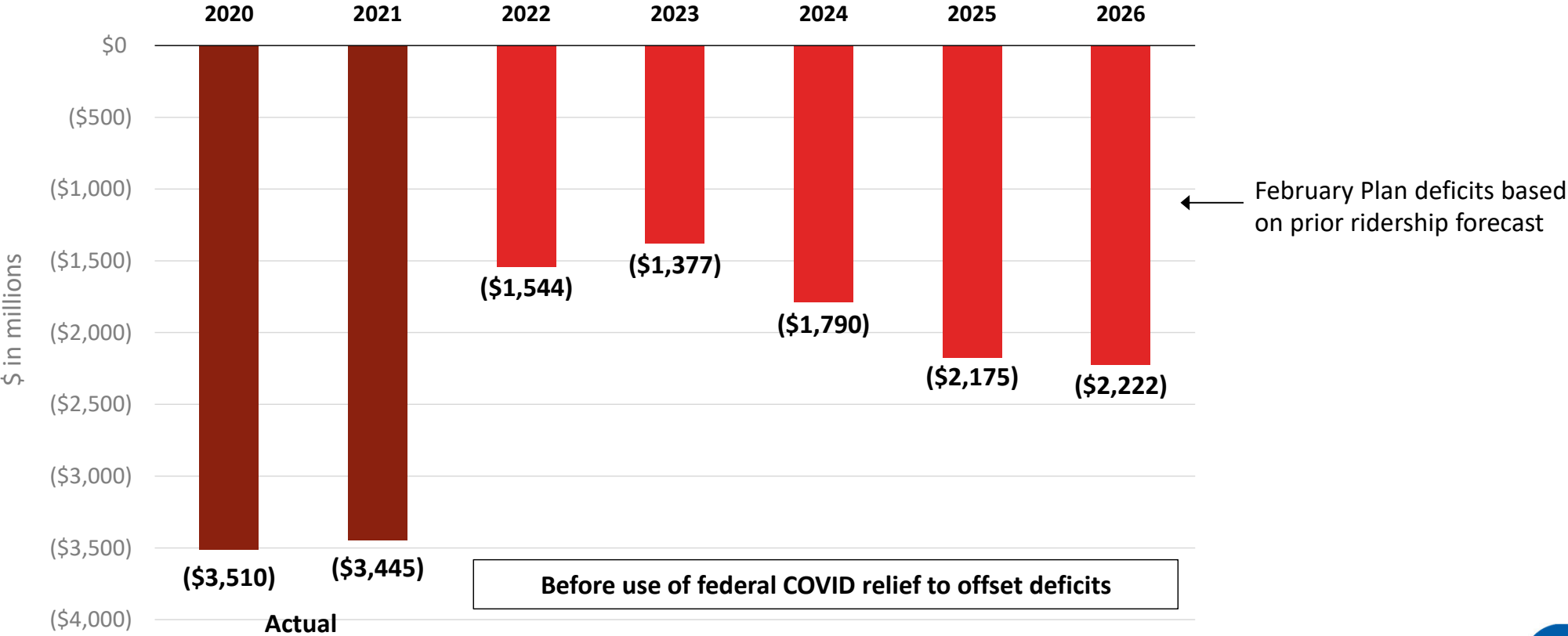


# Major financial changes in July vs. February Plan

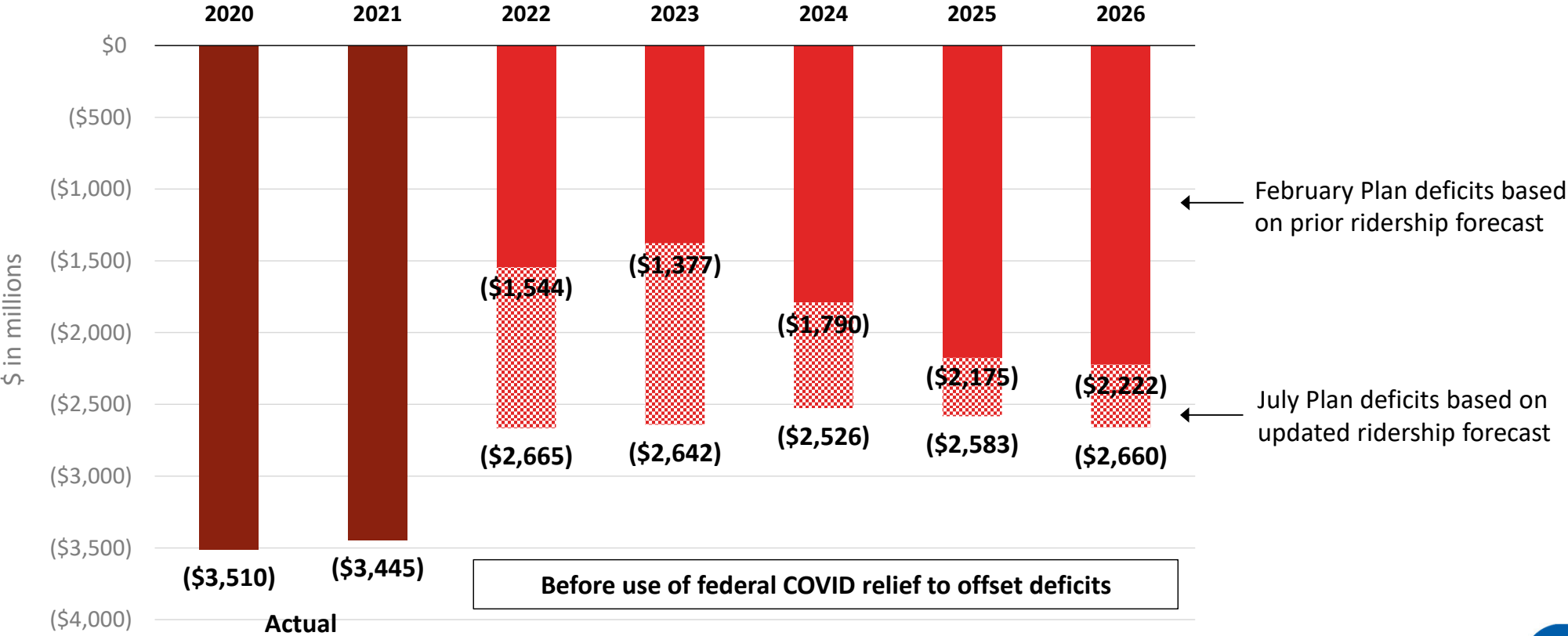




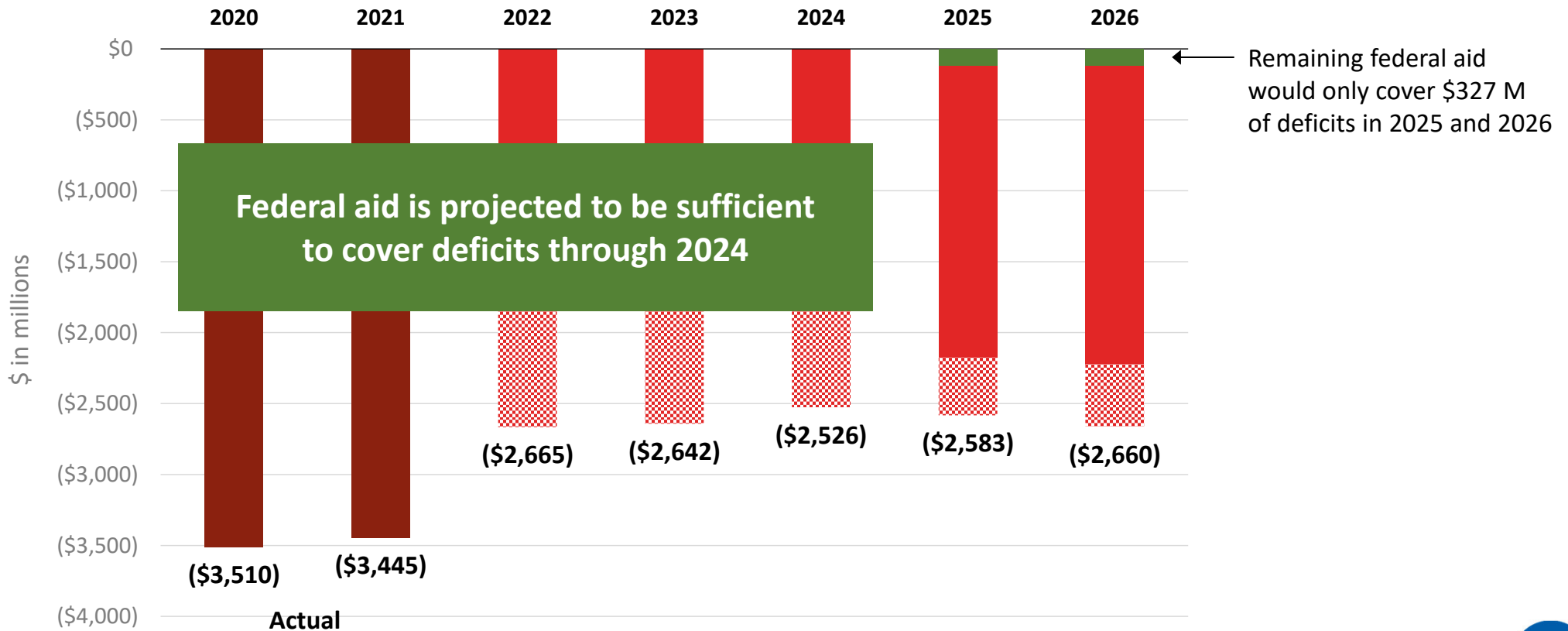
# Previously projected underlying annual deficits



# Projected underlying annual deficits have increased



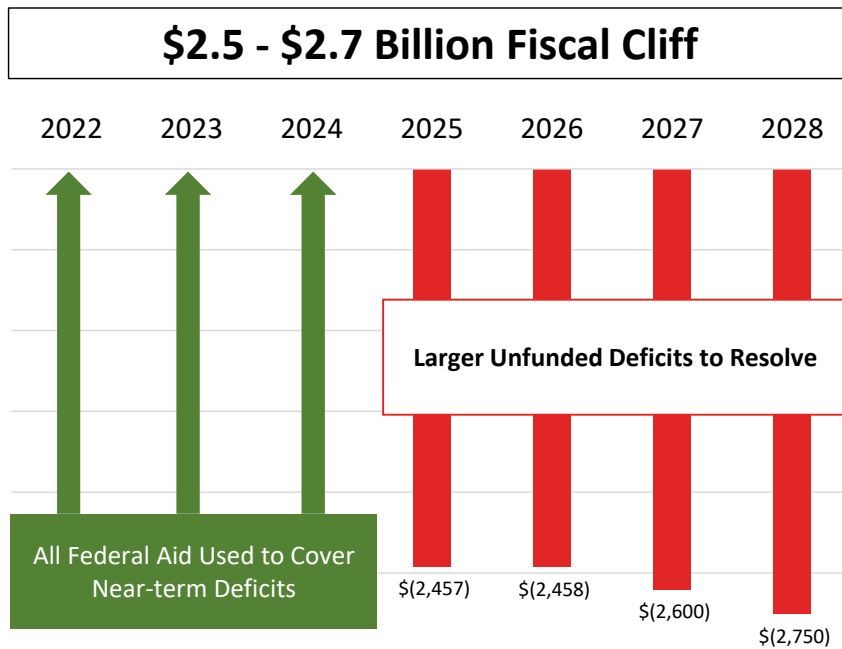
# Federal COVID aid now projected to cover deficits through 2024 (not 2025)



## Additional risks to the deficit

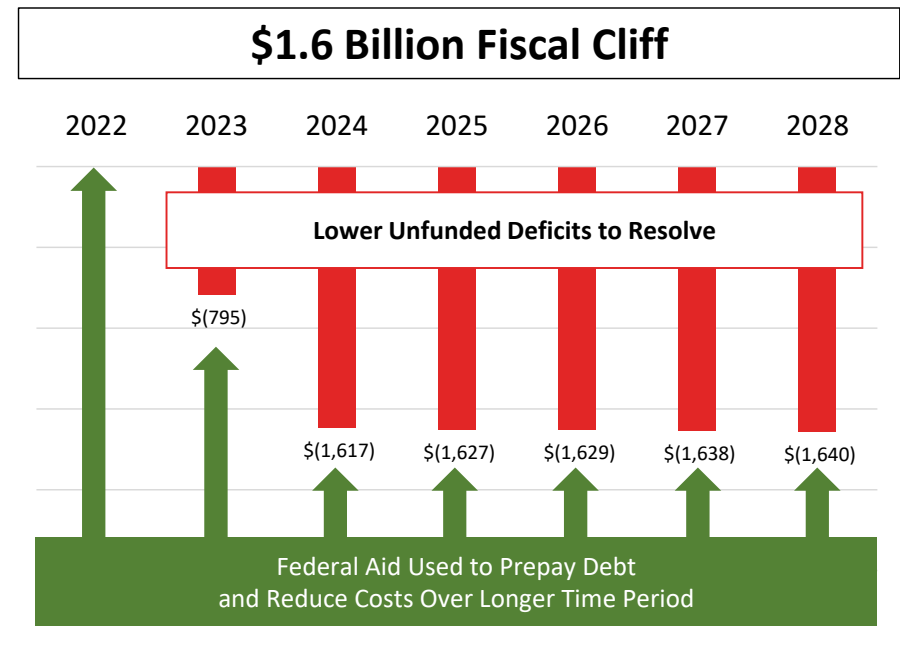
Assumption	Risk	Potential Annual Cost
1 McKinsey Forecast	“Low Case”	(\$350 million) per year
2 Dedicated taxes as projected in State financial plan	Slower economy / recession	(\$500 million to 1.0 billion) per year
3 Inflation reverts to 2%	Higher inflation	(\$150 million) per year from 1% additional increase in operating expenses
4 Labor settlements (2% wage growth)	Outcome of labor negotiations	(\$100 million) per year for additional 1% wage increase above 2% assumption
5 Biennial 4% fare/toll increases	Deferral	(\$500 million) per year in 2025 and thereafter

# Starting to solve the deficit in 2023 can lower the fiscal cliff by \$1 B per year



Results for 2027-2028 are not included in the published financial plan.  
 Deficits in those years are only high-level estimates based on the 2026 deficit.

OR



Deficits are lowered by:

- Taking action early
- Applying a portion of the federal aid to reduce debt service costs, and
- Avoiding the long-term cost of deficit borrowing

## Key takeaways

- Fiscal cliff moved up, from 2026 to 2025
- Deficit projected to be approximately \$2.5 Billion per year
- Operating efficiencies will be key to managing risks
- **Fiscal cliff can be reduced by up to \$1 Billion, by:**
  - Using federal COVID relief funds to lower medium-term cost structure
  - Avoiding costly deficit borrowing
  - Taking action in 2023

**New dedicated funding is necessary  
to avoid large fare increases, service cuts and layoffs**