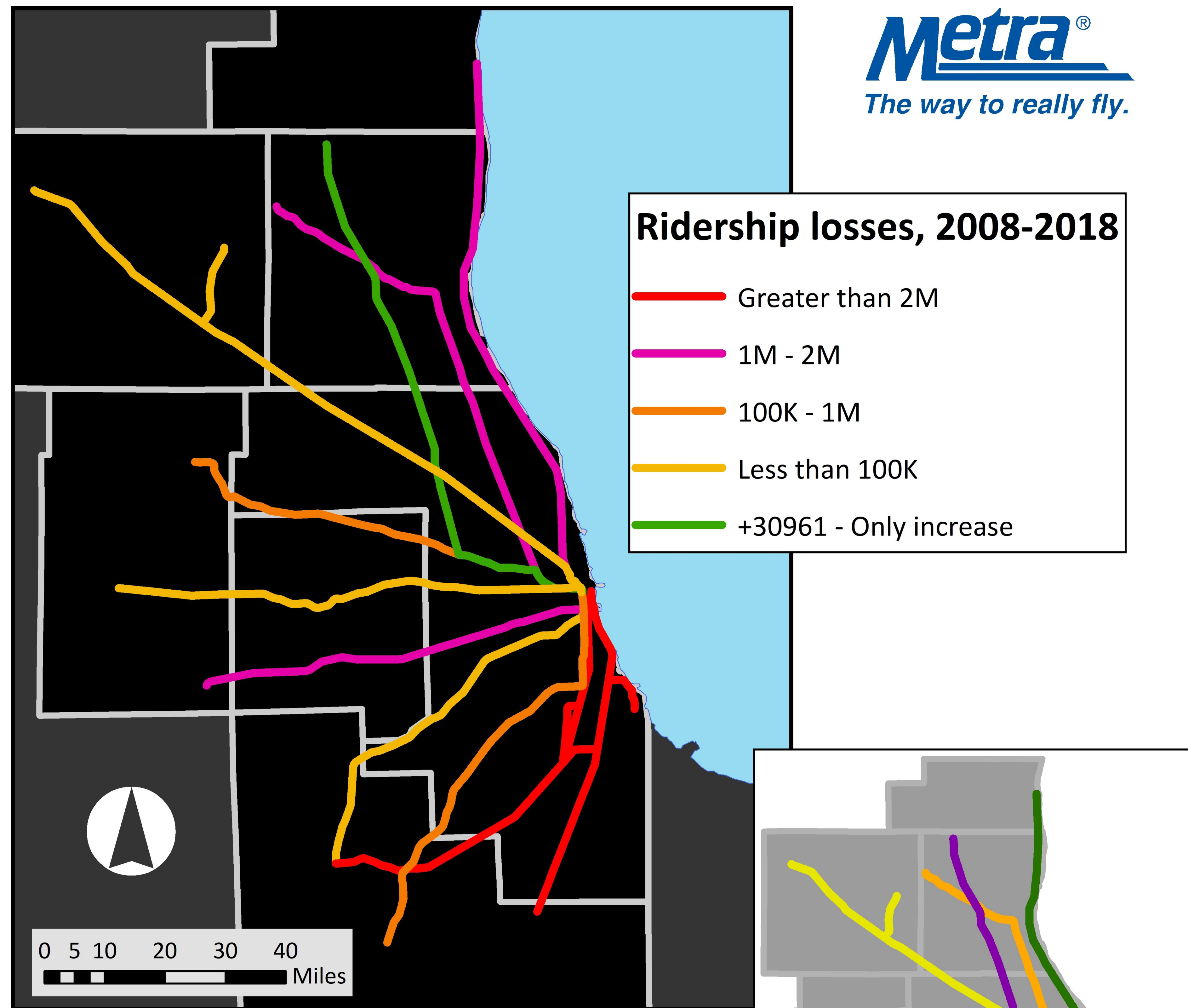


# Metra Ridership Change, 2008-2018

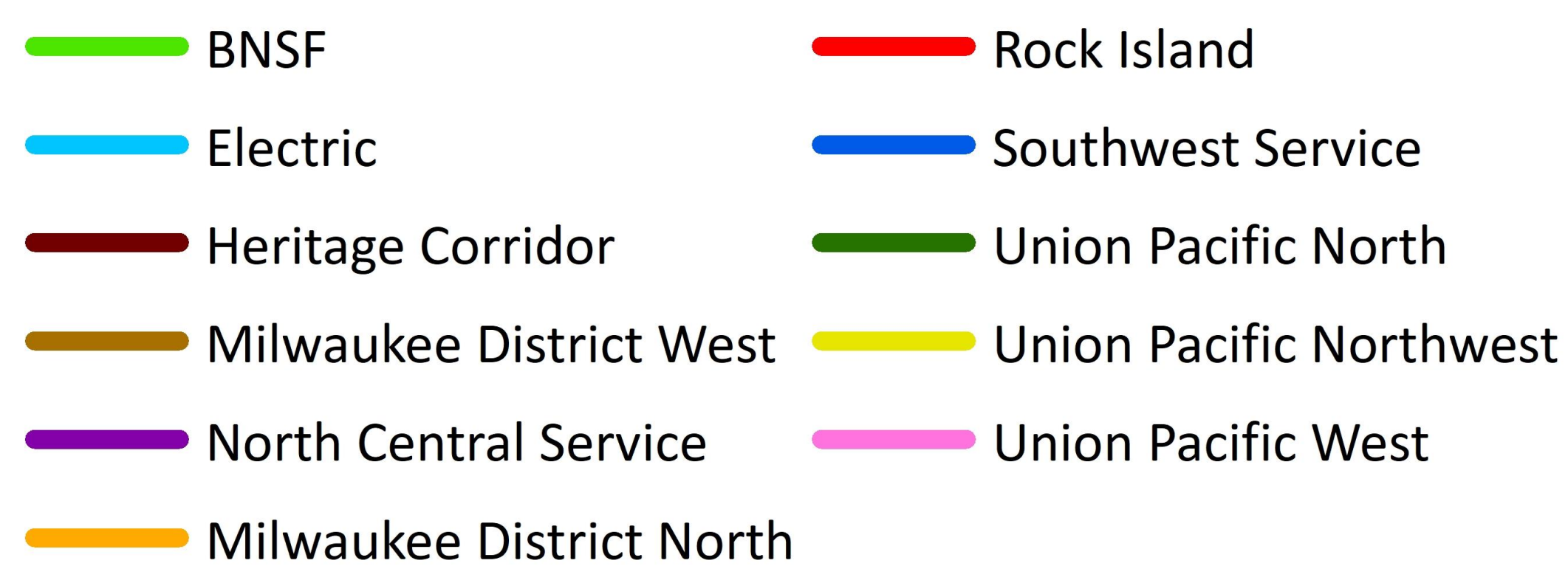
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## Metra Ridership Change Over a 10-year Period



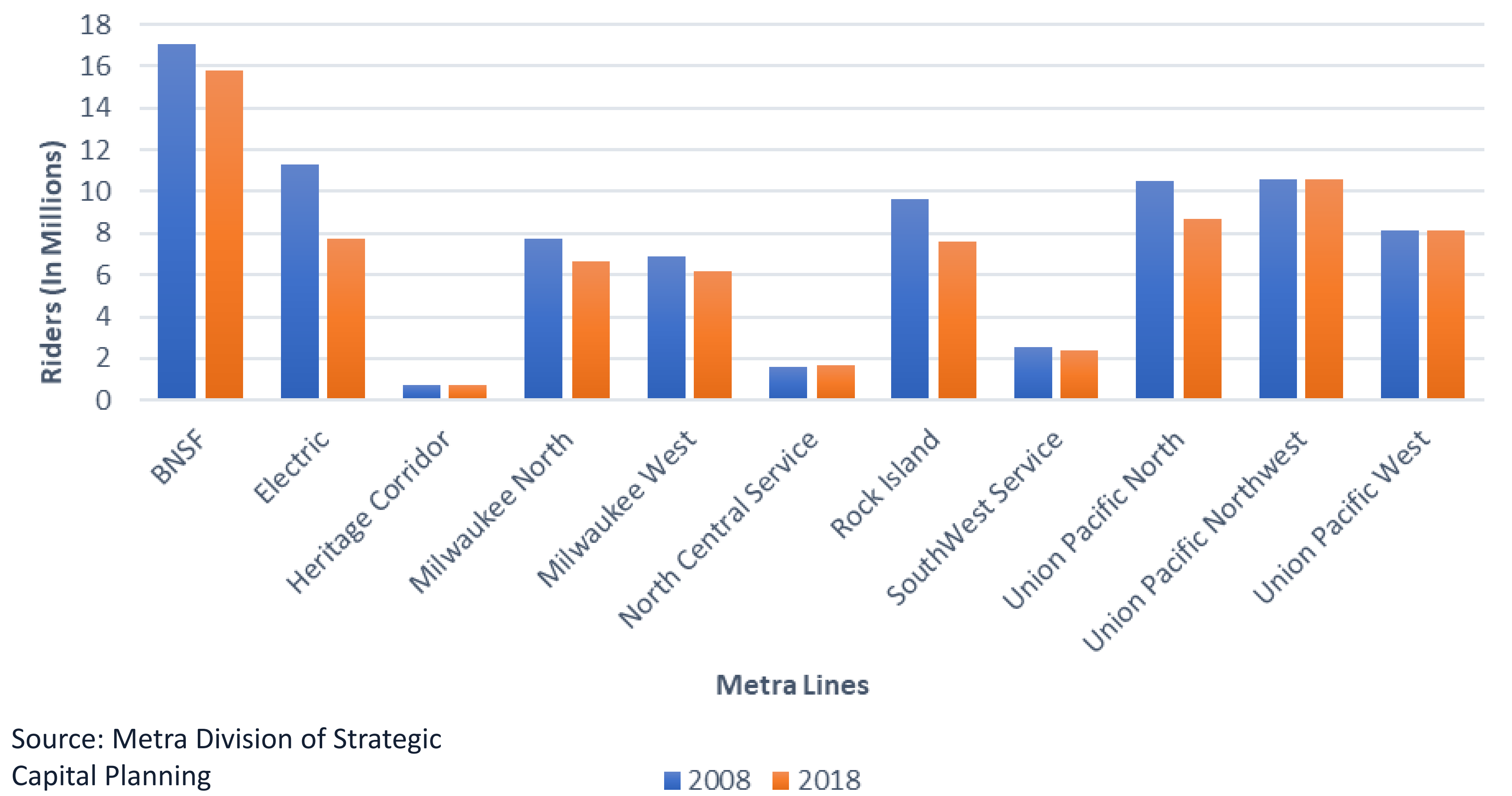
### Metra System Lines



Source: Metra Division of Strategic Capital Planning

Author: Edward Pearson  
10/25/2019

## Comparison of Ridership, 2008-2018



### BACKGROUND

- Metra is the commuter railroad division of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of Illinois and serves the greater Chicago metropolitan area.
- Millions of suburban commuters use the service to commute to work, but other events such as concerts, sports events, and leisure travel to the city contribute to passenger numbers.
- Notably the Cubs Victory Parade was the busiest day to date for Metra, with over 460,000 passengers on November 4th, 2016.

### FINDINGS

- The data shows a general decrease in ridership between 2008 and 2018, except for the North Central Service line which recorded an increase of 30,961 riders.
- This research does not intend to examine the causes of the decline, but fare increases and train delays over the past few years are likely contributors.

### RIDERSHIP

- Ridership is the number of passengers using a particular form of public transportation. Passengers are the individual users.
- Ridership may consist of the same individuals making multiple trips. Given the commuter function of Metra, it is certain that many ridership contributions are made up of commuters travelling to and from work on a regular basis, creating high, consistent totals.
- The data does not examine the earnings of these trips but simply the estimated number of people carried on Metra trains based off fares and passes sold/granted.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Professor Shakil Kashem, TA Fikriyah Winata, and Miles Churchill for their help with formatting and encouraging the submission of this map to GIS day.