



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY
WORK SESSION
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021
MARTA HEADQUARTERS
MEETING MINUTES

Board Chair Rita Scott called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M.

Board Members Present	Staff Members Present
Robert Ashe, III ²	Jeffrey Parker
Stacy Blakley	Collie Greenwood
Jim Durrett	Rhonda Allen
William Floyd	Melissa Mullinax
Roderick Frierson	Elizabeth O'Neill
Freda Hardage	Manjeet Ranu
Russell McMurry ¹	Raj Srinath
Kathryn Powers	Michael Kreher
Rita Scott, Chair	
Christopher Tomlinson ¹	
W. Thomas Worthy	

MARTA staff members in attendance: Kirk Talbott, Jacqueline Holland, Donna DeJesus, Paula Nash, Jonathan Hunt, Keri Lee, Kenya Hammond and Tyrene Huff.

Report from the Chair

Approval of July 15, 2021 Work Session Meeting Minutes

Board Chair Rita Scott asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by Board Member Freda Hardage and seconded by Board Member Jim Durrett. The minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 8 to 0 with 10 members present.^{1,2}

Chair Scott shared that Georgia is one of eight states that will receive funds based upon the National Transportation and Infrastructure Bill.

¹Russell McMurry is Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Christopher Tomlinson is Executive Director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA). Per the MARTA Act, both are non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

²Robert Ashe, III joined the meeting after the vote to approve the Work Session minutes.

Report from the General Manager/CEO

GM Parker announced APTA had selected George Wright to participate in the 2022 Leadership APTA class. Leadership APTA is about creating visionary and resilient executive and senior leaders for the transit industry.

COVID Vaccination Update

AGM Rob Goodwin provided an overview of the MARTA Employee Vaccination Rates. *[Presentation attached]*

- Several Board Members had questions and comments on how the Authority plans to increase the employee vaccination rate. Gm/CEO Parker provided an update on initiatives to increase the vaccination rate: partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine to provide an informational session for employees, which already took place; incentive with raffles and give-aways. Employees receive an extra vacation day if they get vaccinated within two month. All new hires are required to provide proof of vaccination upon their start date. In addition, another survey will go out to employees to get an exact number of where we stand after these initiatives are put into place. Mr. Parker also stated, there have been discussions with the ATU on ways to increase the vaccination rate for our front-line employees. Several Board Members also made comments about making sure the conversations continue and start thinking of policies and procedures and hard decisions to increase the employee vaccination rate.

Competitive Federal Funds Briefing

Chief Capital Programs, Expansion & Innovation, Manjeet Ranu provided an overview of the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant Program. *[Presentation attached]*

- Board Members Tomilson and Floyd had questions about how the Board Members will be involved in the process related to submitting grant applications. Board Member Floyd also requested a summary sheet or strategic plan. Manjeet Ranu advised the Board will be kept up-to-date and he will provide a roadmap with dates. Board Member Frierson requested an update on the projects listed in the 15th amendment. Board Member McMurry commended MARTA staff on the presentation and efforts they are taking on this process. Mr. Parker stated we currently have the funds for the Summer Hill BRT and Streetcar Extension East projects and the projects are advancing.

Comments by the General Manager/CEO

GM Parker announced various upcoming meetings and events.

Executive Session

Board Member Ashe made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss litigation and real estate matters. Board Member Hardage seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 9 – 0 with 10 members present.¹ The Board entered the executive session at 1:16 P.M. and returned at 1:34 P.M.

Other Matters

None

Adjournment

The Work Session adjourned at 1:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tyrene L. Huff". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tyrene L. Huff
Assistant Secretary to the Board

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/ID42DJXPko0>



MARTA Employee Vaccination Rates

August 12, 2021

Background

- Since April 2021, Research & Analysis has employed three methods to track employee vaccinations:
 - April 2021: Online self-reporting tool for fully vaccinated employees
 - May 2021: Data from insurers and known vaccination appointments scheduled by MARTA
 - July 2021: A survey distributed to employees at facilities throughout the authority
- This report covers:
 - Vaccination estimates based on each tracking method
 - Advantages and disadvantages of each method
 - Reported reasons for vaccine hesitancy



MARTA Employee Vaccination Report

Thank you for visiting this site to report that you have completed your COVID-19 vaccination(s). Please complete and submit your vaccination report *only after you have taken your final vaccine dose.*

Reporting your vaccination status is voluntary, and you can submit the information anonymously if you wish. However, the more you are willing to share with us, the better able we are to move forward with resuming normalcy.

If you have any questions or problems with the form, please contact Robin Salter at rsalter@itsmarta.com.

First Name *(Optional)* Last Name *(Optional)*

Employee ID Number *(Optional)*
Operators: please do not use your badge number.

* Department

* Office

Job Position

* Which vaccine did you take?

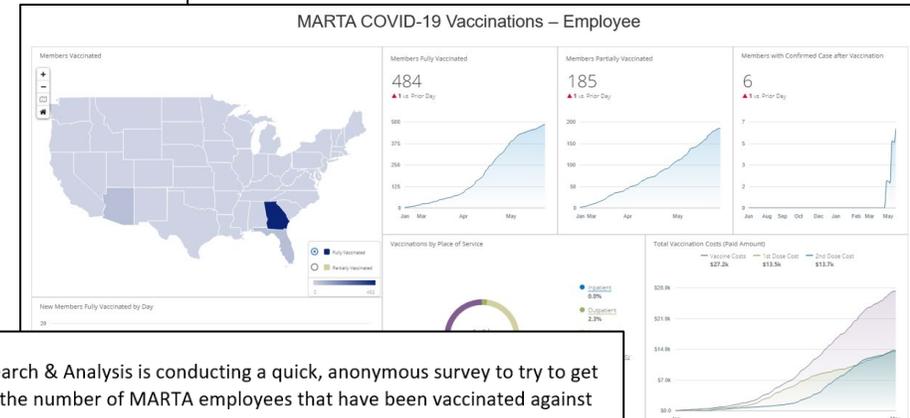
Moderna

Pfizer

Both Moderna and Pfizer

Johnson & Johnson

Other (please specify)



The Department of Research & Analysis is conducting a quick, anonymous survey to try to get an accurate estimate of the number of MARTA employees that have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Have you had at least 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes

a. *If Yes: Have you reported this to MARTA's online Employee Vaccination Report?*

i. Yes

ii. No – Why not? _____

No

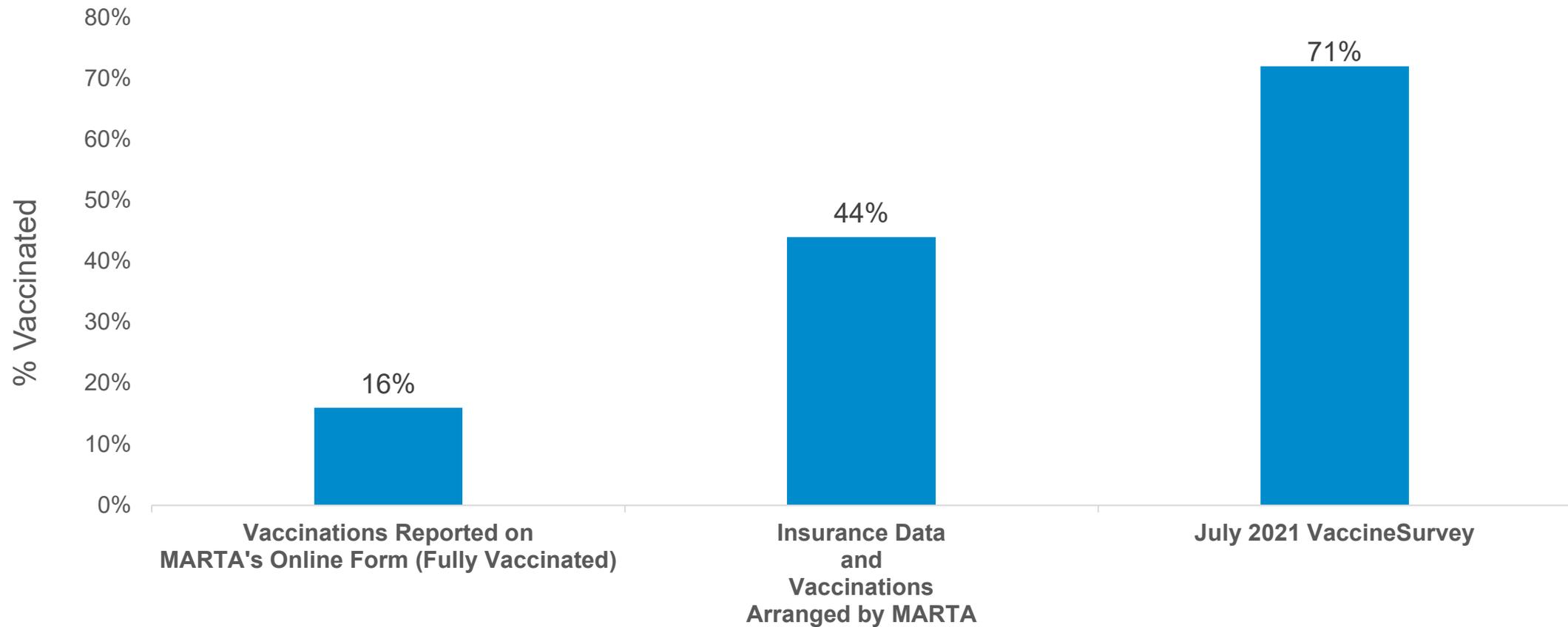
b. Why not? _____

c. What would motivate you to get vaccinated? _____

Prefer not to answer

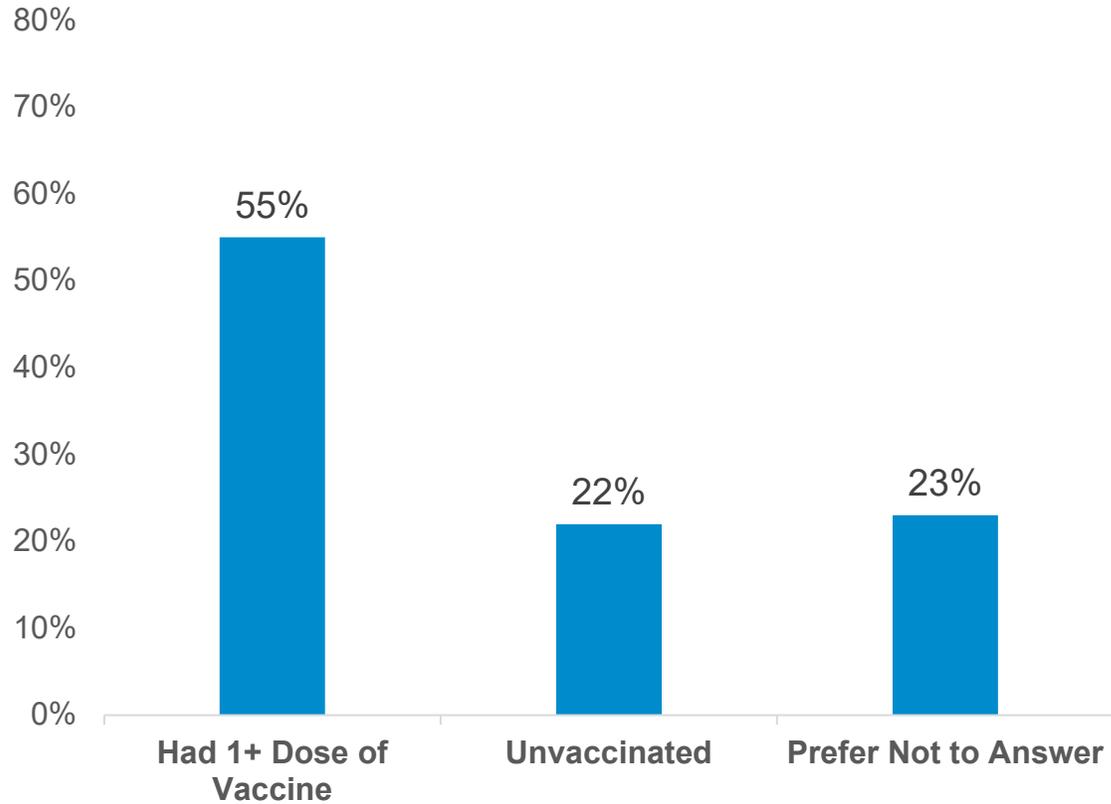


Estimated MARTA Employee Vaccination Rate* by Tracking Method



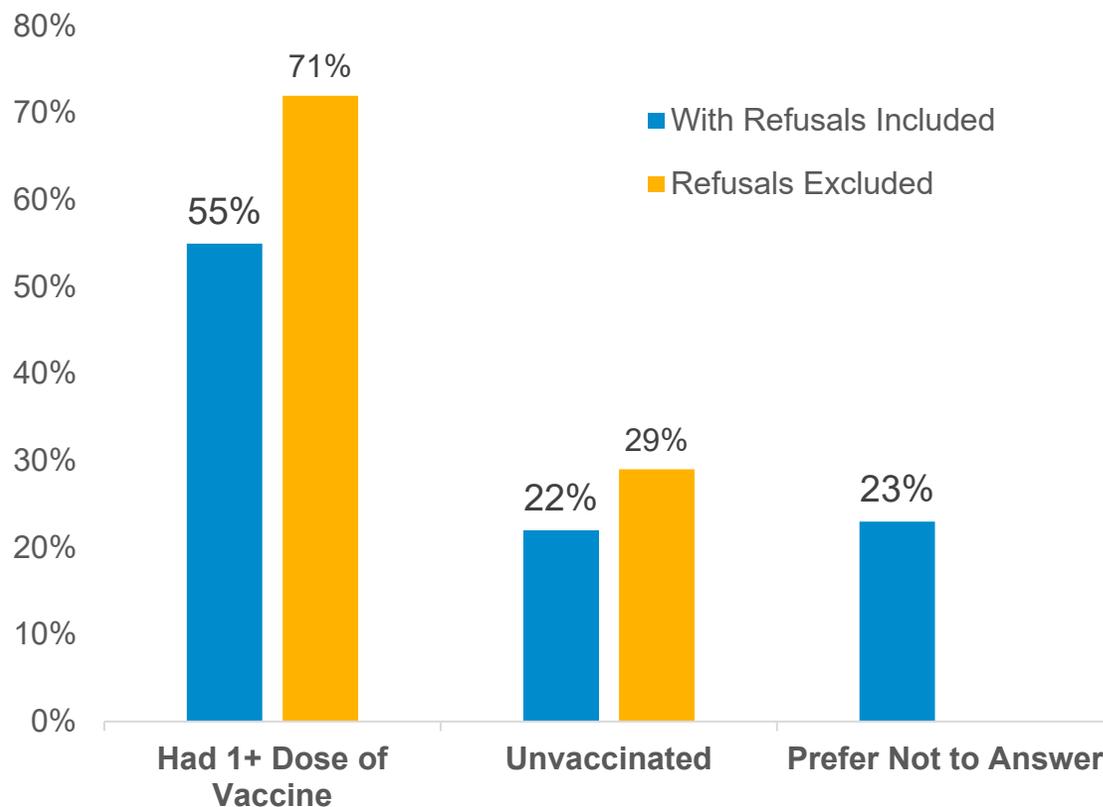
*Data as of 8/10/21.

MARTA Employee Vaccination Survey Responses



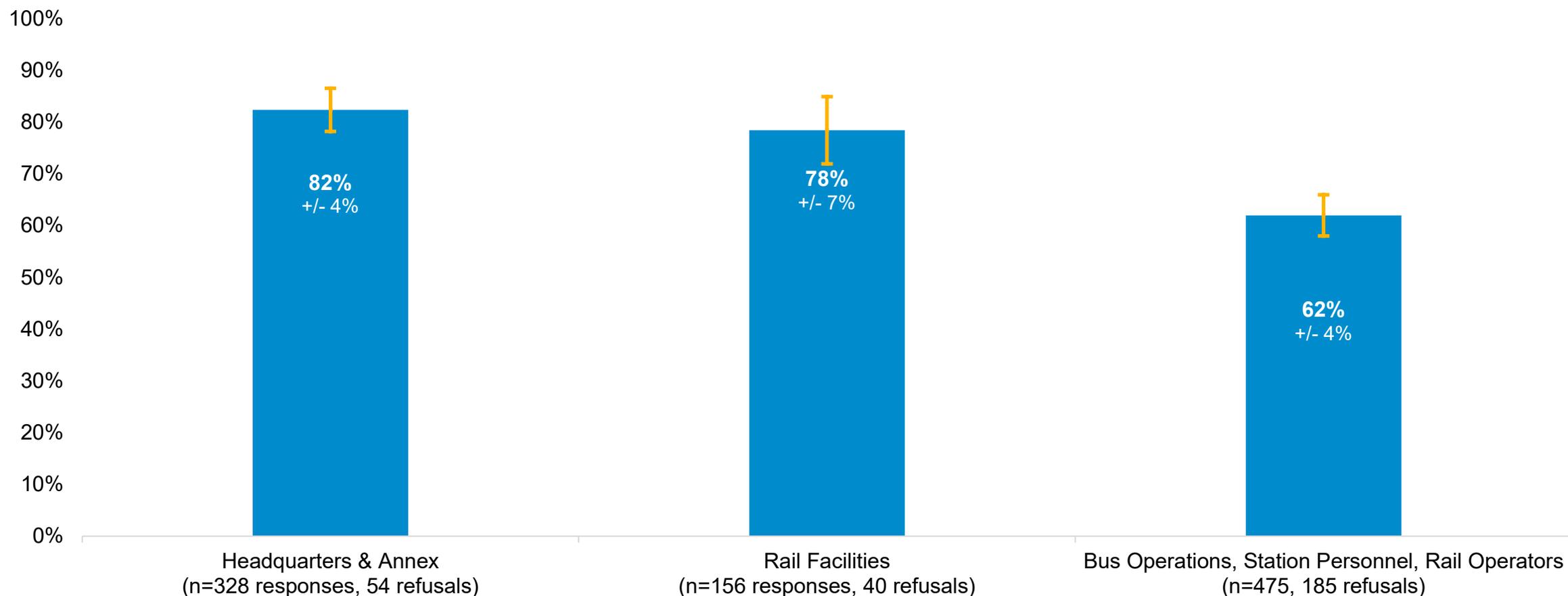
Location	Responses	Refusals	Refusal Rate
HQ & Annex	328	54	14%
Station Personnel	52	12	19%
Rail Facilities	156	40	20%
Bus Operators	319	114	26%
Rail Operators	30	17	36%
Bus Maintenance	74	42	36%
TOTAL	959	279	23%

The Vaccination Status of Refusals Causes Uncertainty in the Estimated Vaccination Rate



Assumed Vaccination Status of Refusals	Resulting Agency Vaccination Rate
0% Yes : 100% No	55%
20% Yes : 80% No	60%
50% Yes : 50% No	67%
71% Yes : 29% No	71%
80% Yes : 20% No	73%
100% Yes : 0% No	78%

July 2021 Vaccine Survey Results: % with 1+ Doses by Location *(n=959, Excluding Refusals)*



Reasons for Vaccine Hesitancy

- About one-half of unvaccinated employees provided reasons for their hesitancy. Explanations for not being vaccinated were:
 - **Lack of trust** **51%**
 - Not interested 23%
 - Medical condition 6%
 - Lack of time 6%
 - Personal or religious reasons 5%
 - Planning to get the vaccine 4%
 - Other 5%
- When unvaccinated employees were asked what would motivate them to get vaccinated, 85% either provided no response or reported that “nothing” could motivate them



Key Takeaways

- Lower bound vaccination rate based on employee vaccination survey (55%) is higher than rates from other two tracking methods
- Reported vaccination rate for Headquarters is significantly higher than among employees who work out on the system
- Lack of trust is most common explanation for not getting vaccinated
- 85% of unvaccinated employees were unable to suggest anything that would motivate them to get vaccinated





Thank You





Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant Program Overview

Board of Directors

Work Session

12 August 2021

About FTA's Capital Investment Grant Program

- **Discretionary funding program administered by FTA**
 - MARTA's expansion program would typically involve New Starts and Small Starts
 - Will also explore Expedited Project Delivery program
 - Multi-year process
 - Eligibility based on project type, features and rating
- **Local commitments required**
 - Statutory funding match 20% to 40%, but policy has been 50%
 - Coordinated with Atlanta's regional planning, as required by state and federal law
 - Be ready, consistent and provide quality work products to FTA
- **Federal requirements and rigorous oversight apply**
 - Environmental review (NEPA) documents prepared by MARTA for FTA as lead agency
 - Buy America and prevailing wage provisions
 - Transportation reauthorization and supplemental infrastructure funding may result in changes

Potential CIG Changes



- **Status**

- HR 3684 approved by House, amended/approved by Senate this week
- How a bill becomes a law: more steps remain...and changes are possible

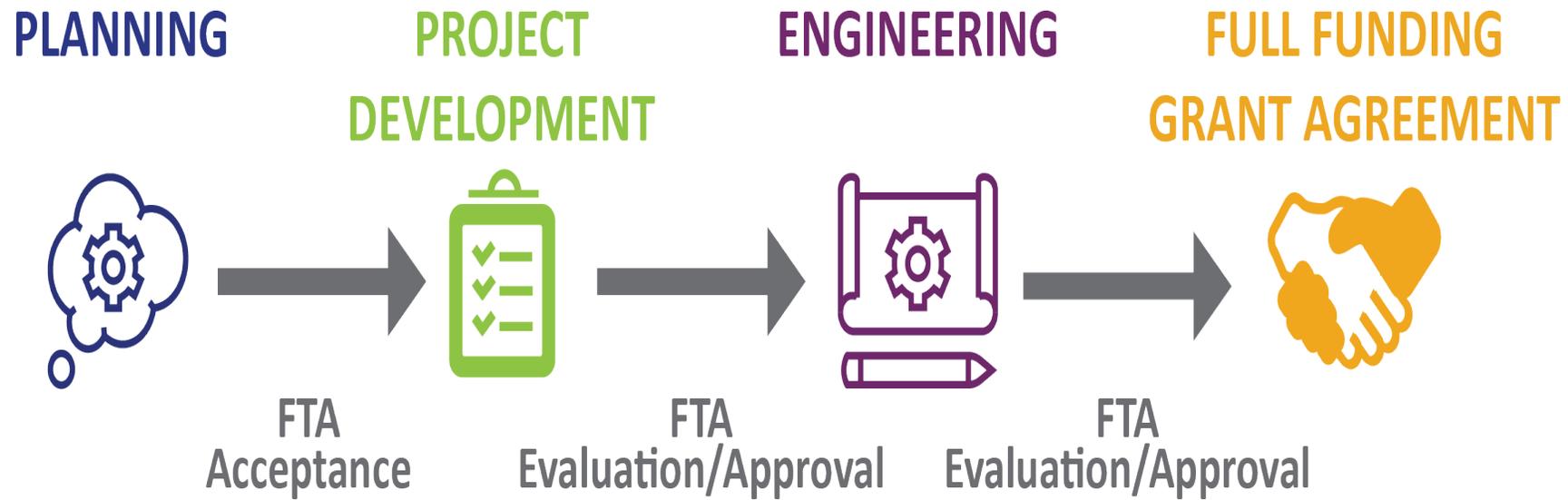
- **CIG funding highlights—effectively doubled per year**

- \$4.6B per year
- Includes advance appropriations through FFY26

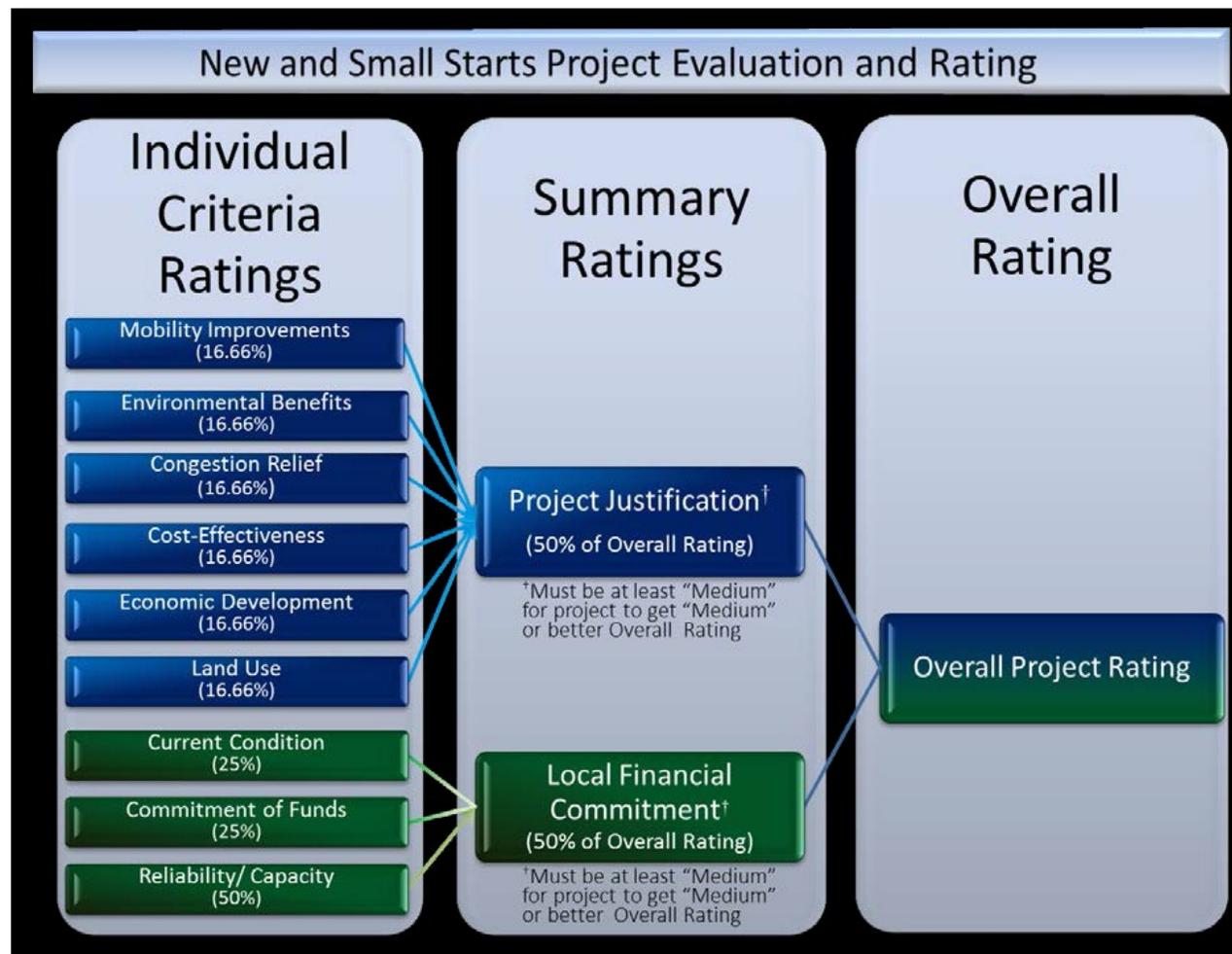
- **Key program changes**

- Increases Small Starts projects to \$400M and federal share maximum to \$150M
- FTA may waive Buy America requirement for materials that increase project cost by 25%

Process Steps



Rating Criteria



Roles and Responsibilities

- Staff
- Partners
- Board of Directors
- FTA

Next Steps

- Assemble resources and prepare a *CIG and Discretionary Funding Programs Strategic Plan*
- Identify and get ready candidate early action projects
 - Candidate projects with adequate committed local funds: Campbellton and Clayton County BRT
 - Candidate projects with gap in committed local funds: Clifton and GA-400 BRT
 - Get ready: synthesize input and technical data to prepare LPAs for public/partner review and Board action
- Conduct readiness reviews/business case to proceed
- Begin CIG process: request from FTA entry into project development
- Target FFY24 federal budget to demonstrate readiness for grant agreement execution at earliest—**prior to August 2022**



Questions & Discussion

More Information at:
www.transit.dot.gov/CIG



Thank You

