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STATE OF ILLINOIS

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OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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2015 ANNUAL REVIEW

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE  
RETIREMENT PLAN FOR  
CTA EMPLOYEES

NOVEMBER 2015

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WILLIAM G. HOLLAND

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AUDITOR GENERAL

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OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL  
WILLIAM G. HOLLAND

*To the Legislative Audit Commission, the  
Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of  
Representatives, the President and Minority  
Leader of the Senate, the members of the  
General Assembly, and the Governor:*

This is our 2015 Annual Review of Information Submitted by the Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority Employees.

The review was conducted pursuant to Public Act 95-708 which amended the Illinois State Auditing Act by adding a requirement for the Auditor General to annually review and report on information submitted by the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority Employees.

The report for this review is transmitted in conformance with Section 5/3-2.3(e) of the Illinois State Auditing Act.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. G. Holland", with a large, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

WILLIAM G. HOLLAND  
Auditor General

Springfield, Illinois  
November 2015





STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

William G. Holland, Auditor General

**SUMMARY REPORT DIGEST**

**REVIEW OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE  
RETIREMENT PLAN FOR CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES**

**2015 ANNUAL REVIEW**

**Release Date: November 2015**

**SYNOPSIS**

The Illinois State Auditing Act requires the Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority Employees (Retirement Plan) to submit to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) an audit, an annual statement, and an actuarial statement by September 30 of each year. The OAG reviewed the documents submitted by the Retirement Plan and concluded that they met the requirements of the Auditing Act.

The Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3)) requires the Retirement Plan to determine, based on a report prepared by an enrolled actuary, the estimated funded ratio of the Retirement Plan's total assets to its total actuarially determined liabilities. The Plan is also required to determine the employee and employer contribution rates needed to meet funding requirements established by the Pension Code. The Auditor General is required to review the determination and the assumptions on which it is based and determine whether they are "*unreasonable in the aggregate*". This report does not constitute an audit as that term is defined in generally accepted government auditing standards.

The OAG and our consultants, Aon Hewitt, reviewed the Retirement Plan's assumptions contained in the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation and concluded that they were not unreasonable in the aggregate. However, we believe that three of the assumptions should continue to be monitored and justified on an annual basis.

- Investment return assumption: The 8.25 percent investment return assumption used by the Plan remains at the upper end of investment return assumptions used by other plans. Both the Plan's actuary and Investment Consultant conducted projections that concluded the Plan's investments have a reasonable likelihood of achieving an investment return of 8.25 percent over a 10 to 20 year period. We recommend that the Plan continue to annually review the reasonableness of its investment return assumption.
- Mortality assumption: The mortality assumptions used by the Plan were chosen before final 2014 mortality tables were issued by the Society of Actuaries. We recommend that a new mortality analysis be conducted for the Plan, on a benefits-weighted basis, in time to reflect the results in the assumptions that are adopted and used for next year's valuation.
- Active participant assumption: For the first time in four years, the active participant headcount increased slightly. However, the ratio of actives to annuitants continued to decrease. Given the impact such a decline can have on future contribution levels, we recommend that the Plan continue to monitor the use of a constant headcount assumption.

The funded ratio of the Retirement Plan decreased from 60.9 percent in the January 1, 2014 Valuation to 58.2 percent in the January 1, 2015 Valuation. When the funded ratio declines below 60 percent, the Pension Code requires that contribution rates be increased so that the funded ratio is projected to reach 60 percent within 10 years. The contribution rates adopted by the Retirement Plan Board for 2016 remained unchanged from the 2015 contribution rates, as the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation concluded that the contribution rates should result in the Plan's funded ratio reaching the statutorily required 60 percent level within 10 years.



**ANNUAL REVIEW**  
**RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

**The OAG reviewed the documents submitted by the Retirement Plan and concluded that they met the requirements of the Auditing Act.**

The Illinois State Auditing Act (30 ILCS 5/3-2.3(e)) requires the Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority Employees (Retirement Plan) to submit to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) an audit, an annual statement, and an actuarial statement by September 30 of each year.

- On October 1, 2015, the OAG received these documents from the Retirement Plan.
- The OAG reviewed these documents and concluded that they met the requirements of the Auditing Act.

In addition, the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3)) requires the Retirement Plan to determine, based on a report prepared by an enrolled actuary, the estimated funded ratio of the Retirement Plan's total assets to its total actuarially determined liabilities.

- The Plan is also required to determine the employee and employer contribution rates needed to meet funding requirements established by the Pension Code.
- The Auditor General is required to review the determination and the assumptions on which it is based and determine whether they are *"unreasonable in the aggregate"*. (pages 3-5)

**REVIEW OF ACTUARIAL VALUATION**

**The Retirement Plan's assumptions were not unreasonable in the aggregate.**

The Retirement Plan submitted the Actuarial Valuation as of January 1, 2015, to the OAG on October 1, 2015. This Actuarial Valuation was presented to the Retirement Plan Board at its September 29, 2015 meeting. At that meeting, the Board of Trustees accepted the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation and certified the employer and employee contribution rates for 2016.

The OAG and our consultants, Aon Hewitt, reviewed the Retirement Plan's assumptions contained in the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation and concluded that they were not unreasonable in the aggregate. While recognizing the Plan's policy of completing an experience study every five years, we believe that three of the assumptions – investment return, mortality, and number of active future participants – should continue to be monitored and justified on an annual basis.

Further, we recommend that a mortality analysis be completed in time to reflect the results in the assumptions used for next year's actuarial valuation.

The Plan's actuary completed an experience study for the five year period ending December 31, 2012. An experience study assesses how well assumptions used by the Plan align with the actual experience of the Plan. If past experience differs from the assumptions used, then the actuary may recommend revisions to the assumptions used in future valuations.

As a result of the experience study, the Plan lowered its investment return assumption from 8.50 percent to 8.25 percent in the January 1, 2014 Actuarial Valuation. The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation continues to use the 8.25 percent rate of return.

Our prior reviews have concluded that the investment return assumptions used by the Plan were at the upper range of investment return assumptions for comparable plans. The 8.25 percent investment return assumption remains at the upper end of investment return assumptions used by other plans. The Plan's December 31, 2014 Investment Report shows that the Plan's investments have earned 6.8 percent over the past 10 years. Both the Plan's actuary, as well as the Plan's Investment Consultant, conducted projections that concluded the Plan's investments have a reasonable likelihood of achieving an investment return of 8.25 percent over a 10 to 20 year period. However, we continue to recommend that the Plan annually review the reasonableness of its investment return assumption, rather than wait for the next experience study.

The mortality assumptions used by the Plan were also changed in the January 1, 2014 Valuation to account for future mortality improvements. The assumptions used in the January 1, 2014 Valuation were used in the January 1, 2015 Valuation. However, the assumptions were chosen before final 2014 mortality tables were issued by the Society of Actuaries. We recommend that a new mortality analysis be conducted for the Plan, on a benefits-weighted basis, in time to reflect the results in the assumptions that are adopted and used for next year's valuation.

For the first time in four years, the active participant headcount did not decrease from the prior year, but instead increased slightly. However, the ratio of actives to annuitants continued to decrease. The Public Fund Survey Summary of Findings for FY 2013 states "When combined with an unfunded liability, however, a low or declining ratio of actives to annuitants can cause fiscal distress for a pension plan sponsor." We recommend that the Plan continue to monitor the use of a constant headcount assumption. (pages 4-10)



## CONTRIBUTION RATES

**The funded ratio of the Retirement Plan decreased from 60.9 percent in January 2014 to 58.2 percent as of January 1, 2015.**

The Pension Code requires the CTA to contribute 12 percent of pay, less up to a 6 percent credit for debt service paid on the bonds issued for contribution to the Retirement Plan; employees are required to pay 6 percent of pay. The Pension Code further requires that contribution rates be increased if the funded ratio is projected to decline below 60 percent prior to 2040, with the CTA paying two-thirds and employees one-third of the required contribution.

### January 1, 2015:

- Assets . . . . . \$1.856 billion
- Liabilities . . . . . \$3.186 billion
- Funded Ratio . . . . . 58.2%

The funded ratio of the Retirement Plan decreased from 60.9 percent in the January 1, 2014 Valuation to 58.2 percent in the January 1, 2015 Valuation. At January 1, 2015, the Plan’s assets totaled \$1.856 billion and the actuarial accrued liability was \$3.186 billion, according to the Plan’s January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation. The January 1, 2015 Valuation noted that the primary reason why the funded ratio declined was that the Plan’s assets earned a 4.8 percent actual rate of return in 2014, which is substantially lower than the 8.25 percent rate of return actuarial assumption used by the Plan.

**The employee and employer contribution rates remained unchanged for 2016: the employee contribution rate was 10.125% of pay and the employer contribution rate was 14.250% of pay (the employer contribution rate is net of the debt service credit of 6% of pay).**

Since the funded ratio of the Plan declined below 60 percent in the January 1, 2015 Valuation, the Pension Code requires the Plan to “determine the increased contribution required each year as a level percentage of payroll during the years after the then current year . . . so the funded ratio is projected to reach at least 60% no later than 10 years after the then current year and include that determination in its report.” (40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3)) The contribution rates adopted by the Retirement Plan Board for 2016 remained unchanged from the 2015 contribution rates which were 14.250 percent for the employer (which is net of the employer debt service credit of 6% of pay) and 10.125 percent for employees. The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation concluded that the contribution rates applicable for Plan year 2016 should result in the Plan’s funded ratio reaching the statutorily required 60 percent level within 10 years of 2015 (i.e., by 2024). (pages 10 - 12)

## AGENCY REVIEW

A draft of this Review was provided to the Retirement Plan for their review. The Retirement Plan commented that with respect to the review of assumptions, the Plan has adopted a practice of having the actuary perform an experience review every 5 years. The next review will be performed in time to be used for the January 1, 2019 valuation. The Plan will continue to monitor these assumptions with the annual gain and loss process and make changes as needed.

This report does not constitute an audit as that term is defined in generally accepted government auditing standards.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William G. Holland", positioned above a horizontal line.

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WILLIAM G. HOLLAND  
Auditor General

WGH:JS

This Annual Review was conducted by OAG staff with the assistance of our consultants, Aon Hewitt.

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## 2015 Annual Review

# Information Submitted by the Retirement Plan for CTA Employees

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The Illinois State Auditing Act (30 ILCS 5/3-2.3(e)), as amended by Public Act 95-708, requires the Auditor General to review certain documents submitted by the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority Employees (Retirement Plan). In addition, the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3)) requires the Retirement Plan to determine, based on a report prepared by an enrolled actuary, the estimated funded ratio of the Retirement Plan's total assets to its total actuarially determined liabilities. The Plan is also required to determine the employee and employer contribution rates needed to meet funding requirements established by the Pension Code. The Auditor General is then required to review the determination and the assumptions on which it is based and determine whether they are "unreasonable in the aggregate".

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## REPORT CONCLUSIONS

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The Auditing Act (30 ILCS 5/3-2.3(e)) requires the Retirement Plan to submit to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) an audit, an annual statement, and an actuarial statement by September 30 of each year. On October 1, 2015, the OAG received these documents from the Retirement Plan. The OAG reviewed these documents and concluded that the documents complied with the requirements established in the Auditing Act.

In addition, the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3)) requires the Retirement Plan to determine, based on a report prepared by an enrolled actuary, the estimated funded ratio of the Retirement Plan's total assets to its total actuarially determined liabilities. The Plan is then required to determine the employee and employer contribution rates needed to meet funding requirements established by the Pension Code. The Auditor General is required to review the determination and the assumptions on which it is based and determine whether they are "unreasonable in the aggregate".

The Retirement Plan submitted the Actuarial Valuation as of January 1, 2015, to the OAG on October 1, 2015. This Actuarial Valuation was presented to the Retirement Plan Board at its September 29, 2015 meeting. At that meeting, the Board of Trustees accepted the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation and certified the employer and employee contribution rates for 2016.

The OAG and our consultants, Aon Hewitt, reviewed the Retirement Plan's assumptions contained in the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation and concluded that they were not unreasonable in the aggregate. While recognizing the Plan's policy of

completing an experience study every five years, we believe that three of the assumptions – investment return, mortality, and number of active future participants – should continue to be monitored and justified on an annual basis. Further, we recommend that a mortality analysis be completed in time to reflect the results in the assumptions used for next year’s actuarial valuation.

The Plan’s actuary completed an experience study for the five year period ending December 31, 2012. An experience study assesses how well assumptions used by the Plan align with the actual experience of the Plan. If past experience differs from the assumptions used, then the actuary may recommend revisions to the assumptions used in future valuations.

As a result of the experience study, the Plan lowered its investment return assumption from 8.50 percent to 8.25 percent in the January 1, 2014 Actuarial Valuation. The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation continues to use the 8.25 percent rate of return.

Our prior reviews have concluded that the investment return assumptions used by the Plan were at the upper range of investment return assumptions for comparable plans. The 8.25 percent investment return assumption remains at the upper end of investment return assumptions used by other plans. The Plan’s December 31, 2014 Investment Report shows that the Plan’s investments have earned 6.8 percent over the past 10 years. Both the Plan’s actuary, as well as the Plan’s Investment Consultant, conducted projections that concluded the Plan’s investments have a reasonable likelihood of achieving an investment return of 8.25 percent over a 10 to 20 year period. However, we continue to recommend that the Plan annually review the reasonableness of its investment return assumption, rather than wait for the next experience study.

The mortality assumptions used by the Plan were also changed in the January 1, 2014 Valuation to account for future mortality improvements. The assumptions used in the January 1, 2014 Valuation were used in the January 1, 2015 Valuation. However, the assumptions were chosen before final 2014 mortality tables were issued by the Society of Actuaries. We recommend that a new mortality analysis be conducted for the Plan, on a benefits-weighted basis, in time to reflect the results in the assumptions that are adopted and used for next year’s valuation.

For the first time in four years, the active participant headcount did not decrease from the prior year, but instead increased slightly. However, the ratio of actives to annuitants continued to decrease. The Public Fund Survey Summary of Findings for FY 2013 states “When combined with an unfunded liability, however, a low or declining ratio of actives to annuitants can cause fiscal distress for a pension plan sponsor.” We recommend that the Plan continue to monitor the use of a constant headcount assumption.

The Pension Code requires the CTA to contribute 12 percent of pay, less up to a 6 percent credit for debt service paid on the bonds issued for contribution to the Retirement Plan; employees are required to pay 6 percent of pay. The Pension Code further requires that contribution rates be increased if the funded ratio is projected to decline below 60

percent prior to 2040, with the CTA paying two-thirds and employees one-third of the required contribution.

The funded ratio of the Retirement Plan decreased from 60.9 percent in the January 1, 2014 Valuation to 58.2 percent in the January 1, 2015 Valuation. At January 1, 2015, the Plan's assets totaled \$1.856 billion and the actuarial accrued liability was \$3.186 billion, according to the Plan's January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation. The January 1, 2015 Valuation noted that the primary reason why the funded ratio declined was that the Plan's assets earned a 4.8 percent actual rate of return in 2014, which is substantially lower than the 8.25 percent rate of return actuarial assumption used by the Plan.

Since the funded ratio of the Plan declined below 60 percent in the January 1, 2015 Valuation, the Pension Code requires the Plan to "determine the increased contribution required each year as a level percentage of payroll during the years after the then current year . . . so the funded ratio is projected to reach at least 60% no later than 10 years after the then current year and include that determination in its report." (40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3)) The contribution rates adopted by the Retirement Plan Board for 2016 remained unchanged from the 2015 contribution rates which were 14.250 percent for the employer (which is net of the employer debt service credit of 6% of pay) and 10.125 percent for employees. The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation concluded that the contribution rates applicable for Plan year 2016 should result in the Plan's funded ratio reaching the statutorily required 60 percent level within 10 years of 2015 (i.e., by 2024).

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## **BACKGROUND**

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The Retirement Plan for CTA Employees was significantly underfunded, with a funded ratio of 34 percent as of January 1, 2006. In addition, the Plan was responsible for administering both the retirement benefits and retiree health care benefits. Public Act 94-839 required the CTA to separate the funding for retiree health care benefits from the funding of the retirement system by January 1, 2009.

Public Act 95-708 made sweeping changes to the Retirement Plan for CTA Employees. Public Act 95-708 gave the CTA the authority to issue bonds to help fund both the retirement and retiree health care plans. Public Act 95-708 also established the Retiree Health Care Trust to handle the retiree health care benefits. The Retiree Health Care Trust was established in May 2008.

The legislation also required that the contributions from the CTA and employees must be at a level so that the funded ratio of the Retirement Plan does not decline below 60 percent in any year before 2040, and achieve 90 percent funding by the end of 2059. If the Plan's funded ratio declines below 60 percent, the Pension Code requires the Board to "determine the increased contribution required each year as a level percentage of payroll during the years after the then current year . . . so the funded ratio is projected to reach at least 60% no later than 10 years after the then current year and include that determination in its report." (40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3)) It also stipulates that employees

are required to pay one-third of the annual required contribution and the CTA is required to pay two-thirds of the required contribution. During the time period 2009 through 2040, the amount paid by the CTA with respect to debt service on bonds issued for contribution to the Retirement Plan shall be treated as a credit against the amount of required contribution, up to an amount not to exceed six percent of the compensation paid by the CTA in the following year.

## REVIEW OF RETIREMENT PLAN SUBMISSIONS

The Illinois State Auditing Act (30 ILCS 5/3-2.3(e)) requires the Retirement Plan to submit certain specific documents to the Auditor General by September 30 of each year:

1. **Audit.** The most recent audit or examination of the Retirement Plan;
2. **Annual Statement.** An annual statement containing the information specified in Section 1A-109 of the Illinois Pension Code (see inset); and
3. **Actuarial Statement.** A complete actuarial statement applicable to the prior plan year, which may be the annual report of an enrolled actuary retained by the Retirement Plan specified in Section 22-101(e) of the Illinois Pension Code.

On October 1, 2015, the OAG received the three documents listed below from the Retirement Plan. We reviewed the documents and concluded the information required by Section 5/3-2.3(e) of the Auditing Act was contained in these reports:

- Audited Financial Statements for the Retirement Plan for the year ended December 31, 2014;
- An Investment Report dated December 31, 2014; and
- January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation for the Retirement Plan.

ILLINOIS PENSION CODE REQUIREMENTS
<p>The Auditing Act requires the CTA Retirement Plan to annually file with the Auditor General the following information specified in Section 1A-109 of the Pension Code:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) a financial balance sheet as of the close of the fiscal year;</li> <li>(2) a statement of income and expenditures;</li> <li>(3) an actuarial balance sheet;</li> <li>(4) statistical data reflecting age, service, and salary characteristics concerning all participants;</li> <li>(5) special facts concerning disability or other claims;</li> <li>(6) details on investment transactions that occurred during the fiscal year covered by the report;</li> <li>(7) details on administrative expenses; and</li> <li>(8) such other supporting data and schedules as in the judgement of the Division may be necessary for a proper appraisal of the financial condition of the pension fund and the results of its operations. The annual statement shall also specify the actuarial and interest tables used in the operation of the pension fund.</li> </ol>
<p>Source: Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/1A-109) and Auditing Act (30 ILCS 5/3-2.3(e))</p>



## **Review of Actuarial Determination and Assumptions**

The Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3)) places an additional reporting requirement on the Auditor General. The Code requires that the Retirement Plan, “*By September 15 of each year beginning in 2009 and ending on December 31, 2039, on the basis of a report prepared by an enrolled actuary retained by the Plan, the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan shall determine the estimated funded ratio of the total assets of the Retirement Plan to its total actuarially determined liabilities. A report containing that determination and the actuarial assumptions on which it is based shall be filed with the . . . Auditor General . . .*” The Pension Code requires the Auditor General to review the determination and the assumptions on which it is based to determine whether they are unreasonable in the aggregate.

The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation was presented to the Retirement Plan Board at its September 29, 2015, meeting. At that meeting, the Board of Trustees accepted the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation and certified the employer and employee contribution rates for 2016. The 2016 rates adopted were unchanged from the 2015 contribution rates: the employer contribution rate was 14.25 percent (which is net of the employer debt service credit of 6% of pay) and the employee contribution rate was 10.125 percent.

## **Review of Actuarial Assumptions Used**

Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 27 (ASOP No. 27), effective for measurement dates on or after September 30, 2014, provides guidance on the selection of economic assumptions for measuring pension obligations and dictates that “each economic assumption selected by the actuary should be reasonable,” and should have “no significant bias.” It does recognize that “different actuaries will apply different professional judgment and may choose different reasonable assumptions. As a result, a range of reasonable assumptions may develop . . . across actuarial practice.”

In 2014, the Plan’s actuary completed an experience study evaluating the key demographic and economic assumptions of the Plan. An experience study assesses how well assumptions used by the Plan align with the actual experience of the Plan. If past experience differs from the assumptions used, then the actuary may recommend revisions to the assumptions used in future valuations. The study examined five years of Plan history, from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2012. Several of the assumptions used in the Plan’s January 1, 2014 Actuarial Valuation were revised based on the results of the experience study. The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation noted that the assumptions used in that Valuation were unchanged from those used in the January 1, 2014 Valuation.

On October 1, 2015, the Retirement Plan submitted to the Auditor General its Actuarial Valuation as of January 1, 2015, pursuant to 40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3). Our consultants, Aon Hewitt, reviewed the assumptions used in the Retirement Plan’s Actuarial Valuation and found that the assumptions used were not unreasonable in the aggregate.

While the assumptions used in the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation were not unreasonable in the aggregate, three assumptions, the investment return assumption, the mortality assumption, and the active participant assumption, warrant additional discussion.

### **Investment Return Assumption**

Our prior reviews have concluded that the investment return assumptions used by the Plan were at the upper range of investment return assumptions for comparable plans. In our 2009 and 2010 Annual Reviews, we noted that the Retirement Plan's investment return assumption of 8.75 percent, while selected using established standards for pension plans, was an optimistic assumption. In the January 1, 2011 Actuarial Valuation, the Board's actuary recommended, and the Board approved, a reduction in the investment return assumption to 8.50 percent.

In the January 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013 Actuarial Valuations, the investment return assumption remained at 8.50 percent. Both Valuations contained no analysis justifying the reasonableness of the 8.50 percent rate of return or a presentation of different rates of return and the impact they would have on the required contribution rates.

In the January 1, 2014 Valuation, the investment return assumption was reduced from 8.50 percent to 8.25 percent. As part of the experience study performed for the January 1, 2014 Valuation, the Plan's actuary examined the reasonableness of the 8.50 percent investment return assumption. In a presentation to the Retirement Board on March 14, 2014, the actuary calculated expected annualized compound returns over different periods. For the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (i.e., there is a 50% chance of achieving the projected rate), the actuary estimated rates of return of 7.33 percent for a 10 year period, 8.42 percent for a 20 year period, and 8.76 percent for a 30 year period. The actuary noted that while maintaining the 8.50 percent investment return assumption is acceptable, a lower return should be considered.

In a September 2014 presentation to the Board, the Plan's actuary recommended that the Board adopt the 8.25 percent investment return assumption. The presentation went on to recommend that in future years the Board should consider assuming a lower rate of return assumption. At its September 25, 2014 meeting, the Board adopted the January 1, 2014 Actuarial Valuation which used the 8.25 percent rate of return assumption.

In the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation, the 8.25 percent rate of return remains unchanged from the 2014 Valuation. Regarding the decision to keep the 8.25 percent rate, the Valuation states, "It is based upon a review of the existing portfolio structure, a review of recent experience, and future long-term expectations of rates of return."

We followed-up with the Plan’s Executive Director, asking whether the Plan’s actuary conducted a detailed analysis of the investment rate of return assumption as part of the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation. The Executive Director noted that the actuary reviewed the appropriateness of the expected rate of return assumption because the Board adopted a new asset allocation for its investments in October 2014. The analysis prepared by the Plan’s actuary showed that the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of returns for the Plan’s investments was 8.24 percent over 20 years and 8.70 percent over 30 years.

The Plan’s Investment Consultant also examined the expected return of the Plan’s investments. According to the Plan’s Executive Director, the Investment Consultant performed a Monte Carlo simulation of macroeconomic factors which are used to model monthly return outcomes of capital markets. Based on the approved asset allocation and their most recent asset class assumptions, the Investment Consultant projected a total expected return of 8.34 percent over a 10 year term for the Plan’s investments. The Plan’s Investment Policy also notes that the performance objective of the Plan’s investments is to meet or exceed the Plan’s actuarial return assumption of 8.25 percent.

### **Comparison with Rates of Returns for Other Pension Plans**

An investment return assumption of 8.25 percent is at the upper range of investment return assumptions for comparable plans. The Public Fund Survey includes data on 126 public pension plans. In the Public Fund Survey’s October 2015 online data, only 5 of the 126 plans used an investment return assumption of 8.25 percent or higher: two used an 8.50 percent return, while three others used an 8.25 percent rate. The median investment return assumption for the 126 plans reported in October 2015 Public Fund Survey data was 7.75 percent.

Wilshire Consulting’s *2015 Report on State Retirement Systems: Funding Levels and Asset Allocation* examined the asset allocation and funding levels for 131 state retirement systems. Wilshire estimated that the median state pension fund has an expected return of 5.99 percent. This median expected return is lower than the current median actuarial interest rate assumption of 7.65 percent used by the plans in the Study and is lower than the 8.25 percent assumption selected for the CTA Retirement Plan. The Wilshire report notes that Wilshire’s assumptions range over a conservative 10+ year time horizon, while pension plan interest rate assumptions typically project over 20 to 30 years.

In their *2015 Report on City & County Retirement Systems: Funding Levels and Asset Allocation*, Wilshire Consulting examined data on 108 city and county retirement systems, 101 of which reported actuarial values on or after June 30, 2014. Wilshire estimated that the median city and county pension fund has a 10-year expected return of 5.80 percent, based on beta-only asset class assumptions and excludes active management alpha. The 5.80 percent return is lower than the median actuarial interest rate of 7.50 percent for plans in the Study, and lower than the 8.25 percent selected by the Retirement Plan. The report states “Using Wilshire’s standard 2015 return and risk forecasts, none of the 108 city and county retirement systems are expected to earn 10-

year asset returns that equal or exceed the median liability discount rate for the city and county pensions in our survey.” This year, Wilshire also developed a 30-year long-term assumption. Using this assumption, the median plan return is estimated at 7.2 percent.

The National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems and Cobalt Community Research released the *2014 NCPERS Public Retirement Systems Study* in November 2014. NCPERS is a trade association for public sector pension funds, representing more than 550 funds in the United States and Canada. The 2014 Study includes responses from 187 state, local, and provincial government pension funds with assets exceeding \$1.8 trillion. According to the Study, the average investment return assumption was 7.70 percent in 2014, which was up 0.1 percent from 2013.

### **Aon Hewitt Analysis**

The Plan adopted a new Target Asset Allocation at the October 2014 Board meeting. Using Aon Hewitt’s Expected Return Tool (as of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2015) Aon Hewitt determined that the 35<sup>th</sup> to 65<sup>th</sup> percentile range of the CTA Retirement Plan’s investment returns to be 8.12 percent to 6.28 percent, with the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile rate equal to 7.20 percent. The Retirement Plan’s investment return assumption of 8.25 percent represented the 33<sup>rd</sup> percentile in Aon Hewitt’s tool, assuming that 8.25 percent is net of administrative expenses, as indicated by the Plan’s actuary.

The underlying inflation assumption used in Aon Hewitt’s Expected Return Tool is 2.10 percent, compared to the Plan’s assumption of 3.25 percent. If the results of the tool were adjusted for this difference in the inflation assumption, the resulting 35<sup>th</sup> to 65<sup>th</sup> percentile range would be 9.38 percent to 7.54 percent with the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile rate equal to 8.46 percent. The Retirement Plan’s investment return assumption of 8.25 percent would then represent the 53<sup>rd</sup> percentile in Aon Hewitt’s tool, assuming that 8.25 percent is net of administrative expenses. The Aon Hewitt Expected Return Tool calculates the expected portfolio growth rate (50<sup>th</sup> percentile, geometric return) before any value is added from active management.

### **Historical Rates of Return Experienced by the Plan’s Investments**

Over the past 10 years, the rate of return on Retirement Plan investments has been lower than its current 8.25 percent assumed rate of return. For the 10 year period ending December 31, 2014, the Plan’s return on investments was 6.8 percent, according to the Plan’s December 31, 2014 Investment Report. As noted above, the Plan’s Investment Consultant projected a total expected return of 8.34 percent over a 10 year term for the Plan’s investments.

### **Conclusion: Investment Return Assumption**

The 8.25 percent rate of return assumption is at the upper end of investment return assumptions used by other retirement plans in the United States. The 10-year historical rate of return of 6.8 percent experienced by the Retirement Plan on its investments is less than its 8.25 percent investment return assumption. According to the Plan's Executive Director, the Plan's Investment Consultant expects the Plan's asset allocation to obtain a total average annualized ten year return of 8.34 percent. While the experience study conducted by the Plan's actuary in 2014 projected that the 8.25 percent rate of return has a more than 50 percent chance of being realized over a 30 year period, the actuary also concluded that the Board should consider lowering it in future years.

Given that the Retirement Plan's investment return assumption remains at the upper range of returns used by other plans in the United States, and the Plan's actuary's recommendation that the Board consider lowering this assumption in future years, we recommend that the reasonableness of this assumption should be examined annually, rather than waiting for the next experience study.

### **Mortality Assumption**

Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 35 (ASOP No. 35) provides guidance with respect to mortality improvement before and after the measurement date. After the 2014 experience study, the Plan adopted generational mortality tables to account for future mortality improvements. The assumptions used in the January 1, 2014 Valuation were used in the January 1, 2015 Valuation. The Plan still experienced a small loss with regards to retiree mortality experience in the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation. Aon Hewitt has not performed an independent analysis of the mortality improvement. The Plan used the RP2000 Blue Collar and Disabled Tables, generational to 2016, based on Scale BB and then fully generational.

The Plan's new mortality assumption was chosen before the final RP-2014 and MP-2014 reports were issued by the Society of Actuaries (SOA). The 2014 SOA report stated that it is not inappropriate for actuaries to consider one or more of the RP-2014 tables for public plan use. The SOA has since released an update to MP-2014 called MP-2015, and has further indicated their intention to provide annual updates to their mortality model. Consistent with the RP-2000 tables, the new RP-2014 tables are prepared on a benefits-weighted basis, and experience studies using these tables (either RP-2000 or RP-2014) should generally also be performed on a benefits-weighted basis, rather than a headcount-weighted basis. Due to significant changes in mortality rates that were found in the SOA's recent studies and released in their recent reports, we recommend that a new mortality analysis be conducted for this Plan, on a benefits-weighted basis, in time to reflect the results in the assumptions that are adopted and used for next year's actuarial valuation.

### **Active Participant Assumption**

For the first time in four years, the active participant headcount did not decrease from the prior year, but instead increased slightly. However, the ratio of actives to annuitants continued to decrease. The Public Fund Survey Summary of Findings for FY 2013 states “When combined with an unfunded liability, however, a low or declining ratio of actives to annuitants can cause fiscal distress for a pension plan sponsor...A lower ratio of actives to annuitants results in costs to amortize a plan’s unfunded liability over a relatively smaller payroll base, which increases the cost of the plan as a percentage of employee payroll.” The Summary goes on to state “A growing number of annuitants, combined with a low or negative rate of growth in active members will result in a reduction in a retirement system’s external cash flow.”

In the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation, the Plan’s actuary has assumed a steady future level of active members through the projection period of 2045. To the extent future participation differs from this assumption, the future contribution levels will be impacted. Although the assumption used by the Plan’s actuary in recent years has kept the active headcounts level, the active population has steadily decreased, declining from 8,932 in the 2011 Valuation to 8,186 in the 2014 Valuation. The headcount did increase to 8,251 in the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation. The active to annuitant ratio has declined from .95 in the 2011 Valuation to .83 in the 2015 Valuation.

The Plan’s active to annuitant ratio of .83 is significantly lower than the average result from the Public Fund Survey of 1.55, and indicates the importance of this ratio to the Plan’s finances. The Plan’s actuary’s results highlight the potential contribution increase if the constant headcount assumption is not met. As stated in an August 17, 2015 presentation the Plan’s actuary made to the Board, “To the extent that the number of employees do not stay constant, and payroll does not grow as projected, there may be a need to increase the Authority and employee contribution rates.” The Plan should continue to annually monitor this assumption and its reasonability.

### **Retirement Plan Comment**

*With respect to the review of assumptions, the Plan has adopted a practice of having the actuary perform an experience review every 5 years. The last review was adopted by the Board for use with the January 1, 2014 through January 1, 2018 actuarial valuations. The next review will be performed in time to be used for the January 1, 2019 valuation. We will continue to monitor these assumptions with the annual gain and loss process and make changes as needed. Changes to reflect short term experience run counter to the concept that assumptions are intended to reflect long-term expectations.*

## Funded Ratio

The funded ratio of the Retirement Plan as of January 1, 2015 was 58.2 percent, which is a decrease of 2.7 percent from the funded ratio of 60.9 percent in the January 1, 2014 Actuarial Valuation. The actuarial value of assets was \$1.893 billion at January 1, 2014. At January 1, 2015, the actuarial value of assets was reported at \$1.856 billion and the actuarial accrued liability was \$3.186 billion. The January 1, 2015 Valuation noted that the primary reason why the funded ratio declined was because the Plan's assets earned a 4.8 percent actual rate of return on assets in 2014, which is substantially lower than the 8.25 percent investment return assumption used by the Plan.

The Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3)) contains specific requirements regarding the funded ratio of the CTA Retirement Plan. The Code states that:

(3) . . . If the actual funded ratio declines below 60% in any year prior to 2040, the Board of Trustees shall also determine the increased contribution required each year as a level percentage of payroll during the years after the then current year using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method so the funded ratio is projected to reach at least 60% no later than 10 years after the then current year and include that determination in its report. . . .

The Pension Code requires the CTA to contribute 12 percent of pay, less up to a 6 percent credit for debt service paid on the bonds used to fund the Plan; employees are required to pay 6 percent of pay. If the funded ratio is projected to decline below 60 percent prior to 2040, the Pension Code requires the CTA to pay two-thirds and employees one-third of the required contribution.

As noted above, the funded ratio of the Plan declined under 60 percent in the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation. However, although the Pension Code states that the Board "shall" determine the increased contribution required for the Plan to be 60 percent funded within 10 years, the contribution rates adopted by the Retirement Plan Board for 2016 remained unchanged from the 2015 contribution rates which were 14.250 percent for the employer (which is net of the employer debt service credit of 6% of pay) and 10.125 percent for employees. The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation concluded that the contribution rates applicable for Plan year 2016 should result in the Plan's funded ratio reaching the statutorily required 60 percent level within 10 years of 2015 (i.e., by 2024).

The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation notes that differences between the expected experience based on the actuarial assumptions and the actual experience create changes in the actuarial accrued liability, the actuarial value of assets, and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability from one year to the next. These changes create an actuarial gain if the experience is favorable, and an actuarial loss if the experience is unfavorable. The Plan experienced a total net actuarial loss of \$102.1 million during 2014. The Valuation notes that this net loss is a combination of two principal factors: demographic experience and investment performance.

The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation discloses that the largest factor was the loss experienced on the actuarial value of assets. The actual investment rate of return on the actuarial value of Plan assets was 4.8 percent for the year ending December 31, 2014, compared to the rate of return assumption of 8.25 percent. The lower than assumed rate of return in 2014 resulted in a loss of \$80.2 million and decreased the funded ratio by 2.5 percent. The Plan's demographic assumptions (such as mortality, turnover, retirement, pay increases, etc.) experienced a loss of \$21.9 million during 2014.

The January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation projects the funded ratio of the Plan to be 91.37 percent in year 2039. This is a decrease from last year's projected funded ratio in year 2039 of 97.41 percent.

In a presentation made to the Retirement Board in August 2015, the Plan's actuary noted that "The results of the January 1, 2015 have shown that we barely avoided a mandatory increase in member and Authority contributions for 2016." The actuary went on to list several factors which may result in the need for increased contributions in 2017 and future years:

- Changes in assumptions to reflect longer future lifetimes, reduced headcounts, or a reduction in the assumed investment return of 8.25 percent.
- Achieving a rate of return of something slightly less than 8.25 percent.
- Other changes which result in a higher unfunded actuarial accrued liability than expected.

The Plan's actuary also noted that contribution rates above the minimum required by statute are recommended as a buffer against mandatory contribution increases that will come the first year there is a market downturn, as well as to conform to best practices.

### **Funding Policy**

Although not required by law, the Plan's actuary recommended in the January 1, 2015 Valuation that the Board of Trustees consider, as appropriate, increasing its contribution rates to a level that more adequately addresses recent developments in policies regarding the funding of public pension systems. This would include: 1) funding 100 percent of the normal cost on the entry age normal cost basis; 2) using an actuarial value of assets to help mitigate contribution volatility; and 3) amortizing the unfunded actuarial accrued liability over a fixed period of 20 years. The Valuation notes that complying with this methodology would result in a total contribution of 34.147 percent, as opposed to the current contribution total of 24.375 percent (14.250 % paid by the CTA (net of the 6% credit for bond repayment) and 10.125% paid by employees).



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## SCOPE OF ANNUAL REVIEW

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The Office of the Auditor General conducted an annual review of information submitted by the Retirement Plan pursuant to the Illinois State Auditing Act and the Illinois Pension Code. This report does not constitute an audit as that term is defined in generally accepted government auditing standards. Consequently, while we reviewed the information provided by the CTA Retirement Plan for reasonableness and consistency, we did not conduct an audit of the accuracy of the information provided as that is the responsibility of the Plan.

The scope of our work included reviewing the information submitted by the Retirement Board on October 1, 2015. This information included: the Audited Financial Statements for the Plan for the year ended December 31, 2014; an Investment Report for the period ending December 31, 2014; and the January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation for the Retirement Plan. We conducted follow-up with the Retirement Plan on various questions we had based upon our review of these documents. The Retirement Plan was provided a draft of this report for its review.

Our consultants, Aon Hewitt, reviewed the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions used by the CTA Retirement Plan in their January 1, 2015 Actuarial Valuation.

In last year's review, we reported that the Plan's Executive Director noted that the *Matthews* case could have a significant impact on either the Retirement Plan or the Retiree Health Care Trust in the magnitude of \$100 million or more. We inquired of the Executive Director for an update on the status of the *Matthews* case. The Executive Director responded that the Supreme Court heard the Plan's appeal in May 2015, and the Plan is awaiting the Court's decision. The plaintiffs in the *Matthews* case are current and former employees of the CTA who argue that after years of fully paid health care benefits for retired CTA employees, they are now being asked to pay for a portion of their health care benefits and are no longer entitled to the same level of health care coverage as active CTA employees. The changes to their coverage occurred as a result of an arbitration award and related amendments to the Pension Code made by Public Act 95-708.

In prior reviews, we noted also that the Retirement Board approved a payroll audit in 2011. The Board's Executive Director had expected the audit to be completed by the end of 2012. Based on a review of Board meeting minutes, as of July 2015, matters relating to the payroll audit had not been resolved.

The OAG performed this Review with assistance from our consultants, Aon Hewitt. Aon Hewitt's review concluded that:

- (A) The required documents submitted by the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan have been made, and meet the statutory requirements of Section 5/3-2.3(e)(1), (2), and (3) of the Auditing Act.

- (B) The assumptions stated in the actuarial report submitted pursuant to 40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3) are not unreasonable in the aggregate. While we recognize the Plan's policy of completing an experience study every five years, we believe that three of the assumptions, investment return, mortality, and number of active future participants, should continue to be monitored and justified on an annual basis. Further, we recommend that a mortality analysis be completed in time to reflect the results in the assumptions used for next year's report.
- (C) 40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3) indicates that if the Plan's funded ratio is projected to fall below 60% in any year before 2040, minimum contribution rates are to be determined on a level percentage of payroll basis over the years remaining until 2040 that keep the projected funded ratio above 60% in all years through 2039, based on assumptions which are not unreasonable in the aggregate. 40 ILCS 5/22-101(e)(3) also indicates that if the actual funded ratio declines below 60% in any year prior to 2040, the actuarial report shall also show an increased contribution rate that is determined on a level percentage of payroll basis during the years after the current year such that the funded ratio is projected to reach at least 60% no later than 10 years after the then current year. The funded ratio fell below 60% for the January 1, 2015 Valuation. The projections indicate that the contribution rates adopted in 2013 of 10.125% for employees and 14.250% for the employer (with the 6% credit for debt service) are sufficient to bring the funded status to 60% (or higher) by 2024 (i.e. 10 years after the current year). The adopted contribution rates of 10.125 percent for employees and 14.250 percent for the employer (with the 6% credit for debt service) are stated to be higher than the Statutory Minimum Contribution Rates, which the Plan's actuary has indicated to be 10.011 percent for employees and 14.023 percent for the employer.

**APPENDIX A**  
**Statutory Authority**



**ILLINOIS STATE AUDITING ACT**

**30 ILCS 5/3-2.3(e) and (f)**

(e) Annual Retirement Plan Submission to Auditor General. The Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority Employees established by Section 22-101 of the Illinois Pension Code shall provide the following documents to the Auditor General annually no later than September 30:

- (1) the most recent audit or examination of the Retirement Plan;
- (2) an annual statement containing the information specified in Section 1A-109 of the Illinois Pension Code; and
- (3) a complete actuarial statement applicable to the prior plan year, which may be the annual report of an enrolled actuary retained by the Retirement Plan specified in Section 22-101(e) of the Illinois Pension Code.

The Auditor General shall annually examine the information provided pursuant to this subsection and shall submit a report of the analysis thereof to the General Assembly, including the report specified in Section 22-101(e) of the Illinois Pension Code.

(f) The Auditor General shall annually examine the information submitted pursuant to Section 22-101B(b)(3)(iii) of the Illinois Pension Code and shall prepare the determination specified in Section 22-101B(b)(3)(iv) of the Illinois Pension Code.

(Source: P.A. 95-708, eff. 1-18-08.)

## ILLINOIS PENSION CODE

### 40 ILCS 5/1A-109

Annual statements by pension funds. Each pension fund shall furnish to the Division an annual statement in a format prepared by the Division. The Division shall design the form and prescribe the content of the annual statement and, at least 60 days prior to the filing date, shall furnish the form to each pension fund for completion. The annual statement shall be prepared by each fund, properly certified by its officers, and submitted to the Division within 6 months following the close of the fiscal year of the pension fund.

The annual statement shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- (1) a financial balance sheet as of the close of the fiscal year;
- (2) a statement of income and expenditures;
- (3) an actuarial balance sheet;
- (4) statistical data reflecting age, service, and salary characteristics concerning all participants;
- (5) special facts concerning disability or other claims;
- (6) details on investment transactions that occurred during the fiscal year covered by the report;
- (7) details on administrative expenses; and
- (8) such other supporting data and schedules as in the judgement of the Division may be necessary for a proper appraisal of the financial condition of the pension fund and the results of its operations. The annual statement shall also specify the actuarial and interest tables used in the operation of the pension fund.

(Source: P.A. 90-507, eff. 8-22-97.)

### 40 ILCS 5/22-101

Sec. 22-101(e). Retirement Plan for Chicago Transit Authority Employees.

(1) Beginning January 1, 2009 the Authority shall make contributions to the Retirement Plan in an amount equal to twelve percent (12%) of compensation and participating employees shall make contributions to the Retirement Plan in an amount equal to six percent (6%) of compensation. These contributions may be paid by the Authority and participating employees on a payroll or other periodic basis, but shall in any case be paid to the Retirement Plan at least monthly.

(2) For the period ending December 31, 2040, the amount paid by the Authority in any year with respect to debt service on bonds issued for the purposes of funding a contribution to the Retirement Plan under Section 12c of the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act, other than debt service paid with the proceeds of bonds or notes issued by the Authority for any year after calendar year 2008, shall be treated as a credit against the amount of required contribution to the Retirement Plan by the Authority under subsection (e)(1) for the following year up to an amount not to exceed 6% of compensation paid by the Authority in that following year.

(3) By September 15 of each year beginning in 2009 and ending on December 31, 2039, on the basis of a report prepared by an enrolled actuary retained by the Plan, the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan shall determine the estimated funded ratio of the total assets of the Retirement Plan to its total actuarially determined liabilities. A report containing that determination and the actuarial assumptions on which it is based shall be filed with the Authority, the representatives of its participating employees, the Auditor General of the State of Illinois, and the Regional Transportation Authority. If the funded ratio is projected to decline below 60% in any year before 2040, the Board of Trustees shall also determine the increased contribution required

each year as a level percentage of payroll over the years remaining until 2040 using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method so the funded ratio does not decline below 60% and include that determination in its report. If the actual funded ratio declines below 60% in any year prior to 2040, the Board of Trustees shall also determine the increased contribution required each year as a level percentage of payroll during the years after the then current year using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method so the funded ratio is projected to reach at least 60% no later than 10 years after the then current year and include that determination in its report. Within 60 days after receiving the report, the Auditor General shall review the determination and the assumptions on which it is based, and if he finds that the determination and the assumptions on which it is based are unreasonable in the aggregate, he shall issue a new determination of the funded ratio, the assumptions on which it is based and the increased contribution required each year as a level percentage of payroll over the years remaining until 2040 using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method so the funded ratio does not decline below 60%, or, in the event of an actual decline below 60%, so the funded ratio is projected to reach 60% by no later than 10 years after the then current year. If the Board of Trustees or the Auditor General determine that an increased contribution is required to meet the funded ratio required by the subsection, effective January 1 following the determination or 30 days after such determination, whichever is later, one-third of the increased contribution shall be paid by participating employees and two-thirds by the Authority, in addition to the contributions required by this subsection (1).

(4) For the period beginning 2040, the minimum contribution to the Retirement Plan for each fiscal year shall be an amount determined by the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Plan to be sufficient to bring the total assets of the Retirement Plan up to 90% of its total actuarial liabilities by the end of 2059. Participating employees shall be responsible for one-third of the required contribution and the Authority shall be responsible for two-thirds of the required contribution. In making these determinations, the Board of Trustees shall calculate the required contribution each year as a level percentage of payroll over the years remaining to and including fiscal year 2059 using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method. A report containing that determination and the actuarial assumptions on which it is based shall be filed by September 15 of each year with the Authority, the representatives of its participating employees, the Auditor General of the State of Illinois and the Regional Transportation Authority. If the funded ratio is projected to fail to reach 90% by December 31, 2059, the Board of Trustees shall also determine the increased contribution required each year as a level percentage of payroll over the years remaining until December 31, 2059 using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method so the funded ratio will meet 90% by December 31, 2059 and include that determination in its report. Within 60 days after receiving the report, the Auditor General shall review the determination and the assumptions on which it is based and if he finds that the determination and the assumptions on which it is based are unreasonable in the aggregate, he shall issue a new determination of the funded ratio, the assumptions on which it is based and the increased contribution required each year as a level percentage of payroll over the years remaining until December 31, 2059 using the projected unit credit actuarial cost method so the funded ratio reaches no less than 90% by December 31, 2059. If the Board of Trustees or the Auditor General determine that an increased contribution is required to meet the funded ratio required by this subsection, effective January 1 following the determination or 30 days after such determination, whichever is later, one-third of the increased contribution shall be paid by participating employees and two-thirds by the Authority, in addition to the contributions required by subsection (e)(1).

(5) Beginning in 2060, the minimum contribution for each year shall be the amount needed to maintain the total assets of the Retirement Plan at 90% of the total actuarial liabilities of the Plan, and the contribution shall be funded two-thirds by the Authority and one-third by the participating employees in accordance with this subsection.

(Source: P.A. 95-708, eff. 1-18-08, P.A. 97-442, eff. 8-19-11; P.A. 97-609, eff. 1-1-12; P.A. 97-813, eff. 7-13-12.)