Introducing a Shared Services Program

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company (GRS) announce a program for actuarial and consulting services designed to assist those participating municipalities of TMRS who are facing substantial increases in their TMRS contribution rates. Through a procurement process, NCTCOG selected GRS to provide its actuarial and consulting expertise on a shared services basis.

About Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company

Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company (GRS) is an actuarial and benefits consulting firm that has served public sector clients since 1938. GRS has locations across the country and enjoys long-standing relationships with over 600 public sector clients. Its work under the shared services program is supported by innovative web-based technology that is client accessible. GRS’ Portal software offers robust reporting capabilities, what-if scenario modeling tools, and a downloadable projection tool.

The Shared Services Program

Basic Services

The basic services will include an independent replication actuarial valuation of employer’s TMRS benefits in compliance with GASB 25. The basic services will also include the following:

- A measurement of the actuarial liabilities, present value of projected benefits and normal cost as of December 31, 2007.
- The estimated annual required contribution (ARC) and accounting expense for the 2009 fiscal year as required under GASB Statement Nos. 25 and 27, using a 25-30 year closed level percentage of pay amortization period.
- An exhibit showing the individual cost impacts of all available prospective changes currently allowed under the TMRS benefit structure.
- Two in-person or conference call meetings as mutually agreed upon by the government and GRS. Out of pocket travel expenses for governments located 100 miles or more from downtown Houston or DFW Airport will be charged to the government. For entities with less than 100 participants, basic services meetings are restricted to conference calls only.
- Unlimited access (for a one year period) to the Scenario Planning Module. This module allows the user to change specified benefit provisions and create “what-if” scenarios. A downloadable interactive projection workbook will be available with each “what-if” scenario.
**Plan Redesign Studies**

Some desired plan modifications may not be currently available under TMRS or an entity may not want to use the Portal. For these circumstances, GRS will perform additional studies on a fee per study basis.

**Additional Services**

GRS Consultants will also be available to provide additional consulting services (such as non-standard plan design, additional meetings with City Councils, employee groups and/or retiree groups. These services will be provided on an hourly rate basis.

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**Action Steps for Participating in the Shared Services Program**

- Visit the GRS/TMRS Shared Services web site to request a proposal by filling out the questionnaire. The proposal defines the scope of services and the associated fees. The web site address is https://my.gabrielroeder.com/portal/tmrs.

- You will receive the proposal letter via email. If the proposal is acceptable and you wish to participate in the Shared Services program, contact GRS at the following email address: shar_edservices@gabrielroeder.com. GRS will respond by sending the engagement agreement, sample contract, an interlocal agreement, and a nondisclosure agreement.

- TMRS requires a signed nondisclosure agreement from a participating Municipality before it will instruct the current actuary to transmit the Municipality’s participant data. A nondisclosure agreement will be emailed with the sample contract. Due to the severe time constraints imposed on the services offered under the shared services arrangement, it is very important that the signed contract and nondisclosure agreement be returned as soon as possible.

- Once you have received your valuation results and the individual cost impacts of all benefit changes currently permissible under TMRS statutes, you will be given a log-in and password for the portal. This will allow you unlimited access to produce “what-if” scenarios combining different plan changes or just modeling different contribution patterns under one of the standard benefit changes.

- For more information regarding the Shared Services program, please contact GRS at 469-524-0000 or via email at sharedservices@gabrielroeder.com.