



Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority 20-Year/Age 50 Retirement Plan For Tier 4 Members

TIER 4

APRIL 2013

The Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority (TBTA), also known as MTA Bridges and Tunnels 20-Year/Age 50 Retirement Plan (TBTA 20/50 Plan) is available **ONLY** to those employed in a TBTA Eligible Position.

A TBTA Eligible Position is one held by a Tier 4 member who is employed as a TBTA Bridge and Tunnel Officer, Sergeant or Lieutenant in a non-managerial position.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in the TBTA 20/50 Plan may be **optional** or **mandatory** depending on your employment and/or NYCERS membership status on August 2, 1995.

Anyone who was a member of NYCERS and employed in a TBTA Eligible Position on August 2, 1995 had an option to become a participant in the TBTA 20/50 Plan by filing an election form with NYCERS no later than January 29, 1996. A "re-opener" enacted in 1997 offered another opportunity for those in a TBTA Eligible Position to elect to participate in the plan provided an election form was filed no later than October 15, 1997. **BOTH OPTIONS HAVE EXPIRED.**

Anyone who was a NYCERS member on August 2, 1995 in a title other than a TBTA Eligible Position who subsequently becomes employed in a TBTA Eligible Position has an option to join the TBTA 20/50 Plan. An election form (Form #164) to participate in this plan must be filed within 180 days of becoming employed in a TBTA Eligible Position.

Participation is **MANDATORY** for any person who becomes employed in a TBTA Eligible Position and a NYCERS member after August 2, 1995.

Participants who cease to hold a TBTA Eligible Position will no longer be able to participate in the TBTA 20/50 Plan.

Participants who terminate service from a TBTA Eligible Position and return to a TBTA Eligible Position at a later date will again be required to participate in the TBTA 20/50 Plan.

CONTRIBUTIONS

As a Tier 4 member you are required to contribute 3% of your gross wages until the earlier of attaining 10 years of Credited Service or reaching your tenth anniversary of membership. These contributions are referred to as Basic Member Contributions (BMCs) and they are held in the Member Contribution Accumulation Fund (MCAF).

As a member of the TBTA 20/50 Plan you are also required to contribute Additional Member Contributions (AMCs) at one of the following rates:

*TBTA Officers: 5.5% of gross wages

*TBTA Sergeants or Lieutenants: 6% of gross wages

AMCs must be paid on all gross wages earned from service rendered in a TBTA Eligible Position on or after February 3, 1995 and are required to be made until the later of (1) 20 years of Credited Service in a TBTA Eligible Position, or (2) the third anniversary date of participation in the TBTA 20/50 Plan.

AMCs are maintained in the Retirement Reserve Fund (RRF), which is an account maintained separately from the MCAF account. Both funds earn interest at a rate of 5%, compounded annually.

Except for AMCs required between February 3, 1995 and August 2, 1995, all contributions are Federal tax deferred, meaning that you do not pay Federal taxes on the contributions, only New York State and local taxes. Contributions made while on Union leave are not Federal tax deferred.

DEFICITS

Failure to pay any of the required BMCs or AMCs will result in a deficit. If a deficit is identified prior to retirement, steps will be taken to resolve the deficit.

In the event of a deficit at retirement in the MCAF account only (BMCs), an actuarial reduction can be applied to the pension benefit.

In the event of a deficit at retirement in the RRF account only (AMCs), participants are not eligible for service retirement.

ONCE AN ELECTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TBTA 20/50 RETIREMENT PLAN IS FILED WITH NYCERS IT MAY NOT BE REVOKED

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LOANS

In addition to the ability to borrow up to 75% of the BMCs held in the MCAF account, TBTA 20/50 Plan participants may borrow up to 75% of the AMCs held in the RRF account. Any loans taken are subject to the same terms and conditions applicable to Tier 4 members. Please consult Brochure #911 for additional information.

REFUNDS

TBTA 20/50 Plan participants who have rendered less than 10 years of Credited Service and who leave City service may apply for a refund of BMCs and AMCs, plus accrued interest, effectively terminating their membership. Members with between five and ten years of Credited Service must also waive their right to a Vested Retirement Benefit. Refunds of BMCs are not possible for members with ten or more years of Credited Service.

Participants who cease to hold a TBTA Eligible Position for any reason whatsoever and who have rendered less than 15 years of Credited Service in a TBTA Eligible Position have the option of withdrawing their AMCs, plus accrued interest. AMCs may be withdrawn if a participant with less than 15 years of Credited Service in a TBTA Eligible Position changes titles to a non-TBTA Eligible Position and remains in City service. After receiving the refund of AMCs, such participant will no longer be entitled to a benefit under the TBTA 20/50 Plan but will be entitled to a benefit from his or her underlying Tier 4 plan (assuming service requirements have been met).

VESTED RETIREMENT BENEFIT

If you end your employment with at least five, but less than 20, years of Credited Service you will be entitled to a Vested Retirement Benefit under the TBTA 20/50 Plan. This benefit becomes payable on the date you would have completed 20 years of Credited Service or upon reaching age 50, whichever is later.

The Vested Retirement Benefit is calculated using the following formula:

$2.5\% \text{ times Final Average Salary times the number of years of Credited Service.}$

Participants are not eligible for a Vested Retirement Benefit with a deficit in AMCs.

SERVICE RETIREMENT

Participants in the TBTA 20/50 Plan become eligible to receive a Service Retirement Benefit upon attaining age 50 with 20 or more years of Credited Service. The Service Retirement Benefit is calculated using the following formula:

50% of Final Average Salary (FAS) for the first 20 years of Credited Service, **plus**

1.5% *times* FAS *times* the number of years of Credited Service in excess of 20, up to a maximum of 30 years.

Final Average Salary is defined as the greater of:

the average of wages earned during any three consecutive calendar years

OR

the average of wages earned during the 36 months immediately preceding your retirement date.

NOTE: Wages earned in any year used in the FAS computation cannot exceed more than 10% of the average of the previous two years.

BASIC TIER 4 BENEFITS

Participants in the TBTA 20/50 Plan are entitled to other benefits applicable to Tier 4 members besides the Vested and Service Retirement Benefits conferred by such plan. Such other benefits include disability benefits and death benefits. However, in the case of an accidental death (the result of an accident on the job or while in military service) a state-funded Special Accidental Death Benefit is payable to the widow, widower, or the children of the deceased (under 18 years of age or under the age of 23 if a student) if the widow or widower is deceased. This benefit is in addition to the Accidental Death Benefit applicable to all Tier 4 members and brings the total Accidental Death Benefit to a pension equal to 100% of the deceased member's salary.