2015 Fund Budgets

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Fund Budgets

The Authority segregates its financial activity into a number of funds. These funds account for all receipts and expenditures for a specific purpose. The Fund Budgets chapter describes the fund structure used by the Authority, the sources of revenue, and the status of these funds in 2015 and beyond.

Fund Budgets

The Authority maintains its books of accounts on the accrual basis of accounting, using a single enterprise fund to report the results of its operations. However, separate funds are maintained on the books of the Authority in order to best account for its various revenues that are designated for specific purposes.

Since the Authority is an independent, special purpose political subdivision of the State of Ohio, annual budgets for each fund are prepared on the cash basis of accounting. On the cash basis, revenues are budgeted when they are received as opposed to when they will be earned and expenditures are budgeted when they are paid, encumbered, or obligated as opposed to when the liabilities will be incurred. The Authority uses the following appropriated funds to account for its operations:

All Funds

- **General Fund** (aka Operating Fund)
  - (Includes Operating Expenses from Department Budgets)
- **Bond Retirement Fund**
- **Insurance Fund**
- **Supplemental Pension Fund**
- **Law Enforcement Fund**
- **Capital Improvement Funds**
  - RTA Capital Fund
  - RTA Development Fund

A fund balance is the difference between total resources (beginning cash and investment balance plus total revenues) and total expenditures.

How to Calculate Fund Balance

Beginning Balance
+ Current Revenues
Total Resources

(Less) Total Current Expenditures

(Equals) End of Year (EOY) Balance
(Also called Fund Balance)

In the following presentation, fund balances for the General Fund and RTA Capital Fund represent the unencumbered, unreserved balance (referred to as the available end of year balance). These fund balances are shown net of reserves for encumbrances. All other funds are reflected in cash balances.

The end of year balance of a fund provides a measure of a fund or entity's financial health and is useful in spotting negative trends. The following analysis focuses on the Authority's major funds (listed above in bold) and addresses future trends within those balances. The analysis also presents details on the components of revenue and trends in expenditures.

Fund Budgets

All Funds

Balance Analysis

Figure 1 presents the combined fund balances of all the Authority's appropriated Funds (General, Capital Improvement, Bond Retirement, Insurance, Supplemental Pension, and Law Enforcement). The ending balance shows cyclical patterns, primarily increasing as a result of debt issuances, and decreasing as those funds are consumed.

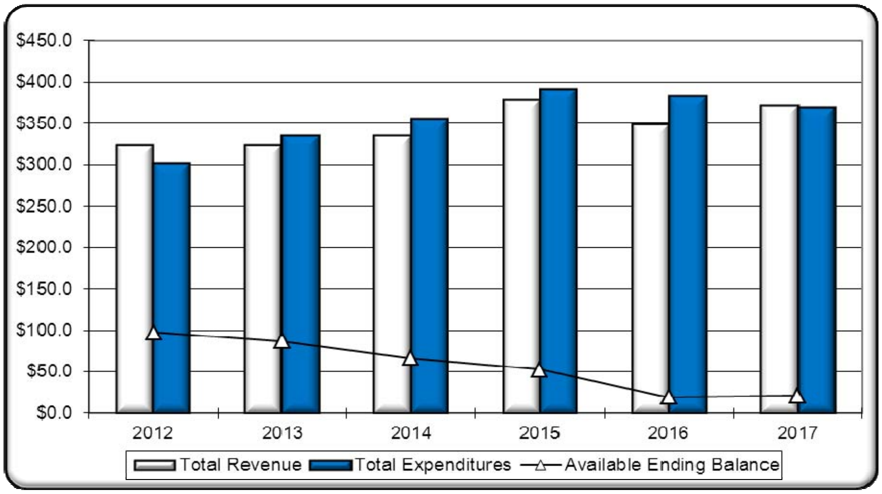


Figure 1

The Sales & Use Tax revenue, the largest source of revenue for RTA, dropped $19 million, 10.9%, from 2008 receipts due to the great recession. This was the most dramatic decline in Sales Tax in the history of the Authority. Managed Health Care was added to the Sales & Use Tax base, which helped to increase tax receipts by about 8.6 million in 2010, $8.1 million in 2011, $8.0 million in 2012, and $8.4 million in 2013. By the end of the 3rd Quarter in 2014, Sales & Use Tax was estimated to end the year around $194.4 million, slightly higher than the budget of $194.1 million.

RTA has been diligent in maintaining a sustainable budget, however, as levels of Federal and State funding are questionable, keeping a sustainable budget remains difficult. A proposal to cut Federal Funding by 30% for 6 years ($15 million annually) was deferred until September 2014 when President Obama signed a Transportation Bill in July 2012. This bill decreased Federal funding to RTA by $4 million due to the funding formula based on population from the 2010 Census. The Authority is in a much improved financial situation but challenges still remain.

Fund Budgets

All Funds Balance Analysis

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Budget	2016 Plan	2017 Plan
Beginning Balance	**74,912,187**	**97,673,401**	**86,680,970**	**66,712,510**	**52,628,814**	**19,419,042**
Revenue						
Passenger Fares	49,237,857	48,699,580	49,314,054	49,905,823	50,504,693	51,110,749
Sales & Use Tax	181,219,251	189,630,645	194,415,153	198,692,286	203,063,517	207,530,914
Federal	33,570,510	59,795,463	62,075,000	71,321,250	65,981,250	62,562,500
State	6,389,010	4,153,693	5,863,558	4,809,658	3,809,658	3,809,658
Investment Income	380,932	361,292	321,665	341,625	365,625	390,875
Other Revenue	28,275,857	21,965,425	23,450,171	27,473,518	25,355,000	25,355,000
General Obligation Debt Proceeds	25,000,000	0	0	25,000,000	0	20,000,000
Total Revenue	**324,073,417**	**324,606,098**	**335,439,601**	**377,544,160**	**349,079,743**	**370,759,696**
Total Resources	**398,985,604**	**422,279,499**	**422,120,570**	**444,256,670**	**401,708,557**	**390,178,738**
Expenditures						
Personnel Services	163,776,230	169,098,188	178,556,180	182,772,756	186,879,434	189,873,943
Diesel Fuel	12,632,036	13,956,183	14,504,860	13,440,000	10,880,000	10,080,000
Natural Gas	0	1,388,300	1,292,600	1,506,000	2,291,000	2,510,000
Other Expenditures	47,936,217	48,408,463	49,697,195	60,049,126	58,523,574	58,949,667
Capital Outlay	56,201,045	82,000,787	91,350,000	111,350,000	101,200,000	90,850,000
Debt Service	20,766,675	20,746,608	20,007,225	22,509,974	22,515,507	17,156,594
Total Expenditures	**301,312,203**	**335,598,529**	**355,408,061**	**391,627,856**	**382,289,515**	**369,420,204**
Available Ending Balance	**97,673,401**	**86,680,970**	**66,712,510**	**52,628,814**	**19,419,042**	**20,758,534**

Figure 2

General Fund

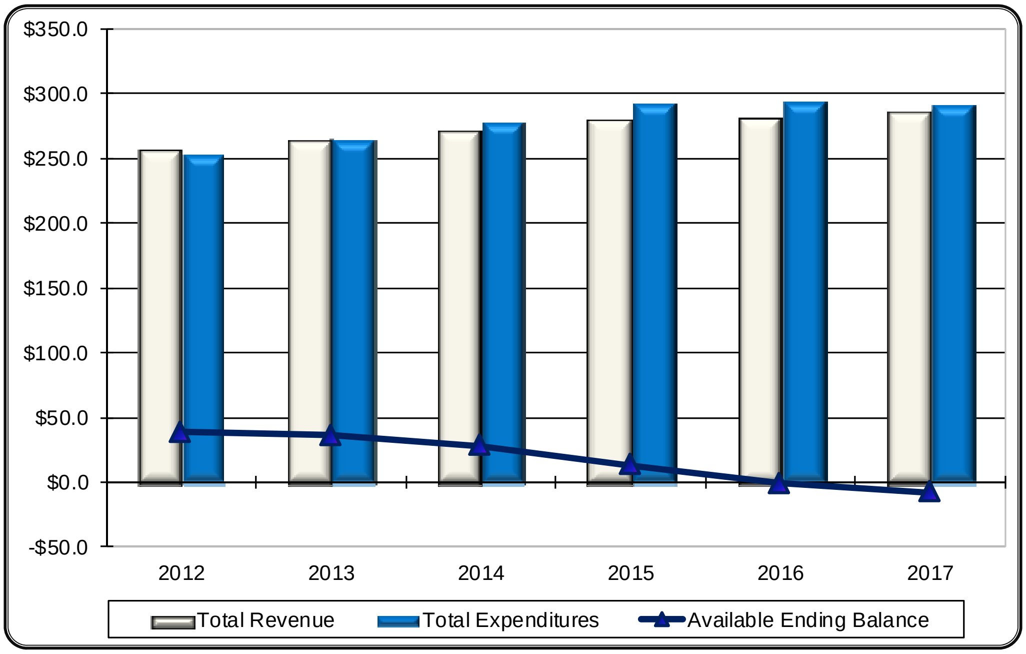
Balance Analysis

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Authority and accounts for all revenue and expenditures except for activities related to capital improvements, debt service, catastrophic/extraordinary losses, and supplemental pension benefits. The combination of dramatic sales tax reduction, increasing personnel costs, and volatile fuel/utility costs had created a discouraging outlook through 2009.

From 2006 to 2009, the revenue and expense mismatch grew steadily. The Authority had to dip into prior year fund balances to cover current year expenses. In 2009, the Sales & Use Tax receipts dropped 10.9% due to the recession and the General Fund balance dropped sharply but with the help of one-time funding, the ending balance totaled $2.9 million. In 2010, hard decisions had to be made, including a 12% service reduction and closing Harvard Garage on weekends, both implemented in April. In September, Harvard Garage was closed altogether. A combination of a 5.6% recovery in Sales Tax, additional one-time grant funding, an increase in reimbursed expenditures, and continuous monitoring of operating expenses, the ending balance grew to $20.4 million. To help alleviate the stress of another recession, a reserve of $4.6 million was subtracted from the ending balance. In 2011, customers were promised that the year would end without service decreases or fare increases. Sales & Use Tax ended the year with a 6.1% increase, which helped to achieve that goal.

Fund Budgets

As highlighted in the **Citizens Summary**, meeting the one-month reserve policy has been a challenge over the last decade. This goal was last met between 1994 and 1996. Since then the reserve policy has not been met, fluctuating between a low of a 0.1 months reserve in 2009, to a high of a 0.9 months reserve in 2005 and 2006.



	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
Beginning Balance	$36.8	$38.8	$36.3	$28.3	$13.1	($1.1)
Total Revenue	**$256.9**	**$264.1**	**$271.9**	**$279.7**	**$281.5**	**$286.6**
Total Resources	$293.8	$302.9	$308.2	$308.0	$294.6	$285.5
Operating Expenses	$222.9	$231.0	$242.0	$255.1	$255.9	$258.8
Fund Transfers	$32.1	$35.6	$37.9	$39.7	$39.9	$34.4
Total Expenditures	**$255.0**	**$266.6**	**$279.9**	**$294.9**	**$295.8**	**$293.1**
Available Ending Balance	**$38.8**	**$36.3**	**$28.3**	**$13.1**	**($1.1)**	**($7.6)**

Figure 3

In 2010, this goal was finally met at 1.2 months reserve, with the help of a 5.6% increase in Sales & Use Tax revenue. Since 2010, every year the goal has been met with 2011 at 2.1, 2012 at 2.1 months, 2013 at 1.9 months and the projection for 2014 is 1.4 months.

The Authority has continued to control costs and aggressively execute the budget. In addition to this normal level of activity, the Authority implemented TransitStat in 2008, a data-driven performance management initiative, to review operations, seek improvements, and further reduce costs. These actions have increased accountability and helped increase efficiency and effectiveness. In 2013, Reimbursed Expenditures were reduced to increase the amount of funding for Capital Projects.

The Authority rolled back expenses in 2010 to 2004 levels. Sales tax recovered and is now the highest in history at $181.2 million. Expenses have been held to the six-year rollback. Consequently, year-end balances have markedly improved. The goal for the operating reserve has been met or exceeded in 2010 through 2013. Excellent budget execution allowed the 2012 ending balance to remain at the 2011 level. RTA is beginning to meet its goal of a sustainable General Fund balance. The work and results of the past four years must be continued in 2015 and beyond.

General Fund Balance Analysis

	2012 Aud.Exp	2013 Aud. Exp	2014 Estimate	2015 Budget	2016 Plan	2017 Plan
Beginning Balance	**36,822,635**	**38,769,328**	**36,295,022**	**28,303,497**	**13,105,324**	**-1,145,186**
Revenue						
Passenger Fares	49,237,857	48,699,580	49,314,054	49,905,823	50,504,693	51,110,749
Advertising & Concessions	1,375,671	1,400,191	1,350,000	1,220,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Sales & Use Tax	181,219,251	189,630,645	194,415,153	198,692,286	203,063,517	207,530,914
CMAQ Reimbursement - Healthline	2,128,337	0	0	0	0	0
Operating Assistance - Paratransit Operations	3,125,000	3,889,000	4,132,736	3,125,000	2,125,000	2,125,000
Paratransit Management	0	0	0	300,000	300,000	300,000
CMAQ Reimbursement - Trolley	0	950,000	950,000	950,000	0	0
Access to Jobs Program	1,712,976	2,927,754	2,292,733	1,098,518	0	0
Investment Income	201,267	200,188	225,000	225,000	250,000	275,000
Other Revenue	971,146	1,177,962	1,440,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
Reimbursed Expenditures	16,955,634	15,217,046	17,756,264	23,050,000	23,000,000	23,000,000
Total Revenue	**256,927,139**	**264,092,366**	**271,875,940**	**279,666,627**	**281,543,210**	**286,641,663**
Total Resources	**293,749,774**	**302,861,694**	**308,170,962**	**307,970,125**	**294,648,534**	**285,496,477**
Operating Expenditures						
Personnel Services	163,776,230	169,098,188	178,556,180	182,772,756	186,879,434	189,873,943
Diesel Fuel	12,632,036	13,956,183	14,504,860	13,440,000	10,880,000	10,080,000
Natural Gas	0	1,388,300	1,292,600	1,506,000	2,291,000	2,510,000
Other Expenditures	46,448,294	46,529,565	47,658,165	57,397,126	55,879,599	56,294,654
Total Operating Expenditures	222,856,560	230,972,236	242,011,806	255,115,882	255,930,033	258,758,597
Transfer to the Insurance Fund	1,000,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,500,000	2,400,000	2,500,000
Transfer to the Pension Fund	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Transfers to Capital						
Bond Retirement Fund	19,386,891	18,324,392	20,480,914	22,615,956	22,515,007	17,131,593
Capital Improvement Fund	11,636,995	15,770,044	15,874,745	15,532,963	14,848,680	14,620,654
Total Transfers to Capital	31,023,886	34,094,435	36,355,659	38,148,919	37,363,687	31,752,247
Total Expenditures	**254,980,446**	**266,566,672**	**279,867,464**	**294,864,801**	**295,793,720**	**293,110,844**
Ending Balance	38,769,328	36,295,022	28,303,497	13,105,324	-1,145,186	-7,614,368
Brookpark Lightning Strike Reserve Funds	1,100,000	0	0	0	0	0
Rolling Stock Reserve Funds	7,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
Reserved Funds	6,840,000	6,900,000	6,900,000	0	0	0
Available Ending Balance	**23,829,328**	**29,395,022**	**21,403,497**	**13,105,323**	**-1,145,187**	**-7,614,369**

Figure 4

Fund Budgets

Revenues

Revenue is received from a number of sources to support activity in the General Fund. A discussion of the major sources of General Fund revenue follows.

In 2008, Sales & Use Tax and Passenger Fare Revenue represented just over 55.7%, or $221.7 million, of total Authority revenue. Federal capital assistance, combined with State and Local capital grant assistance, all intergovernmental sources of revenue accounted for 24.0%, or a total of $95.5 million.

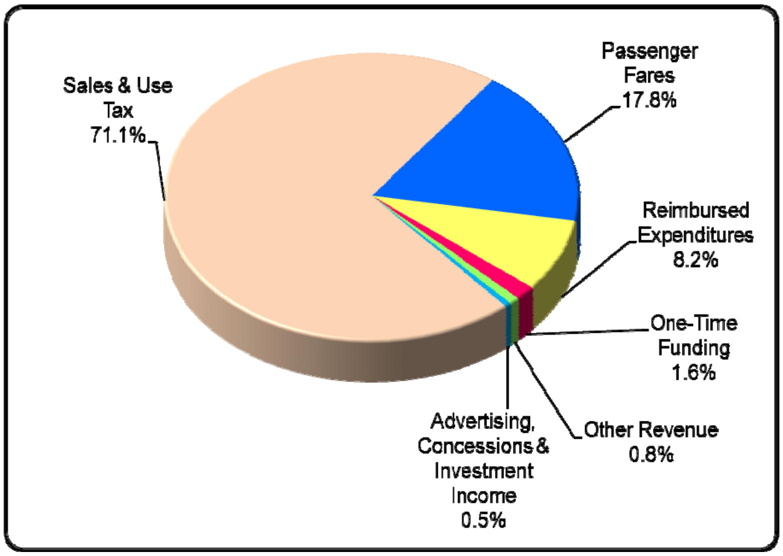


Figure 5

In 2009, revenues dropped primarily due to the sharp drop in Sales & Use Tax revenue. Sales & Use Tax combined with Passenger Fare Revenue, totaled 58.8% or $204.3 million of total revenue. Intergovernmental revenue totaled 27.4% or $95.3 million of total revenue. Sales & Use Tax revenue for 2010 increased to $163.2 million, mainly due to the addition of managed health care to the tax base; and in 2011, Sales & Use Tax receipts increased 6.1% above 2010 receipts. Intergovernmental sources (Federal and State assistance) were reduced from 19.2% of the total revenue in 2010 to 14.6% of the revenue in 2011, with reimbursed expenditures decreasing by $13.6 million. In 2012, Passenger Fare revenue increased 2.5% above 2011 and Sales & Use Tax receipts increased 4.6%, compared to 2011 figures.

Revenues for 2014 are projected at $271.9 million. Passenger Fares are estimated to increase by 1.3%, compared to 2013 and Sales & Use Tax is projected to end the year 2.5% above 2013 receipts. Intergovernmental sources (Federal and State assistance) are projected to be 2.7% of total revenue, and reimbursed expenditures projected at $17.8 million.

Sales & Use Tax

The Authority's major source of revenue is a one percent Sales and Use Tax on sales of tangible personal property and on other transactions subject to the State Sales and Use Tax within the boundaries of Cuyahoga County. The one percent tax is of unlimited duration and was approved by the voters of Cuyahoga County in July 1975. The tax is levied and collected at the same time and on the same transactions as the permanent five percent Sales and Use Tax levied by the State, plus the one-half percent temporary state sales tax, one-quarter percent levied for the Medical Mart, and the one percent tax levied by Cuyahoga County. The tax is administered and enforced by State taxing authorities and is distributed on a monthly basis, approximately two months following the collection of the tax by the State (three months after the tax is paid by consumers).

In late 2009, Managed Health Care was added to the tax base. In December 2013, Medicaid Managed Care Premiums were approved to be added to the tax base, starting April 1, 2014.

This change is anticipated to bring an additional $1.5 million to $2.0 million to the Sales & Use Tax receipts, although these increases have not been seen in the 2014 monthly receipts.

Beginning in 1989, Board policy required that a minimum of ten percent of annual Sales and Use Tax revenues be dedicated to capital improvements. The presentation of Sales Tax revenue (as reported in Figure 4) indicates total receipts, not the approximately 90% that is actually used to fund operations.

Sales tax receipts dedicated to capital improvements are reported as a fund transfer from the General Fund to the RTA Capital Fund. However, in the Authority's accounting records, sales tax receipts dedicated to capital improvements are treated as direct revenue to the RTA Capital Fund, not as a transfer. In 1995, the direct contribution was further defined to include the transfer to the Bond Retirement Fund.

In the past, even in slower economic growth periods, the sales tax has performed relatively well. Sales tax receipts in 1994 showed an 11.2% increase, decreasing to 7.6% in 1995 and to 3.2% in 1996. A more stable growth pattern was seen between 1997 and 2000 as the growth rate ranged between 4.8% and 6.3% during these years. Since 2001 though, the picture has been much different with minimal growth rates and some years of negative growth. The last solid increase of 5.3% occurred in 2004. Since 2010, Sales Tax receipts have been increasing above 4.0% with 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 at 5.6%, 6.1%, 4.6%, and 4.6% respectively. Receipts projected for 2014 are at a slower growth rate of 2.5% and receipts for 2015 are budgeted at 2.2%. Although the increases are significant, they are lessening each year. A graph of the Sales & Use Tax receipts from the past 20 years is shown in Figure 6.

The increase from Managed Health Care receipts has encompassed most of the growth in Sales & Use Tax receipts for 2010 through 2013. The transfer to capital for 2015 is budgeted at 19.2%. The Fourth District Federal Reserve is projecting economic growth over 2% for 2015.

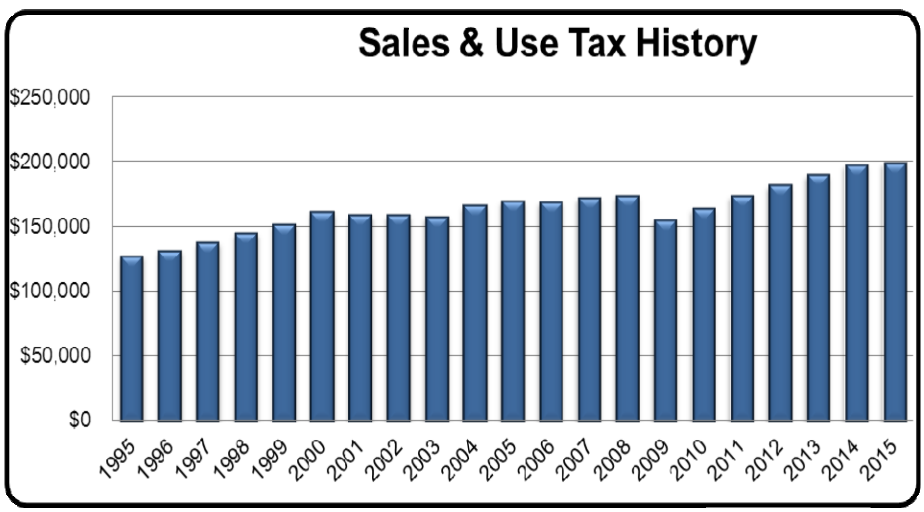


Figure 6

Passenger Fares

Passenger Fares are the second largest source of revenue to the General Fund, comprising 18.5% of the total estimated revenue in 2013, and 18.1% for 2014. The $49.9 million budgeted in 2015 does not include an additional $3.2 million from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for student passes in 2013 and 2014. Passenger fares consist of cash farebox revenue from Authority trains and buses, charges for elderly, handicapped, and special services, and sales of passes and tickets from various vendors within Cuyahoga County.

Fund Budgets

From 2003 to 2008, the Authority registered annual ridership increases each year, bringing the accomplishment to six consecutive years of ridership growth. However, during the period between 2003 and 2005, passenger fare revenue lagged behind ridership due to modifications in the fare policies and changes in customer travel patterns. Therefore, in 2006 the Board of Trustees approved a two-phase fare increase effective in July 2006 and January 2008. This action helped boost fare revenue during these years.

Fuel prices increased dramatically in 2008 and a fuel surcharge of 25 cents was added in October and another 25 cents was deferred until 2009, and then executed in the first quarter. In addition a service reduction was implemented. In 2009, the national recession affected North East Ohio with 11% unemployment and Passenger Fare revenue dropped 8.6% from budgeted levels. RTA adjusted service levels in 2010 and implemented a 12% service reduction in April and minor service changes throughout the remainder of the year.

In 2011 and 2012, passenger fares increased 1.8% and 2.5%, respectively. This change is entirely attributable to increased ridership due to the restoration of some service, an expected decline in unemployment and rising fuel prices. Passenger Fares are projected to end 2014 at $49.3 million, or a 1.3% increase from 2013. For 2015, Passenger Fares are expected to increase by only 1.2%, compared to 2014 estimated receipts. A graph of the past 20 years of Passenger Fare Revenue is shown in Figure 7.

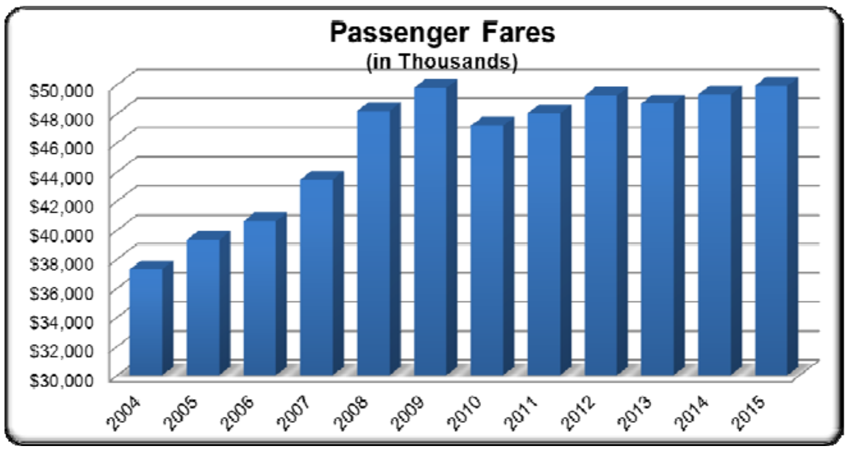


Figure 7

Investment Income

The Authority pursues an aggressive cash management and investment program in order to achieve maximum financial return on all available funds. Idle cash balances are invested at the best interest rates available within the constraints imposed by State law and RTA financial policies. Current policy permits the Investment Officer to invest idle cash in certificates of deposit or repurchase agreements with depositories designated by the Board of Trustees, in U.S. Government securities, in securities of agencies, which are guaranteed by the U.S. Government, and in the State investment pool (Star Ohio).

Investment income steadily increased from 2005 to 2008 as ending balances increased. For 2009 and 2010 investment income dropped 76.0% and 63.9%, respectively, as a result of significantly lower balances and Federal Reserve actions lowering short-term rates. In 2012 through 2014, Investment Income ended the year above $200,000, as ending balances remained high. For 2015 through 2017, Investment Income is projected to remain above $200,000 for each year. However, interest earned on General Fund investments varies depending upon the timing of revenue receipts, expenditures, and the transfers made to other funds (shifting interest earnings from the General Fund to other funds).

Fund Budgets

Advertising & Concessions

Another source of income is the Authority's contract to place advertisements upon buses and trains. A 3-year contract was signed in late 2011 guaranteeing $725,000 with a potential to increase this to $1 million. In addition, the Authority will receive $125,000 (net) from the HealthLine naming rights contract and entered into a new contract in 2014 with Cleveland State University for the naming rights of the West Shore Express, now called the Cleveland State Line. The Authority received 1.4 million in 2012 and $1.4 in 2013 for Advertising and Naming Rights. The Authority is projected to receive $1.4 million in 2014. For 2015 through 2017, the projection for Advertising and Concessions is $1.2 million each year.

Federal Operating Assistance

Federal operating grants are no longer received from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for general operating assistance. This source of revenue, at one time very significant, was eliminated in 1999 and will not be restored in the foreseeable future. Prior to 1999, Federal operating grant dollars had been drawn down based on cash flow requirements in the General Fund. The amount and timing of revenue received from this source in any year fluctuated, based on the Authority's ability to drawdown these funds and the amount of the grant.

Although direct Federal Operating Assistance was eliminated, the Authority was given the ability to use capital formula grant awards to reimburse the Operating Budget for preventive maintenance expenditures which it has done so to varying degrees in recent years. Though utilizing the flexibility provided has helped to support the Authority's level of service, as revenue challenges have arisen and been met over the years, it represents an ongoing disinvestment in the Authority's capital infrastructure in favor of maintaining service levels. Further explanations of revenues from this source are presented under Reimbursed Expenditures and Other Revenue.

State Operating Assistance

State operating funds are received from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for elderly and handicapped assistance. These funds are awarded annually and correspond to the state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). In 1999, nearly $5 million of State Operating Assistance was completely eliminated with an equivalent amount given as a capital grant. The same was true in 2000 – 2004, though flexibility was given to allow the capitalization of operating expenses, but beginning in 2005, its use for capitalized operating assistance was limited.

In 2007, $2.2 million was awarded and received from the state for elderly and handicapped fare assistance. The 2008 award for elderly and handicapped fare assistance was reduced and delayed until 2009 when the combined amount received for the two years was $2.76 million. In 2010, the amount received for elderly and handicapped fare assistance was further reduced to $619,057. In 2011, the State halted all funding in this category and has no plans to reinstate it in the future.

Fund Budgets

Reimbursed Expenditures and Other Revenue

Reimbursed expenditures include grant funded reimbursements of expenses within the General Fund and include Preventive Maintenance (PM) activities; expense reimbursements for the Access to Jobs program, Paratransit, HealthLine and Trolley operations; for labor costs associated with the capital program; fuel tax refunds on diesel and gasoline purchases from the State of Ohio; and one-time fuel cost reimbursements from the State of Ohio. In 2008, these sources contributed $36.6 million, or nearly 14% of total General Fund revenue. In response to the dramatic decrease in Sales & Use Tax revenue during 2009, these sources grew to a combined $45.96 million, or 17.4% of total revenue, to the General Fund and further increased in 2010 to $53.1 million or 19.9% of total revenue as several non-traditional capital grants were identified for the HealthLine and Trolley Operations.

In 2011, revenue from these sources decreased to $38.4 million, or 14.6%, as revenue from the Sales & Use Tax improved and the State Funding Fuel Initiative expired. These revenues decreased again in 2012 to $21.9 million, or 8.6% of total revenue, as the grant reimbursements for the HealthLine and Trolley Operations expire and as the Sales & Use Tax continues to improve. Additionally, in 2013, the Authority reduced Reimbursed Expenditures, specifically preventive maintenance, to $15.2 million to increase the funding for additional Capital Projects such as the S-Curve and Airport Tunnel. A CMAQ grant was approved for the three new Trolley Lines in late 2012, but reimbursements for these new routes started in 2013 and ending in 2015. For 2015 through 2017, the Authority expects to receive Operating Assistance for Paratransit Operations from NOACA. The Access to Jobs program ended in 2014 with the new MAP21 program but receipts will continue through March of 2015. If additional funding for this program is not located, the program will end April 1st.

Other Revenues of approximately $1.0 million includes contractor and hospitalization reimbursements, rent, salvage sales, and claims receipts, among other miscellaneous receipts. The amounts received from these sources have fluctuated over the years due to one-time receipts settlements and miscellaneous reimbursements.

Expenditures

As discussed in the Citizens Summary, due to the great recession in 2008 and 2009, the Authority had to implement some drastic changes in 2010 and 2011 in order to improve the financial outlook. The 2012 budget was approved providing stability to the fares, service levels, and staffing. A 4.3% service increase was budgeted to alleviate overcrowding on the rail lines and some bus routes. As a result, a net increase of 50 positions was included in the budget. Fuel costs have been controlled and stabilized through the fuel-hedging program and electricity costs were reduced through reconciliation and monitoring of all accounts. Figure 8 represents the General Fund Expenditures from 2012 through 2015 and the two projected out years, and the ending balances for each year. The implemented changes in 2010 and 2011 helped to not only decrease the expenditures, but also increase the ending balance from 2010 through 2012.

In 2013, a 5% service increase was added to alleviate overcrowding on rail and bus lines and the annualization of three new Downtown Trolley routes. With the completion of the HRV Exterior Overhaul, 15 of the 22 positions were eliminated. Employees who were in the eliminated positions were moved into vacant positions. As a result of all of these measures, 20 positions were added in 2013, totaling 2,302.5 positions.

Fund Budgets

For 2014, a total of 46 positions were added to the Budget. Additional operators were added to address overcrowding and increase efficiencies in the service plan. A new ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) Department was created, eliminating the current IT (Information Technology) Department. These changes created six new positions, eliminate the IT Director position, and moved four positions from other departments into ITS. An additional 8 positions were added to the 2014 budget to address efficiencies in Transit Police and Fleet Management.

After much deliberation, it was decided that the three positions that were to transfer from Operations to ITS would in fact, stay in Operations and Operations would trade three other positions instead. The funding for Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) program, which provides vanpool service for Welfare to Work initiatives, has been eliminated in the new Transportation Bill, MAP21, and no alternative funding was created. The current grant funds will run out in the first quarter of 2015. The two positions created for this program are budgeted through the first quarter. If funding to extend this program can be identified, these positions will remain in the 2015 budget. If not, these two positions will be eliminated. The FOP has agreed to a new contract continuing to match wage increases with revenues. For 2014, Sales & Use Tax and Passenger Fares are projected to increase by 2.4%, compared to revenues in 2013. The wage increase for 2015, then, is budgeted at 2.4%, aligning with these receipts.

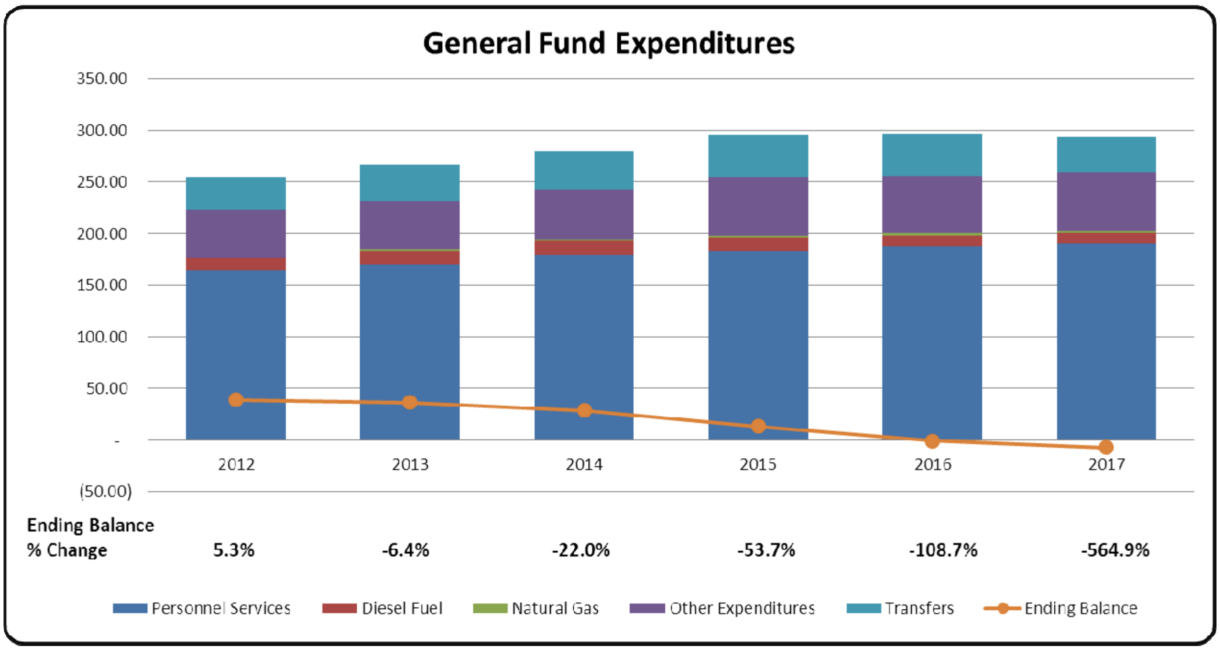


Figure 8

On the Administrative side, a Wellness Coordinator was added to the 2015 budget. This position would create a wellness strategic plan, oversee the wellness programs, and work with the healthcare vendors and employees to ensure that participants are utilizing the services available. A return on investment for this position is expected to be three times the cost of the position itself. A part-time Safety Awareness Coordinator is budgeted in 2015. This position was eliminated in the 2014 budget but has been returned after a grievance ruling. In order to cut costs, ten administrative positions will remain vacant during 2015. The position count for these ten positions will remain, but the funding has not been budgeted.

Fund Budgets

Personnel costs include salaries, overtime, and fringe benefits and are budgeted at $182.9 million, an increase of $4 million, or 2.4%, from 2014 projections. This includes not only the budgeted positions but also includes increases in health care costs, and a 2.4% wage increase for FOP, ATU, and Non-Bargaining employees.

Transfers to other funds within the Authority place additional financial pressures on the General Fund. The transfer for bond retirement has grown from $14.8 million in 2008 to a projected $22.6 million in 2015 to cover increases in debt service payments. A State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan was paid off early in 2011, saving over $1.2 million, which will help to decrease the transfer to the Bond Retirement Fund for 2013 to $18.3 million. The transfer will remain steady in the future, at $22.5 million in 2016 and reduce to $17.1 million in 2017 reflecting actual debt payments.

In 2013, transfers to support the capital program totaled $15.8 million, and in 2014 and 2015 are projected at 15.9 million and $15.5 million, respectively, to meet the demands for local funding by the Authority's capital program. The Authority's capital program continues to be developed in line with existing grant awards, but the need for local match funds continues at high levels due to a large number of operating expense reimbursement grants and the need to supplement available grant funds.

Areas of Expenditure Growth
2015 Budget

2014 Projected Operating Expenses		**$242,011,806**	
Compensation Issues		**$ 5,096,576**	**2.85%**
Hourly & Salary Labor Increase	$ 3,974,631		
Fringe Benefits	$ 1,121,945		
Fuel / Utilities		**$ 378,984**	**1.59%**
Diesel Fuel	$ (1,064,860)		
Propulsion Power	$ (38,388)		
Natural Gas	$ 545,405		
Other Utilities	$ 936,827		
Service Opportunities		**$ 7,293,794**	**21.96%**
Purchased Transportation	$ 685,293		
Services	$ 4,154,661		
Materials & Supplies	$ 883,498		
Inventory	$ 1,427,549		
NAPA Contract	$ 142,793		
Administration Changes		**$ 334,722**	**5.18%**
10 Administrative Positions (Held)	$ (880,000)		
Liabilities	$ 530,795		
Other (Net)	$ 683,927		
Expenditure Growth		**$ 13,104,076**	**5.41%**
2015 Budgeted Operating Expenditures		**$255,115,881**	

Figure 9

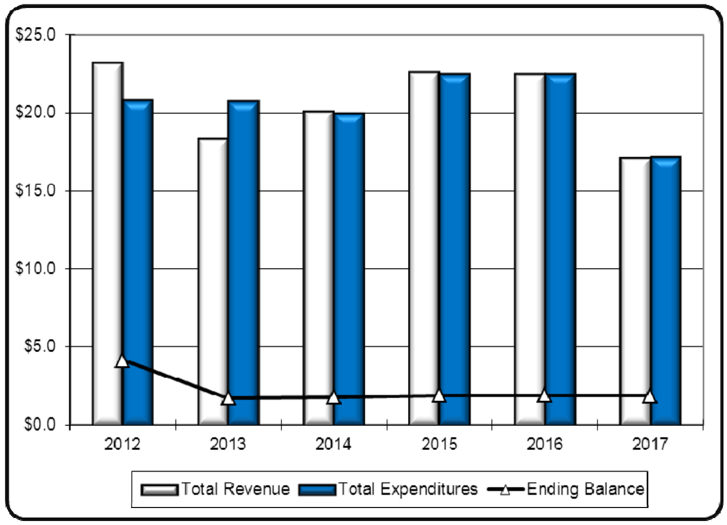
Fund Budgets

When combined with transfers for debt service payments, total capital contribution exceeds the maximum 15% level from the General Fund recommended by the Authority's financial policies. In 2014, due to the need of additional financial resources in the capital fund for the upcoming bus replacement purchases, the capital contribution is projected to increase to 18.7%, of all revenue from Sales & Use Tax collections. In 2015 is budgeted at $38.1 million, or 19.2%, and the two out years at $37.4 million and $31.8 million, or 18.4% and 15.3%, respectively. To maintain the proper balance in the Insurance and Pension Funds, transfers of $1.5 million and $100,000, respectively, are needed in 2015. In 2016 and 2017, the Insurance Fund transfer will increase to $2.4 million for 2016 and $2.5 million for 2017. The Pension Fund is projected to need transfers of $100,000 in both years.

Fund Budgets

Bond Retirement Fund

The Bond Retirement Fund accounts for resources set aside for the payment of principal and interest on debt obligations. At the end of 2014, the Authority has five General Obligation (G.O.) Bond Issues outstanding and outstanding debt of $123.9 million. The policy of the Authority is to set aside resources transferred from the General Fund on a monthly basis to meet the current year's annual principal and semiannual interest payments. Under this system, the Bond Retirement Fund balance drops below one thousand dollars each December 1st.



In Figure FB-10, each year's ending balance generally represents one-twelfth of the subsequent year's debt service requirement, which is set-aside on the last day of each year. Thus, the ending balance in this fund remains relatively low at all times. During FY 2013, the Authority retired $14.5 million in principal and pay nearly $6.3 million in interest on its outstanding long-term debt. In 2014, there was a refinancing issue of $29.7 million. The next debt issuance is scheduled for the first quarter of 2015 for $25.0 million.

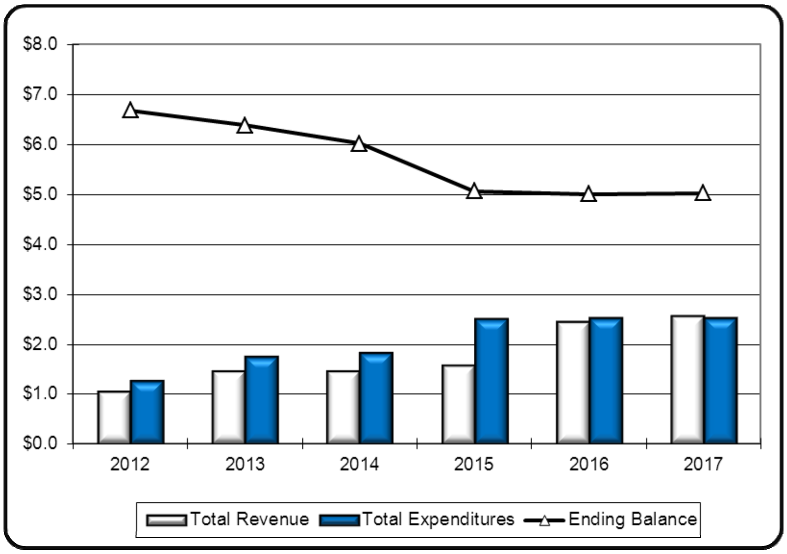
Long-term debt for the Authority includes both debt and refunding debt sales from 2004 through 2012. These include a combined $42.39 million issuance of revenue bonds in FY 2012 for $25.0 million of new debt and a $17.4 million refinancing issuance, a $35.0 million issuance and $27.4 million refunding issuance in 2008, a 2006 debt sale of $38.5 million, and $67.2 million of debt issued in 2004. Required transfers from the General Fund to make these payments are reduced by interest earned in the Bond Retirement Fund. For the 2015 Budget, a transfer of $22.6 million will be required from the General Fund to cover the current overall debt service of the Authority.

Bond Retirement Fund Balance Analysis

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Budget	2016 Plan	2017 Plan
Beginning Balance	**1,702,726**	**4,119,818**	**1,710,131**	**1,775,018**	**1,882,000**	**1,881,500**
Revenue						
Transfer from General Fund	19,386,891	18,324,392	20,480,914	22,615,956	22,515,007	17,131,593
Investment Income	23,086	12,502	1,945	2,500	2,500	2,500
Bond Premium Proceeds	3,779,561	0	0	0	0	0
Other Revenue	10	27	-445,748	0	0	0
Total Revenue	**23,189,548**	**18,336,921**	**20,037,111**	**22,618,456**	**22,517,507**	**17,134,093**
Reconciling Journal Entry	**0**	**0**	35,001	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Resources	**24,892,274**	**22,456,739**	**21,782,243**	**24,393,474**	**24,399,507**	**19,015,593**
Expenditures						
Debt Service						
Principal	13,990,000	13,895,000	14,475,000	16,154,544	16,858,126	11,833,675
Interest	6,776,675	6,851,608	5,532,225	6,355,430	5,657,381	5,322,919
Other Expenditures	5,781	0	0	1,500	2,500	2,500
Total Expenditures	**20,772,456**	**20,746,608**	**20,007,225**	**22,511,474**	**22,518,007**	**17,159,094**
Ending Balance	**4,119,818**	**1,710,131**	**1,775,018**	**1,882,000**	**1,881,500**	**1,856,499**

Fund Budgets

Insurance Fund



The Insurance Fund is used to account for resources, which have been reserved to protect the Authority against future catastrophic or extraordinary losses, as the Authority is currently self-insured in all areas except personal property and equipment. In the late-nineties, expenditures for the settlement of unusual or extraordinary claims as well as for insurance premiums stressed this fund. Up through 1999, $5 million was required as the fund minimum balance. From 2000 through 2003, unexpected claim costs required an increase in the balance to $7.5 million. In 2004, the minimum balance was returned to the original $5.0 million.

A portion of the self-insurance fund was liquidated and replaced with purchased insurance coverage in 1999. According to the Authority's financial policies, the Risk Manager on an annual basis determines the minimum balance required in the Insurance Fund.

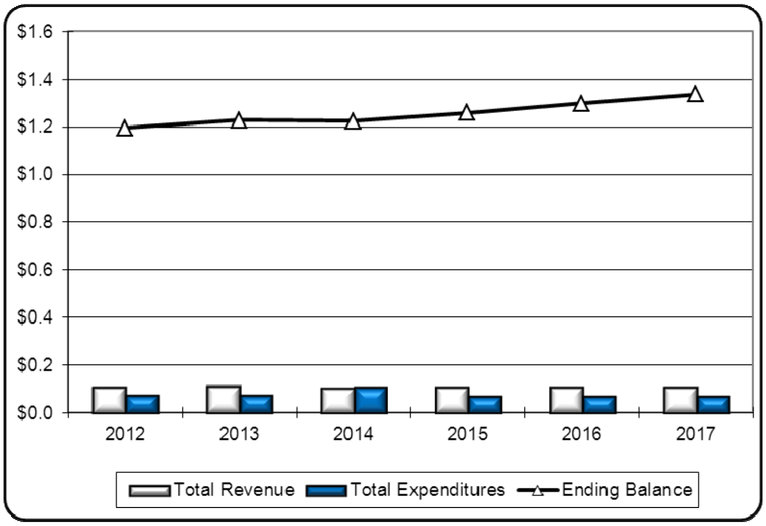
In 2012 through 2014, transfers of $1.0 million, $1.4 million, and $1.4 million were made from the General Fund to the Insurance Fund. Lower claims and premium payments helped to increase the ending balance to over $6.0 million. In 2015, 2016, and 2017, transfers of $2.5 million each year will be needed to maintain the required minimum balance.

Insurance Fund Balance Analysis

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Budget	2016 Plan	2017 Plan
Beginning Balance	**6,883,060**	**6,678,594**	**6,384,153**	**6,018,131**	**5,068,131**	**5,005,656**
Revenue						
Investment Income	34,928	39,881	28,978	45,000	45,000	45,000
Transfer from General Fund	1,000,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,500,000	2,400,000	2,500,000
Total Revenue	**1,034,928**	**1,439,881**	**1,428,978**	**1,545,000**	**2,445,000**	**2,545,000**
Total Resources	**7,917,988**	**8,118,475**	**7,813,131**	**7,563,131**	**7,513,131**	**7,550,656**
Expenditures						
Claims and Premium Outlay	1,231,929	1,734,322	1,795,000	2,495,000	2,507,475	2,520,012
Other Expenditures	7,465	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	**1,239,394**	**1,734,322**	**1,795,000**	**2,495,000**	**2,507,475**	**2,520,012**
Ending Balance	**6,678,594**	**6,384,153**	**6,018,131**	**5,068,131**	**5,005,656**	**5,030,644**

Fund Budgets

Supplemental Pension Fund



The Supplemental Pension Fund (Pension/Deferred Compensation Trust and Agency Fund) was established to account for assets held by the Authority in a trustee capacity for payments of benefits relating primarily to certain retired employees of the Authority and its predecessor transit systems. Since 1986, the Pension Fund also has been used to account for funds on deposit with the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board. The Authority has no control over these funds, but is required to account for them in a trust and agency fund according to governmental accounting standards.

An actuarial evaluation is performed every two years to assess the adequacy of the fund balance. This Budget increases and maintains the fund balance at levels recommended in the last actuarial evaluation. Transfers of $100,000 will be made from the General Fund to support this effort in 2015, 2016, and 2017, but these amounts may change with the results of the next actuarial study.

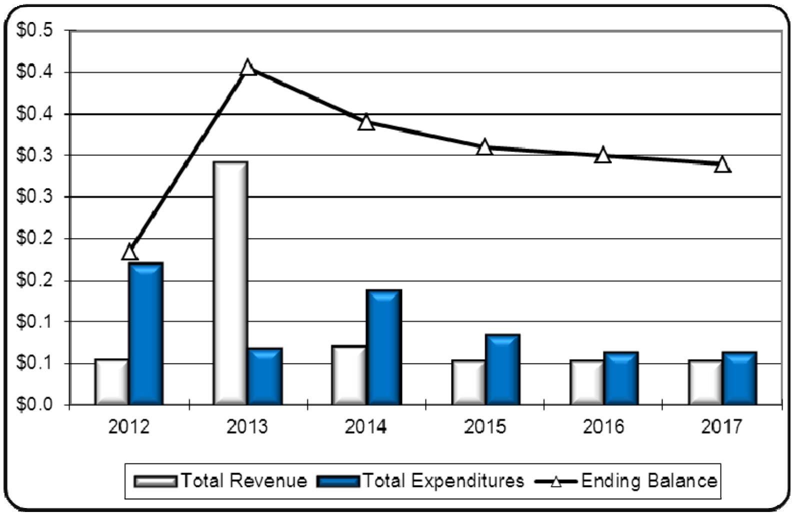
Benefit payments from this fund between 2005 and 2009 have ranged from a low of nearly $88,000 in 2005 to a high of just under $95,000 in the following year. In 2014, payments will be approximately $76,500. In 2015 through 2017, payments of $70,500, $69,000, and $67,500, respectively, are projected. The ending balance in the fund is projected to be stable over the next three years.

Supplemental Pension Fund Balance Analysis

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Budget	2016 Plan	2017 Plan
Beginning Balance	**1,161,820**	**1,195,091**	**1,228,490**	**1,223,682**	**1,259,682**	**1,297,432**
Revenue						
Investment Income	6,183	7,752	1,722	6,500	6,750	6,750
Transfer from General Fund	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total Revenue	**106,183**	**107,752**	**101,722**	**106,500**	**106,750**	**106,750**
Total Resources	**1,268,003**	**1,302,843**	**1,330,212**	**1,330,182**	**1,366,432**	**1,404,182**
Expenditures						
Benefit Payments	72,912	74,353	76,538	70,500	69,000	67,500
Other Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	**72,912**	**74,353**	**76,538**	**70,500**	**69,000**	**67,500**
Reconciling Journal Entry	0	0	29,992	0	0	0
Ending Balance	**1,195,091**	**1,228,490**	**1,223,682**	**1,259,682**	**1,297,432**	**1,336,682**

Fund Budgets

Law Enforcement Fund



In 1988, RTA became involved with the Northern Ohio Law Enforcement Task Force (NOLETF), a multi-jurisdictional force (formerly known as the Caribbean/ Gang Task Force). The Authority's involvement was prompted by the increasing gang activity found in and around the rail system and the need to obtain intelligence in this area. In addition to the benefits of intelligence gathering and improved inter-department relations, the GCRTA derives revenue from seized and confiscated monies and/or properties of convicted drug dealers prosecuted by the Task Force.

Revenue obtained through the Task Force can be expended for non-budgeted police items. The Authority primarily uses these proceeds for unbudgeted capital items. Furthermore, certain guidelines have been instituted by the State Attorney General's Office for the reporting of and disbursement of funds. Expenditures within this fund have varied over the years, depending upon the levels of revenue obtained through the Task Force. These expenditures funded security items, protective equipment, and technical training equipment. The expenditures projected in 2014, 2015, and 2016 are from previously appropriated budget authority and encumbrances from prior years. The only other activities expected in this fund in FY 2015 are investment earnings of $125 and other revenue of $55,000.

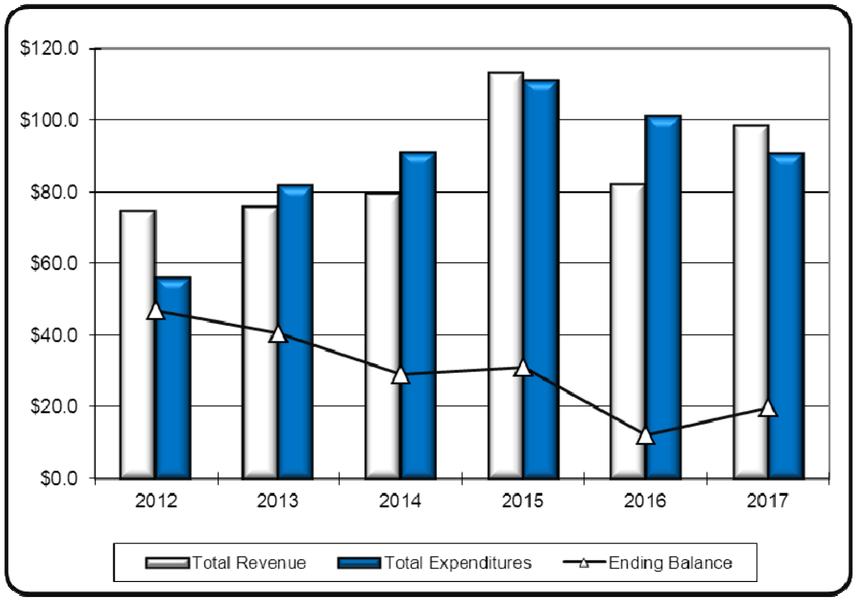
Law Enforcement Fund Balance Analysis

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Budget	2016 Plan	2017 Plan
Beginning Balance	**298,091**	**184,341**	**406,607**	**341,089**	**311,214**	**301,339**
Revenue						
Investment Income	86	44	61	125	125	125
Other Revenue	56,000	292,445	71,921	55,000	55,000	55,000
Total Revenue	**56,086**	**292,489**	**71,982**	**55,125**	**55,125**	**55,125**
Total Resources	**354,177**	**476,830**	**478,589**	**396,214**	**366,339**	**356,464**
Expenditures						
Capital & Related Items	129,986	70,223	137,500	85,000	65,000	65,000
Total Expenditures	**129,986**	**70,223**	**137,500**	**85,000**	**65,000**	**65,000**
Reconciling Journal Entry	39,850	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Balance	**184,341**	**406,607**	**341,089**	**311,214**	**301,339**	**291,464**

Fund Budgets

Capital Improvement Fund

Balance Analysis



The Authority's Capital Improvement Fund is used to account for the acquisition, construction, replacement, repair, and renovation of major capital facilities and equipment. The Capital Improvement Plan is composed of both grant-funded projects as well as 100% locally funded items.

All capital projects are included in one of two funds: the RTA Development Fund which includes the majority of the larger projects, including rehabilitations, expansions and large equipment purchases, and the RTA Capital Fund, a smaller fund for more routine expenditures that support daily operational activities. Generally, projects in the RTA Development Fund are greater than $150,000, have a useful life of greater than five years, and are predominantly, although not exclusively, supported through grant awards. Projects from the Authority's Long Range Plan are included in this area and it includes those capital projects where grant funding already has been approved or will be submitted for approval in future years. Capital projects included in the RTA Capital Fund are generally less than $150,000, have a useful life of less than 5 years, are routine in nature, and in many cases relate directly to daily operations. Unlike the RTA Development Fund, where the majority of projects are funded with grant awards, the RTA Capital Fund is financed entirely through local dollars in the form of sales & use tax revenue contributions.

Detailed discussions of the fund balances in these funds are presented in the Capital Improvement Plan. The figure above and fund statement on the following page provides a consolidated look at all Capital Improvement Funds. The fund balance normally alternates years of increases and decreases as planned activities are balanced with cash infusions. Overall, the balance has been generally decreasing since 1990 with periodic increases a direct result of cash infusion from debt sales or from other irregular one-time revenue, such as a $15.0 million "Sale to Lease" transaction in 2002 or a $25.0 million Capital Lease transaction in 2007.

The available balance in the combined Capital Fund increased in 2011 due to the timing of the Federal grant awards that delayed some planned project activities until the following year and again in 2012 due to a new debt issuance and a pause in the Authority's capital program in preparation for a busy 2013 construction season which drew the fund balances down to $40.66 million. The fund balance further decreased in 2014, to an estimated $29.05 million as balances were drawn for capital activities. In 2015, it will again increase due to a planned debt sale before again decreasing in 2016 during the construction season.

Fund Budgets

The high level of capital activity by the Authority, begun in the 1990s which included the re-construction of the Triskett Garage, the HealthLine along Euclid Avenue, a mid-life overhaul of the Authority's Light and Heavy Rail Fleets, as well as the reconstruction of multiple Rail Stations, and maintenance of the Authority's infrastructure has been continued in following CIP's. Capital funds set aside for these large projects were drawn against, as part of a planned drawdown of the fund balance.

Beginning with the 2008 Budget Year, the capital budget process was more directly focused on the need to balance the Authority's ambitious capital program with available grant funds and to minimize, wherever possible, the use of local funds. This step has resulted in the development of a CIP with projects closely scheduled with expected Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) grant award funds and anticipated revenue streams, with few new projects being added, and some projects deferred into future years of the CIP. At the same time, the Authority has committed its financial resources to complete its ADA Key Station program and is now in the third year of an on-going multi-year bus replacement program.

In 2015, the Capital Budget appropriation request totals $75.92 million for the acquisition of buses, preventive maintenance and operating expense reimbursements, equipment, services, and construction projects to improve, replace or upgrade the Authority's facilities and infrastructure. The Authority's infrastructure needs though continue to exceed the amount of available grant funds especially now with the negative impact of the MAP-21 legislation that result in the deferral of some requested projects or the use of local funds for their completion.

Capital Improvement Fund Balance Analysis

	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Budget	2016 Plan	2017 Plan
Beginning Balance	**28,043,855**	**46,726,229**	**40,656,567**	**29,051,093**	**31,002,464**	**12,078,302**
Revenue						
Transfer from General Fund	11,636,995	15,770,044	15,874,745	15,532,963	14,848,680	14,620,654
Investment Income	115,382	100,925	63,959	62,500	61,250	61,500
Federal Capital Grants	33,570,510	59,795,463	62,075,000	71,321,250	65,981,250	62,562,500
State Capital Grants	1,135,673	264,693	1,730,822	1,384,658	1,384,658	1,384,658
Debt Service	25,000,000	0	0	25,000,000	0	20,000,000
Other Revenue	3,424,859	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	**74,883,419**	**75,931,125**	**79,744,526**	**113,301,371**	**82,275,838**	**98,629,312**
Total Resources	**102,927,274**	**122,657,354**	**120,401,093**	**142,352,464**	**113,278,302**	**110,707,614**
Expenditures						
Capital Outlay	56,201,045	82,000,787	91,350,000	111,350,000	101,200,000	90,850,000
Other Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	**56,201,045**	**82,000,787**	**91,350,000**	**111,350,000**	**101,200,000**	**90,850,000**
Available Ending Balance	**46,726,229**	**40,656,567**	**29,051,093**	**31,002,464**	**12,078,302**	**19,857,614**

Proceeds from debt sales, as well as from sales tax contributions, are used to fulfill the Local Match requirement on grant funded projects as well as for 100% locally funded projects. In 2015, the Transfer to Capital from the General Fund is budgeted at $15.32 million. It will slightly decrease in 2016 to $14.85 million and then to $14.62 million in 2017. The Authority has redoubled its efforts to securing additional non-traditional federal and state resources as the impact of the new MAP-21 legislation has been analyzed and has becoming more creative with the use of debt and other financing, though the on-going discussions within the Federal Government on the new Transportation Bill still creates some uncertainty over the long-term stability of Federal funds for capital projects.

Fund Budgets

Revenues

The Authority receives various capital grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Funds are requested from FTA, as needed, to meet obligations, via wire transfer. The timing of the receipt of federal capital revenue is directly related to costs invoiced by contractors/vendors, since these funds must be disbursed within three days after receipt. FTA grants normally cover approximately 80% of project costs with the remaining cost being absorbed by the Authority's local match revenue, which consist of interest income, transfers from other funds and sales of bonds and notes. In some cases FTA grants, such as the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program are awarded with a 100% Federal share. State capital assistance is seen in the form of State capital grants from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and loans from the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB).

The RTA Capital Fund was established in 1988, sales & use tax proceeds as part of the Authority's minimum 10 and maximum 15 percent contribution to capital requirement as described under General Fund Revenue. Interest earned on the investment of those sales tax proceeds is the only other income credited to the RTA Capital Fund. The Authority's local contribution to its capital program is captured by Transfers within the Operating Budget to the RTA Capital Fund and the Transfer to the Bond Retirement Fund.

Transfers of General Fund revenue to the RTA Capital Fund have grown significantly in recent years to meet the financial needs of an aggressive capital program – from $6.8 million in FY 2007 to $11.64 million in FY 2012, $15.77 million in FY 2013, and to $15.87 million at the end of FY 2014. The increases in the last two years, relative to earlier years, has been to align the local funding component of the Authority's five-year bus replacement schedule along with the large number of state of good repair capital projects into the correct capital fund.

The FY 2015 Capital Transfer from the General Fund will slightly decrease to a planned $15.53 million to meet the needs of the capital program in the upcoming year. This amount, when combined with an expected $22.62 million transfer to the Bond Retirement Fund will produce a total contribution of Sales & Use Tax revenue to capital of $38.15 million, or 19.2% of all Sales & Use Tax Revenue, again exceeding the Authority's maximum target goal of 15%.

Transfers to the Bond Retirement Fund to meet current debt needs of the Authority are expected to slightly decrease in FY 2016 to $22.52 million before falling to $17.13 million in FY 2017 as some of the Authority's debt is retired, though this amount will, in part, depend upon future debt service needs of the Authority. When combined with the Capital Transfer in those years, 18.4% and 15.3% of all Sales & Use Tax revenue will be directed towards the Authority's capital program and this measure will remain above the maximum goal of 15.0 percent in those years.

This continues to highlight the on-going problem of meeting the daily operating needs of the Authority while, at the same time, maintaining or improving the Authority's assets in a state of good repair as well. Meeting the financial needs of both areas in the future will significantly challenge the overall financial stability of the Authority, particularly in light of the current economic situation and the slow future growth projected in revenue from the Sales & Use Tax.