# 2022 L Funds Asset Allocation Review

Presented By Mike Jerue, Office of Investments May 24, 2022









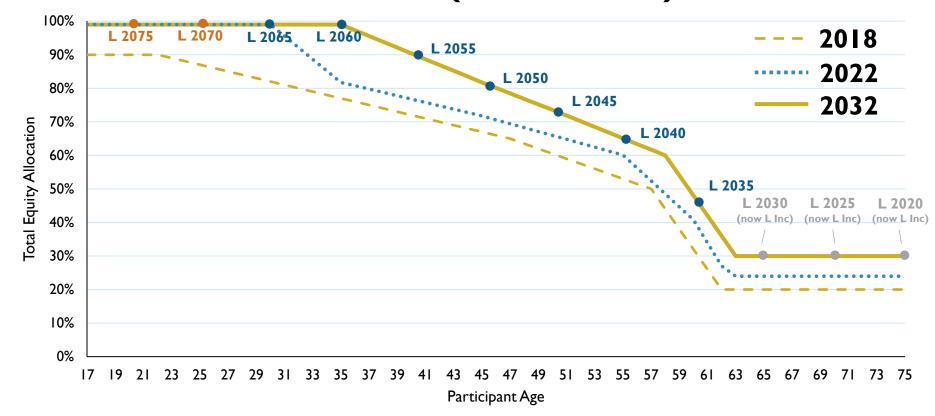
#### L Funds Asset Allocation Review

- Annual review conducted in collaboration with investment consultant
- Explored ways to improve outcomes without unreasonably increasing risk
- Recommended no changes to the current designs; Executive Director concurred

### L Funds Asset Allocation Review

- Participant demographics
- Capital market assumptions
- Potential changes to design

# Glide Path Transition (2018-2032)





# Presentation by Aon





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#### **Executive Summary**

Scope of Study

The FRTIB hired Aon to complete the 2022 L Funds glide path asset allocation study.

Objective

The objective is for the FRTIB to provide a series of L Funds such that an "average participant" in those L Funds, in combination with the FERS defined benefit plan and Social Security, will be projected to have sufficient assets to maintain a reasonable standard of living throughout retirement.

Glide Path Risk Level The TSP's participant demographics suggest the current risk level of the L Funds' glide path and the projected path forward are reasonable to accomplish the FRTIB investment objectives.

Investment Structure In this study, Aon evaluated several possible L Fund investment structure changes. At the completion of this 2022 study, Aon believes there is not a clear alternative investment structure that would meaningfully improve retirement adequacy for TSP participants invested in the L Funds. Aon's opinion is that it is prudent for the TSP to continue down the scheduled path for the L Funds.





#### Glide Paths Modeled

#### Current Glide Path Asset Allocations as of July 2022

Asset Allocation	L 2065	L 2060	L 2055	L 2050	L 2045	L 2040	L 2035	L 2030	L 2025	L Income
C Fund	50.07%	50.07%	50.07%	41.41%	39.03%	36.75%	33.92%	31.07%	21.17%	12.57%
S Fund	14.28%	14.28%	14.28%	11.73%	10.86%	9.89%	8.94%	8.01%	5.33%	3.03%
I Fund	34.65%	34.65%	34.65%	28.61%	26.86%	25.11%	23.08%	21.04%	14.27%	8.40%
F Fund	0.62%	0.55%	0.49%	7.72%	7.91%	7.41%	7.16%	6.35%	6.15%	5.70%
G Fund	0.38%	0.45%	0.51%	10.53%	15.34%	20.84%	26.90%	33.53%	53.08%	70.30%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Key Characteristics	L 2065	L 2060	L 2055	L 2050	L 2045	L 2040	L 2035	L 2030	L 2025	L Income
Years to Maturity	43	38	33	28	23	18	13	8	3	0
Equity Percentage	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%	81.75%	76.75%	71.75%	65.94%	60.12%	40.77%	24.00%
Non-U.S. / Total Equity	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%
SMID / Total U.S. Equity	22.19%	22.19%	22.19%	22.07%	21.77%	21.20%	20.86%	20.50%	20.11%	19.42%
G Fund / Total Fixed Income	38.00%	45.00%	51.00%	57.70%	65.98%	73.77%	78.98%	84.08%	89.62%	92.50%



#### Glide Paths Modeled

#### Alternate Glide Path Scenarios

Scenario	Description	Equity Percentage	G Fund / Total Fixed Income	SMID / Total U.S. Equity	Int'l / Total Equity
1	Current Glide Path	Transitional glide path with targets of: 99% equity at age 35 60% equity at age 58 30% equity at age 63	Upward trajectory to 92.5% by target year	Transition to 20% by 2025	35%
2	Move to Ultimate Glide Path	Move immediately to target equity allocation	Upward trajectory to 92.5% by target year	Transition to 20% by 2025	35%
3	Fixed Income 100% G	Same as current	Immediately move all fixed income to G Fund	Transition to 20% by 2025	35%
4	Fixed Income 100% F	Same as current	Immediately move all fixed income to F Fund	Transition to 20% by 2025	35%
5	Transition to 15% SMID/U.S.	Same as current	Upward trajectory to 92.5% by target year	Transition to 15% by 2025	35%
6	Transition to 25% SMID/U.S.	Same as current	Upward trajectory to 92.5% by target year	Transition to 25% by 2025	35%
7	Transition I to 30% of Equity	Same as current	Upward trajectory to 92.5% by target year	Transition to 20% by 2025	Transition to 30% by 2025
8	Transition I to 40% of Equity	Same as current	Upward trajectory to 92.5% by target year	Transition to 20% by 2025	Transition to 40% by 2025
9	De-risk 5 Years Sooner	Transitional glide path with targets of: 99% equity at age 30 60% equity at age 58 30% equity at age 63	Upward trajectory to 92.5% by target year	Transition to 20% by 2025	35%
10	De-risk 5 Years Later	Transitional glide path with targets of: 99% equity at age 40 60% equity at age 58 30% equity at age 63	Upward trajectory to 92.5% by target year	Transition to 20% by 2025	35%
11	10-year Through Glide Path	Transitional glide path with targets of: 99% equity at age 35 60% equity at age 58 50% equity at age 63 30% equity at age 73	Upward trajectory to 92.5% by target year	Transition to 20% by 2025	35%





#### Expected Return and Risk Assumptions (10-Year)

Geometric Return	2022 Study	2021 Study <sup>1</sup>	2020 Study²
C Fund: Large Cap U.S. Equity	5.9%	5.6%	6.1%
S Fund: Small/Mid Cap U.S. Equity	6.1%	5.8%	6.7%
I Fund: Non-U.S. Equity <sup>3</sup>	7.0%	6.6%	7.3%
F Fund: Core Fixed Income	2.6%	1.6%	2.9%
G Fund: Government Yield	2.3%	2.0%	3.1%
Inflation	2.4%	2.1%	2.2%
Standard Deviation	2022	2021	2020
Standard Deviation	Study	Study	Study
C Fund: Large Cap U.S. Equity	Study 17.0%	Study 17.0%	18.0%
C Fund: Large Cap U.S. Equity	17.0%	17.0%	18.0%
C Fund: Large Cap U.S. Equity S Fund: Small/Mid Cap U.S. Equity	17.0% 23.0%	17.0% 23.0%	18.0% 20.6%
C Fund: Large Cap U.S. Equity S Fund: Small/Mid Cap U.S. Equity I Fund: Non-U.S. Equity	17.0% 23.0% 20.0%	17.0% 23.0% 20.0%	18.0% 20.6% 20.8%
C Fund: Large Cap U.S. Equity S Fund: Small/Mid Cap U.S. Equity I Fund: Non-U.S. Equity F Fund: Core Fixed Income	17.0% 23.0% 20.0% 4.0%	17.0% 23.0% 20.0% 4.0%	18.0% 20.6% 20.8% 5.3%

Yield History	2/28/22	2/24/21	9/30/19
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate	2.33%	1.39%	2.26%
10-year Treasury	1.83%	1.38%	1.68%

- Based on Aon 2022 Q1 10-year capital market assumptions (as of December 31, 2021), adjusted for changes in yields through February 28, 2022
- The G Fund is assumed to earn the yield on 9year duration Treasury bonds
  - Currently, the duration on all outstanding Treasury bonds with 4 or more years to maturity is about 9 years



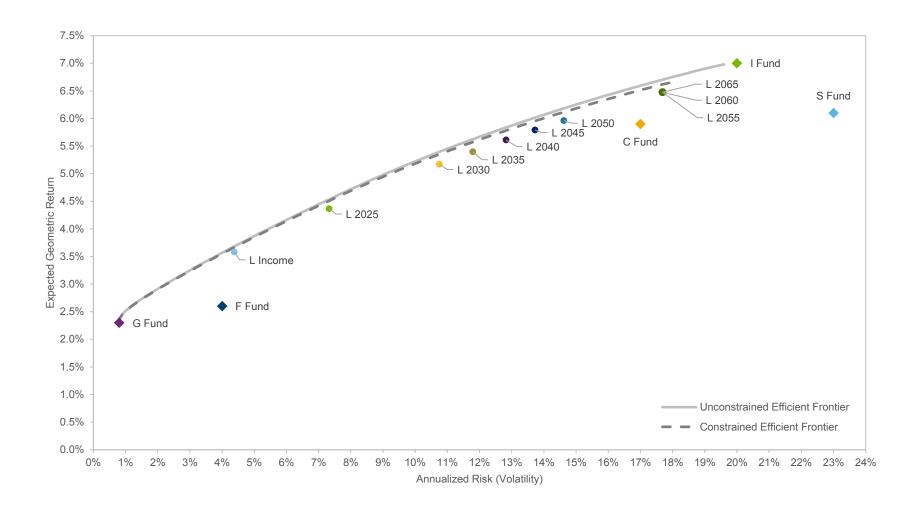
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 2021 study assumptions based on the Aon report "Thrift Savings Plan – Full Report, Lifecycle Fund Asset Allocation" dated May 12, 2021. Assumptions are based on a 10year horizon.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 2020 study assumptions based on the Mercer report "Thrift Savings Plan: Lifecycle Fund Asset Allocation – Board Summary" dated March 23, 2020. Assumptions are based on a 20-year horizon.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In 2020, the I Fund benchmark was assumed to be the MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI index. For the 2021 and 2022 studies, the benchmark is assumed to be the MSCI EAFE index.

#### **Efficient Frontier**

#### Based on 10-Year Forward Looking Assumptions





#### Demographic Profile for L 2040 Fund

- Demographic profiles were provided by FRTIB officials
- Data is based on actual December 31, 2021 data and rolled forward to July 1, 2022 by FRTIB officials
- Employee deferral rates are extrapolated from the characteristics provided by cohort
- Employer contributions are assumed to be 5% of pay
- All participants are assumed to earn a Social Security benefit based on pay projected to retirement and regressed to date of hire using the salary merit scale assumptions
- All participants are assumed to earn a defined benefit pension equivalent to 30% of final pay
- Salary merit scale assumptions are based on schedules from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund Annual Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020
  - Assumed blend of 80% non-postal, 20% postal workforce
  - Select and ultimate table based on age and service
  - Net of inflation
- Age-based rates are as of the sample ages shown

Fund	L 2040					
Assumed Hire Age		35				
Age as of 7/1/2022		45				
Retirement Age		62				
Age at First Withdrawal		63				
Annual Salary as of 7/1/2022		\$91,723				
DC Balance as of 7/1/2022	\$143,621					
Deferral Rate as of 7/1/2022		7.44%				
Contribution and Salary Scale	Employee	Employer	Salary			
Rates at Sample Ages	Deferral	Contrib.	Merit Scale			
Rates at Sample Ages 25	Deferral -	Contrib.	Merit Scale			
	Deferral - -	Contrib. - -	Merit Scale - -			
25	Deferral - - -	-	Merit Scale			
25 30	Deferral	-	Merit Scale			
25 30 35	7.44%	-	1.99%			
25 30 35 40	- - -	- - -	- - -			
25 30 35 40 45	- - - - 7.44%	- - - - 5.00%	- - - - 1.99%			
25 30 35 40 45 50	- - - - 7.44% 8.07%	- - - - 5.00%	- - - - 1.99% 1.65%			



# Summary Results L 2040 Fund

Account Balance <sup>1</sup> & Replacement Ratio <sup>2</sup> at First Withdrawal	Current	Move to Ultimate GP	Fixed Income 100% G	Fixed Income 100% F	Transition to 15% SMID/US	Transition to 25% SMID/US	Decrease I to 30% of Equity	Increase I to 40% of Equity	De-risk 5 Years Sooner	De-risk 5 Years Later	10-year Through GP
Account Balance - Median (50th Percentile)	\$566.0	\$570.0	\$562.3	\$585.0	\$564.7	\$567.5	\$564.6	\$566.2	\$564.8	\$566.8	\$576.6
Account Balance - Downside (5th Percentile)	\$322.4	\$323.1	\$318.9	\$335.5	\$322.4	\$322.3	\$321.9	\$322.5	\$322.8	\$321.2	\$320.2
Replacement Ratio - DB+DC+SS - Median (50th Percentile)	72.7%	72.8%	72.6%	73.3%	72.7%	72.7%	72.6%	72.7%	72.7%	72.7%	73.0%
Replacement Ratio - DB+DC+SS - Downside (5th Percentile)	65.6%	65.5%	65.5%	65.9%	65.6%	65.5%	65.5%	65.6%	65.6%	65.5%	65.5%
Replacement Ratio - TSP Only - Median (50th Percentile)	16.6%	16.7%	16.5%	17.1%	16.5%	16.6%	16.5%	16.6%	16.5%	16.6%	16.8%
Replacement Ratio - TSP Only - Downside (5th Percentile)	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.8%	9.5%	9.4%	9.4%	9.5%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%
Likelihood of Negative Real Return <sup>3</sup>	Current	Move to Ultimate GP	Fixed Income 100% G	Fixed Income 100% F	Transition to 15% SMID/US	Transition to 25% SMID/US	Decrease I to 30% of Equity	Increase I to 40% of Equity	De-risk 5 Years Sooner	De-risk 5 Years Later	10-year Through GP
Likelihood of < 0% Real Return During 2 Years Before Withdrawal	32.7%	32.7%	32.9%	30.1%	32.6%	32.6%	32.9%	32.7%	32.7%	32.7%	32.5%
Likelihood of < -5% Real Return During 2 Years Before Withdrawal	17.7%	17.7%	17.9%	15.9%	17.6%	17.9%	17.7%	17.6%	17.7%	17.7%	20.5%
Post-Retirement Account Exhaustion <sup>4</sup>	Current	Move to Ultimate GP	Fixed Income 100% G	Fixed Income 100% F	Transition to 15% SMID/US	Transition to 25% SMID/US	Decrease I to 30% of Equity	Increase I to 40% of Equity	De-risk 5 Years Sooner	De-risk 5 Years Later	10-year Through GP
Likelihood of Account Exhaustion by Age 80	17.6%	17.5%	18.3%	11.8%	17.8%	17.5%	18.0%	17.3%	17.6%	17.6%	14.8%
Likelihood of Account Exhaustion by Age 90	50.4%	49.7%	51.4%	40.1%	50.6%	50.1%	50.8%	49.8%	50.5%	50.3%	44.7%
Likelihood of Account Exhaustion by Median Life Expectancy Age	47.4%	46.9%	48.5%	37.4%	47.7%	46.9%	47.7%	46.7%	47.5%	47.0%	41.5%
Exhaustion Age - Median (50th Percentile)	89.8	90.1	89.5	94.4	89.8	90.0	89.7	90.1	89.8	89.9	92.2
Exhaustion Age - Downside (5th Percentile)	75.8	75.8	75.7	77.0	75.8	75.8	75.7	75.8	75.9	75.8	76.2

Account balance represents the projected account balance at first withdrawal age, discounted back to 2022 with projected inflation. Account balances shown are in thousands.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Replacement ratio is the ratio of income in the first year of withdrawal to final earnings prior to withdrawal under a conservative hypothetical spending policy. Spending policy is based on converting the DC account balance into an inflation-indexed period-certain annuity based on an interest rate of 3.00%, an inflation rate of 2.30%, and a horizon of 80<sup>th</sup> percentile life expectancy according to the Pri-2012 mortality and MP-2021 improvement, rounded to the nearest year.

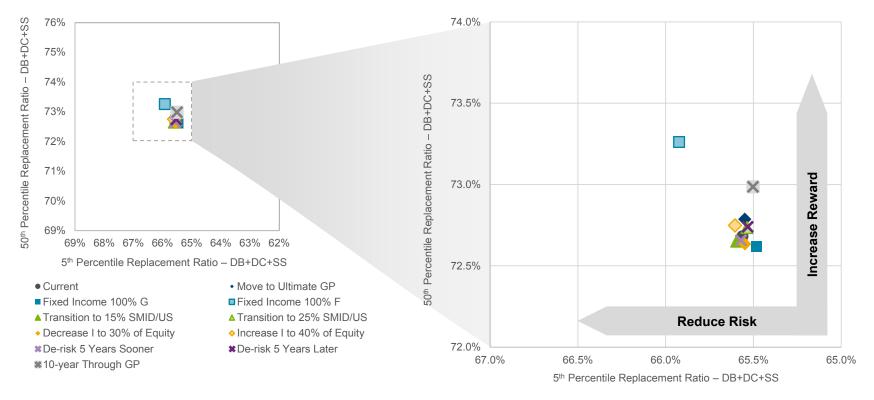
DB+DC+SS replacement ratio measures pay replacement from TSP, Social Security, and defined benefit sources combined. See appendix for more detail.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Measures the likelihood of < 0% (or < -5%) compounded real return over the 2-year period prior to withdrawal (between ages 61 and 63).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Account exhaustion is based on a target retirement spending policy of 80% of final earnings, indexed for projected inflation, minus annual income from guaranteed sources (DB and Social Security), not less than \$0 in any given year.

#### **Summary Results**

#### L 2040 Fund – Expected vs. Downside Replacement Ratio<sup>1</sup>



- Results for the various scenarios lead to relatively similar outcomes in absolute terms
- Over long horizons, policies with higher equity allocations have higher expected outcomes, but lower downside outcomes (i.e. higher risk)

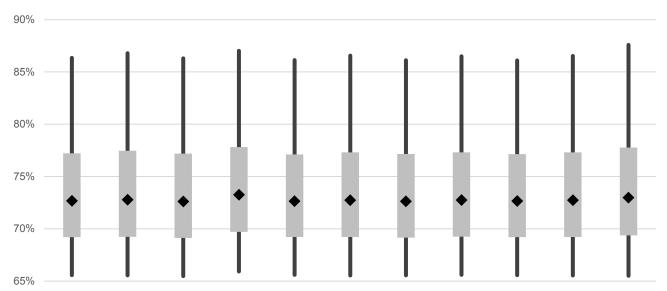
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Replacement ratio is the ratio of income in the first year of withdrawal to final earnings prior to withdrawal under a conservative hypothetical spending policy. Spending policy is based on converting the DC account balance into an inflation-indexed period-certain annuity based on an interest rate of 3.00%, an inflation rate of 2.30%, and a horizon of 80<sup>th</sup> percentile life expectancy according to the Pri-2012 mortality and MP-2021 improvement, rounded to the nearest year.

#### **Summary Results**

#### L 2040 Fund – Distribution of Replacement Ratio<sup>1</sup>



Participant Characteristics	Value
Birth Year	1977
Hire Age	35
Current Age	45
Retirement Age	62
First Withdrawal Age	63
Current Pay	\$91,723
Current Balance	\$143,621
Current Deferral Rate	7.44%

60%											
	Current	Move to Ultimate GP	Fixed Income 100% G	Fixed Income 100% F	Transition to 15% SMID/US	Transition to 25% SMID/US	Decrease I to 30% of Equity	Increase I to 40% of Equity	De-risk 5 Years Sooner	De-risk 5 Years Later	10-year Through GP
95th Pctile	86.3%	86.8%	86.3%	87.0%	86.1%	86.6%	86.1%	86.5%	86.1%	86.5%	87.6%
75th Pctile	77.2%	77.5%	77.2%	77.8%	77.1%	77.3%	77.2%	77.3%	77.1%	77.3%	77.8%
50th Pctile	72.7%	72.8%	72.6%	73.3%	72.7%	72.7%	72.6%	72.7%	72.7%	72.7%	73.0%
25th Pctile	69.2%	69.2%	69.1%	69.7%	69.2%	69.2%	69.2%	69.3%	69.2%	69.2%	69.4%
5 <sup>th</sup> Pctile	65.6%	65.5%	65.5%	65.9%	65.6%	65.5%	65.5%	65.6%	65.6%	65.5%	65.5%

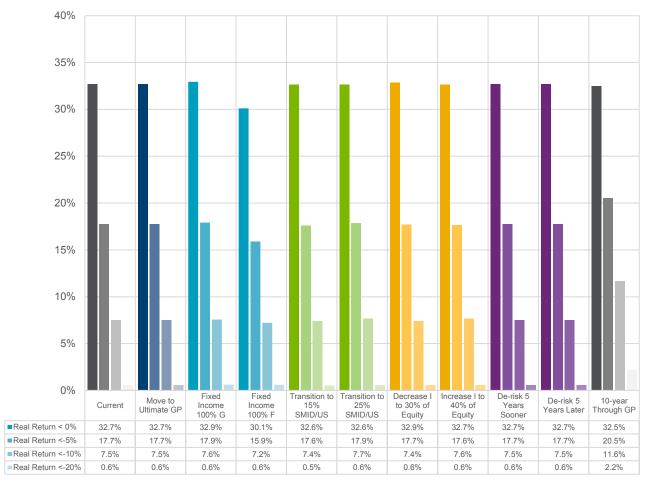
<sup>1</sup> Replacement ratio is the ratio of income in the first year of withdrawal to final earnings prior to withdrawal under a conservative hypothetical spending policy. Spending policy is based on converting the DC account balance into an inflation-indexed period-certain annuity based on an interest rate of 3.00%, an inflation rate of 2.30%, and a horizon of 80th percentile life expectancy according to the Pri-2012 mortality and MP-2021 improvement, rounded to the nearest year.

DB+DC+SS replacement ratio measures pay replacement from TSP, Social Security, and defined benefit sources combined. See appendix for more detail.



#### **Summary Results**

#### L 2040 Fund – Likelihood of Negative Real Return<sup>1</sup>



Participant Characteristics	Value
Birth Year	1977
Hire Age	35
Current Age	45
Retirement Age	62
First Withdrawal Age	63
Current Pay	\$91,723
Current Balance	\$143,621
Current Deferral Rate	7.44%



 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  Measures the likelihood of < 0, < -5%, < -10%, or < -20% compounded real return over the 2-year period prior to withdrawal (between ages 61 and 63).



#### Commentary on Analysis

- "To" versus "through:" The current glide path, as well as the transitional glide path, for the L Funds provides participants a reasonable and age-appropriate risk level. Aon believes risk level is a more important evaluation factor for each participant's long-term outcomes than the tactical decision of "to" vs. "through." In other words, the absolute risk level is a more important driver of results than the specific shape of the glide path.
- Equity level: The glide paths Aon tested with higher equity allocations have better expected outcomes for participants, which supports the FRTIB's long-term transitional glide path implementation strategy.
- Equity structure: The allocations with a higher proportion of equity coming from non-U.S. equities perform better over a full career for all percentiles shown. However, this is not a guarantee of uniformly better performance, as there are economic scenarios and horizons during which non-U.S. equity is expected to underperform U.S. equity.
- **Fixed income structure**: Shifting some of the G Fund allocation to the F Fund has incremental impacts in most of the quantitative results, but Aon has less conviction in this change because the results are highly sensitive to capital market assumptions.
- Timing of changes: Any meaningful glide path changes are subject to a risk of poor timing, which is why Aon continues to support the FRTIB's long-term transitional glide path approach. This strategy provides incremental changes that allow the TSP to try to mitigate any point-in-time risks in market timing.



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#### **Conclusion**

 Recommended no changes to the current designs; Executive Director concurred

# **Questions?**

