

Program Area Overview

The **Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR)** Program Area consists of one department with the following goals:

- *Manage and protect our natural resources for future generations.*
- *Provide a cost-effective, efficient, and safe transportation system in balance with the social, economic and environmental needs of the community.*
- *Provide increasing and diverse recreational opportunities using public resources.*

Key Service Populations

The key service populations or major stakeholders of the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area are:

- *Taxpayers - both property owners and renters*
- *Resident Citizens*
- *Commissioners' Court*
- *Employees*
- *LCRA*
- *TXDOT*
- *Builders and Developers*
- *Capital Metro*
- *City of Austin*
- *Austin/Travis County Environmental Community*

Staffing

For FY 04, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area has 380.35 permanent positions, as shown in Table A below. The table shows that this Program Area has experienced an increase of 14 FTE from FY 03 to FY 04 (excluding 18.9 positions that are funded in bond funds).

Budget

The total budget for the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area from both the General Fund and the Road and Bridge Fund has been increased from \$13,532,589 in FY 92 to \$39,929,815 in FY 04, an increase of \$26,397,226 or 195 percent over the past twelve years. The increases are largely due to additional programs and funding changes, including:

- Environmental Services
- Fleet and Sign Shop Services
- On-Site Sewage Facilities
- Balcones Canyonland Preserves
- Absorption of capital purchases within the Road and Bridge Fund

Table B shows the General Fund budget for the department for FY 01 through FY 04.

For FY 04, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area was appropriated \$1,725,522 for CAR funded capital equipment, \$6,511,008 in Road & Bridge funds for capital equipment and projects, \$80,000 in the LCRA-CIP Fund for capital equipment, and \$813,206 for capital equipment and projects funded from existing COs for a total of \$9,129,736. The components of these appropriations are described in the following pages.

The following pages provide more detailed information on the FY 04 budget, including information on special funds and capital equipment. Please note that starting in FY 02, the CAR funded capital equipment was added to the department's operating budget as shown on the TNR General Fund summary information. This change is attributable to new accounting standards implemented by the County under GASB 34.

Table A

**Permanent Positions - All Funds*
FY 2001 - FY 2004**

Department	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 04 - FY 03 Difference	Percent Change
TNR - General Fund	135.90	139.93	140.93	153.40	12.47	8.8%
TNR - Road and Bridge Fund	223.95	222.92	222.92	224.45	1.53	0.7%
TNR - BCP Fund	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.0%
SUBTOTAL	362.35	365.35	366.35	380.35	14.00	3.8%
TNR - Other Funds*	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL	381.25	384.25	385.25	399.25	14.00	3.6%

* Other Funds include bond-funded employees.

Table B

**TNR Budget
FY 2001 - FY 2004**

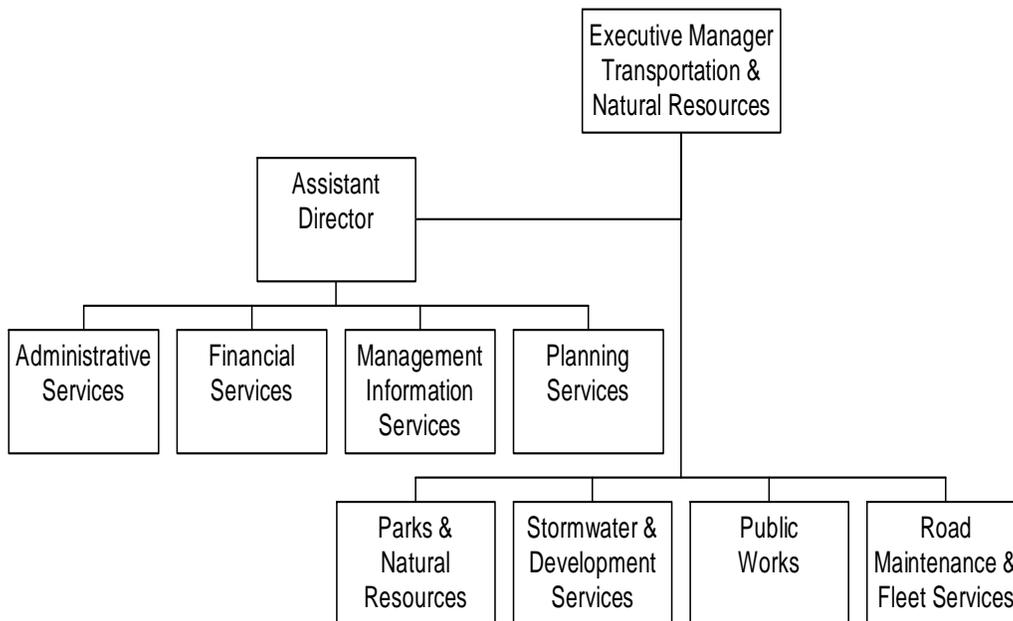
Department	Adopted Budget FY 01	Adopted Budget FY 02	Adopted Budget FY 03	Adopted Budget FY 04	FY 01 - FY 03 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$10,778,920	\$13,716,702	\$12,831,177	\$15,264,589	\$4,485,669	42%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$18,713,880	\$21,180,062	\$22,050,359	\$24,665,226	\$5,951,346	
TNR Transfer from G.F. to R&B	(\$1,857,168)	(\$122,287)	\$0	\$0	\$1,857,168	
Total TNR	\$27,635,632	\$34,774,477	\$34,881,536	\$39,929,815	\$12,294,183	44%

Transportation and Natural Resources (49) General Fund

Mission Statement

The mission of the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources department is to provide citizens living in unincorporated areas of the county with comprehensive transportation, natural resources management, and public service systems in order to promote public safety, health and welfare in compliance with Texas laws and mandates of the Travis County Commissioners Court.

Organizational Structure



Key Program Statistics

Measures	FY 01 Actual	FY 02 Actual	FY 03 Projected	FY 04 Projected
Number of residential development permits	2,308	2,714	2,400	2,140
Percent of residential permits processed in 10 days	95%	94%	92%	95%
Number of park visitors in fee collecting parks	664,479	650,500	650,500	TBD
Percent of park visitors rating overall park experience as good or excellent	92%	95%	95%	95%
Number of BCP participation certificates	24	10	20	20
Number of BCP acres managed by Travis County	2,451	3,111	3,537	3,925

Adopted Budgets FY 01-04

	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	Diff FY 04-03
Personnel	\$6,291,584	\$6,872,971	\$6,968,755	\$7,527,939	\$559,184
Operating	\$4,487,336	\$3,796,156	\$4,698,575	\$6,011,128	\$1,312,553
CAR	(A)	\$3,047,575	\$1,163,847	\$1,725,522	\$561,675
Fund Total	\$10,778,920	\$13,716,702	\$12,831,177	\$15,264,589	\$2,433,412
FTE	135.90	139.93	140.93	153.40	12.47
Prior Year CAR	\$2,468,250	(A)	(A)	(A)	(A)
Other Capital (B)	\$18,171,118	\$7,583,998	\$8,703,336	\$9,129,736	\$426,400

- (A) Items funded through the Capital Acquisition Resources Account (CAR) before FY 02 were funded outside the department’s General Fund operating budget. The amounts funded in prior years are shown below under “Prior Year CAR”.
- (B) Other Capital includes such sources as Certificates of Obligation, Road & Bridge funds, Bond and other funds.

FY 04 Budget Issues

The FY 04 Adopted Budget for Transportation and Natural Resources has increased by \$2,433,412 from the FY 03 budget. This increase is comprised of a \$559,184 increase in the personnel budget and a \$1,312,553 increase in operating funds, as well as an increase of \$561,675 in CAR expenditures budgeted in TNR.

History of Relationship between General Fund and Road & Bridge Fund

Prior to FY 98, the General Fund supplemented the Road & Bridge Fund through transfers. In FY 96, the transfer from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund was \$1,950,684. In FY 97 the transfer was budgeted at \$391,161. In FY 98 there was not a transfer from the General Fund into the Road and Bridge Fund. However, in FY 99, there was a \$3,790,151 transfer to the Road & Bridge Fund as a result of a one-cent General Fund tax increase dedicated to road and bridge improvements. In FY 00, the transfer to the Road & Bridge Fund was reduced by \$2,024,745 in order to leave the Road & Bridge Fund’s share of the Unallocated Reserve in the General Fund. The Road & Bridge Unallocated Reserve was budgeted directly in the Special Fund in FY 99. This allowed the General Fund to carry the Unallocated Reserve for the Road & Bridge Fund, as it did previous to FY 99. The FY 01 transfer was \$1,857,168.

In FY 02, the gross supplement from the General Fund to the Road & Bridge Fund was \$3,790,151, as was approved in FY 99. However, due to changes in the recording of fine revenue collected under Title VII of the Transportation Code, the Road & Bridge Fund received in FY 02 additional revenue from highway fines of \$3,667,864 above and beyond its own historical revenue sources. This money was deposited into the County’s General Fund in previous fiscal years. Therefore, the FY 02 net transfer from the General Fund to the Road & Bridge Fund was only \$122,287 (equal to \$3,790,151 less \$3,667,864). In FY 03, the fines increased to \$4,004,901 and the transfer was eliminated. In FY 04, the fines have increased again to \$4,978,086 and this

transfer remains eliminated; however, the Road & Bridge Fund is again carrying a total of \$916,306 as an Unallocated Reserve for increased reserve requirements in this special fund. The net effect is that the benefit to the Road & Bridge Fund is estimated at \$3,790,151.

Personnel

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$559,184, include:

- An increase of \$365,284 related to personnel costs for twelve FTE to support the expansion of Northeast and Southeast Metropolitan Parks.
- An increase of \$254,027 due to increases in health insurance and retirement costs.
- A total of \$153,623 for three FTE related to House Bill 1445 that requires the County to become the jurisdiction for inspections inside the City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) and outside of the City's three-year annexation plan.
- An adjustment to the department's salary savings totaling \$68,050 to better reflect turnover rates in this department.
- The annualization of personnel actions taken in FY 03 with a net increase to the personnel budget of \$7,729.
- A decrease of \$140,218 related to TNR frozen positions for FY 04. These positions include an Office Specialist, an Engineering Tech III (both split funded with the Road & Bridge Fund) as well as a Sr. Office Specialist, an Engineering Tech II, and a Senior On-Site Inspector.
- TNR submitted its FY 04 budget under the Target Budget amount with total personnel savings of \$123,959.
- TNR reduced two slots, including a Sign Shop Supervisor and a CSR Supervisor, as part of a restructuring of the Road & Bridge staffing (these positions are split funded with the Road & Bridge Fund). These reductions, along with other personnel changes, represent a net savings to the department's General Fund budget of \$25,352.

Operating Expenses

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$1,312,553, include:

- A total increase of \$1,027,586 in the amount transferred from TNR's General Fund to the Balcones Canyonland Preservation Fund (BCP – Fund 038). This transfer is based on the new construction revenue from BCP permits and Individual 10A Permits through US Fish and Wildlife.
- A total of \$218,271 in additional operating resources to support the expansion of Northeast and Southeast Metropolitan Parks.
- An additional \$109,156 for increased fuel costs related to price increases for FY 04.
- A total of \$25,000 for anticipated maintenance costs associated with a new swimming pool being developed at the East Metro Park by the County and developers in that community and to be run by the YMCA.
- An increase totaling \$7,500 for additional fuel and maintenance costs for vehicles that support on-going interlocal agreements.

- TNR submitted its FY 04 budget under the Target budget amount with total operating savings of \$37,940.
- A total reduction of \$21,500 to this Special Fund's Operating budget (mainly cellular air time) to better control expenditures.
- A decrease of \$11,566 for one time costs incurred in FY 03.
- A reduction of \$3,954 related to the County's efforts to reduce cellular airtime costs, over and above the reduction submitted by TNR.

FY 04 Capital

Capital equipment and capital projects included in the Adopted Budget from all sources total \$9,129,736.

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from CAR (\$1,725,522)

- County-Wide Replacement Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$1,052,550)
- Equipment for Northeast and Southeast Metro Park expansions, including new heavy equipment (\$329,000)
- Brodie Sidewalk Project (\$245,000)
- Re-budgeted Work Order System (\$69,097)
- Onion Creek Corp of Engineer Study (\$29,875)

In addition to the items and projects outlined above, the FY 04 Adopted Budget also includes \$9,672 for telephone and computer equipment budgeted centrally in Information and Telecommunication Systems.

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from Road & Bridge funds (\$6,511,008)

- New and Replacement Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$3,326,900)
- HMAC Projects (\$1,500,000)
- "F" Mix Projects (\$500,000)
- New Traffic Signal Projects (\$415,000)
- Traffic Signal – Fiber Optics Project (\$354,210)
- Rebudget Work Order System (\$188,214)
- Sidewalks – New Installations (\$100,000)
- Rebudgeted Guardrail (\$80,000)
- Rebudgeted Springwillow Project (\$20,000)
- Replacement Copier (\$10,000)
- Rebudget Doyle Eilers Drainage Project (\$8,434)
- Mobile Radios (\$8,250)

Capital Projects funded from LCRA-CIP funds (\$80,000)

- Camp Host Sites – Arkansas Bend & Sandy Creek Parks (\$60,000)
- Storage Building – Bob Wentz & Mansfield Dam Parks (\$40,000)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligations (\$813,206)

- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$561,000)
- Sidewalk Projects (\$252,206)

The funds used for the above equipment and projects came from interest earned and savings on completed projects from prior year Certificate of Obligation issuances.

**Transportation and Natural Resources (49)
LCRA/TC CIP Fund (Fund 029)**

Purpose

The Lower Colorado River Authority/Travis County Capital Improvements Project (LCRA/TC CIP) Fund provides for the design and construction of capital improvements in accordance with the schedule for construction in the approved Master Park Plan. It also provides for major repair and replacement due to those occurrences described in Article VII, Paragraph F of the LCRA/Travis County Park Lease Agreement.

Funding Source

The source of funding is the entrance fees charged to visitors of the LCRA-owned, county-managed parks. According to the lease agreement, no less than 15 percent of park revenues and no more than 50 percent of all park revenues may be put into this fund. (Travis County currently deposits 15 percent of park revenues into the fund). According to the County Auditor's Revenue estimate, the revenue from this source will be \$154,965 in FY 04 and interest revenue will be \$19,171. The beginning balance for this fund is \$2,323,297, for total budgeted revenue of \$2,497,433.

Adopted Budgets FY 01-04

	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	Diff FY 03-02
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$2,041,529	\$2,315,380	\$2,401,589	\$2,497,433	\$95,844
Total	\$2,041,529	\$2,315,380	\$2,401,589	\$2,497,433	\$95,844
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 04 Budget Issues

The LCRA/TC CIP Fund has all of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve, including funds for a storage building at Bob Wentz and Mansfield Dam Parks and camp host sites at Arkansas Bend and Sandy Creek Parks. These improvements are listed in the TNR Capital Section. Expenditures from this fund require the advance approval of LCRA.

**Transportation and Natural Resources (49)
Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund
(Fund 038)**

Purpose

The Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund was established to enable the County to meet its obligations and requirements under a Federal Endangered Species Act permit issued to Travis County and the City of Austin jointly (i.e., the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan [BCCP], U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit no. PRT 788841). The fund also helps meet the County’s obligations under an interlocal agreement with the City of Austin for the BCCP.

Funding Source

The Balcones Canyonlands Preservation (BCP) program was established in FY 97 within the Transportation and Natural Resources department. A special fund was established in FY 98 for BCP, which derives its income from 50% of the revenue produced from the issuance of participation certificates under the BCCP permit. The City of Austin also receives 50% of the revenue to provide operating funds for habitat lands.

FY 04 revenue for the Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund (038) is \$6,328,873, a decrease of \$164,006 over FY 03. This decrease resulted from a \$541,256 decrease in the beginning fund balance, a \$713,950 decrease in the sale of participation certificates (intergovernmental revenue), a \$20,000 increase in interest earned, a \$1,027,586 increase in the transfer from the General Fund (representing estimated additional tax revenue from new construction on BCP land), and an increase in miscellaneous revenue of \$43,614 for the operations and maintenance of BCP land. The General Fund transfer is based on the new construction revenue from BCP permits and Individual 10A permits through US Fish and Wildlife.

Adopted Budgets FY 01-04

	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	Diff FY 04-03
Personnel	\$87,480	\$105,989	\$111,324	\$116,310	\$4,986
Operating	\$3,016,858	\$5,922,692	\$6,381,555	\$6,212,563	(\$168,992)
Total	\$3,104,338	\$6,028,681	\$6,492,879	\$6,328,873	(\$164,006)
FTE	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0

FY 04 Budget Issues

Budgeted expenditures for FY 04 include salaries and benefits totaling \$116,310 for a Park Ranger (0.75 FTE) and two Resource Management Technicians (1.75 FTE). The Special Fund’s operating budget is \$6,212,563. These funds have a specific and designated purpose and will be used only for the purchase and maintenance of habitat land.

**Transportation and Natural Resources (49)
Mary Quinlan Park Fund (Fund 048)**

Purpose

The Mary Quinlan Park Fund provides funds for improvements at this Travis County park.

Funding Source

The source of funding for this Fund is derived from a lawsuit settlement related to access to the parkland as well as an access right-of-way agreement that will produce \$5,000 for this Fund every fiscal year. According to the County Auditor's Revenue estimate, the revenue from this source will be \$5,000 in FY 04. The beginning balance for this fund is \$260,000, for total budgeted revenue of \$265,000.

Adopted Budgets FY 01-04

	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	Diff FY 04-03
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$0	\$255,000	\$260,000	\$265,000	\$5,000
Total	\$0	\$255,000	\$260,000	\$265,000	\$5,000
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 04 Budget Issues

The Mary Quinlan Park Fund has all of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve. These funds can only be used for improvements to Mary Quinlan Park.

Transportation and Natural Resources (49)

Road and Bridge Fund (Fund 099)

Purpose

The Road and Bridge Fund provides for the maintenance of the county's roads and bridges.

Funding Source

The Road & Bridge Fund generates revenue from a \$10 fee on each motor vehicle registration, retention of 5 percent of the motor vehicle sales tax, and a distribution from the state, county, and road district highway fund based on the Travis County's area, rural population, and road mileage. In FY 04, the revenue certified to be generated from these sources is \$11,750,000. Interest earned on the fund is certified to be \$80,000, a total of \$4,978,086 is estimated as highway fine revenue, a total of \$75,000 for intergovernmental revenue and the beginning balance is \$7,782,140. The total revenue available in the Road and Bridge Fund is certified to be \$24,665,226.

Key Program Statistics

Measures	FY 01 Actual	FY 02 Actual	FY 03 Projected	FY 04 Projected
Miles of Reconstruction	17.4	19.92	17.94	18
Miles of Chip Seal	67.3	85.05	75	90
Miles of HMAC Overlay	35.8	32.8	38.32	40
Percent of accepted county roads in marginal to good condition (Note: Surveys completed in FY 87, FY 93, FY 98 & FY 01)	97.4%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of bridges with sufficiency ratings below 60 points (Note: Formal survey is performed by TxDOT every two years)	N.A.	4.4%	N.A.	N.A.

N.A. data not currently available

Adopted Budgets FY 01-04

	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	Diff FY 04-03
Personnel	\$8,632,185	\$8,996,691	\$9,011,685	\$9,323,178	\$311,493
Operating	\$10,081,695	\$12,183,371	\$13,038,674	\$15,342,048	\$2,303,374
Total	\$18,713,880	\$21,180,062	\$22,050,359	\$24,665,226	\$2,614,867
FTE	223.95	222.92	222.92	224.45	1.53

FY 04 Budget Issues

FY 04 is the ninth year in which road and bridge related expenditures have been budgeted directly in the Road & Bridge Fund. There is a \$2,614,867 increase in the Road & Bridge Fund over FY 03.

Personnel

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$311,493, include:

- An increase of \$410,633 due to increases in health insurance and retirement costs.
- A total of \$54,978 for a new Air Quality position approved to develop and implement countywide air quality programs.
- A decrease of \$101,383 related to TNR frozen positions for FY 04. These positions include an Office Specialist, an Engineering Tech III (both split funded with the General Fund) as well as a Division Manager for Engineering Services.
- TNR internally reallocated \$43,966 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- TNR reduced two slots, including a Sign Shop Supervisor and a CSR Supervisor, as part of a restructuring of the Road & Bridge staffing (these positions are split funded with the General Fund). These reductions, along with other personnel changes, represent a net savings to the Road & Bridge Fund of \$8,769 from its personnel budget.

Operating Expenses

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$2,303,374, include:

- A total of \$3,011,900 for replacement capital (including vehicles) as well as \$2,869,210 for new FY 04 approved capital equipment and projects as described in the TNR Capital Section.
- A total of \$916,306 as an Unallocated Reserve for increased reserve requirements in this special fund.
- A total of \$296,648 for re-budgeted capital items originally approved in FY 03 but not yet purchased.
- An increase of \$94,361 to this Fund's Allocated Reserve.
- TNR internally reallocated \$43,966 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- The removal of one-time expenditures totaling \$4,907,517.
- A total reduction of \$21,500 to this Special Fund's Operating budget (mainly cellular air time) to better control expenditures.
- A reallocation within the operating budget from various line items in the Road & Bridge Maintenance division to the Stormwater Management function within this special fund.