

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 05, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area has 392.35 permanent positions, as shown in Table A below. The table shows that this Program Area has experienced an increase of 12 FTE from FY 04 to FY 05 (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 \$34,774,477 in FY 02 to \$41,803,649 in FY 05, an increase of \$7,029,172 or 20 percent over the past three years. The increases are largely due to additional program requirements such as the staffing of voter-approved parks including the new East Metro Park in FY 05.

Table B shows the General Fund budget for the department for FY 02 through FY 05.

For FY 05, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area was appropriated \$1,242,890 for CAR funded capital equipment, \$5,111,160 in Road & Bridge funds for capital equipment and projects, \$92,095 in the LCRA-CIP Fund for capital equipment, \$552,100 for capital equipment funded from new CO's, and \$825,600 for capital equipment and projects funded from existing COs for a total of \$7,823,845. The components of these appropriations are described in the following pages.

The following pages provide more detailed information on the FY 05 budget, including information on special funds and capital equipment within TNR. One major difference in the FY 05 budget for TNR is a \$1,960,000 budgeted transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund due to improved accounting of County fine revenue.

Table A

**Permanent Positions - All Funds*
FY 2002 - FY 2005**

Department	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 05 - FY 04 Difference	Percent Change
TNR - General Fund	139.93	140.93	153.40	165.50	12.10	7.9%
TNR - Road and Bridge Fund	222.92	222.92	224.45	224.35	(0.10)	0.0%
TNR - BCP Fund	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.0%
SUBTOTAL	365.35	366.35	380.35	392.35	12.00	3.2%
TNR - Other Funds*	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.9	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL	384.25	385.25	399.25	411.25	12.00	3.0%

* Other Funds include bond-funded employees.

Table B

**TNR Budget
FY 2002 - FY 2005**

Department	Adopted Budget FY 02	Adopted Budget FY 03	Adopted Budget FY 04	Adopted Budget FY 05	FY 02 - FY 05 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$13,594,415	\$12,831,177	\$15,264,589	\$17,478,388	\$3,883,973	29%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$21,180,062	\$22,050,359	\$24,665,226	\$22,365,261	\$1,185,199	6%
Total TNR	\$34,774,477 *	\$34,881,536	\$39,929,815	\$39,843,649 **	\$5,069,172	15%

* Transfer of \$122,287 from the General Fund to the Road & Bridge Fund is excluded from the total budget to avoid double counting.

** Transfer of \$1,960,000 from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund is excluded from the total budget to avoid double counting.

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

The organizational chart is attached.

Key Program Statistics

Measures	FY 02 Actual	FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Projected	FY 05 Projected
Number of residential development permits	2,714	2,400	2,354	2,700
Percent of residential permits processed within ten days	94%	92%	70%	70%
Number of park visitors in fee collecting parks	650,500	650,500	N.A.	TBD
Percent of park visitors rating overall park experience as good or excellent	95%	95%	96%	95%
Number of BCP participation certificates	10	6	20	20
Number of BCP acres managed by Travis County	3,111	3,146	3,593	5,027

N.A. = Not Available

TBD = To be Determined

Adopted Budgets FY 02-05

	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	Diff FY 05-04
Personnel	\$6,872,971	\$6,968,755	\$7,527,939	\$8,572,438	\$1,044,499
Operating	\$3,796,156	\$4,698,575	\$6,011,128	\$7,663,060	\$1,651,932
CAR	\$3,047,575	\$1,163,847	\$1,725,522	\$1,242,890	(\$482,632)
Fund Total	\$13,716,702	\$12,831,177	\$15,264,589	\$17,478,388	\$2,213,799
FTE	139.93	140.93	153.40	165.50	12.10
Other Capital (A)	\$7,583,998	\$8,703,336	\$9,129,736	\$6,580,955	(\$2,548,781)

(A) Other Capital includes such sources as Certificates of Obligation, Road & Bridge funds, Bond and other funds.

FY 05 Budget Issues

The FY 05 Adopted Budget for Transportation and Natural Resources has increased by \$2,213,799 from the FY 04 budget. This increase is comprised of a \$1,044,499 increase in the personnel budget and a \$1,651,932 increase in operating funds, as well as a \$482,632 decrease 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 increased again to \$4,978,086 and the transfer remained eliminated; however, the Road & Bridge Fund again carried a total of \$916,306 as an Unallocated Reserve for increased reserve requirements in this special fund. The net effect was that the benefit to the Road & Bridge Fund was estimated at \$3,790,151.

In FY 05, a portion of the fine revenue was transferred from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund due to improved systems that allow the County to identify individual funds by offense conviction statute. This transfer totals \$1,960,000. In addition, the Road & Bridge Fund carries a \$1,229,204 Unallocated Reserve.

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$1,044,499, include:

- An increase of \$147,548 to reinstate funding and adjust for increased benefits related to positions frozen temporarily by TNR in 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 internally reallocated \$11,470 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- An increase of \$185,527 of partial year funding related to personnel costs for eight FTE to support the opening of the East Metro Park scheduled for the summer of 2005.

- An increase of \$15,578 for the addition of four new temporary crossing guards to staff new schools projected to open in the Fall of 2004 as well as to provide guard services at one additional location of an existing school.
- An increase of \$110,877 due to increases in health insurance and retirement costs.
- An increase of \$124,917 for two positions to support environmental civil enforcement including landfill compliance and air quality compliance.
- An additional \$95,128 for two new Engineering Specialist positions to support the TNR Stormwater Management program.
- An increase of \$345,166 in salaries and benefits for a 4% across-the-board pay increase for county employees, 1.75% for performance-based pay awards as well as other compensation issues.
- An increase of \$31,228 for FY 05 Peace Officer Pay Scale (POPS) increases consisting of a 4% increase for Park Ranger positions.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$1,651,932, include:

- TNR internally reallocated \$11,470 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- A total increase of \$857,068 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.
- An increase totaling \$95,271 to annualize operating increases approved in FY 04 for the expansion of the Southeast and Northeast Metropolitan Parks.
- An increase of \$74,687 for the fuel and maintenance costs associated with new vehicles added to the County's fleet.
- A total of \$352,050 for increased fuel costs related to price increases for FY 05.
- A total of \$79,688 in additional partial year operating resources to support the opening of the new East Metropolitan Park.
- An increase of \$3,124 to support the TNR Stormwater Management program as well as \$12,894 to support environmental civil enforcement including landfill compliance and air quality compliance.
- An increase of \$700 to support the addition of four new temporary crossing guards.
- A total of \$25,000 for an interlocal agreement with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to review environmental issues in Precinct 3.
- An increase of \$139,980 for water improvements in the Northridge Acres Subdivision.

FY 05 Capital Budget

Capital equipment and capital projects included in the Adopted Budget from all sources total \$7,823,845.

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from CAR (\$1,242,890)

- County-Wide Replacement Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$1,104,990)
- Equipment for the opening of the new East Metro Park, excluding new heavy equipment (\$84,860)
- Replacement Scanner (\$800)

- Radio Equipment to support new temporary crossing guards (\$9,240)
- Onion Creek Corp of Engineer Study (\$43,000)

In addition to the items and projects outlined above, the FY 05 Adopted Budget also includes \$23,280 for telephone and computer equipment budgeted centrally in Information and Telecommunication Systems.

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from Road & Bridge funds (\$5,111,160)

- New and Replacement Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$1,465,500)
- HMAC Projects (\$1,800,000)
- “F” Mix Projects (\$800,000)
- Asphalt Emulsion Storage Reservoirs (\$49,000)
- Replacement Plotter and Scanner (\$10,500)
- Replacement Survey Equipment (\$31,000)
- Rebudget Traffic Signals (\$769,210)
- Rebudgeted Guardrail (\$65,950)
- Rebudgeted Sidewalks (\$100,000)
- Rebudgeted Springwillow Project (\$20,000)

Capital Projects funded from LCRA-CIP funds (\$92,095)

- Rebudgeted Electrical Upgrades at Pace Bend Park (\$23,118)
- Rebudgeted Boat Dock at Pace Bend Park (\$65,000)
- Rebudgeted Fencing at Arkansas Bend Park (\$3,977)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from new Certificates of Obligations (\$552,100)

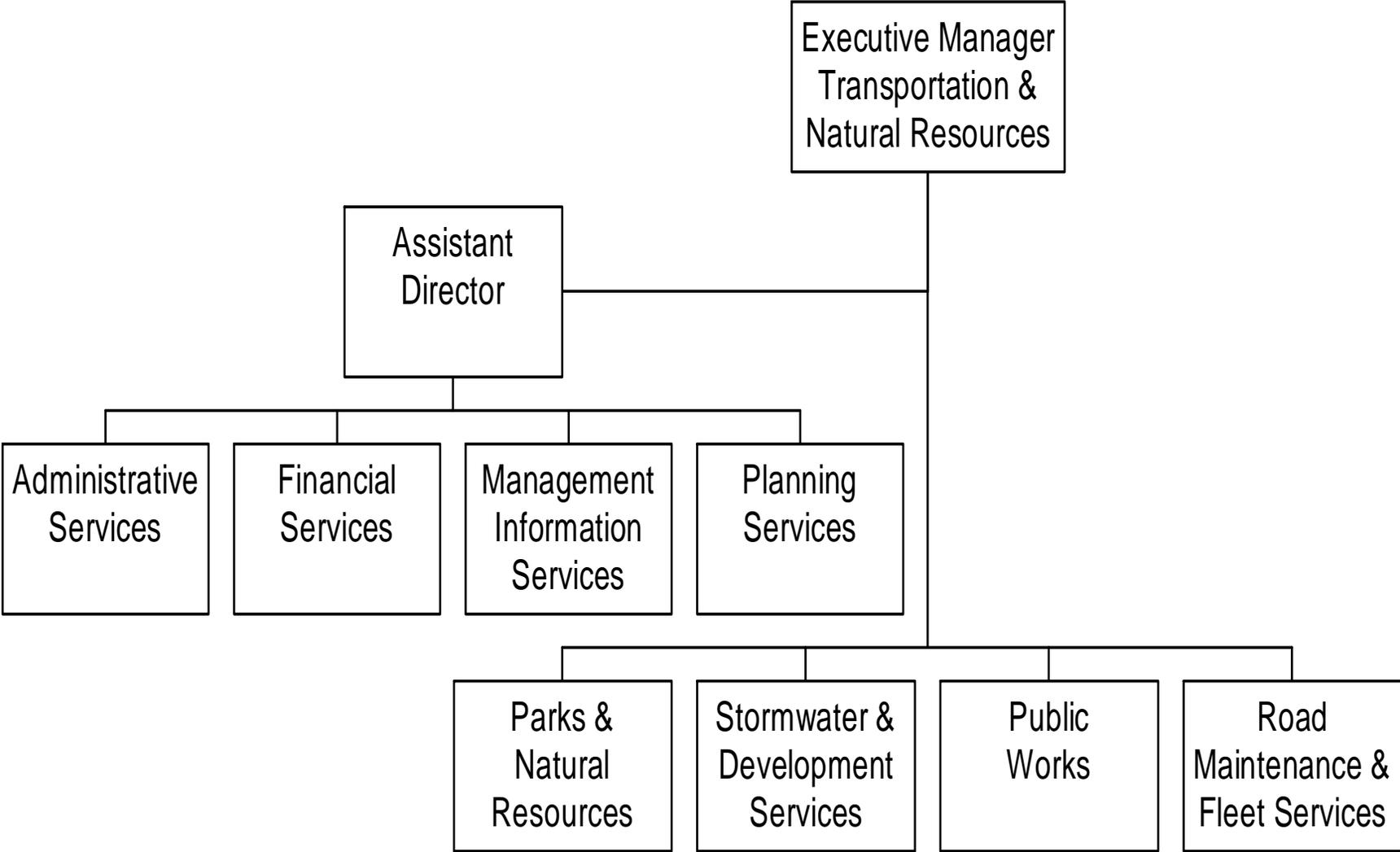
- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$552,100)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligations (\$825,600)

- Maintenance Building for East Metro Park (\$204,600)
- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$621,000)

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 & NATURAL RESOURCES



**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 \$251,709 in FY 05 and interest revenue will be \$70,000. The beginning balance for this fund is \$2,540,599, for total budgeted revenue of \$2,862,308.

Adopted Budgets FY 02-05

	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	Diff FY 05-04
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$2,315,380	\$2,401,589	\$2,497,433	\$2,862,308	\$364,875
Total	\$2,315,380	\$2,401,589	\$2,497,433	\$2,862,308	\$364,875
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 05 Budget Issues

The LCRA/TC CIP Fund has most of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve. In addition, a total of \$92,095 is budgeted directly in the operating budget for previously approved projects not yet completed. 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 05 revenue for the Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund (038) is \$7,327,681, an increase of \$998,808 over FY 04. This increase resulted from a \$1,046,193 increase in the beginning fund balance, a \$894,182 decrease in the sale of participation certificates (intergovernmental revenue), a \$5,000 increase in interest earned, a \$857,068 increase in the transfer from the General Fund (representing estimated additional tax revenue from new construction on BCP land), and a decrease in miscellaneous revenue of \$15,271 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 02-05

	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	Diff FY 05-04
Personnel	\$105,989	\$111,324	\$116,310	\$127,755	\$11,445
Operating	\$5,922,692	\$6,381,555	\$6,212,563	\$7,199,926	\$987,363
Total	\$6,028,681	\$6,492,879	\$6,328,873	\$7,327,681	\$998,808
FTE	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0

FY 05 Budget Issues

Budgeted expenditures for FY 05 include salaries and benefits totaling \$127,755 for a Park Ranger (0.75 FTE) and two Resource Management Technicians (1.75 FTE). The Special Fund’s operating budget is \$7,199,926. 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. According to the County Auditor's Revenue estimate, the beginning balance for this fund is \$264,450.

Adopted Budgets FY 02-05

	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	Diff FY 05-04
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$255,000	\$260,000	\$265,000	\$264,450	(\$550)
Total	\$255,000	\$260,000	\$265,000	\$264,450	(\$550)
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 05 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 05, the revenue certified to be generated from these sources is \$11,575,000. Interest earned on the fund is certified to be \$125,000, a total of \$5,290,984 is estimated as highway fine revenue, a total of \$75,000 for intergovernmental revenue and the beginning balance is \$7,259,277. The total revenue available in the Road and Bridge Fund is certified to be \$24,325,261.

Key Program Statistics

Measures	FY 02 Actual	FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Projected	FY 05 Projected
Miles of Reconstruction	19.92	17.98	18	19
Miles of Chip Seal	85.05	88.68	90	90
Miles of HMAC Overlay	32.8	N.A.	31	40
Percent of accepted county roads in marginal to good condition (Surveys completed in FY 87, FY 93, FY 98 & FY 01)	N.A.	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)	4.4%	4.0%	3.5%	3.0%

N.A. data not currently available

Adopted Budgets FY 02-05

	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	Diff FY 05-04
Personnel	\$8,996,691	\$9,011,685	\$9,323,178	\$10,103,674	\$780,496
Operating	\$12,183,371	\$13,038,674	\$15,342,048	\$14,221,587	(\$1,120,461)
Total	\$21,180,062	\$22,050,359	\$24,665,226	\$24,325,261	(\$339,965)
FTE	222.92	222.92	224.45	224.35	(0.10)

FY 05 Budget Issues

FY 05 is the tenth year in which road and bridge related expenditures have been budgeted directly in the Road & Bridge Fund. There is a \$339,965 decrease in the Road & Bridge Fund over FY 04.

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$780,496, include:

- An increase of \$105,115 to reinstate funding and adjust for increased benefits related to positions frozen temporarily by TNR in 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 \$16,054 from its operating budget to its personnel budget.
- An increase of \$154,631 due to increases in health insurance and retirement costs.
- An increase of \$504,696 in salaries and benefits for a 4% across-the-board pay increase for county employees, 1.75% for performance-based pay awards as well as other compensation issues.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in a decrease of \$1,120,461, include:

- The removal of one-time expenditures totaling \$6,155,258.
- TNR internally reallocated \$16,054 from its operating budget to its personnel budget.
- A total of \$955,160 for re-budgeted capital items and projects originally approved in FY 04 but not yet executed.
- A total of \$1,504,500 for replacement capital (including vehicles) as well as \$2,649,000 for new FY 05 approved capital equipment and projects as described in the TNR Capital Section.
- A decrease of \$506,978 to the Special Fund’s operating budget. This reduction, combined with a decrease totaling \$1,823,729 to the Fund’s Allocated Reserve, allowed for a budgeted expenditure of \$1,960,000 as a transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund. In FY 05, a portion of the fine revenue was transferred from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund due to improved systems that allow the County to identify individual funds by offence conviction statute.
- An increase of \$312,898 to this Special Fund’s Unallocated Reserve.