

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 06, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area has 392.25 permanent positions, as shown in Table A below. The table shows that this Program Area has experienced a decrease of 0.1 FTE from FY 05 to FY 06 (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 \$34,881,536 in FY 03 to \$39,159,760 in FY 06, an increase of \$4,278,224 or 12 percent over the past three years. The increases over the last few years 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 03 through FY 06.

For FY 06, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area was appropriated \$503,450 for CAR funded capital equipment, \$2,926,665 in Road & Bridge funds for capital equipment and projects, \$285,277 in the LCRA-CIP Fund for capital equipment, \$132,285 for capital projects within the BCP Fund, \$1,651,463 for capital projects funded from new CO's, and \$1,754,000 for capital equipment and projects funded from existing COs for a total of \$7,253,140. The components of these appropriations are described in the following pages.

The following pages provide more detailed information on the FY 06 budget, including information on special funds and capital equipment within TNR. The FY 06 budget for TNR includes a \$2,775,714 budgeted transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund. This transfer was budgeted for the first time in FY 05 and totaled \$1,960,000 and was established due to improved accounting of County fine revenue.

Table A

Permanent Positions - All Funds*						
FY 2003 - FY 2006						
Department	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 06 - FY 05 Difference	Percent Change
TNR - General Fund	140.93	153.40	165.50	167.60	2.10	1.3%
TNR - Road and Bridge Fund	222.92	224.45	224.35	224.45	0.10	0.0%
TNR - BCP Fund	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.0%
SUBTOTAL	366.35	380.35	392.35	394.55	2.20	0.6%
TNR - Other Funds*	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL	385.25	399.25	411.25	413.45	2.20	0.5%

* Other Funds include bond-funded employees.

Table B

**TNR Budget
FY 2003 - FY 2006**

Department	Adopted Budget FY 03	Adopted Budget FY 04	Adopted Budget FY 05	Adopted Budget FY 06	FY 03 - FY 06 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$12,831,177	\$15,264,589	\$17,478,388	\$18,407,254	\$5,576,077	43%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$22,050,359	\$24,665,226	\$22,365,261	\$20,752,506	(\$1,297,853)	-6%
Total TNR	\$34,881,536	\$39,929,815	\$39,843,649 *	\$39,159,760 **	\$4,278,224	12%

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

** Transfer of \$2,775,714 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 03 Actual	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Projected	FY 06 Projected
Number of residential development permits	2,400	2,354	2,700	3,800
Percent of residential permits processed within ten days	92%	70%	70%	85%
Number of park visitors in fee collecting parks	631,718	510,199	600,000	590,500
Percent of park visitors rating overall park experience as good or excellent	95%	96%	95%	95%
Number of BCP participation certificates	6	15	20	20
Number of BCP acres managed by Travis County	3,146	4,573	5,027	5,943

N.A. = Not Available

Adopted Budgets FY 03-06

	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Diff FY 06-05
Personnel	\$6,968,755	\$7,527,939	\$8,572,438	\$9,105,507	\$533,069
Operating	\$4,698,575	\$6,011,128	\$7,663,060	\$8,798,297	\$1,135,237
CAR	\$1,163,847	\$1,725,522	\$1,242,890	\$503,450	(\$739,440)
Fund Total	\$12,831,177	\$15,264,589	\$17,478,388	\$18,407,254	\$928,866
FTE	140.93	153.40	165.50	167.60	2.10
Other Capital (A)	\$8,703,336	\$9,129,736	\$7,823,845	\$6,749,690	(\$1,074,155)

(A) Other Capital includes such sources as Certificates of Obligation, Road & Bridge funds, and other funds. Please note that FY 05 other capital amount was noted in the FY 05 Adopted Budget as \$6,580,955 in error. The correct amount for FY 05 is noted above.

FY 06 Budget Issues

The FY 06 Adopted Budget for Transportation and Natural Resources has increased by \$928,866 from the FY 05 budget. This increase is comprised of a \$533,069 increase in the personnel budget and a \$1,135,237 increase in operating funds, as well as a \$739,440 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.

Since 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. In FY 06, this transfer totals \$2,775,714. In addition, the Road & Bridge Fund carries a \$1,229,204 Unallocated Reserve, the same as last year.

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$533,069, include:

- A total of \$143,602 for new positions approved mid-year related to subdivision review. These positions include a Senior Planner, Planner and Engineering Technician.
- An increase of \$90,655 to annualize personnel costs related park positions approved in FY 05 for the East Metro Park.
- A net reduction of \$6,830 that accounts for the annualization of minor FY 05 personnel issues as well as an internal reallocation from the department's personnel budget to its operating budget.
- A decrease due to increased budgeted salary savings totaling \$136,061 to better reflect the department's historic vacancy rate.

- A reallocation from the department's operating budget of \$8,800 for a new 0.2 FTE related to vehicle emissions coordination.
- An increase of \$67,185 due to increases in health insurance and retirement costs.
- An increase of \$318,933 in salaries and benefits for a 3% across-the-board pay increase for county employees, and 2% for performance-based pay awards as well as other compensation issues.
- An increase of \$46,785 for FY 06 Peace Officer Pay Scale (POPS) increases for Park Ranger positions.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$1,135,237, include:

- A decrease totaling \$189,980 due to the removal of one time costs including FY 05 grant matches.
- An increase of \$112,337 to annualize operating costs related park positions approved in FY 05 for the East Metro Park.
- An increase of \$48,500 for the fuel and maintenance costs associated with new vehicles added to the County's fleet.
- TNR internally reallocated \$7,276 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- A total of \$266,908 for increased fuel costs related to price increases for FY 05.
- A reallocation of \$8,800 from TNR's operating budget to its personnel budget for 0.2 FTE related to emissions coordination.
- A total increase of \$898,996 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.

FY 06 Capital Budget

Capital equipment and capital projects included in the Adopted Budget from all sources total \$7,253,140 including CAR and \$6,749,490, not including CAR funds. In addition, these figures do not include the issuance of voter approved debt.

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from CAR (\$503,450)

- County-Wide Replacement Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$503,450)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from Road & Bridge funds (\$2,926,665)

- New and Replacement Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$1,439,250)
- HMAC and "F" Mix Projects (\$704,333)
- Traffic Signals – New Installations (\$300,000)
- Rebudgeted Traffic Signals (\$332,882)
- Rebudgeted Guardrail (\$30,200)
- Rebudgeted Sidewalks (\$100,000)
- Rebudgeted Springwillow Project (\$20,000)

Capital Projects funded from LCRA-CIP funds (\$285,277)

- Parks Roads & Parking Lots (LCRA) (\$200,000)

- Rebudgeted Dump Station at Pace Bend Park (\$16,300)
- Rebudgeted Boat Dock at Pace Bend Park (\$65,000)
- Rebudgeted Fencing at Arkansas Bend Park (\$3,977)

Capital Projects funded from BCP funds (\$132,285)

- Wild Basin Boundary Fencing (\$35,000)
- BCP Fencing (\$68,285)
- BCP - Demolition of Structures (\$29,000)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from new Certificates of Obligation (\$1,651,463)

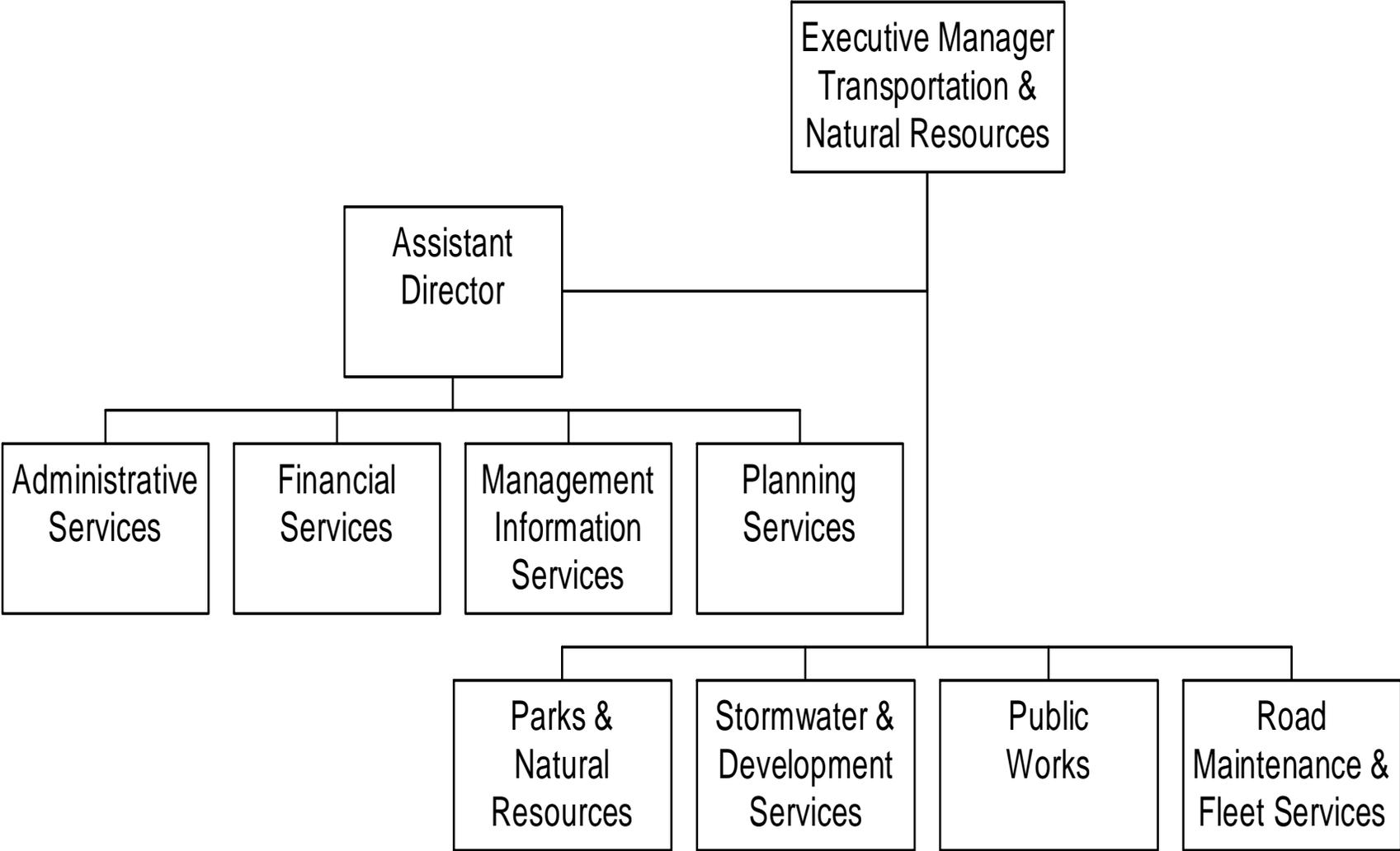
- HMAC and “F” Mix Projects (\$1,651,463)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligation (\$1,754,000)

- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$1,754,000)

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 day-use 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 \$238,815 in FY 06 and interest revenue will be \$50,000. The beginning balance for this fund is \$2,077,320, for total budgeted revenue of \$2,366,135.

Adopted Budgets FY 03-06

	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Diff FY 06-05
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$2,401,589	\$2,497,433	\$2,862,308	\$2,366,135	(\$496,173)
Total	\$2,401,589	\$2,497,433	\$2,862,308	\$2,366,135	(\$496,173)
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 06 Budget Issues

The LCRA/TC CIP Fund has most of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve. In addition, a total of \$285,277 is budgeted directly in the operating budget for previously approved projects not yet completed (\$85,277) as well as for a new park road and maintenance program in LCRA parks (\$200,000). 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 06 revenue for the Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund (038) is \$9,293,696, an increase of \$1,966,015 over FY 05. This increase resulted from a \$585,983 increase in the beginning fund balance, a \$591,279 increase in the sale of participation certificates (intergovernmental revenue), an \$898,996 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 \$110,243 for the operations and maintenance of BCP land. The General Fund transfer is based on the new tax revenue from new construction on land covered by BCP permits and Individual 10A permits through US Fish and Wildlife.

Adopted Budgets FY 03-06

	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Diff FY 06-05
Personnel	\$111,324	\$116,310	\$127,755	\$126,560	(\$1,195)
Operating	\$6,381,555	\$6,212,563	\$7,199,926	\$9,167,136	\$1,967,210
Total	\$6,492,879	\$6,328,873	\$7,327,681	\$9,293,696	\$1,966,015
FTE	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0

FY 06 Budget Issues

Budgeted expenditures for FY 06 include salaries and benefits totaling \$126,560 for a Park Ranger (0.75 FTE) and two Resource Management Technicians (1.75 FTE). The Special Fund’s operating budget is \$9,293,696, including \$29,000 for the one-time demolition of structures on BCP properties and \$103,285 for fencing of BCP properties. 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 \$260,450 and miscellaneous revenue is estimated at \$5,000.

Adopted Budgets FY 03-06

	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Diff FY 06-05
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$260,000	\$265,000	\$264,450	\$265,450	\$1,000
Total	\$260,000	\$265,000	\$264,450	\$265,450	\$1,000
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 06 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 06, the revenue certified to be generated from these sources is \$11,575,000. Interest earned on the fund is certified to be \$275,000, a total of \$6,515,405 is estimated as highway fine revenue, a total of \$75,600 for intergovernmental revenue and the beginning balance is \$5,045,215. The total revenue available in the Road and Bridge Fund is certified to be \$23,528,220.

Key Program Statistics

Measures	FY 03 Actual	FY 04 Actual	FY 05 Projected	FY 06 Projected
Miles of Reconstruction	17.98	15.5	19	15
Miles of Chip Seal	88.68	N.A.	90	82
Miles of HMA Overlay	46.9	N.A.	40	40
Overall percent of accepted county roads in fair to good condition (Surveys completed in FY 87, 93, 98, 01 & 04)*	N.A.	86.1%	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of bridges with sufficiency ratings below 60 points (Note: Formal survey is performed by TxDOT every two years)	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%	3.0%

* Percentages vary by precinct.
N.A. data not currently available

Adopted Budgets FY 03-06

	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	Diff FY 06-05
Personnel	\$9,011,685	\$9,323,178	\$10,103,674	\$9,958,569	(\$145,105)
Operating	\$13,038,674	\$15,342,048	\$14,221,587	\$13,569,651	(\$651,936)
Total	\$22,050,359	\$24,665,226	\$24,325,261	\$23,528,220	(\$797,041)
FTE	222.92	224.45	224.35	224.45	0.10

FY 06 Budget Issues

FY 06 is the eleventh year in which road and bridge related expenditures have been budgeted directly in the Road & Bridge Fund. There is a \$797,041 decrease in the Road & Bridge Fund over FY 05.

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in a decrease of \$145,105, include:

- A net reduction of \$103,287 that accounts for the annualization of minor FY 05 personnel issues (with a net 0.1 FTE increase in this Special Fund) as well as an internal reallocation from the department's personnel budget to its operating budget.
- A decrease due to increased budgeted salary savings totaling \$558,016 to better reflect the department's natural vacancy rate.
- An increase of \$89,031 due to increases in health insurance and retirement costs.
- An increase of \$427,167 in salaries and benefits for a 3% across-the-board pay increase for county employees, 2% for performance-based pay awards as well as other compensation issues.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in a decrease of \$651,936, include:

- The removal of one-time expenditures totaling \$5,108,660 for projects and equipment such as FY 05 replacement vehicles and heavy equipment and FY 05 HMAC and F Mix projects.
- A total of \$506,978 to reinstate reductions approved in the FY 05 Adopted Budget made to allow for the to the establishment of a transfer 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.
- An increase of \$815,714 to the transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund related to increased fine revenue.
- TNR internally reallocated \$96,762 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- A total of \$483,082 for re-budgeted capital items and projects originally approved in FY 05 but not yet executed.
- A total of \$1,412,250 for replacement vehicles and heavy equipment as well as \$1,004,333 for new FY 06 approved capital equipment and projects as described in the TNR Capital Section.
- An increase totaling \$91,351 in operating funds for price increases related to road materials.
- An increase totaling \$46,254 to the Allocated Reserve.