

## **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*
- *TCEQ*
- *Builders and Developers*
- *Capital Metro*
- *City of Austin*
- *Austin/Travis County Environmental Community*

## **Staffing**

For FY 08, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area has 406.55 permanent positions, as shown in Table A below. One FTE was added to TNR mid-year FY 07 to handle increased workload related to an approved policy and program for the construction and remediation of sidewalks in conformance with the

American's with Disabilities Act and Texas Accessibility Standards.

## **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 \$39,843,649 in FY 05 to \$48,081,145 in FY 08, an increase of \$8,237,496 or 21 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 and Southwest Metro Parks.

Table B shows the General Fund budget for the department for FY 05 through FY 08.

For FY 08, the Transportation and Natural Resources program area was appropriated \$4,991,521 for CAR funded capital equipment and projects, \$952,825 in Road & Bridge funds for capital equipment and projects, \$159,210 in the LCRA-CIP Fund for capital equipment, \$2,700,000 for capital projects funded from new CO's, and \$1,402,000 for capital equipment and projects funded from existing COs for a total of \$10,205,556. The components of these appropriations are described in the following pages.

The following pages provide more detailed information on the FY 08 budget, including information on special funds and capital equipment within TNR. The FY 08 budget for TNR includes a \$3,145,886 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**

<b>Permanent Positions - All Funds*</b>						
<b>FY 2005 - FY 2008</b>						
Department	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 05 - FY 08 Difference	Percent Change
TNR - General Fund	165.50	167.60	180.30	181.85	16.35	9.9%
TNR - Road and Bridge Fund	224.35	224.45	222.75	222.20	(2.15)	-1.0%
TNR - BCP Fund	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.0%
SUBTOTAL	392.35	394.55	405.55	406.55	14.20	3.6%
TNR - Bond Funds*	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	0.00	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>411.25</b>	<b>413.45</b>	<b>424.45</b>	<b>425.45</b>	<b>14.20</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

\* In addition, TNR has 0.8 grant funded FTE.

**Table B**

<b>TNR Budget</b>						
<b>FY 2005 - FY 2008</b>						
Department	Adopted Budget FY 05	Adopted Budget FY 06	Adopted Budget FY 07	Adopted Budget FY 08	FY 05 - FY 08 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$17,478,388	\$18,407,254	\$25,230,201	\$27,637,555	\$10,159,167	58%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$22,365,261	\$20,752,506	\$20,703,891	\$20,443,590	(\$1,921,671)	-9%
<b>Total TNR *</b>	<b>\$39,843,649</b>	<b>\$39,159,760</b>	<b>\$45,934,092</b>	<b>\$48,081,145</b>	<b>\$8,237,496</b>	<b>21%</b>

- Transfers from from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund are excluded from the total budget to avoid double counting. These amounts are: \$1,960,000 in FY 05; \$2,775,714 in FY 06; \$2,667,728 in FY 07 and \$3,145,886 in FY 08.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Transportation and Natural Resources (49)</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">General Fund</h3>
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**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 05 Actual	FY 06 Actual	FY07 Projected	FY08 Projected
Number of residential development permits reviewed	3,800	4,839	3,500	3,000
Percent of residential permits processed within ten days	82%	69%	75%	80%
Number of park visitors in fee collecting parks	595,653	578,237	622,740	624,694
Number of BCP participation certificates	13	24	20	20
Number of BCP acres managed by Travis County	4,762	4,789	5,439	6,301*

\* Total projected from BCCP Shared Vision Document (1995)

**Adopted Budgets FY 05-08**

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	Diff FY 08-07
Personnel	\$8,572,438	\$9,105,507	\$10,215,244	\$10,681,397	\$466,153
Operating	\$7,663,060	\$8,798,297	\$10,904,965	\$11,964,637	\$1,059,672
CAR	\$1,242,890	\$503,450	\$4,109,992	\$4,991,521	\$881,529
Fund Total	\$17,478,388	\$18,407,254	\$25,230,201	\$27,637,555	\$2,407,354
FTE	165.50	167.60	180.30	181.85	1.55
Other Capital (A)	\$7,823,845	\$6,749,690	\$8,233,753	\$5,214,035	(\$3,019,718)

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

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**FY 08 Budget Issues**

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The FY 08 Adopted Budget for Transportation and Natural Resources has increased by \$2,407,354 from the FY 07 budget. This increase is comprised of a \$466,153 increase in the personnel budget and a \$1,059,672 increase in operating funds, as well as a \$881,529 increase 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 the previous year. Again, the net effect was a benefit of \$3,790,151 to the Road & Bridge Fund.

In FY 08, the transfer is \$3,145,886 given fine revenue estimates of \$6,936,037. While the majority of the Unallocated Reserve requirements for this Fund continue to be in the General Fund, the Road and Bridge Fund maintains a small portion of such requirements. The Unallocated Reserve within the Road & Bridge Fund was reduced to \$224,050 to better reflect the estimated requirements of the Special Fund.

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$466,153, include:

- An increase of \$476,823 in salaries and benefits for a 3.5% across-the-board pay increase (with a \$1,050 minimum) for county employees and 2% for performance-based pay awards and other compensation issues including market adjustments.
- An increase of \$20,996 due to changes in life insurance and workers' compensation costs.
- A net increase of \$64,009 to annualize FY 07 personnel actions including a new FTE to handle additional tracking of sidewalk requests as well as an increase of 0.55 FTE to better reflect the department's personnel alignment between the General Fund and the Road & Bridge Fund.
- A decrease totaling \$231,402 adjusting the department's budgeted salary savings.
- TNR internally reallocated \$24,329 from its personnel budget to its operating budget.
- A total of \$24,178 was added as a technical correction from FY 07 to FY 08.
- In addition to various internal reallocations to help fund retirement for temporaries in the department's Parks Division and Child Safety Division, a total of \$84,886 was added to TNR for this purpose.
- An increase of \$50,992 for Park Ranger Peace Officer Pay Scale (POPS) salary increases.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$1,059,672, include:

- A total of \$337,449 was removed as one time costs relating to FY 07 programs like Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), Green Printing and one-time costs associated with the Milton Reimers Ranch Park.
- A total of \$48,695 was added to TNR to annualize some operating costs associated with the new Sidewalk FTE as well as a contract increase relating to subdivision platting.
- An increase totaling \$24,329 due to an internal reallocation from TNR's personnel budget to its operating budget.
- A total of \$50,899 for increased costs relating to the 290 E Landfill.
- A total increase of \$967,423 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 of \$91,015 for the fuel and maintenance costs associated with new vehicles added to the County's fleet as well as Buy Board fees associated with vehicle purchases.
- An increase of \$144,800 for the Walnut Creek Flood Reduction Study and \$69,960 for flood-plain buyout software to manage the County's floodplain program.

## **FY 08 Capital Budget**

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Capital equipment and capital projects included in the Adopted Budget from all sources total \$10,205,556. Please note that these figures do not include the issuance of voter approved debt.

### ***Capital Equipment and Projects funded from CAR (\$4,991,521)***

- County-Wide Replacement Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$4,285,681)
- Gilleland Creek Hike and Bike Trail – Phase III (\$125,000)
- Tuscany Way South Design (\$350,000)
- HMAC and Alternative Paving (\$230,840)

***Capital Equipment and Projects funded from Road & Bridge funds (\$952,825)***

- HMAC and Alternative Paving (\$507,825)
- Traffic Signals (\$200,000)
- Guardrails (\$95,000)
- Turn Lane at Wells Branch Parkway at Summit Way (\$150,000)

***Capital Projects funded from LCRA-CIP funds (\$159,210)***

- Parks Roads & Parking Lots (\$159,210)

***Capital Equipment and Projects funded from new Certificates of Obligation (\$2,700,000)***

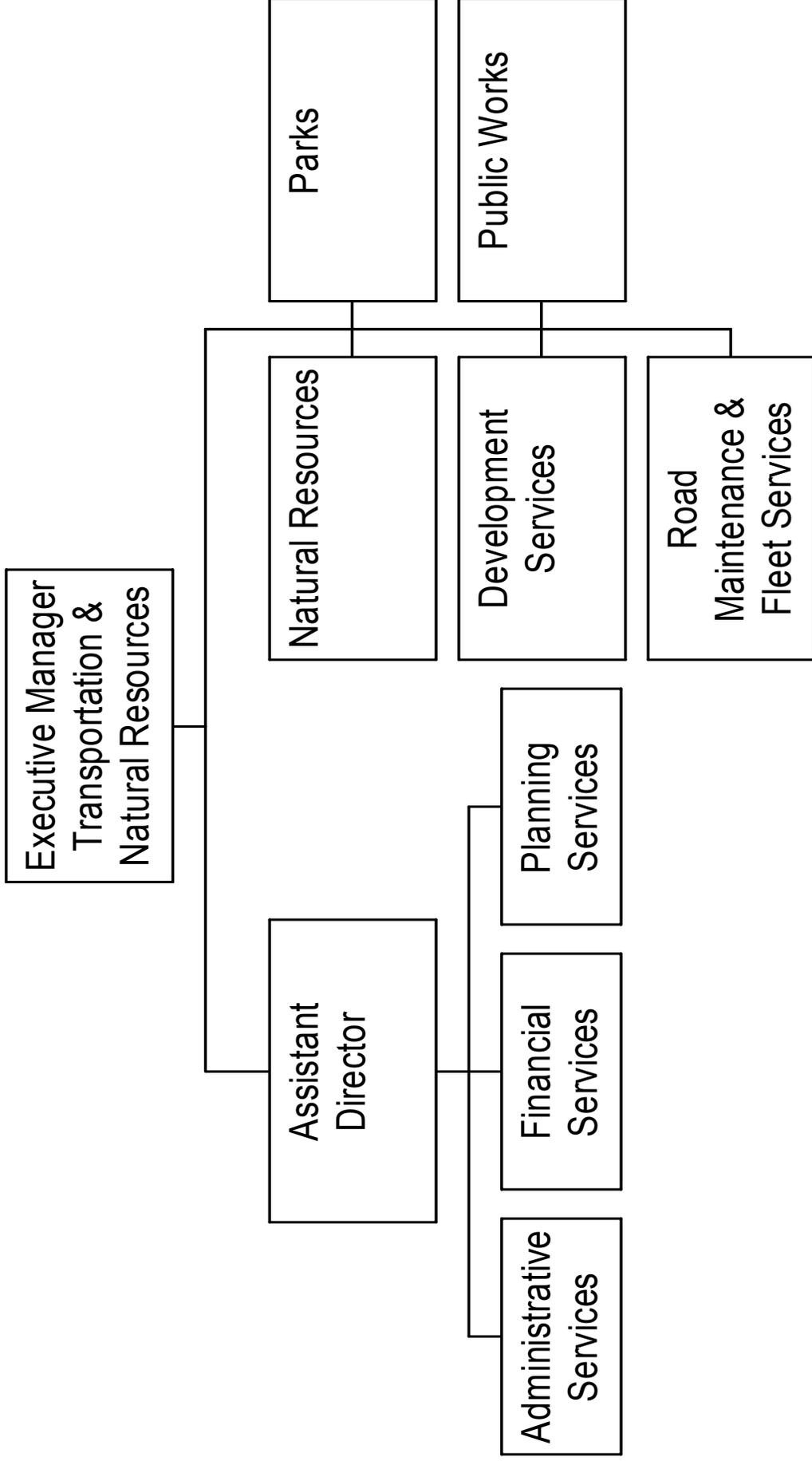
- Eastside Service Center – Roads and Drainage (\$1,200,000)
- Frate Barker Grant Match (\$500,000)
- Floodplain Buy-Out (\$1,000,000)

***Capital Equipment and Projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligation (\$1,402,000)***

- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$282,000)
- HMAC and Alternative Paving (\$1,120,000)

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**

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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**

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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 \$237,343 in FY 08 and interest revenue will be \$75,000. The beginning balance for this fund is \$2,445,783, for total budgeted revenue of \$2,758,126.

**Adopted Budgets FY 05-08**

	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>FY 06</b>	<b>FY 07</b>	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>Diff FY 08-07</b>
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$2,862,308	\$2,366,135	\$2,379,312	\$2,758,126	\$378,814
Total	\$2,862,308	\$2,366,135	\$2,379,312	\$2,758,126	\$378,814
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

**FY 08 Budget Issues**

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The LCRA/TC CIP Fund has most of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve. In addition, a total of \$300,187 is budgeted directly in the operating budget for previously approved projects not yet completed (\$140,977) as well as for the continuation of a new park road and maintenance program in LCRA parks (\$159,210). 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 08 revenue for the Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund (038) is \$26,515,358, an increase of \$7,546,176 over FY 07. This increase resulted from a \$5,568,554 increase in the beginning fund balance, a \$823,745 increase in the sale of participation certificates (intergovernmental revenue), a \$200,000 increase in interest income, a \$967,423 increase in the transfer from the General Fund (representing estimated additional tax revenue from new construction on BCP land), and a small decrease in miscellaneous revenue of \$13,546 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. The total transfer for FY 08 is \$6,680,185.

**Adopted Budgets FY 05-08**

	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>FY 06</b>	<b>FY 07</b>	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>Diff FY 08-07</b>
Personnel	\$127,755	\$126,560	\$142,394	\$150,254	\$7,860
Operating	\$7,199,926	\$9,167,136	\$18,826,788	\$26,365,104	\$7,538,316
Total	\$7,327,681	\$9,293,696	\$18,969,182	\$26,515,358	\$7,546,176
FTE	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.0

**FY 08 Budget Issues**

Budgeted expenditures for FY 08 include salaries and benefits totaling \$150,254 for a Park Ranger (0.75 FTE) and two Resource Management Technicians (1.75 FTE). The Special Fund’s operating budget is \$26,365,104. While the Fund has an Allocated Reserve totaling \$12,973,198,

the majority of the funds are budgeted for land acquisition (\$13,185,455) and other operating line items totaling \$206,451 for support of the BCP program. 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 \$272,449 and miscellaneous revenue is estimated at \$5,000.

**Adopted Budgets FY 05-08**

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	Diff FY 08-07
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$264,450	\$265,450	\$269,548	\$277,449	\$7,901
Total	\$264,450	\$265,450	\$269,548	\$277,449	\$7,901
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

**FY 08 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, a portion of the motor vehicle sales tax<sup>1</sup>, 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 08, the revenue certified to be generated from these sources and sidewalk remediation fees is \$11,881,250. Interest earned on the fund is certified to be \$471,921, a total of \$6,936,037 is estimated as highway fine revenue, \$55,000 for miscellaneous revenue, a total of \$75,300 for intergovernmental revenue and the beginning balance is \$4,169,968. The total revenue available in the Road and Bridge Fund is certified to be \$23,589,476.

**Key Program Statistics**

Measures	FY 05 Actual	FY 06 Actual	FY 07 Projected	FY 08 Projected
Miles of Reconstruction	15.5	14.99	15.0	15.0
Miles of Chip Seal	92.65	69.49	82.00	80.00
Miles of HMAC Overlay	51.79	34.44	50.00	40.00
Overall percent of accepted county roads in fair to good condition ( Surveys completed in FY 87, 93, 98, 01 & 04)*	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	90%
Percent of bridges with sufficiency ratings below 60 points (Note: Formal survey is performed by TxDOT every two years)**	3.5%	<1%	1%	1%

\* Percentages vary by precinct. Last survey in FY04 had an overall rating of 89.8%; the next Pavement Condition Survey will be in FY 2009.

\*\* FY06 figures based on TxDOT's survey. FY05, FY07, and FY08 based on TNR's Pavement Management System. Next TxDOT survey will be at the end of FY08.

<sup>1</sup> Per Article 9 of HB3588 of the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2003), the County will continue to retain a total of 5% of the motor vehicle sales tax. However, effective 2006, the amount deposited to the Road & Bridge Fund decreases by 10% every year for 10 years. The 10% gets deposited into the General Fund. By 2015, all motor vehicle sales tax revenue will go to the General Fund.

**Adopted Budgets FY 05-08**

	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	Diff FY 08-07
Personnel	\$10,103,674	\$9,958,569	\$10,637,088	\$10,731,215	\$94,127
Operating	\$14,221,587	\$13,569,651	\$12,734,531	\$12,858,261	\$123,730
Total	\$24,325,261	\$23,528,220	\$23,371,619	\$23,589,476	\$217,857
FTE	224.35	224.45	222.75	222.2	(0.55)

**FY 08 Budget Issues**

There is a \$217,857 increase in the Road & Bridge Fund over FY 07 as detailed below:

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$94,127, include:

- An increase of \$565,635 in salaries and benefits for a 3.5% across-the-board pay increase (with a \$1,050 minimum) for county employees and 2% for performance-based pay awards and other compensation issues including market adjustments.
- A decrease of \$99,320 due to changes in life insurance and workers' compensation costs.
- A total of \$6,069 was added to annualize FY 07 personnel actions including a decrease of 0.55 FTE to better reflect the department's personnel alignment between the General Fund and the Road & Bridge Fund.
- A decrease totaling \$115,985 adjusting the department's budgeted salary savings.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$123,730, include:

- The removal of one-time expenditures totaling \$1,604,473 for projects and equipment such as traffic signals and FY 07 HMAC and sidewalk projects.
- An increase totaling \$262,272 due to an internal reallocation from TNR's personnel budget to its operating budget.
- An increase of \$478,158 to the transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund related mainly to increased fine revenue.
- A total of \$952,825 for capital projects within the Road & Bridge Fund such as a new turn lane, traffic signals, guardrails and HMAC and Alternative Paving.
- An increase totaling \$61,131 to the Allocated Reserve as well as a decrease totaling \$26,183 to the Unallocated Reserve within the Road & Bridge Fund.