

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 10, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area has 401.55 permanent positions, as shown in Table A below. A total of nine FTE were removed from TNR for FY 10 given budgetary constraints. The majority of these positions

were related to the department's road program.

Budget

The total budget for the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area from both the General Fund and the Road and Bridge Fund has decreased from \$45,934,092 in FY 07 to \$43,962,380 in FY 10. This is a decrease of \$1,971,712 or four percent. This decrease is due in most part to decreased revenue in the Road & Bridge Fund.

Table B shows the General Fund budget for the department for FY 07 through FY 10.

For FY 10, the Transportation and Natural Resources program area was appropriated \$1,381,337 for CAR funded capital equipment and projects, \$200,000 in the LCRA-CIP Fund for capital projects, \$7,929,200 for capital equipment and projects funded from new CO's, and \$687,000 for capital equipment and projects funded from existing COs for a total of \$10,197,537. The components of these appropriations are described in the following pages.

The following pages provide more detailed information on the FY 10 budget, including information on special funds and capital equipment within TNR. The FY 10 budget for TNR includes a \$2,483,051 budgeted transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund. This transfer was budgeted for the first time in FY 05 and was established due to improved accounting of County fine revenue.

Table A

Permanent Positions - All Funds*						
FY 2007 - FY 2010						
Department	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 07 - FY 10 Difference	Percent Change
TNR - General Fund	180.30	181.85	183.85	182.50	2.20	1.2%
TNR - Road and Bridge Fund	222.75	222.20	222.20	214.55	(8.20)	-3.7%
TNR - BCP Fund	2.50	2.50	4.50	4.50	2.00	80.0%
SUBTOTAL	405.55	406.55	410.55	401.55	(4.00)	-1.0%
TNR - Bond Funds*	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL	424.45	425.45	429.45	420.45	(4.00)	-0.9%

* In addition, TNR has 1.8 grant funded FTEs.

Table B

TNR Budget						
FY 2007 - FY 2010						
Department	Adopted Budget FY 07	Adopted Budget FY 08	Adopted Budget FY 09	Adopted Budget FY 10	FY 07 - FY 10 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$25,230,201	\$27,637,555	\$26,173,883	\$26,662,891	\$1,432,690	6%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$20,703,891	\$20,443,590	\$21,329,899	\$17,299,489	(\$3,404,402)	-16%
Total TNR *	\$45,934,092	\$48,081,145	\$47,503,782	\$43,962,380	(\$1,971,712)	-4%

* Transfers from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund are excluded from the total budget to avoid double counting. These amounts are: \$2,667,728 in FY 07; \$3,145,886 in FY 08; \$3,235,352 in FY 09; and \$2,483,051 in FY 10.

The following table includes the transfers and ties to the Adopted Budget:

Department	Adopted Budget FY 07	Adopted Budget FY 08	Adopted Budget FY 09	Adopted Budget FY 10	FY 07 - FY 10 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$25,230,201	\$27,637,555	\$26,173,883	\$26,173,883	\$943,682	4%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$23,371,619	\$23,589,476	\$24,565,251	\$19,782,540	(\$3,589,079)	-15%
Total TNR Adopted	\$48,601,820	\$51,227,031	\$50,739,134	\$45,956,423	(\$2,645,397)	-5%

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	FY07 Actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 Projected	FY10 Projected
Number of residential development permits reviewed	3,402	3,000	1,500	1,750
Percent of residential permits processed within ten days	70%	75%	80%	85%
Number of park visitors in fee collecting parks	443,564*	605,649	625,000	625,000
Number of BCP participation certificates	20	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Number of BCP acres managed by Travis County	5,093	5,122	6,520	6,840

* Lake Travis flooding resulted in lake parks closed during July of 2007.

Adopted Budgets FY 07-10

	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	Diff FY 10-09
Personnel	\$10,215,244	\$10,681,397	\$11,435,081	\$11,204,555	(\$230,526)
Operating	\$10,904,965	\$11,964,637	\$14,057,507	\$14,076,899	\$19,392
CAR	\$4,109,992	\$4,991,521	\$681,295	\$1,381,337	\$700,042
Fund Total	\$25,230,201	\$27,637,555	\$26,173,883	\$26,662,791	\$488,908
FTE	180.30	181.85	183.85	182.50	-1.35
Other Capital (A)	\$8,233,753	\$5,214,035	\$10,190,516	\$10,197,537	\$7,021

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

FY 10 Budget Issues

The FY 10 Adopted Budget for Transportation and Natural Resources has increased by \$488,908 from the FY 09 budget. This increase is comprised of a \$230,526 decrease in the personnel budget and a \$19,392 increase in operating funds, as well as a \$700,042 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 05, FY 06, FY 07, FY 08 and FY 09 the transfer varied but had a net benefit of \$3,790,151 to the Road & Bridge Fund. In FY 10, the transfer is \$2,483,051.

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in a decrease of \$230,526 include:

- An increase of \$65,596 in benefit costs (retirement and life insurance).
- An additional \$28,360 is included to annualize FY 09 personnel actions.
- The department reduced its operating budget by \$188,181 in response to the decrease in available revenue to support this special fund. This reduction included the elimination of 1.35 FTE. These FTE are also partially funded from the Road & Bridge Fund and include a Survey Crew Specialist; Engineering Inspector Specialist Sr.; and a Floodplain Manager.
- A total of \$136,301 was transferred from the department's personnel budget to its operating budget.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$19,392, include:

- A total increase of \$963,972 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 net reduction of \$914,894 due mainly to decreased fuel prices for county-wide vehicles.
- A total of \$136,301 was transferred from the department's personnel budget to its operating budget.
- The department reduced its operating budget by \$165,987 as part of the department's recommended reduction proposals submitted during the budget process.

FY 10 Capital Budget

Capital equipment and capital projects included in the Adopted Budget from all sources total \$10,197,537. Please note that these figures do not include the issuance of voter approved debt.

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from CAR (\$1,381,337)

- Asphaltic/Non-Asphaltic Projects (\$1,375,337)
- Vehicle equipment for Constables (\$6,000)

Capital Projects funded from LCRA-CIP funds (\$200,000)

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

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from new Certificates of Obligation (\$7,929,200)

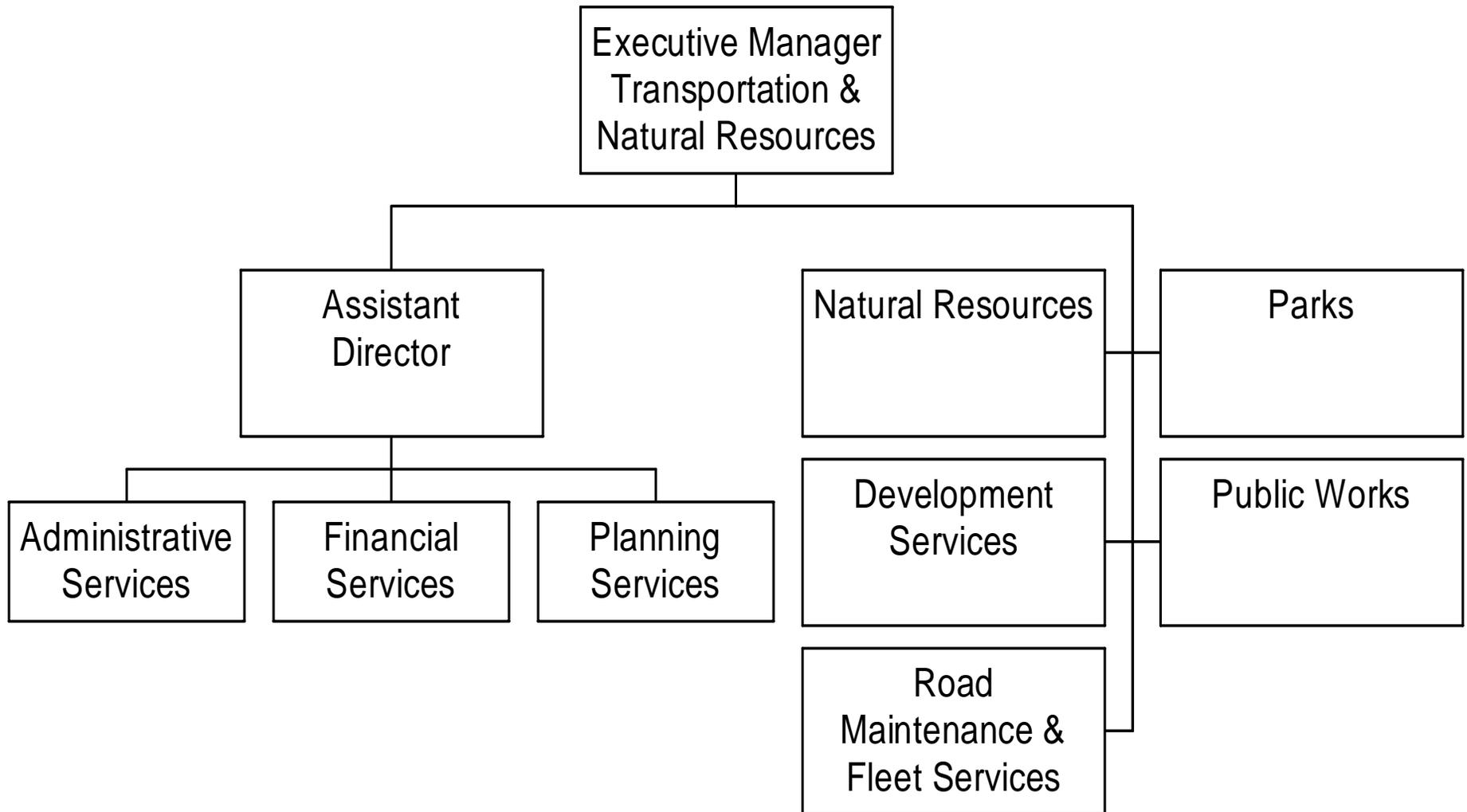
- HMAC and Alternative Paving (\$3,385,400)
- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$2,578,800)
- Asphaltic/Non-Asphaltic Projects (\$1,000,000)
- Frate Barker (\$575,000)
- TxDOT off System Bridges (\$150,000)
- ADA Sidewalk Upgrades (\$150,000)
- New Guardrail Installations (\$90,000)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligation (\$687,000)

- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$382,000)
- HMAC and Alternative Paving (\$200,000)
- Playground Equipment at Windmill Run Park (\$105,000)

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 \$221,463 in FY 10 and interest revenue will be \$56,494. The beginning balance for this fund is \$2,747,928, for total budgeted revenue of \$3,025,885.

Adopted Budgets FY 07-10

	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	Diff FY 10-09
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$2,379,312	\$2,758,126	\$2,886,572	\$3,025,885	\$139,313
Total	\$2,379,312	\$2,758,126	\$2,886,572	\$3,025,885	\$139,313
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 10 Budget Issues

The LCRA/TC CIP Fund has all of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve. 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 and revenue generated from new construction on BCP land. The City of Austin also receives 50% of the revenue to provide operating funds for habitat lands.

FY 10 revenue for the Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund (038) is \$11,570,950, an increase of \$786,462 over FY 09. This increase resulted from a, \$1,474,158 increase in the beginning fund balance, a \$1,411,830 decrease in the sale of participation certificates (intergovernmental revenue), a \$21,353 decrease in interest income, a \$963,972 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 \$218,485 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 10 is \$8,919,442.

Adopted Budgets FY 07-10

	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	Diff FY 10-09
Personnel	\$142,394	\$150,254	\$248,975	\$252,335	\$3,360
Operating	\$18,826,788	\$26,365,104	\$10,535,513	\$11,318,615	\$783,102
Total	\$18,969,182	\$26,515,358	\$10,784,488	\$11,570,950	\$786,462
FTE	2.5	2.5	4.5	4.5	0.0

FY 10 Budget Issues

The FY 10 Adopted Budget for the Transportation and Natural Resources BCP Fund increased by \$786,462 over FY 09 as detailed below:

Personnel

Highlights of a \$3,360 increase in personnel included a total of \$1,910 to annualize FY 09 personnel actions and \$1,450 in benefit increases for BCP staff.

Operating

The FY 10 Adopted Budget includes a \$783,102 increase in the operating budget resulting from the following:

- A decrease of \$245,547 for one time costs.
- A total of \$161,087 for fencing approved in a previous year and not yet completed.
- A net increase of \$867,562 to the Allocated Reserve of this special Fund.

**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 \$273,059 and miscellaneous revenue is estimated at \$5,000.

Adopted Budgets FY 07-10

	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	Diff FY 10-09
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$269,548	\$277,449	\$274,467	\$278,059	\$3,592
Total	\$269,548	\$277,449	\$274,467	\$278,059	\$3,592
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 10 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 tax¹, 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 10, the revenue certified to be generated from these sources and sidewalk remediation fees is \$10,378,000. Interest earned on the fund is certified to be \$91,557, a total of \$6,410,057 is estimated as highway fine revenue, \$65,000 for miscellaneous revenue, a total of \$75,795 for intergovernmental revenue and the beginning balance is \$2,762,131. The total revenue available in the Road and Bridge Fund is certified to be \$19,782,540.

Key Program Statistics

Measures	FY 07 Actual	FY 08 Actual	FY 09 Projected	FY 10 Projected
Miles of Reconstruction	11.0	10.0	6.7	8.0
Miles of Chip Seal	56.71	82.00	86.60	57.00
Miles of HMAC Overlay	34.44	40.00	38.10	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.	N.A.
Percent of bridges with sufficiency ratings below 60 points (Note: Formal survey is performed by TxDOT every two years)**	<1%	<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. Updated Survey will be available in January of 2010.

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

¹ Per Article 9 of HB3588 of the 78th 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 07-10

	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	Diff FY 10-09
Personnel	\$10,637,088	\$10,731,215	\$11,678,643	\$11,128,925	(\$549,718)
Operating	\$12,734,531	\$12,858,261	\$12,886,608	\$8,653,615	(\$4,232,993)
Total	\$23,371,619	\$23,589,476	\$24,565,251	\$19,782,540	(\$4,782,711)
FTE	222.75	222.2	222.2	214.55	(7.65)

FY 10 Budget Issues

There is a \$4,782,711 decrease in the Road & Bridge Fund over FY 09 as detailed below:

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in a decrease of \$549,718, include:

- A reduction of \$70,078 to annualize FY 09 personnel actions.
- The department reduced its personnel budget by \$549,340 in response to the decrease in available revenue to support this special fund. This reduction included the reduction of 7.65 FTE. These positions were mainly related to the road maintenance program. The majority of these positions will remain frozen and unfunded for three years. At that time TNR will be required to evaluate whether or not to request to reinstate these positions based on program needs and revenue constraints.
- An increase of \$69,700 in benefit costs (retirement and life insurance).

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in a decrease of \$4,232,993, include:

- A reduction of \$274,408 related to the removal of one-time costs and other adjustments to the FY FY 09 budget.
- A net decrease of \$752,301 to the transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund related to decreased fine revenue and Unallocated Reserve requirements.
- An increase of \$388,657 related to rebudgeted projects such as traffic signals.
- A net decrease totaling \$430,263 to the Allocated Reserve as well as a decrease totaling \$321,544 to the Unallocated Reserve within the Road & Bridge Fund.
- A decrease totaling \$2,243,456 related to moving some asphaltic and non-asphaltic projects from the Road & Bridge Fund to alternative capital funding such as CAR and CO's.
- The department reduced its operating budget by \$599,678 in response to the decrease in available revenue to support this special fund.