

**Program Area Overview**

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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**

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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**

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For FY 11, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area has 401.55 permanent positions, as shown in Table A below. A total of 3 FTE were frozen by TNR for FY 11 to help fund the transfer of several Special Project Temporary positions

that work on Travis County bond projects. The funding changes did not, however, change the FTE totals in TNR.

**Budget**

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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 \$48,081,145 in FY 08 to \$45,505,390 in FY 11. This is a decrease of \$2,575,755 or five percent. This decrease is due in most part to decreased revenue in the Road & Bridge Fund as compared to FY 08.

Table B shows the General Fund budget for the department for FY 08 through FY 11.

For FY 11, the Transportation and Natural Resources program area was appropriated \$564,067 for CAR funded capital equipment and projects, \$200,000 in the LCRA-CIP Fund for capital projects, \$9,038,620 for capital equipment and projects funded from new CO's, and \$4,117,800 for capital equipment and projects funded from existing COs for a total of \$13,920,487. The components of these appropriations are described in the following pages.

The following pages provide more detailed information on the FY 11 budget, including information on special funds and capital equipment within TNR. The FY 11 budget for TNR includes a \$2,349,089 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**

<b>Permanent Positions - All Funds*</b>						
<b>FY 2008 - FY 2011</b>						
Department	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 08 - FY 11 Difference	Percent Change
TNR - General Fund	181.85	183.85	182.50	182.50	0.65	0.4%
TNR - Road and Bridge Fund	222.20	222.20	214.55	214.55	(7.65)	-3.4%
TNR - BCP Fund	2.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	2.00	80.0%
SUBTOTAL	406.55	410.55	401.55	401.55	(5.00)	-1.2%
TNR - Bond Funds*	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL	425.45	429.45	420.45	420.45	(5.00)	-1.2%

\* In addition, TNR has 1.8 grant funded FTEs.

**Table B**

<b>TNR Budget</b>						
<b>FY 2008 - FY 2011</b>						
Department	Adopted Budget FY 08	Adopted Budget FY 09	Adopted Budget FY 10	Adopted Budget FY 11	FY 08 - FY 11 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$27,637,555	\$26,173,883	\$26,662,891	\$27,184,609	(\$452,946)	-2%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$20,443,590	\$21,329,899	\$17,299,489	\$18,320,781	(\$2,122,809)	-10%
Total TNR *	\$48,081,145	\$47,503,782	\$43,962,380	\$45,505,390	(\$2,575,755)	-5%

\* Transfers from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund are excluded from the total budget to avoid double counting. These amounts are: \$3,145,886 in FY 08; \$3,235,352 in FY 09; \$2,483,051 in FY 10; and \$2,349,089 in FY 11.

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

Department	Adopted Budget FY 08	Adopted Budget FY 09	Adopted Budget FY 10	Adopted Budget FY 11	FY 08 - FY 11 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$27,637,555	\$26,173,883	\$26,173,883	\$27,184,609	(\$452,946)	-2%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$23,589,476	\$24,565,251	\$19,782,540	\$20,669,870	(\$2,919,606)	-12%
Total TNR Adopted	\$51,227,031	\$50,739,134	\$45,956,423	\$47,854,479	(\$3,372,552)	-7%

## 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	FY08 Actual	FY09 Actual	FY10 Projected	FY11 Projected
Number of residential development permits reviewed	3,000	1,500	1,600	1,750
Percent of residential permits processed within ten days	75%	80%	80%	85%
Number of park visitors in fee collecting parks	605,649	538,000	605,000	605,000
Number of BCP participation certificates	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Number of BCP acres managed by Travis County	5,122	5,446	7,041	7,019

#### Adopted Budgets FY 08-11

	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	Diff FY 11-10
Personnel	\$10,681,397	\$11,435,081	\$11,204,655	\$11,784,181	\$579,526
Operating	\$11,964,637	\$14,057,507	\$14,076,899	\$14,836,361	\$759,462
CAR	\$4,991,521	\$681,295	\$1,381,337	\$564,067	(\$817,270)
Fund Total	\$27,637,555	\$26,173,883	\$26,662,891	\$27,184,609	\$521,718
FTE	181.85	183.85	182.50	182.50	0.00
Other Capital (A)	\$5,214,035	\$10,190,516	\$10,197,537	\$13,920,487	\$3,722,950

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

## **FY 11 Budget Issues**

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The FY 11 Adopted Budget for Transportation and Natural Resources has increased by \$521,718 from the FY 10 budget. This increase is comprised of a \$579,526 increase in the personnel budget and a \$759,462 increase in operating funds, as well as an \$817,270 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.

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). 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. While the transfer has varied each year since FY 05, it has always had a net benefit of \$3,790,151 to the Road & Bridge Fund. In FY 11, the net transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund is \$2,349,089.

### Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$579,526 include:

- An increase of \$245,805 in salaries and benefits for a 2.5% across-the-board pay increase (with a \$750 minimum) for county employees.
- An additional \$187,098 was budgeted related to increased benefit costs.
- An additional \$129,654 for the transfer of several bond positions to the General Fund as well as freezing 1.4 FTE and reducing the department's overtime budget to internally fund the cost of these Special Project Temporaries. The Frozen positions include an Administrative Assistant (0.4 FTE) and the Engineering Inspector Specialist Senior (1 FTE). The Special Project Temporaries include an Engineering Inspector Specialist and Engineering Inspector Specialist Senior; a Senior Engineer and a portion of two Right of Way Agents (remaining funding is in the Road & Bridge Fund and BCP Fund). These funding changes do not affect the department's total FTE count.
- An increase of \$63,825 in temporary personnel funds due to an error correction from a prior year.
- An additional \$12,545 is included for increased child safety crossing guard functions.

- A total of \$59,401 was transferred from the department's personnel budget to its operating budget.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$759,462, include:

- A reduction of \$24,200 related to the contribution made to Keep Austin Beautiful. This program's funding contribution was moved from on-going to one-time in FY 10.
- A total increase of \$670,098 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 \$55,000 (and a \$19,240 earmark on the General Fund Allocated Reserve) related to expected utility expenditures associated with the pumping of landfill leachate at the Travis County US 290 closed landfill.
- A total of \$59,401 was transferred from the personnel budget to its operating budget.
- A decrease of \$4,050 to partially offset increased child safety crossing guard functions.
- \$3,213 for fuel and maintenance costs related to new vehicles in the Sheriff's Office.

### **FY 11 Capital Budget**

Capital equipment and capital projects included in the Adopted Budget from all sources total \$13,920,487. Please note that these figures do not include the issuance of voter approved debt.

***Capital Equipment and Projects funded from CAR (\$564,067)***

- Parks – Playground Safety Initiative (\$105,000)
- Asphaltic/Non-Asphaltic Projects (\$422,467)
- Vehicle for Constable Precinct 2 (\$36,600)

***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 (\$9,038,620)***

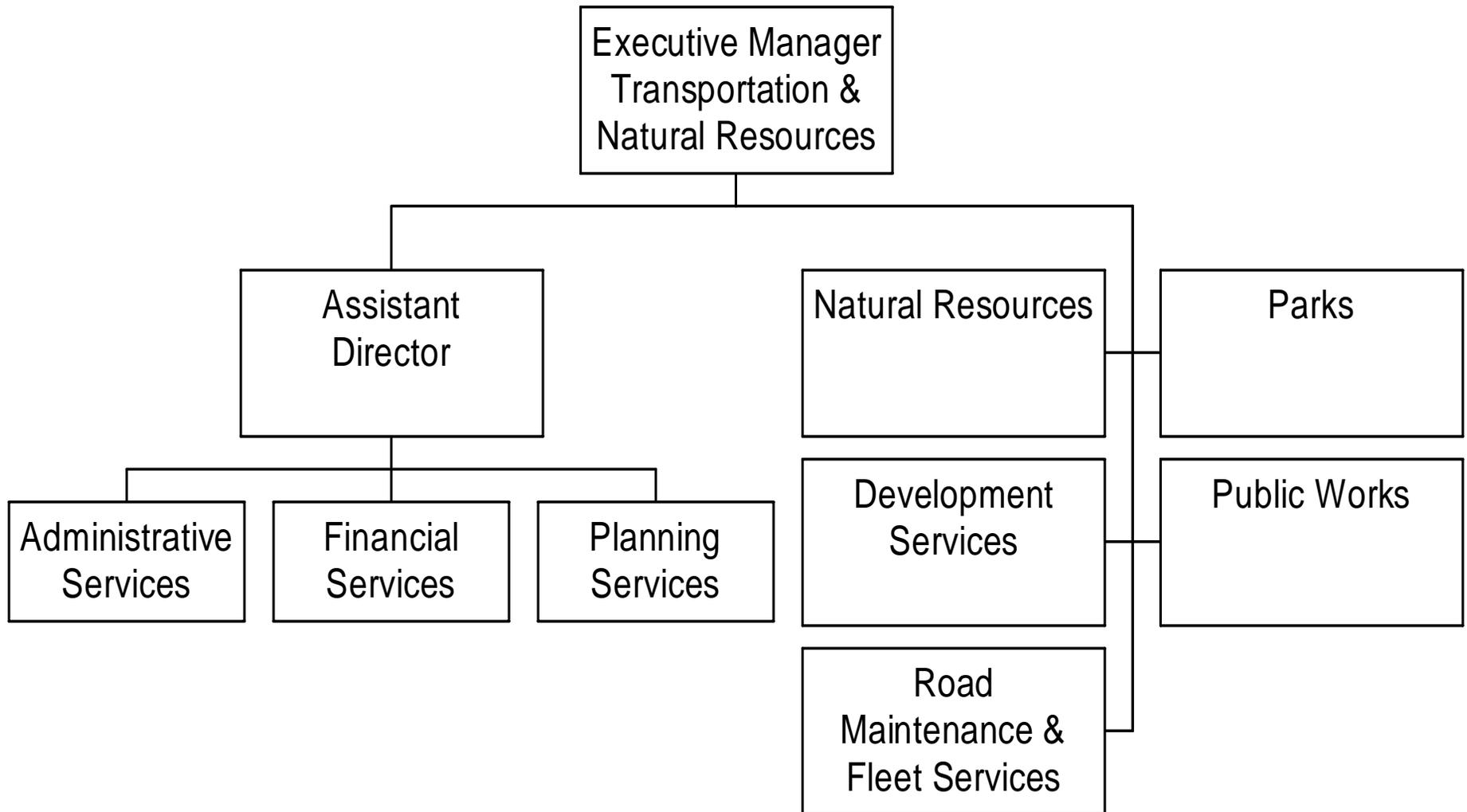
- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$3,955,800)
- HMAC and Alternative Paving (\$3,427,820)
- Asphaltic/Non-Asphaltic Projects (\$1,000,000)
- Park Ranger Residence at East Metro Park (\$225,000)
- Circle Drive/Springvalley Road Project-partial funding (\$180,000)
- ADA Sidewalk Upgrades (\$150,000)
- Parks Roads & Parking Lots (\$100,000)

***Capital Equipment and Projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligation (\$4,117,800)***

- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$3,987,800)
- HMAC and Alternative Paving (\$130,000)

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 \$228,177 in FY 11 and interest revenue will be \$13,598. The beginning balance for this fund is \$2,451,845, for total budgeted revenue of \$2,693,620.

**Adopted Budgets FY 08-11**

	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>FY 09</b>	<b>FY 10</b>	<b>FY 11</b>	<b>Diff FY 11-10</b>
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$2,758,126	\$2,886,572	\$3,025,885	\$2,693,620	(\$332,265)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,758,126</b>	<b>\$2,886,572</b>	<b>\$3,025,885</b>	<b>\$2,693,620</b>	<b>(\$332,265)</b>
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

**FY 11 Budget Issues**

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The LCRA/TC CIP Fund has all of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve with the exception of \$200,000 for the continuation of the park road maintenance program in LCRA 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 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 11 revenue for the Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund (038) is \$13,028,141, an increase of \$1,457,191 over FY 10. This increase resulted from a \$816,086 increase in the beginning fund balance, a \$19,800 decrease in the sale of participation certificates, a minimal \$3,193 decrease in interest income, a \$670,098 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 \$6,000 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 11 is \$9,589,540.

**Adopted Budgets FY 08-11**

	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>FY 09</b>	<b>FY 10</b>	<b>FY 11</b>	<b>Diff FY 11-10</b>
Personnel	\$150,254	\$248,975	\$252,335	\$300,001	\$47,666
Operating	\$26,365,104	\$10,535,513	\$11,318,615	\$12,728,140	\$1,409,525
Total	\$26,515,358	\$10,784,488	\$11,570,950	\$13,028,141	\$1,457,191
FTE	2.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0

**FY 11 Budget Issues**

The FY 11 Adopted Budget for the Transportation and Natural Resources BCP Fund increased by \$1,457,191 over FY 10 as detailed below:

Personnel

Highlights of a \$47,666 increase in personnel include the following changes:

- An increase of \$49,023 for the transfer of one bond related position as a Special Project Temporary position into the BCP Fund.
- A total of \$5,397 in salaries and benefits for a 2.5% across-the-board pay increase (with a \$750 minimum) for county employees.
- A decrease of \$4,468 related to benefit changes implemented as well as \$2,286 as a result of the department reallocating funds between its personnel and operating line items.

Operating

The FY 11 Adopted Budget includes a \$1,409,525 increase in the operating budget resulting from the following:

- An increase totaling \$8,500 for BCP maintenance projects.
- The removal of \$161,087 for fencing one time costs.
- A net increase of \$1,562,112 to the Allocated Reserve of this special Fund.

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

**Purpose**

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

**Funding Source**

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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 \$268,541 and miscellaneous revenue is estimated at \$5,000.

**Adopted Budgets FY 08-11**

	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>FY 09</b>	<b>FY 10</b>	<b>FY 11</b>	<b>Diff FY 11-10</b>
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$277,449	\$274,467	\$278,059	\$273,541	(\$4,518)
Total	\$277,449	\$274,467	\$278,059	\$273,541	(\$4,518)
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

**FY 11 Budget Issues**

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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 11, the revenue certified to be generated from these sources and sidewalk remediation fees is \$9,825,000. Interest earned on the fund is certified to be \$30,869, a total of \$6,149,868 is estimated as highway fine revenue, \$50,000 for miscellaneous revenue, a total of \$76,200 for intergovernmental revenue and the beginning balance is \$4,537,933. The total revenue available in the Road and Bridge Fund is certified to be \$20,669,870.

**Key Program Statistics**

Measures	FY 08 Actual	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Projected	FY 11 Projected
Miles of Reconstruction	10.0	6.7	6.8	10.0
Miles of Chip Seal	82.00	86.60	60.44	57.63
Miles of HMAC Overlay	40.00	38.10	34.69	39.80
Overall percent of accepted county roads in fair to good condition ( Surveys completed in FY 87, 93, 98, 01 & 04)*	N.A.	N.A.	78%	N.A.
Percent of bridges with sufficiency ratings below 60 points (Note: Formal survey is performed by TxDOT every two years)**	<1%	N.A.	<1%	N.A.

\* Percentages vary by precinct. Last survey in FY04 had an overall rating of 89.8%; the most recent Pavement Condition Survey was completed in May 2010. TNR presented these results to Commissioners Court on May 27, 2010.

\*\* FY06 and FY08 figures based on TxDOT's survey. The FY10 Actual includes the restoration of an historic bridge that was not completed at the time of the survey. Upon completion in FY11, the percentage of bridges with sufficiency ratings below 60 points will once again be <1%. The next survey by TxDOT will be completed in FY12.

<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 08-11**

	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>FY 09</b>	<b>FY 10</b>	<b>FY 11</b>	<b>Diff FY 11-10</b>
Personnel	\$10,731,215	\$11,678,643	\$11,128,925	\$11,618,627	\$489,702
Operating	\$12,858,261	\$12,886,608	\$8,653,615	\$9,051,243	\$397,628
Total	\$23,589,476	\$24,565,251	\$19,782,540	\$20,669,870	\$887,330
FTE	222.2	222.2	214.55	214.55	0.00

**FY 11 Budget Issues**

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There is an \$887,330 increase in the Road & Bridge Fund over FY 10 as detailed below:

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$489,702, include:

- An increase of \$254,846 in salaries and benefits for a 2.5% across-the-board pay increase (with a \$750 minimum) for county employees.
- An increase of \$253,573 in increased benefit costs.
- An additional \$117,770 for transfer of several bond positions to the Road and Bridge Fund as well as freezing 1.6 FTE and reducing the department’s overtime budget to internally fund the cost of these Special Project Temporaries. The Frozen positions include an Administrative Assistant (0.6 FTE) and the Engineering Division Manager (1 FTE). The Special Project Temporaries include two Engineering Inspector Specialists; a Senior Engineer and a portion of a Right of Way Agent (remaining funding is in the General Fund). These funding changes do not affect the department’s total FTE count.
- A reduction of \$136,487 was reduced from the department’s personnel budget due to the annualization of FY 10 personnel actions and internal reallocations.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$397,628, include:

- A reduction of \$388,657 related to the removal of FY 10 one-time costs.
- A net decrease of \$133,962 to the transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund related to decreased fine revenue and Unallocated Reserve requirements.
- A net decrease totaling \$57,404 to the Allocated Reserve. The total FY 11 Allocated Reserve within the Road & Bridge Fund is \$149,635. This reserve has no earmarks associated with it and would only be available to the department with Commissioners Court approval. It is expected that these funds fall to FY 11 ending fund balance.
- An increase totaling \$977,533 related to annual asphaltic and non-asphaltic projects. Additional funding for these projects is budgeted in alternative capital funding such as CAR and CO’s.
- The department’s operating budget includes a minor \$118 increase to one of its operating line items.