

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 09, the Transportation and Natural Resources Program Area has 410.55 permanent positions, as shown in Table A below. Two FTE were added to TNR's General Fund Budget and two more within the BCP Fund for FY 09.

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 \$39,159,760 in FY 06 to \$47,503,782 in FY 09, an increase of \$8,344,022 or 21 percent. 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 Milton Reimers Ranch Parks.

Table B shows the General Fund budget for the department for FY 06 through FY 09.

For FY 09, the Transportation and Natural Resources program area was appropriated \$681,295 for CAR funded capital equipment and projects, \$274,408 in Road & Bridge funds for capital equipment and projects, \$196,748 in the LCRA-CIP Fund for capital equipment, \$8,196,060 for capital equipment and projects funded from new CO's, and \$1,523,300 for capital equipment and projects funded from existing COs for a total of \$10,871,811. The components of these appropriations are described in the following pages.

The following pages provide more detailed information on the FY 09 budget, including information on special funds and capital equipment within TNR. The FY 09 budget for TNR includes a \$3,235,352 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

Regular Positions in FTE - All Funds*						
FY 2006 - FY 2009						
Department	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 09 - 06 Difference	Percent Change
TNR - General Fund	167.60	180.30	181.85	183.85	16.25	9.7%
TNR - Road and Bridge Fund	224.45	222.75	222.20	222.20	(2.25)	-1.0%
TNR - BCP Fund	2.50	2.50	2.50	4.50	2.00	80.0%
SUBTOTAL	394.55	405.55	406.55	410.55	16.00	4.1%
TNR - Bond Funds*	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	0.00	0.0%
TOTAL	413.45	424.45	425.45	429.45	16.00	3.9%

* In addition, TNR has 1.8 grant funded FTEs.

Table B

TNR Budget						
FY 2006 - FY 2009						
Department	Adopted Budget FY 06	Adopted Budget FY 07	Adopted Budget FY 08	Adopted Budget FY 09	FY 09 - 06 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$18,407,254	\$25,230,201	\$27,637,555	\$26,173,883	\$7,766,629	42%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$20,752,506	\$20,703,891	\$20,443,590	\$21,329,899	\$577,393	3%
Total TNR *	\$39,159,760	\$45,934,092	\$48,081,145	\$47,503,782	\$8,344,022	21%

* Transfers from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund are excluded from the total budget to avoid double counting. These amounts are: \$2,775,714 in FY 06; \$2,667,728 in FY 07; \$3,145,886 in FY 08 and \$3,235,352 in FY 09.

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

Department	Adopted Budget FY 06	Adopted Budget FY 07	Adopted Budget FY 08	Adopted Budget FY 09	FY 09 - 06 Difference	Percent Change
TNR-General Fund	\$18,407,254	\$25,230,201	\$27,637,555	\$26,173,883	\$7,766,629	42%
TNR Road & Bridge Fund	\$23,528,220	\$23,371,619	\$23,589,476	\$24,565,251	\$1,037,031	4%
Total TNR Adopted	\$41,935,474	\$48,601,820	\$51,227,031	\$50,739,134	\$8,803,660	21%

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 06 Actual	FY07 Actual	FY08 Projected	FY09 Projected
Number of residential development permits reviewed	4,839	3,500	N.A.	N.A.
Percent of residential permits processed within ten days	69%	75%	75%	75%
Number of park visitors in fee collecting parks	578,237	443,564*	Pending	625,000
Number of BCP participation certificates	24	20	N.A.	N.A.
Number of BCP acres managed by Travis County	4,789	5,093	5,122	6,660

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

Adopted Budgets FY 06-09

	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	Diff FY 09-08
Personnel	\$9,105,507	\$10,215,244	\$10,681,397	\$11,435,081	\$753,684
Operating	\$8,798,297	\$10,904,965	\$11,964,637	\$14,057,507	\$2,092,870
CAR	\$503,450	\$4,109,992	\$4,991,521	\$681,295	(\$4,310,226)
Fund Total	\$18,407,254	\$25,230,201	\$27,637,555	\$26,173,883	(\$1,463,672)
FTE	167.60	180.30	181.85	183.85	2.00
Other Capital (A)	\$6,749,690	\$8,233,753	\$5,214,035	\$10,190,516	\$4,976,481

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

FY 09 Budget Issues

The FY 09 Adopted Budget for Transportation and Natural Resources has decreased by \$1,463,672 from the FY 08 budget. This decrease is comprised of a \$753,684 increase in the personnel budget and a \$2,092,870 increase in operating funds, as well as a \$4,310,226 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 05, FY 06, FY 07 and FY 08 the transfer varied but had a net benefit of \$3,790,151 to the Road & Bridge Fund.

In FY 09, the transfer is \$3,235,352 given fine revenue estimates of \$7,025,503. 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 for FY 09 is \$321,544.

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$753,684 include:

- An increase of \$259,282 in salaries and benefits for a 3% across-the-board pay increase (with a \$900 minimum) for county employees.
- A decrease totaling \$228,743 adjusting the department's budgeted salary savings.
- A net increase of \$384,861 was added for a \$2 per hour increase for Park Maintenance Worker, Park Maintenance Worker Sr., Road Maintenance Worker and Road Maintenance Supervisor position titles.
- A new Engineering Inspector Specialist at a cost of \$37,849 help implement the County's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) mandated by the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) General Permit TXR040000 for storm water discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in 2007.
- A total of \$40,626 for a new Fleet Services' Mechanic to assist in the ongoing maintenance and repair of Travis County Fleet equipment and ensure that maintenance and repairs are performed efficiently and in a reasonable amount of time.
- Also approved was \$19,405 for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification pay for Park Rangers and \$90,325 for market salary increases for Park Rangers on the Peace Officer Pay Scale.
- An additional \$95,239 for a pay increases for seasonal Park Technician and School Crossing Guard positions.
- A total of \$51,655 to annualize FY 08 personnel actions.
- A total of \$3,185 was transferred from the department's operating budget to its personnel budget.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$2,092,870, include:

- A net reduction of \$188,874 mainly for one-time costs reduced from the budget. This reduction was mainly comprised of the Walnut Creek Flood Reduction Study and flood-plain buyout software approved in FY 08.
- A total increase of \$1,275,285 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 total of \$2,270 to support the new Engineering Inspector Specialist and \$3,225 to support the new Mechanic.
- \$53,700 for outsourced open space maintenance at Timber and Walnut Creek locations.
- A total of \$930,724 is budgeted directly in TNR for increased fuel costs for FY 09.
- An increase of \$19,725 for the fuel and maintenance costs associated with new vehicles added to the County's fleet.
- A decrease of \$3,185. This amount was transferred from the department's operating budget to its personnel budget.

FY 09 Capital Budget

Capital equipment and capital projects included in the Adopted Budget from all sources total \$10,871,811. Please note that these figures do not include the issuance of voter approved debt.

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from CAR (\$681,295)

- Park Residence at NE Metro Park (\$225,000)
- Slaughter Lane Bridge over Onion Creek Scour Repair (\$200,000)
- Sidewalk – ADA upgrades (\$150,000)
- Guardrails (\$90,000)
- Miscellaneous Vehicle Equipment for Other Departments (\$10,500)
- Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) Handheld Units and Software (\$5,795)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from Road & Bridge funds (\$274,408)

- Traffic Signals (\$200,000)
- Rebudgeted Guardrails (\$74,408)

Capital Projects funded from LCRA-CIP funds (\$196,748)

- Parks Roads & Parking Lots (\$192,771)
- Rebudgeted Fencing (\$3,977)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from new Certificates of Obligation (\$8,196,060)

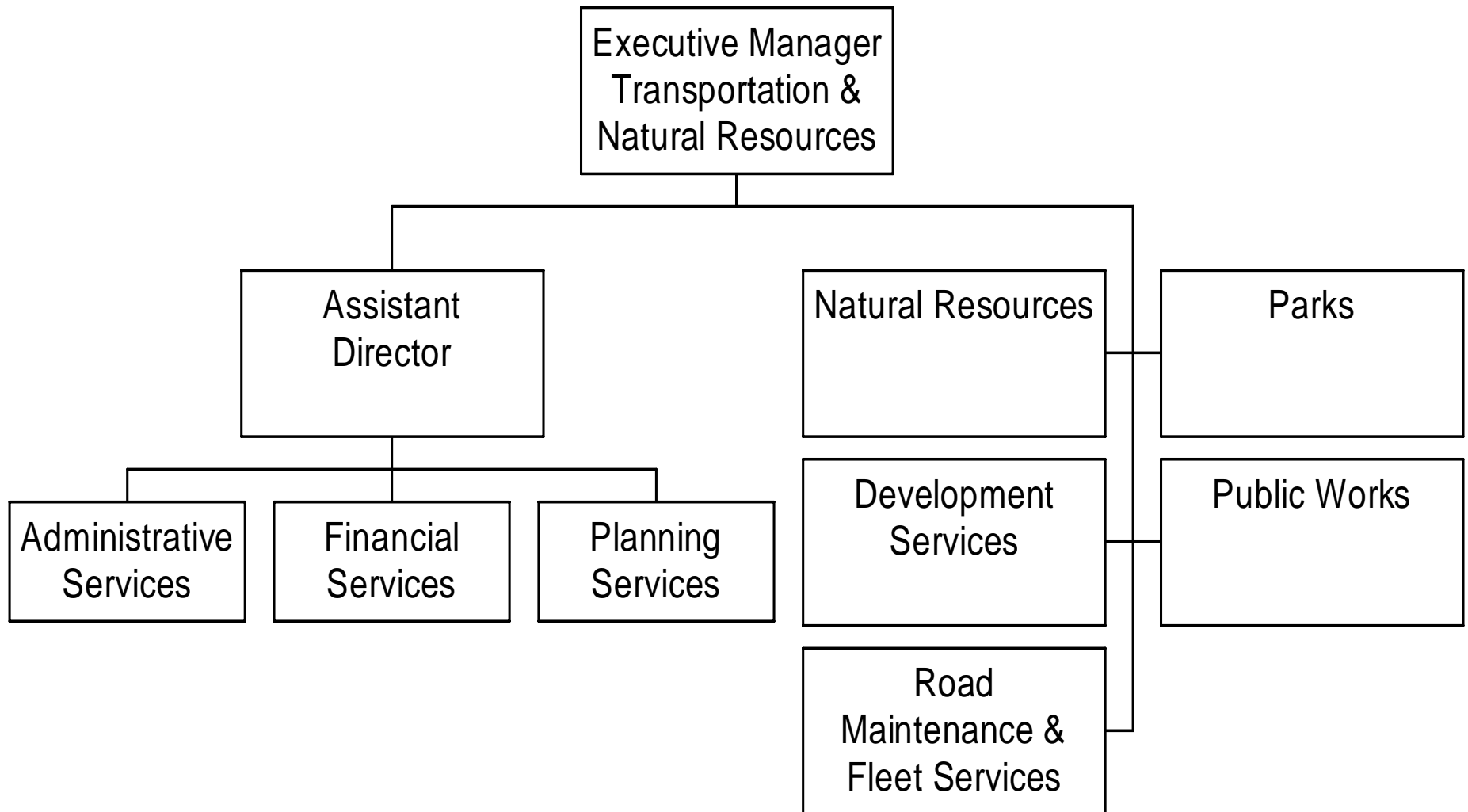
- HMAC and Alternative Paving (\$3,050,000)
- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$2,921,060)
- Howard Lane – Phase II (\$1,725,000)
- TxDOT off System Bridges (\$250,000)
- Substandard Roads (\$250,000)

Capital Equipment and Projects funded from existing Certificates of Obligation (\$1,523,300)

- Frate Barker Grant Match (\$300,000)
- HMAC and Alternative Paving (\$350,000)
- County-Wide Vehicles and Heavy Equipment (\$873,300)

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 \$237,889 in FY 09 and interest revenue will be \$100,000. The beginning balance for this fund is \$2,548,683, for total budgeted revenue of \$2,886,572.

Adopted Budgets FY 06-09

	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	Diff FY 09-08
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$2,366,135	\$2,379,312	\$2,758,126	\$2,886,572	\$128,446
Total	\$2,366,135	\$2,379,312	\$2,758,126	\$2,886,572	\$128,446
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 09 Budget Issues

The LCRA/TC CIP Fund has most of its funds budgeted in that Fund's Allocated Reserve. In addition, a total of \$196,748 is budgeted directly in the operating budget for previously approved projects not yet completed (\$3,977) as well as for the continuation of a new park road and maintenance program in LCRA parks (\$192,771). 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 09 revenue for the Balcones Canyonlands Preservation Fund (038) is \$10,784,488, a decrease of \$15,730,870 over FY 08. This decrease resulted from a \$16,323,885 decrease in the beginning fund balance due to large land acquisition, a \$763,270 decrease in the sale of participation certificates (intergovernmental revenue), a \$200,000 decrease in interest income, a \$1,275,285 increase in the transfer from the General Fund (representing estimated additional tax revenue from new construction on BCP land), and an increase in miscellaneous revenue of \$281,000 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 09 is \$7,995,470.

Adopted Budgets FY 06-09

	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	Diff FY 09-08
Personnel	\$126,560	\$142,394	\$150,254	\$248,975	\$98,721
Operating	\$9,167,136	\$18,826,788	\$26,365,104	\$10,535,513	(\$15,829,591)
Total	\$9,293,696	\$18,969,182	\$26,515,358	\$10,784,488	(\$15,730,870)
FTE	2.5	2.5	2.5	4.5	2.0

FY 09 Budget Issues

The FY 09 Adopted Budget for the Transportation and Natural Resources BCP Fund decreased by \$15,730,870 over FY 08 as detailed below:

Personnel

Highlights of a \$98,721 increase in personnel include:

- Two positions were added at a cost of \$86,637. These positions included a Volunteer Coordinator (Range 14) and a Park Maintenance Worker, Sr. (Range 10).
- An increase of \$2,672 in salaries and benefits for a 3% across-the-board pay increase (with a \$900 minimum) for county employees.
- A total of \$6,550 was added to annualize FY 08 personnel actions.
- Also approved was \$959 for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification pay for Park Rangers and \$3,674 for market salary increases for Park Rangers on the Peace Officer Pay Scale.
- A decrease of \$1,771 due to an internal reallocation towards operating.

Operating

The FY 09 Adopted Budget includes a \$15,829,591 decrease in the operating budget resulting from the following:

- An internal reallocation resulting in an increase of \$1,771 from the personnel budget.
- A total of \$161,087 for fencing approved in a previous year and not yet completed.
- An additional \$88,779 to support new staffing added for FY 09; \$75,000 of this request will be used for an activity based analysis of the BCP Fund.
- A decrease of \$13,210,635 for one time costs, mostly due to the purchase of BCP property.
- A decrease of \$2,870,593 to the Allocated Reserve of this special Fund due to decreased fund balance. This is due mainly to a substantial purchase of BCP 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 \$269,467 and miscellaneous revenue is estimated at \$5,000.

Adopted Budgets FY 06-09

	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	Diff FY 09-08
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating	\$265,450	\$269,548	\$277,449	\$274,467	(\$2,982)
Total	\$265,450	\$269,548	\$277,449	\$274,467	(\$2,982)
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FY 09 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 09, the revenue certified to be generated from these sources and sidewalk remediation fees is \$11,883,500. Interest earned on the fund is certified to be \$250,000, a total of \$7,025,503 is estimated as highway fine revenue, \$65,000 for miscellaneous revenue, a total of \$76,000 for intergovernmental revenue and the beginning balance is \$5,265,248. The total revenue available in the Road and Bridge Fund is certified to be \$24,565,251.

Key Program Statistics

Measures	FY 06 Actual	FY 07 Actual	FY 08 Projected	FY 09 Projected
Miles of Reconstruction	14.99	11.0	10.0	11.0
Miles of Chip Seal	69.49	56.71	82.00	80.00
Miles of HMAC Overlay	34.44	34.44	40.00	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.	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.

** 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 06-09

	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	Diff FY 09-08
Personnel	\$9,958,569	\$10,637,088	\$10,731,215	\$11,678,643	\$947,428
Operating	\$13,569,651	\$12,734,531	\$12,858,261	\$12,886,608	\$28,347
Total	\$23,528,220	\$23,371,619	\$23,589,476	\$24,565,251	\$975,775
FTE	224.45	222.75	222.2	222.2	0.00

FY 09 Budget Issues

There is a \$975,775 increase in the Road & Bridge Fund over FY 08 as detailed below:

Personnel changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$947,428, include:

- An increase of \$312,174 in salaries and benefits for a 3% across-the-board pay increase (with a \$900 minimum) for county employees.
- A net increase of \$626,547 was added for a \$2 per hour increase for Road Maintenance Worker, Road Maintenance Worker Sr., Road Maintenance Supervisor; Road Maintenance Manager, Equipment Operator and Equipment Operator Sr. position titles.
- A total of \$8,282 to annualize FY 08 personnel actions.
- A total of \$425 was transferred from the department’s operating budget to its personnel budget.

Operating changes in this budget, resulting in an increase of \$28,347, include:

- The removal of one-time expenditures totaling \$952,825 for projects and equipment such as traffic signals and FY 08 HMAC and traffic signal projects.
- A total of \$425 was transferred from the department’s operating budget to its personnel budget.
- An increase of \$89,466 to the transfer from the Road & Bridge Fund to the General Fund related mainly to increased fine revenue.
- A total of \$274,408 for capital projects within the Road & Bridge Fund such as traffic signals and other traffic safety projects.
- A net increase totaling \$520,229 to the Allocated Reserve (above its internal operating reallocation of \$55,814) as well as an increase totaling \$97,494 to the Unallocated Reserve within the Road & Bridge Fund.

