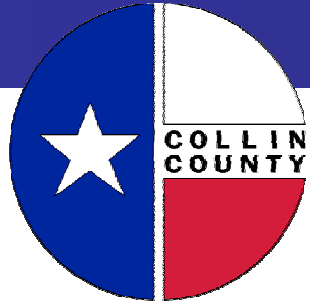


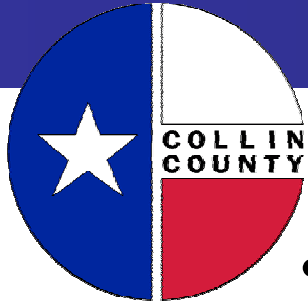


Transparency in Government



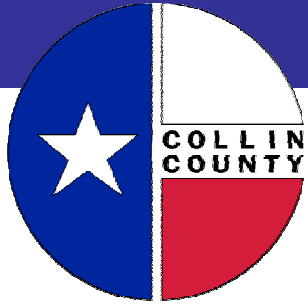
The Need for Transparency

- **Governmental Visibility**
- **Public Trust**
- **Fiscal Responsibility to Taxpayers**



Our Transparent Experience

- **No Extra Cost, software or tools: FREE**
 - *IT set up design and security measures*
 - *No need for daily IT involvement*
- **Auditor's Office Downloads & Uploads data**
 - *Privacy information redacted*
- **Set up a Public Information Request mechanism**
- **Promoted the service on Website & to Media**
- **On-line guide available**



Online Checkbook

Collin County Financial Transparency - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Address Sign In

Period 3 Dec 08 General Account Check Register.xls [Read-Only]

D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Vendor Name	Transaction Amount	Description	Account Name	Department						
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
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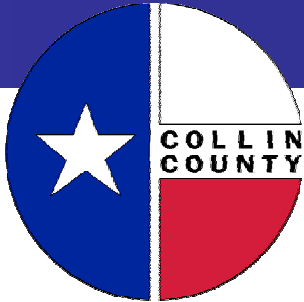
FY 2009 Healthcare Check Register.xls [Read-Only]

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
Check Number	Check Date	Vendor Name	Transaction Amount	Description	Account Name	Department							
1													
2	293019	10/8/2008											
3													
4	294627	11/5/2008											
5													
6													
7													
8	294628	11/5/2008											
9													
10	295207	11/12/2008											
11	295800	12/3/2008											
12													
13													
14													
15	293631	10/22/2008											
16	295501	12/3/2008											
17													
18													
19													
20													
21													
22	295992	12/3/2008											
23													
24	294392	10/30/2008											
25	294396	10/30/2008											
26	295776	11/21/2008											
27													
28													
29													
30	293020	10/8/2008											
31	293602	10/22/2008											

A citizens' Check Register

Type Name

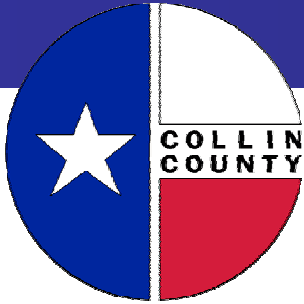
- Check Registers 2009
- Check Registers 2008



Justice of Peace Paul Raleeh:

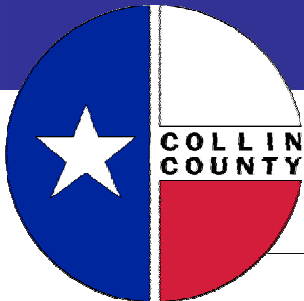
- **General Account Ledger:** Checks written to agencies, service fees and vendors
- **Escrow Account:** Bond postings
- Uses **Same Transparency Page** at County website.



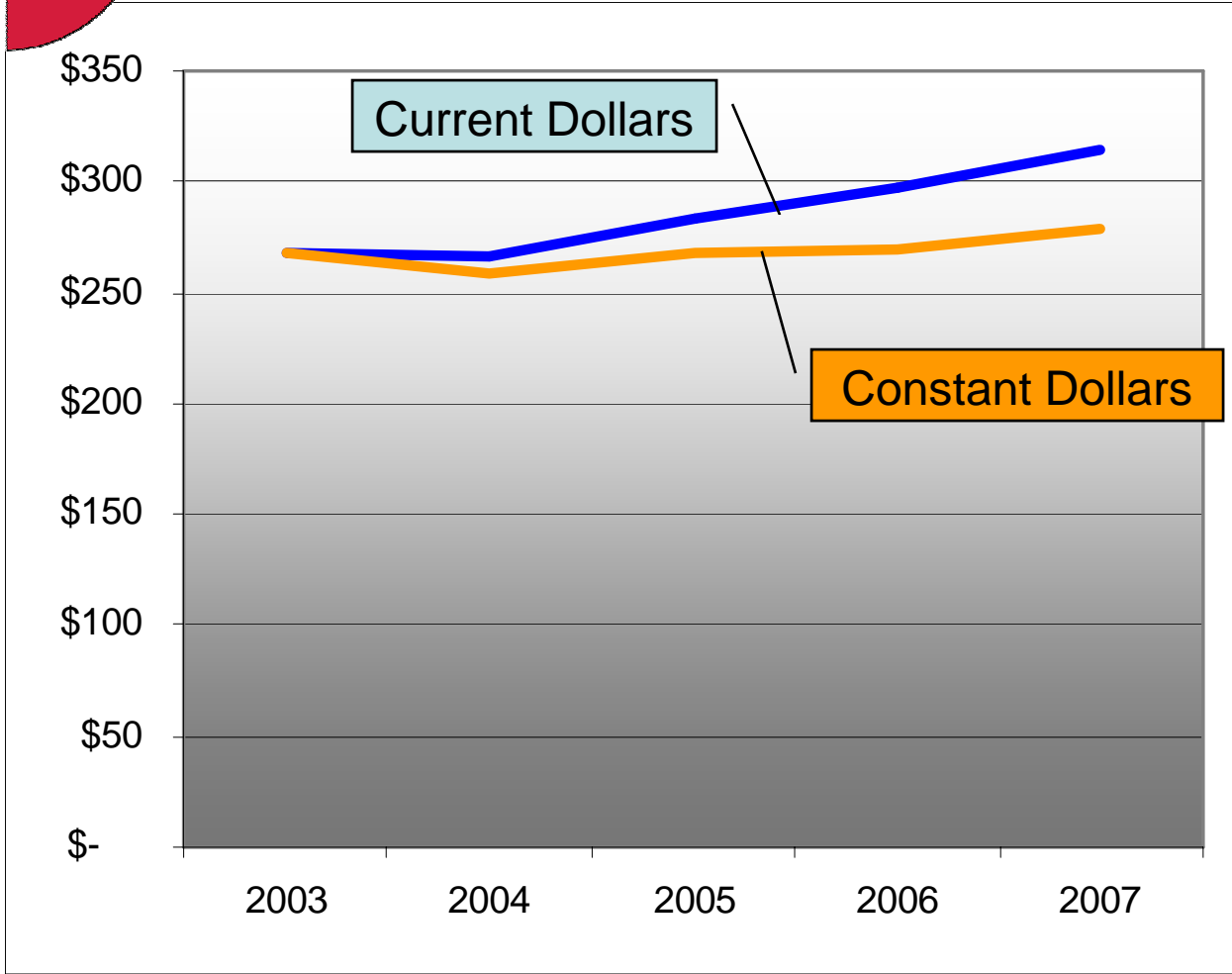


Some Pitfalls of Transparency

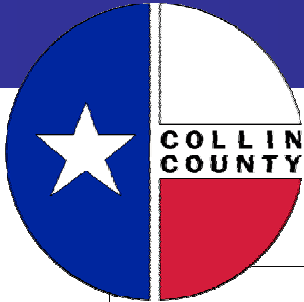
- **Political Opinion vs. Reporting Facts**
- **Budget Methods vs. Accounting Methods**
- **Ranking and Predicting**
- **Collaboration and Cooperation**



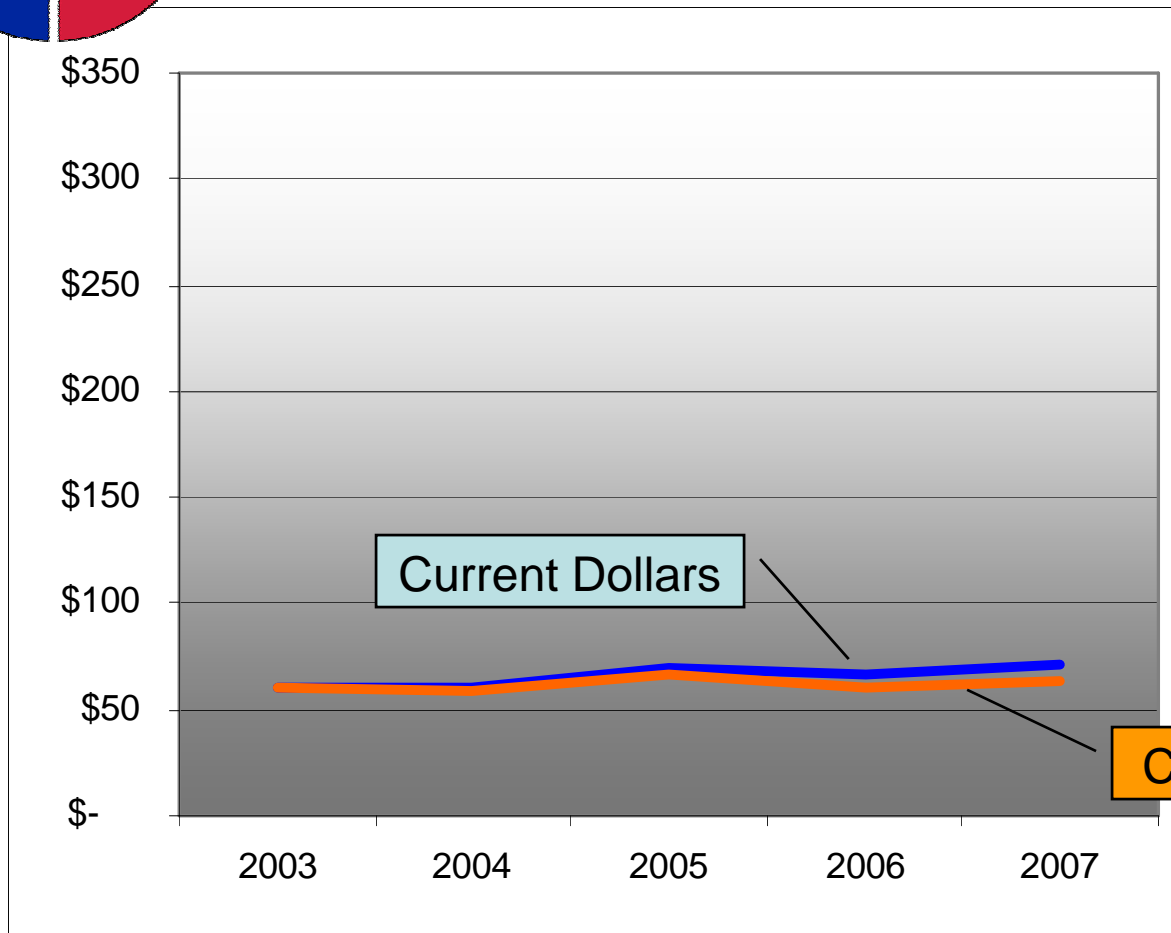
Operating Revenues Per Capita



- Error: Taxes and investment earnings were improperly included in initial report.



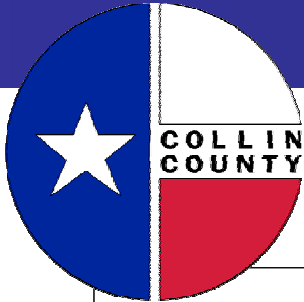
Operating Revenues Per Capita



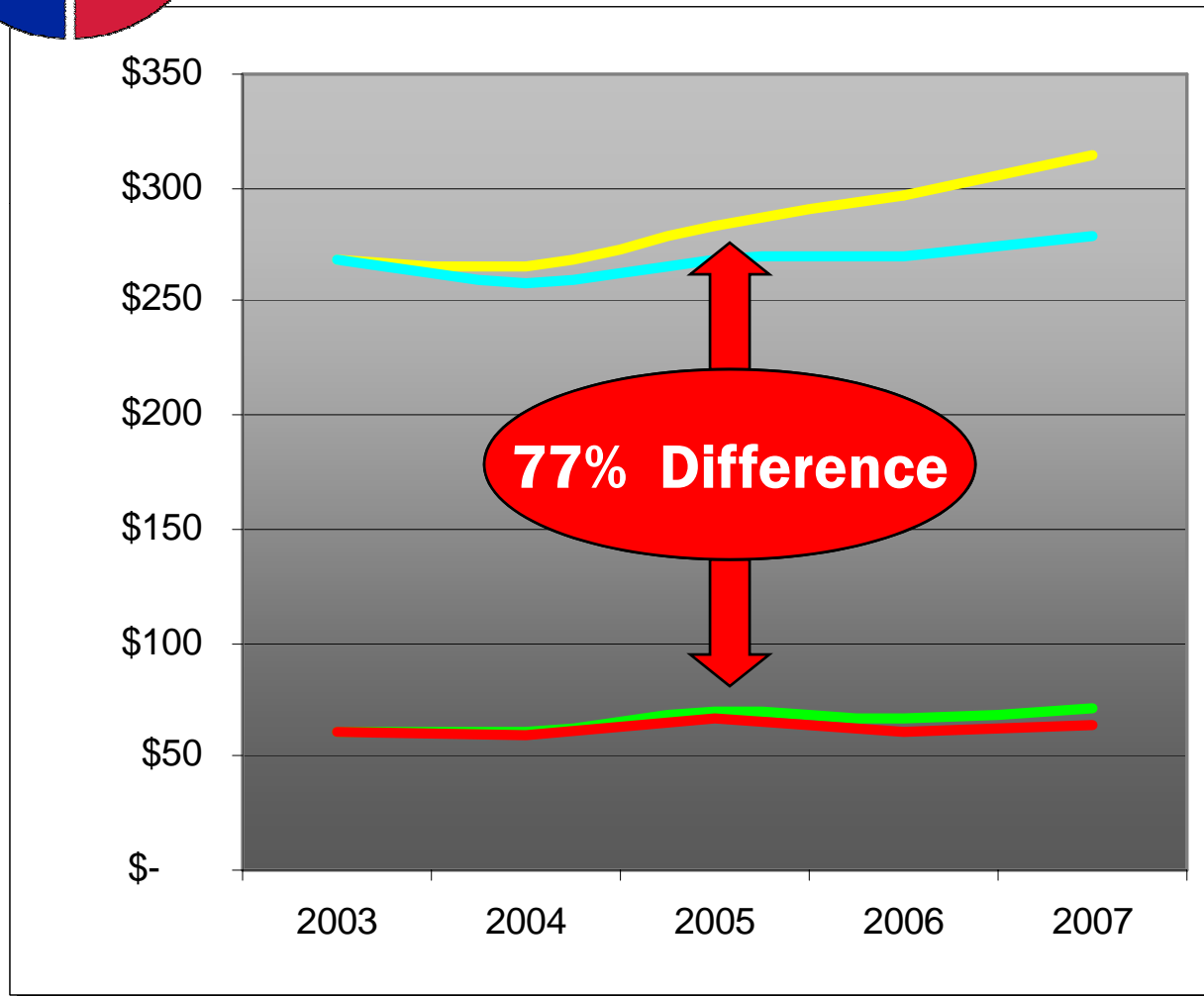
- Corrected: With taxes and investment earnings removed.

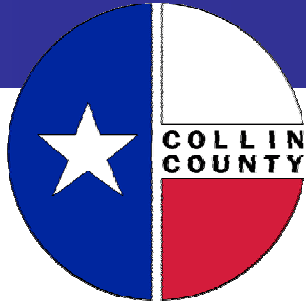
Constant Dollars

Definitions at Odds



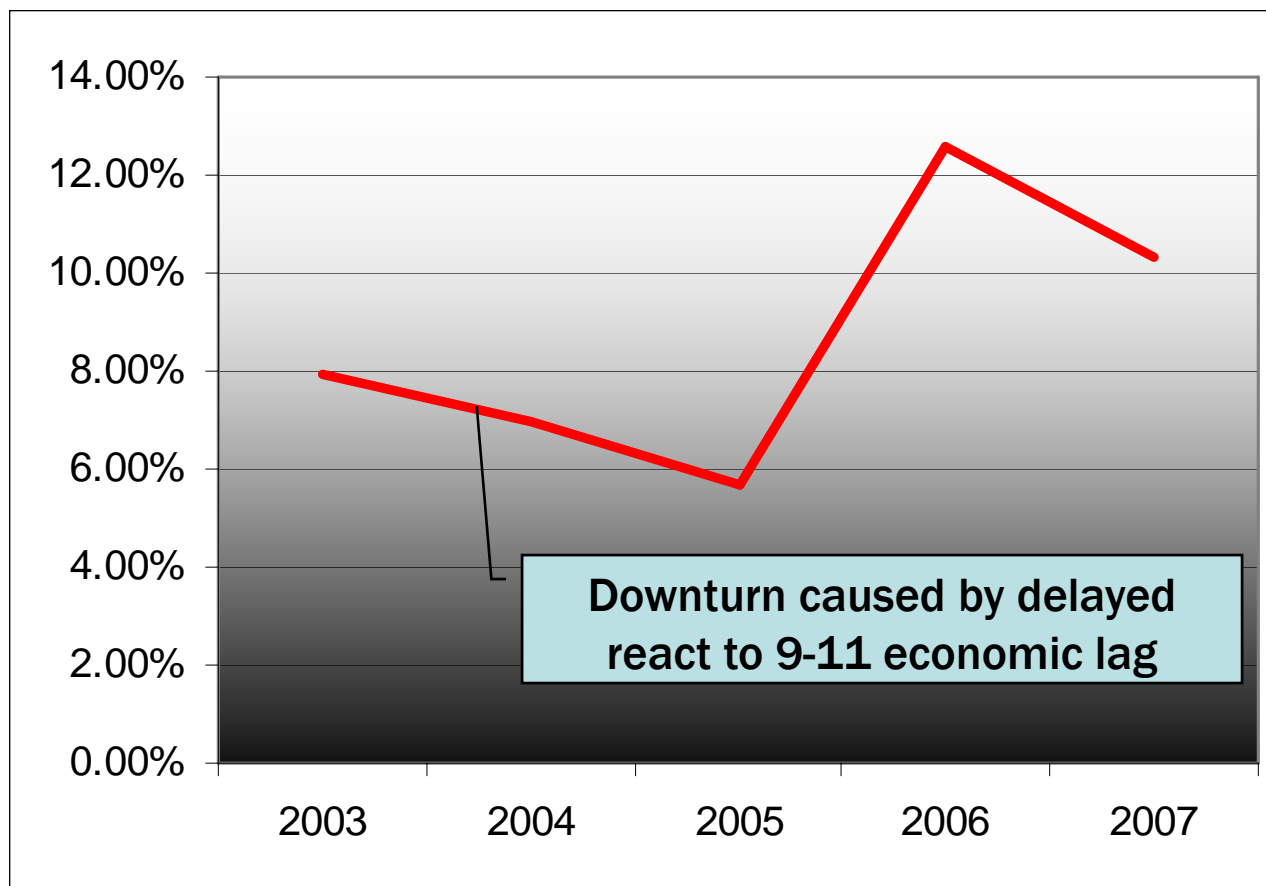
Operating Revenues Per Capita



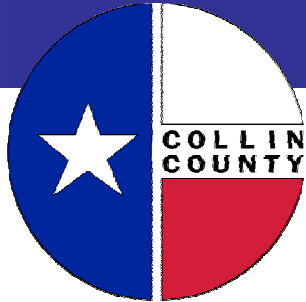


Conclusions & Predictions

Operating Surplus: General Fund As % of General Fund Operating Revenues



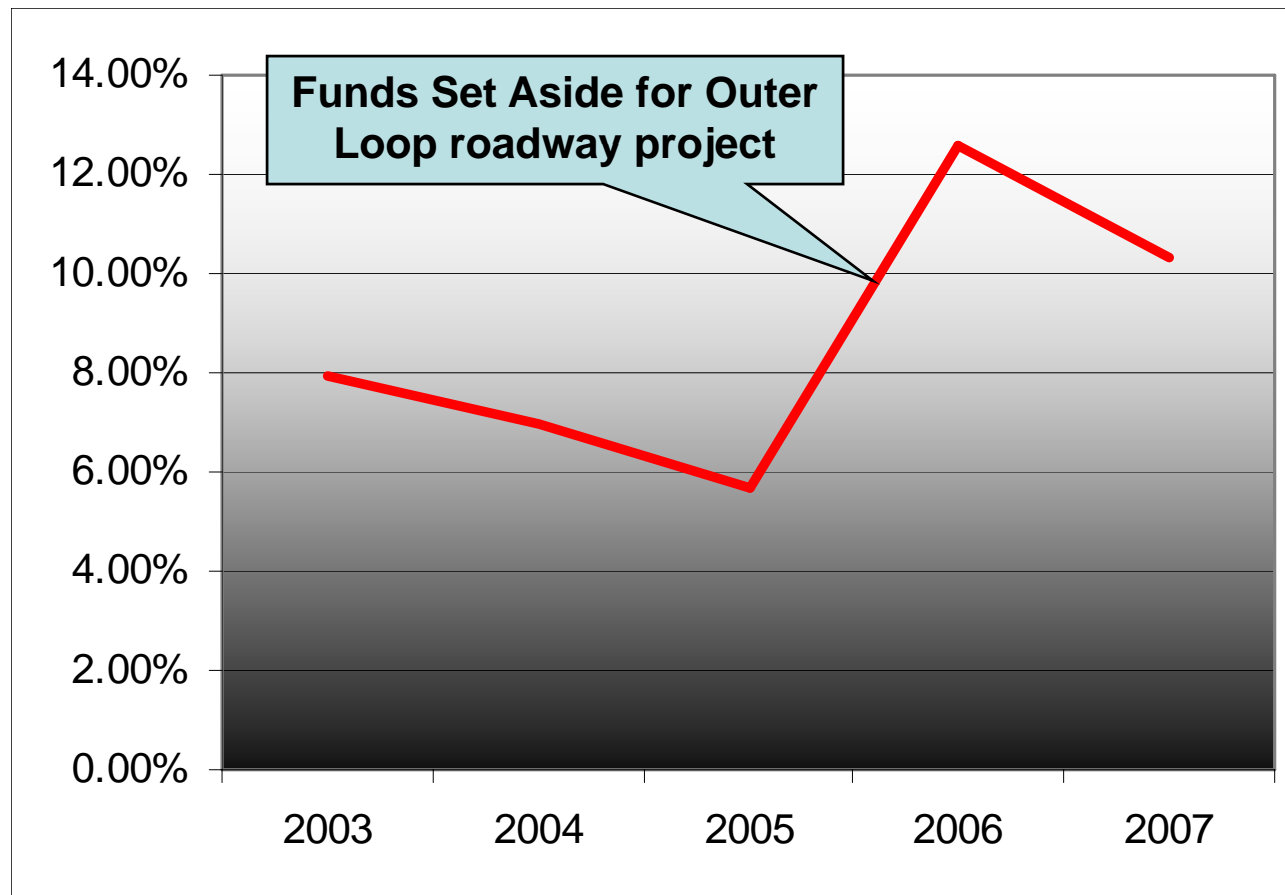
- **Error:** Taxes and Investment earnings included as Operating Revenues.
- **Conclusion:** '03-'05 downturn caused by delayed economic fallout from 9-11.
- **Prediction:** Another lag in 2-3 years, based on previous downturn.



The Fact is ...

Operating Surplus: General Fund

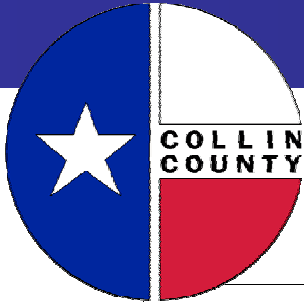
As % of General Fund Operating Revenues



- **Surplus** is result of unspent funds and greater-than-anticipated revenues.

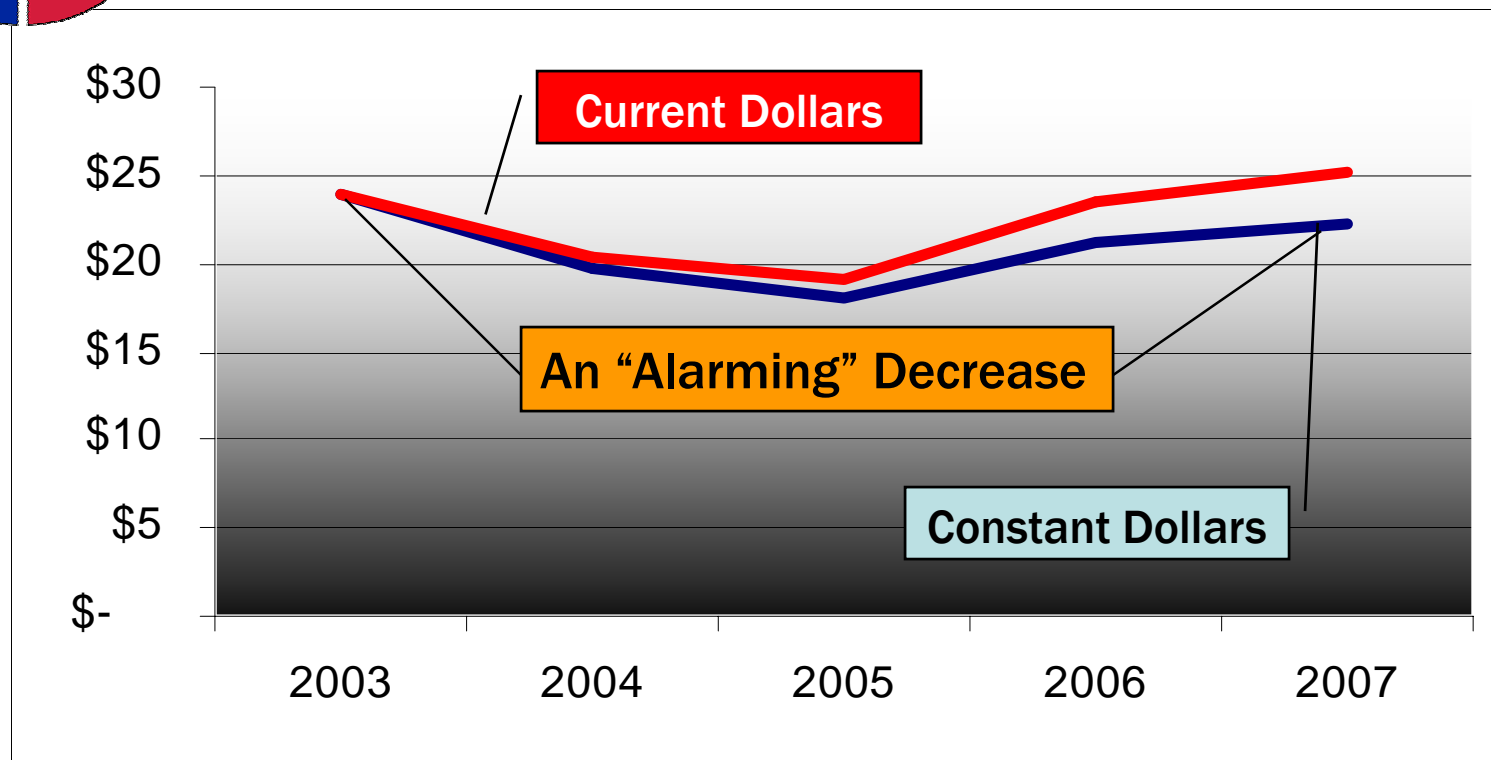
- **Reality: '03-'05** drop is result of tighter budgets, not economy.

- **Reality: '06** Increase is direct result of funds being set aside for Outer Loop roadway project.



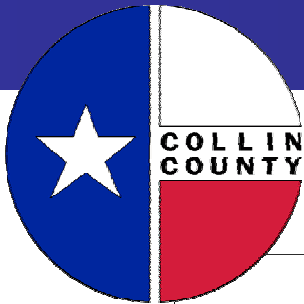
Ranking Apples & Oranges

Road & Bridge Fund Revenue, per Capita

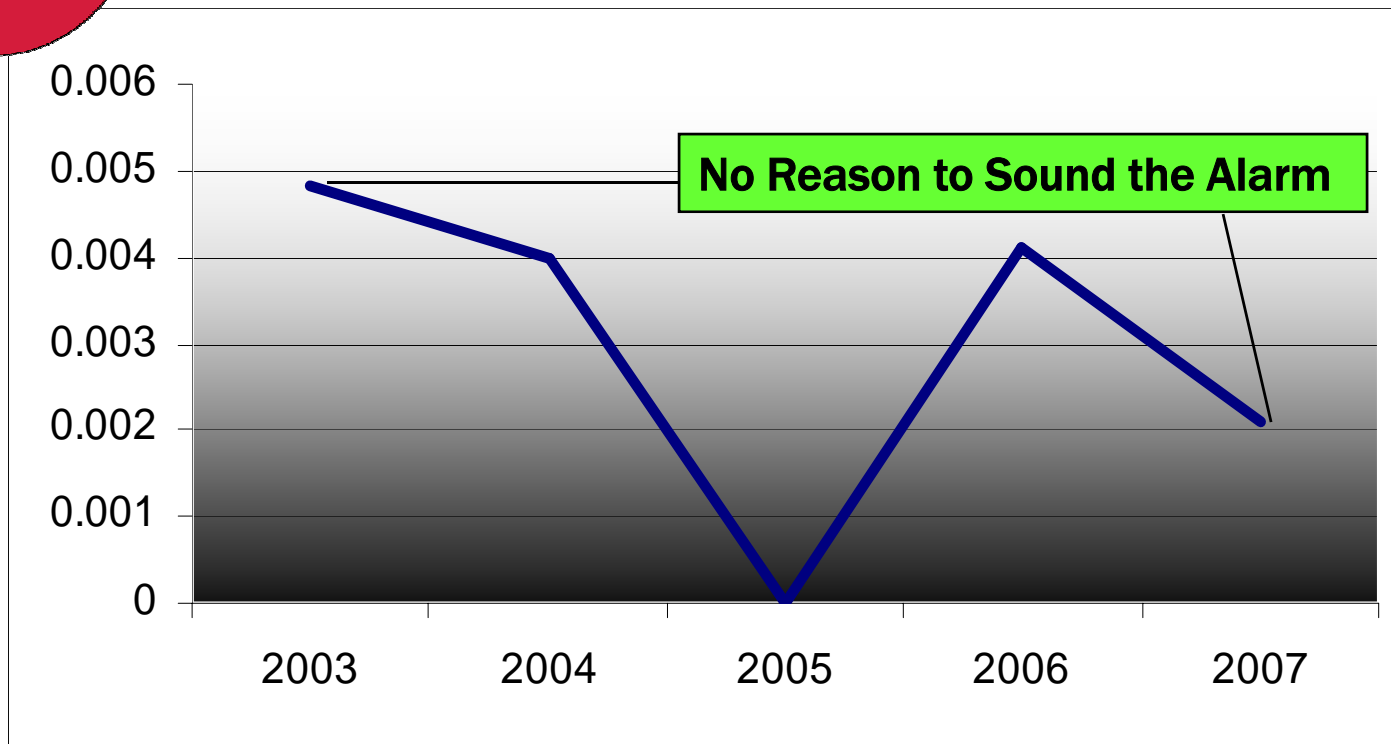


- Summary: Initial report claimed “Alarming Decrease” in constant dollars

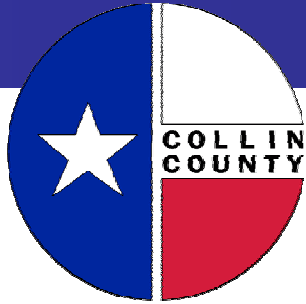
Missing Factors



Tax Rate for Road & Bridge Fund



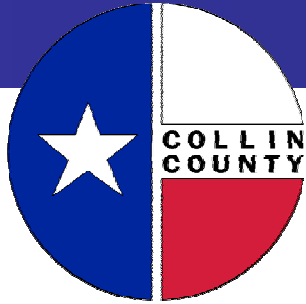
Reality: Tax rates can fluctuate annually within a single fund without affecting the overall county tax rate, but initial report analysis did not take this into account. Here, decrease in previous graph was due to decrease in tax rate for this fund.



Transparency's Other Mission

While we're making it easier for people to
tap information on government ...

... Are we making it easier for them to
understand that information ?



Transparency Objectives

What should it do?

- **Give public more access to government**
- **Provide clear, unbiased & accurate info**
- **Result: Build Public Trust in Government**