

Appendix A

Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Glossary of Common Transportation Terminology

A

Access Management: The controlling or managing of access along arterial roadways for the purpose of improving average travel speeds and increasing the capacity of the road, thereby improving mobility. Access management strategies include the following:

- Physical restrictions of left turns (raised medians)
- Restricting curb cuts and direct access driveways
- Elimination of parking on the arterial
- Locating intersections at no less than minimum intervals
- Construction of frontage roads to collect local business traffic and funnel it to nearby intersections.

Activity Center: A physical area characterized by concentrated activity. The area may include one type of activity, such as a large retail center, or many varied activities, such as a mixed-use development.

American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials

(AASHTO): A nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Federal legislation requiring the provision of facilities to individuals with disabilities that will assure accessibility to all transportation facilities both public and private.

Arterial: Signalized streets that serve primarily through-traffic and provide access to abutting properties as a secondary function.

At-Grade Intersection: An intersection of two or more roads and/or highways where traffic movement is controlled by traffic signs or signals.

Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT): The total volume of vehicle traffic of a highway or road for a year divided by 365 days.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT): The total volume (both directions) that traveled over a highway segment during a one year period divided by the number of days in the year.

B

Benefit/Cost (B/C): A formula for prioritizing highway improvement projects. A projects B/C is calculated by compiling all measurable benefits and dividing by all measurable costs over a specific time period, typically 20 years.

Bike Lane: A portion of a roadway that has been designed by striping, signing, and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles.

Bike Path: A bikeway physically separated from motorized traffic by an open space or barrier, either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent right-of-way.

Bikeway: Any road, path, or way, which in some manner is specifically designated as being open to bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicyclists or are to be shared with other vehicles.

Burlington Northern/Santa Fe (BNSF): One of seven North American Class I transcontinental freight railroads and the second largest freight railroad network in North America.

C

Capacity: The maximum rate of flow at which persons or vehicles can be reasonably expected to traverse a point or uniform segment of a lane or roadway during a specific time period under prevailing roadway, traffic, and control conditions, usually expressed as vehicles per hour or persons per hour.

Capital Costs: The costs of long-term assets of a public transit system such as property, buildings, and vehicles.

Census Block (CB): A subdivision of a census tract, a block is the smallest geographic unit for which the Census Bureau tabulates 100-percent data. Many blocks correspond to individual city blocks bounded by streets, but blocks – especially in rural areas – may include many square miles and may have some boundaries that are not streets.

Census Tract (CT): Small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county. Census tracts are delineated for most metropolitan areas and other densely populated counties by local census statistical areas committees following Census Bureau guidelines.

Central Business District (CBD): A commercial heart of a city, such as a city center or downtown area.

Collector Street: Surface streets providing land access and traffic circulation service within residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

Comprehensive Plan: A generalized coordinated land use policy statement of the governing body of a country or city that is adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Program.

Concurrency: A term used in the Growth Management Act that describes the requirement that supporting infrastructure must be in place or concurrent with the development to accommodate transportation impacts, or a financial commitment is in place to provide the improvements or strategies within six years.

Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA): An area consisting of two or more overlapping or interlocking urban communities (known as primary metropolitan statistical areas) with a total population of at least one million.

Council of Governments (COG): Regional bodies that serve an area of several counties to address issues such as regional and municipal planning, economic and community development, cartography and GIS, hazard mitigation and emergency planning, aging services, water use, pollution control, transit administration, and transportation planning.

County Road Administration Board (CRAB): A board consisting of county commissioners or other elected officials from counties throughout Washington

State that meets quarterly to do research, provide reports, and present testimony on transportation-related issues.

Cycle Length: The total time for a traffic signal to complete a sequence of signal indications.

E

Economic Development Council (EDC): An organization dedicated to helping to create high quality jobs and developing vibrant communities.

Environmental Justice (EJ): The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Environmental Protection Agency: A federal agency responsible for environment concerns.

F

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY): A period used for calculating annual (“yearly”) financial statements in business and other organizations.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): Arm of the United States Department of Transportation that is responsible for administering all federal-aid highway funds and programs.

Federal Transit Administration: Arm of the U.S. Department of Transportation that regulates and helps fund all public transportation within local communities.

G

Geographic Information System (GIS): A computerized geographic data storage analysis and display system. GIS allows the assignment of multiple layers of data sets to the map of a given area.

Grade Separation: The raising or lowering of a road or highway grade to bridge over/under another road or rail line.

Growth Management Act: Requires state and local governments to manage Washington’s growth by identifying and protecting critical areas and natural resource lands, designating urban growth areas, preparing comprehensive plans and implementing them through capital investments and development regulations.

H

Highway Trust Fund (HTF): A transportation fund established to ensure financing for maintenance of the United States Interstate Highway System and certain other roads. Money in the fund is raised via a federal fuel tax.

I

Infrastructure: The essential elements of a structure, system, plan of operations, etc.

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS): Generally refers to the application of advanced electronics and computer technology to automate highway and vehicle systems to enable more efficient and safer use of existing highways and streets.

Interlocal Agreement (ILA): An agreement among the jurisdictions within a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) that establishes the organization and defines duties and relationships for member counties. The agreement governs RTPO operations and is submitted as part of the RTPO’s designation package.

Intermodal: Refers to transfer facilities where freight or passengers change modes of transport. For example, an airport is an intermodal facility where freight and passengers make intermodal transfers between motorized vehicles and airplanes.

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA): A United States federal law that posed a major change to transportation planning and policy, as the first U.S. federal legislation on the subject in the post-Interstate Highway System era.

J

Just-In-Time Delivery Systems (JIT): A production strategy that strives to improve a business’ return on investment by reducing in-process inventory and associated carrying costs. The strategy involves ordering or receiving parts or products only when the current supply is near depletion.

L

Land Use Assumptions: The existing and proposed land uses, i.e. retail, various residential densities, office, manufacturing, etc. Used in developing travel forecasts. Housing units and employment numbers in the travel forecasting process represents these lands uses.

Level of Service (LOS): A gauge for evaluating the quality of service on the transportation system. Described by travel times, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort, convenience, and safety.

Local Improvement District (LID): A special assessment district in which improvements will benefit primarily the property owners in the district and helps pay for improvements such as streetlights, street and alley paving, and water and sewage systems.

Long Range Plan (LRP): A transportation plan with at least a 20-year horizon that identifies what transportation options best serve a community’s needs and expectations, as well as approved transportation and highway projects and funding forecasts.

M

Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD): A manual that defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public traffic.

Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA): An area determined by an agreement between the governor and the Metropolitan Planning Organization as defined in 23 USC 134.

Mile Post (MP): One of a series of numbered markers placed along a road or boundary at intervals of one mile or, occasionally, parts of a mile. They are typically located at the side of the road or in a median.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): A planning organization that is required by federal regulation in all urban areas with a population of over 50,000. The MPO coordinates transportation and land use planning within its designated region.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): A geographical region with a relatively high population density at its core and close economic ties throughout the area.

Multimodal: Refers to a plan or program that accounts for the needs and/or trends of multiple modes.

O

Office of Financial Management (OFM): Provides vital information, fiscal services, and policy support that the Governor, legislature, and state agencies need to serve the people of Washington State.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT): Government agency that constructs, maintains, and regulates the use of Oregon's transportation infrastructure.

P

Public Participation Plan (PPP): A policy that guides public involvement in transportation planning processes. These policies set standards for public input in the planning process.

R

Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO): A voluntary association of local governments within a region. They are authorized under the Growth Management Act to facilitate the development of a regional transportation plan. The RTPO coordinates transportation planning efforts of all government units within the region.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW): A compilation of all permanent Washington State laws now in force.

S

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU): A funding and authorization bill that governs U.S. federal surface transportation spending.

Six-Year Plan: An implementation plan for the first six years of the Washington Transportation Plan.

State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA): Act that requires consideration of alternatives and mitigation of environmental impacts for major projects and programs both public and private.

State Route (SR): A road maintained by the state.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP): A 4-year state transportation planning document required by the Federal Highway Administration.

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP): A program that provides flexible funding that may be used by States and localities for projects on any Federal-aid highway, including bridge projects on any public road, transit capital projects, and intra-city and intercity bus terminals and facilities.

T

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): An advisory committee responsible for advising policy board members on recommendations regarding plans, programs, and activities. Formed to promote transparency and provide an opportunity for the public to be involved in programs, plans, and other activities.

Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ): Any area designated for a study of household travel characteristics in order to create a database of accurate information about the number of trips, trip length, and trip purpose by mode and time-of-day for the area of households in question.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21): Authorized the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 6-year period, 1998-2003. Because Congress could not agree on funding levels, the Act – which had continued past 2003 by means of temporary extensions – was allowed to lapse.

Transportation Improvement Board (TIB): An independent state agency that distributes and manages street construction and maintenance grants to cities and urban counties throughout Washington State.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): A multi-year funding program document that lists federally and non-federally funded transportation improvements.

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER): A supplementary discretionary grant program included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Replaced by BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development).

U

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): A federally-mandated document serving as the annual work plan for local and regional transportation planning organizations.

United States Department of Transportation (USDOT): A federal Cabinet department of the U.S. Government concerned with transportation.

Urbanized Area (UZA): A census classification for areas having populations of 5,000 or more and meets certain population density requirements.

Urban Area Boundary (UAB): Boundary of census classification area having populations of 5,000 or more and that meets certain population density requirements.

Urban Growth Area (UGA): Areas where urban growth within is encouraged and where growth outside can occur only if it is not urban in nature.

V

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): The total number of miles driven by all vehicles within a given time period and geographic area.

Volume to Capacity Ratio (V/C): The ratio of traffic volume to capacity for a traffic facility.

W

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): Government agency that constructs, maintains, and regulates the use of Washington State's transportation infrastructure.

Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC): The board of directors of the Washington State Department of Transportation that provides oversight to ensure the Department delivers quality transportation facilities and services in a cost-effective manner.