

More Transportation Planning Terms

Access, Accessibility	The opportunity to reach a given destination within a certain time frame or without being impeded by physical or economic barriers.
Alternative Fuels	Any motor fuel other than ordinary gasoline which often results in lower levels of air pollutants (reformulated gasoline, natural gas and liquid propane).
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)	Federal law which requires accessible public transportation services for persons with disabilities, including complementary or supplemental para-transit services in areas where fixed route transit service is operated. Expands definition of eligibility for accessible services to persons with mental disabilities, temporary disabilities, and the conditions related to substance abuse. The Act is an augmentation to, but does not supersede, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability against otherwise qualified individuals in programs receiving federal assistance.
Apportionment	A term that refers to prescribed division or assignment of funds by statute. An apportionment is based on prescribed formulas in the law and consists of dividing authorized obligation and payments made, but for the highway program operating contract authority, appropriations specify amounts of funds that Congress will make available to liquidate prior obligations.
Appropriations Act	Act of a legislative body that makes funds available for expenditure with specific limitations as to amount, purpose, and duration. In most cases, it permits money previously authorized to be obligated and payments made, but for the highway program operating under contract authority, appropriations specify amounts of funds that Congress will make available to liquidate prior obligations.
Arterial	A major thoroughfare that is vital for moving people and goods; feeds into the interstate and freeway systems. Emphasizes mobility over access.
Attainment Area	An area considered to have air quality at least as good as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health standards used in the Clean Air Act. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a non-attainment area for others. Non-attainment areas are areas that have not met these standards for designated pollutants.
Average Daily Traffic (ADT)	The average number of vehicles passing a fixed point in a 24-hour time frame. A convention for measuring traffic volume.
Bikeway	A facility intended to accommodate bicycle travel for recreational or commuting purposes. Bikeways are not necessarily separate facilities; they may be designed and operated to be shared with other travel modes.
Branson TRIP	Branson TRavel Information Program (Intelligent Transportation System)
Bus Lane	A lane reserved for bus use only. Also known as a "diamond lane". See also "HOV".
Capital Costs	Nonrecurring or infrequently occurring costs of long term transit assets, such as land, guideways, stations, buildings, and vehicles.
Capital Improvements Program	A plan or schedule for expending funds to make capital improvements. Identifies projects to be incurred each year over a fixed period of years to meet capital needs in the long term.
Capital Projects Fund	A fund created to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition of major capital facilities.
Carbon Monoxide	CO for short. A gas without color and odor which is toxic because too much of it can dangerously reduce oxygen in the bloodstream.
Central Business District (CBD)	The traditional, most intensely commercial sector of a city. For most cities, the CBD is downtown.
Collector	Intended to balance access and mobility considerations by serving through movement as well as access to land. Collectors connect traffic on highways and arterials to local streets and adjacent land.

Conformity	A process in which transportation plans and spending programs are reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with federal clean air requirements; transportation projects collectively must not worsen air quality. The conformity process is defined by the Clear Air Act.
Congestion Management System (CMS)	ISTEA requires that each Transportation Management Area develop a CMS that provides for effective management of new and existing transportation facilities through the use of travel demand reduction and operational management strategies. Unless a part of a CMS, future highway projects that significantly increase capacity for single occupant vehicles (SOVs) may be ineligible for federal funding.
Congestion Mitigation	Implementation of demand-management strategies - such as carpooling, shuttle service or flexible work hours - to reduce congestion. Can also apply to other strategies to increase the operational efficiency of a transportation system.
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)	A Federal funding program contained which provides funds for projects and activities which reduce congestion and improve air quality. To be eligible for CMAQ, projects and activities must contribute to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and must be included in a Transportation Improvement Program.
Council of Governments (COG)	See regional planning organization
Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards (CAFE)	Refers to the federal fuel efficiency standards for automobiles.
Corridor	In planning, a broad geographical area of land that follows a general direction flow or connects major sources of trips. It may contain a number of streets, highways, transit lines and routes. It generally follows an interstate, freeway or major roadway.
Dedicated Funding Source	A funding source that, by law, is available for use only to support a specific purpose and cannot be diverted to other uses. One example is the Highway Trust Fund.
Demand-Responsive Transit	Descriptive term for a service type, usually considered paratransit, in which a user can access transportation service which can be variable routed and timed to meet changing needs on a semi-daily basis. Compare with "Fixed-Route".
Destination	End point of a trip.
Discretionary Funds	Any funds whose distribution is not automatic. Decisions on the distribution of discretionary funds are usually made by an agency or person on the basis of that agency's or person's choice or judgment and in accordance with criteria set out in law or regulations.
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	Report which details any adverse economic, social, and environmental effects of a proposed transportation project for which federal funding is being sought. Adverse effects could include air, water, or noise pollution; destruction or disruption of natural resources; adverse employment effects; injurious displacement of people or businesses; or disruption of desirable community or regional growth.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	EPA is the source agency of air quality control regulations affecting transportation.
Expressway	A divided highway facility usually having two or more lanes for the exclusive use of traffic in each direction and partial control of access. Access to the roadway includes interchanges and limited at-grade intersections.
Facility	The means by which a transportation mode is provided. Examples of transportation facilities include: a bikepath, a highway, an interchange, a rail line.
Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)	The Federal yearly accounting period beginning October 1 and ending September 30 of the subsequent calendar year. Fiscal years are denoted by the calendar year in which they end, e.g., FY 1994 begins October 1, 1993 and ends September 30, 1994.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Division of the U.S. Department of Transportation which funds transit planning and programs.
Federal-Aid Highways	Those highways eligible for assistance under Title 23 U.S.C., except those functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors.
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration, an agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation, with jurisdiction over highways.
Fixed-Route	Term applied to transit service that is regularly scheduled and operating over a set route. Usually refers to bus service.
Freeway	A divided highway having two or more lanes for the exclusive use of traffic in each direction and full control of access. Access is provided only through interchanges. The freeway is the only type of highway intended to provide complete "uninterrupted" flow.
Frontage Road	A roadway that parallels a major transportation facility such as a freeway. It serves to collect and distribute traffic along the major facility without impeding flow along the freeway.
Functional Classification	Streets provide two distinct functions: mobility (through movement) and access to land. Functional classification is a hierarchical ranking based on the degree of mobility and access that a street provides. Streets are generally classified as arterials, collectors and local streets.
Gasohol	A special motor fuel that is a blend of 90% ordinary gasoline and 10% ethanol which is fermented from biomass (i.e. corn).
Gateway Guide	Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for the St. Louis Region
Grade	The slope (ratio of change in elevation to change in distance) of a roadway typically given in percent. For example, a 2% grade represents 2 feet of elevation change over a 100-foot distance.
Guideway	A travel way, separated from other transportation modes, that supports a form of transit. An example would be a road to be used only by a trolley or a bus or a rail lane for heavy rail.
Headway	A transit term meaning the time between buses on the same route.
High Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs)	Generally applied to vehicles carrying three or more people. Freeways, expressways and other large volume roads may have lanes designated for HOV use. HOV lanes may be designated for use by carpoolers, vanpools, and buses. The term HOV is sometimes used to refer to high occupancy vehicle lanes themselves.
High-Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT)	Includes " HSR " (High Speed Rail) and magnetic levitation, or " Maglev " systems. Examples of HSR include the Japanese "Shinkansen" or "bullet trains", and the French TGV, or "Train à la Grande Vitesse" and Amtrak's "Acela" Express. HSR systems use continuously-welded track, and range in travel speed from 120 m.p.h. to a maximum tested by TGV of 320 m.p.h. Maglev systems are lifted, guided, and propelled by electrically powered magnets along elevated guideways and can travel securely at 300 m.p.h.
Highway	Term applies to roads, streets, and parkways, and also includes rights-of-way, bridges, railroad crossings, tunnels, drainage structures, signs, guard rails, and protective structures in connection with highways.
Home-Based Work Trip	A trip for the purpose of one's employment, with either trip end being one's home.
Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)	Technology-based information services for travelers used to communicate travel information to the public and to assist incident management. Examples include traffic cameras, radio stations, webpages, variable message boards. Information transmitted in an ITS could include traffic conditions, road construction plans, accident reports and weather conditions.

Intermodal	Interconnectivity between various types (modes) of transportation.
Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)	Landmark federal legislation signed into law in 1991. It made broad changes in the way transportation decisions are made by emphasizing diversity and balance of modes as well as the preservation of existing systems and construction of new facilities. The law expired in 1997, but much of the program is carried forward by TEA-21.
Interstate System	That system of highways which connects the principal metropolitan areas, cities, and industrial centers of the United States. The Interstate System also connects at suitable border points with routes of continental importance in Canada and Mexico. The routes of the interstate system are selected by joint action of the state highway department of each state and the adjoining states, subject to the approval of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.
Kansas City SCOUT	Kansas City's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)
Land Use	The way specific portions of land or the structures on them are used, i. e., commercial, residential, industrial, and so on.
Level of Service (LOS)	A qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream and motorists' perceptions of those conditions. For example LOS A is free flow, B: stable flow; C: stable flow but beginnings of congestion, D: high density but stable flow, E: at capacity level, and F: stop and go.
Life Cycle Cost Analysis	A procedure for evaluating the economic worth of one or more projects or investments by discounting future costs over the life of the project or investment.
Local Street	Emphasizes access to land. Local streets provide access between land and the adjacent street system.
Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)	A 20-year forecast plan now required at both the metropolitan and state levels, which must consider a wide range of social, environmental, energy, and economic factors in determining overall regional goals and how transportation can best meet these goals.
Maintenance Area	Any geographic region of the United States designated nonattainment pursuant to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, and subsequently redesignated to attainment subject to the requirement to develop a maintenance plan under Section 175A of the Clean Air Act as amended.
Major Metropolitan Transportation Investment	A high-type highway or transit improvement of substantial cost that is expected to have a significant effect on capacity, traffic flow, level of service, or mode share at the transportation corridor or subarea scale.
Metrolink	Light rail system serving the St. Louis Area
KCATA	Kansas City Area Transit Authority
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	The organizational entity designated by law with lead responsibility for developing transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas of 50,000 or more in population. MPOs are established by agreement of the Governor and units of general purpose local government which together represent 75 percent of the affected population or an urbanized area.
Metropolitan Transportation Plan	The official intermodal transportation plan that is developed and adopted through the metropolitan transportation planning process for the metropolitan planning area.
Missouri Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Assistance Program (MEHTAP)	MEHTAP funds were first enabled by Missouri Senate Bill 875. This is a state program providing matching funds to local or federal funds for service operations. Numerous agencies participate statewide.
Mobility	The ease with which desired destinations can be reached.
Mode	A particular form of travel - e.g., walking, traveling by automobile, traveling by bus, traveling by train.
Mode Split	The proportion of total person trips using various specified modes of transportation.

Model	A mathematical and geometric projection of activity and the interactions in the transportation system in an area. This projection must be able to be evaluated according to a given set of criteria which typically include criteria pertaining to land use, economics, social values, and travel patterns.
Multi-Modal	Refers to the availability of multiple transportation options, especially within a system or corridor. A concept embraced in ISTEA, a multimodal approach to transportation planning focuses on the most efficient way of getting people or goods from place to place, be it by truck, train, bicycle, automobile, airplane, bus, boat, or foot.
National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	Issued by US EPA and determines the amount of total emissions of criteria pollutants that can be produced in a geographic location by transportation facilities.
National Highway System (NHS)	Includes the interstate system, and other routes identified as having strategic defense characteristics as well as routes providing access to major ports, airports, public transportation, intermodal transportation facilities and routes of particular importance to local governments.
Nonattainment Areas	Geographical areas, as defined by US EPA, whose air quality does not meet federal air quality standards designed to protect public health.
Non-Motorized Travel	Travel accomplished by cycling or walking.
Organized Alternative Transit System (OATS)	OATS, Incorporated operates in most Missouri counties excluding St. Louis City and the Missouri Bootheel area. OATS is the major provider for Area Agencies on Aging in its statewide service area.
Origin	The point or locale where a trip begins.
Origin-Destination Survey	A survey typically undertaken of travelers (motorists or transit passengers) to identify travel patterns, habits and needs.
Oxygenated Fuels	Gasoline blended with alcohol or ether containing oxygen. Use of such fuels reduces carbon monoxide production and other emissions.
Ozone	Man-made ozone is created when hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from car exhausts and certain industrial emissions react in the presence of strong sunlight. Reduction of ozone produced from "mobile source emissions" (motor vehicles) is a major objective of the region's air quality plan.
Paratransit	Alternatively known as "special transportation" when applied to social services systems. Applies to a variety of smaller, often flexibly-scheduled and routed nonprofit oriented transportation services using low capacity vehicles, such as vans, to operate within normal urban transit corridors or rural areas. These services usually serve the needs of persons whom standard mass transit services would serve with difficulty, or not at all. Common patrons are the elderly and persons with disabilities.
Peak Hour	The 60-minute period in the morning or evening in which the largest volume of travel is experienced.
Pedestrian Walkway	Secured walkway provided as an alternate to auto travel.
Person-Trip	A trip made by one person from one origin to one destination.
Program	A schedule of funding for implementing transportation projects or policies.
Public Participation	The active involvement of the public in the development of transportation plans and improvement programs. The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) requires that state departments of transportation and MPOs "shall provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, private providers of transportation, and other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the development of the long range plan and the TIP".
Public Road	Any road or street under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority and open to public traffic.

Request for Bids, Proposals, Qualifications (RFB, RFP, RFQ)	Preliminary stages of competitive procurement processes, most commonly associated with procurement of capital items or consulting services.
Regional Planning Commissions (RPC)	See regional planning organization
Regional Planning Organization (RPO)	Regional organizations designated by the state to conduct regional planning services. In Missouri, regional planning commissions are involved with rural transportation planning. The St. Louis and Kansas City regional planning commissions are also Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
Reverse Commute	Travel from home to work or from work to home against the main directions of traffic.
Rideshare	Regional carpool program usually operated by an MPO.
Right of Way (ROW)	Is an area which usually holds the public utilities (both overhead and underground) and acts as a buffer between transportation infrastructure (for example-road or rail) and private property.
Scenic Byways Program	Grant funds totaling \$50 million are authorized for the planning, design, and development of State scenic byway programs. In addition, an interim Scenic Byways grant program is funded at \$30 million to allow states to undertake scenic byways projects. Scenic byways, additionally, may be funded through the 10 percent set-aside of STP funds for enhancement activities.
Section 5307 Funds	Federal transit funds designated for urbanized areas (cities with 50,000 or more persons). Funds can be used for transit studies, capital investments and bus or train maintenance.
Section 5311 Funds	Federal transit funds designated for non-urbanized areas (cities less than 50,000 or rural areas). Funds can be used for capital investments, operations or administration.
Section 5310 Funds	Federal transit funds for non-profit organizations and public agencies. Funds are used for purchasing or leasing vehicles, or for contracting for services.
Section 5309 Funds	Federal transit funds for bus and bus-related capital projects.
Shuttle	Usually a service provided with a 20-or-less passenger vehicle connecting major trip destinations and origins on a fixed-or route-deviation basis. Shuttles can provide feeder service to main transit routes, or operate in a point-to-point or circular fashion.
SOV	A single occupant vehicle. It has one occupant, the driver.
State Department of Transportation	That department, commission, board, or official of any State charged by its laws with the responsibility of highway construction.
State Fiscal Year (SFY)	The State yearly accounting period beginning June 1 and ending July 31 of the subsequent calendar year. Fiscal years are denoted by the calendar year in which they end, e.g., FY 1994 begins June 1, 1993 and ends July 31, 1994.
State Implementation Plan (SIP)	Required documents prepared by states and submitted to EPA for approval. SIPs identify state actions and programs to implement designated responsibilities under the Clean Air Act.
Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)	A staged, multiyear, statewide, intermodal program or transportation projects which is consistent with the Statewide transportation plan and planning processes and metropolitan plans, TIPs and processes.
Surface Transportation Program (STP)	A new categorical funding program created with the ISTEA. Funds may be used for a wide variety of purposes, including: roadway construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation; roadway operational improvements; capital costs for transit projects; highway and transit safety improvements; bicycle and pedestrian facilities; scenic and historical transportation facilities; and, preservation of abandoned transportation corridors.
Traffic Calming Measures	Include speed humps, speed tables, reducing the number of travel lanes or reducing travel lane width by striping for bikes and pedestrians, traffic islands, roundabouts and curving streets. Their purpose is to make residential streets safer and to slow motorized traffic.

Transit	Generally refers to passenger service provided to the general public along established routes with fixed or variable schedules at published fares. Related terms include: public transit, mass transit, public transportation, urban transit and paratransit.
Transportation Control Measure (TCM)	A strategy to reduce driving or smooth traffic flows in order to cut auto emissions and resulting air pollution. Examples of TCM's include HOV lanes, new or increased transit service, or a program to promote carpools and vanpools.
Transportation Demand Management (TDM)	Low cost ways to reduce demand by automobiles on the transportation system, such as programs to promote telecommuting, flextime and ridesharing.
Transportation Enhancement Activities	Refers to activities conducted in relationship to a particular transportation project which "enhance" the existing or proposed project. Examples of such activities include provisions of facilities for pedestrians or cyclists, landscaping or other scenic beautification projects, historic preservation, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archeological planning and research, and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff.
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	A staged, multiyear, intermodal program of transportation projects which is consistent with the metropolitan transportation plan. This is a document prepared by states and metropolitan planning organizations citing projects to be funded under federal transportation programs for a full year period. Without TIP inclusion, a project is ineligible for federal funding.
Transportation Management Area (TMA)	An urbanized area with a population over 200,000 (as determined by the latest decennial census) or other area when TMA designation is requested by the Governor and the MPO (or affected local officials), and officially designated by the Administrators of the FHWA and FTA. The TMA designation applies to the entire metropolitan planning area(s). The TMA designation affects the responsibility for the selection of transportation projects that receive federal funds.
Transportation Management Association (TMA)	A voluntary association of public and private agencies and firms joined to cooperatively develop transportation-enhancing programs in a given area. TMAs are appropriate organizations to better manage transportation demand in congested suburban communities.
Transportation System Management (TSM)	Actions that control or improve the movement of cars and trucks on the highway system and buses on the transit system. It includes the coordination of the available transportation systems for more efficient operations.
Travel Time	Customarily calculated as the time it takes to travel from "door-to-door". In transportation planning, particularly in forecasting the demand for transit service, therefore, measures of travel time include time spent accessing, waiting, and transferring between vehicles, as well as that time spent on board.
Trip	A one-direction movement from an origin to a destination.
Trip End	Origin or destination of a trip.
Trust Funds	Accounts established by law to hold receipts that are collected by the Federal Government and earmarked for specific purposes and programs. These receipts are not available for the general purposes of the Federal Government. The Highway Trust Fund is comprised of receipts from certain highway user taxes (e.g., excise taxes on motor fuel, rubber, and heavy vehicles) and reserved for use for highway construction, mass transportation, and related purposes.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	An instrument for coordinating transportation and comprehensive planning in a metropolitan area. Its intent is to broaden the MPO's awareness of local activities and plans that may impact the surface transportation system. It also ensures that planned improvements are based on a common set of existing conditions and forecasts. Lastly, the UPWP guarantees all key decisions affecting growth and development within the metropolitan area are coordinated thus lessening the potential for duplicable or conflicting planning efforts of member agencies.
Urbanized Area	Areas which contains a densely populated area of 50,000 or more population plus surrounding areas meeting set size or density criteria.
Urbanized Area (UZA)	A Census classification for areas having a population of 5,000 or more which meets certain population density requirements.
Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT)	A standard areawide measure of travel activity. Most conventional VMT calculation is to multiply average length of trip by the total number of trips.
Bi-State Development Agency	Transit provider in the St. Louis Area
City Utilities of Springfield	Transit provider in the Springfield, Missouri Area

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