

Glossary

AADT – Annual Average Daily Traffic: The total number of vehicles passing a fixed point during a one-year period, divided by 365.

ADT – Average Daily Traffic: The average number of vehicles passing a fixed point in a 24-hour timeframe.

Access Management – The optimization of driveways and intersections to maintain safety at a roadway’s full traffic-carrying capacity. A balance between access to properties and the necessity to preserve roadway capacity.

Asset Management – A strategic approach to managing transportation infrastructure – to enable more effective resource allocation and utilization, based upon quality information and analyses, to address facility preservation, operation, and improvement.

Buildout – The total amount of development that could occur in an area under existing legal and environmental constraints (such as adopted zoning regulations and topographical constraints).

Capacity – The volume of vehicles a road was designed to carry in a unit of time, such as an hour; this term also can be applied to transit or bicycle/pedestrian paths.

Channelization – Separation of conflicting traffic movements into defined paths of travel to facilitate the safe and orderly movement of vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles.

Corridor – A broad geographic band connecting population and employment centers and served by various transportation modes, within which passenger and freight travel, land use, topography, environment, and other characteristics are evaluated for transportation purposes.

Crash Rate – The number of vehicular crashes on a given portion of a roadway system divided by the total number of vehicle miles of travel on that portion of the system during the same time period – typically expressed as the number of crashes per million vehicle miles of travel.

Cumulative Impacts – The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of an action (such as a transportation project) when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Environmental Justice – The policy goal of identifying and avoiding disproportionate adverse impacts on minority and low-income individuals and communities.

FHWA – The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, the Federal agency responsible for administration of Federal-aid highway funds.

Functional Class – The grouping of streets and highways into classes, or systems, according to the character of service they are intended to provide.

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Glossary (continued)

GIS – Geographic Information System.

Goal – A general statement of an outcome to be achieved over the long term.

Growth Management – The framework used by communities to make informed decisions about how and where they grow.

HCM – Highway Capacity Manual.

IGA – Intergovernmental Agreement.

Induced Growth – Development that occurs in response to improvements made to the transportation system, typically as a result of improved accessibility or attractiveness of a location.

Intermodal – A transportation system connecting or including different modes of transportation.

Intermodal Facilities – Transportation facilities such as park-and-ride lots, rail terminals, airports, bus and train stations, and water ports that connect different modes of transportation, either for passenger or freight movement.

ITE – Institute of Transportation Engineers.

LOS – Level of Service: The classification of general traffic conditions. The level of service ranges from “A” (the best), to “F.” It is a measure of how a highway or an intersection performs in terms of speed, travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, and delays.

LRTP – Long-Range Transportation Plan: The statement of the ways a region plans to invest in its transportation system. Federal regulations require that MPOs (serving urbanized areas of at least 50,000 population) develop an RTP that has at least a 20-year horizon and is updated at least every five years (three years in air quality nonattainment and maintenance areas).

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding.

MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization: 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.

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act: A Federal law that requires agencies to evaluate and disclose environmental impacts of proposed actions. The process begins with an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine if an action will have significant impacts. Major transportation projects will typically require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

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NHS – National Highway System: A system of nationally significant roadways designated in the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. The NHS includes the Interstate Highway System; other routes identified as having strategic defense characteristics; routes providing access to major ports, airports, public transportation and intermodal transportation facilities; and many principal urban and rural arterials which provide regional service.

Objective – An objective is related to a goal, and represents a more specific, measurable end to be reached.

Origin-Destination Survey – A survey of travelers to determine their trip origins and destinations. Origin-destination surveys may be conducted by telephone or mail within an area of interest, or by interview or postcard at specific transportation facilities of interest.

Overlay District – Additional zoning requirements that are superimposed upon existing zoning in specified areas as shown on a zoning map.

Peak Hour – The 60-minute period in the a.m. or p.m. in which the largest volume of travel is experienced.

RFP – Request for Proposals.

Right-of-Way – Land used generally for streets, sidewalks, alleys, or other public uses. Right-of-way also is used to refer to the distance between lot property lines which generally contains not only the street pavement, but also the sidewalks, grass area, and underground and aboveground utilities.

Riparian Buffer – A strip of grass, shrubs, and/or trees along the bank of a river or stream that filters polluted runoff and provides a transition zone between water and human land use.

Roadway – The portion of the street right-of-way which contains the street pavement and gutter and is used primarily as a channel for vehicular movement and secondarily as a drainage channel for storm water.

RPC – Regional Planning Commission.

RTP – Regional Transportation Plan: The statement of the ways a region plans to invest in its transportation system. Federal requirements apply to RTP development in urbanized areas of at least 50,000 population (see LRTP).

Scenario Planning – A framework for developing a shared vision for the future by analyzing various forces (e.g., health, transportation, economic, environmental, land use, etc.) that affect growth. Scenario planning is a collaborative process that tests various future alternatives for their ability to meet regional and community needs.

Screening 1) – The process of narrowing down a list of options for consideration based on established criteria.

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Glossary (continued)

Screening 2) – A method of visually shielding or obscuring one abutting or nearby structure or use from another by fencing, walls, berms or mounting or densely planted vegetation.

Secondary Impacts – Impacts that are caused by an action (such as a transportation project) that occur later in time and farther removed in distance, but are still foreseeable. Also known as “indirect impacts.”

Sketch-Level Analysis – A quick method for estimating the potential impacts of a transportation strategy, where an approximate, order-of-magnitude assessment is sufficient.

Stakeholder – A person or organization that holds an interest in the outcome of a project or study.

STIP – The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program: A multi-year capital program of transportation projects. In Vermont, the STIP incorporates the TIP for the Chittenden County MPO.

Strategy – An implementation step taken to achieve a goal: e.g., “undertake safety improvements at high-crash locations.”

Surface Transportation Program – A Federal highway funding program category. 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.

TAC – Technical Advisory Committee.

TIP – Transportation Improvement Program: A financially constrained three-year program listing specific projects and strategies from the long-range transportation plan that are prioritized for funding. By Federal regulation, TIPs must be developed for urbanized areas of at least 50,000 population.

TPI – Transportation Planning Initiative: A State of Vermont initiative designed to include all segments of the public in planning improvements to Vermont’s transportation system.

Traffic Calming – A collection of measures to reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users. Traffic calming measures include roadway alterations such as gateways, dividing islands, curb extensions, textured crosswalks, and managed access to individual properties through shared or limited curb cuts. Streetscape design also plays an important role in traffic calming with enhancements such as lighting, signage, and landscaping, which reinforce village character and at the same time, improve aesthetics and human comfort.

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Glossary (continued)

Travelshed – The total contributing area that generates trips that use the corridor.

Trigger – The value of a measurable indicator (e.g., average daily traffic, volume-to-capacity ratio, population density) that, when reached, will cause a set of agreed-upon actions to be taken (e.g., conduct traffic study).

Trip Generator – A land use that is an origin or destination for travelers.

Turning Movement – A vehicular movement through an intersection, defined by the lane and leg from which the vehicle originates and the lane and leg to which the vehicle travels after passing through the intersection. Turning movement counts determine the number of vehicles executing a given turning movement in a defined period of time.

Viewshed – The area within view of a defined observation point or corridor.

VMT – Vehicle Miles of Travel: A standard measure of travel activity, typically calculated by multiplying the average length of trip by the total number of trips (for an area), or by multiplying the length of a roadway segment by the ADT on that roadway (for a roadway segment).

Volume – The number of vehicles that pass through a given mile of road in a unit of time such as a day; this term also can be applied to transit or bicycle/pedestrian paths.

VPD – Vehicles per Day.

V/C – Volume-capacity ratio: The ratio of the traffic volume on a roadway to the capacity of the roadway over a given time period.