

GLOSSARY

Apportionment - A term that refers to a statutorily prescribed division or assignment of funds. An apportionment is based on prescribed formulas in the law and consists of dividing authorized obligation authority for a specific program among the States.

Appropriations Act - Action 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.

Area source - Small stationary and non-transportation pollution sources that are too small and/or numerous to be included as point sources but may collectively contribute significantly to air pollution (i.e. dry cleaners).

Arterial - A class of roads serving major traffic movements (high-speed, high volume) for travel between major points.

Attainment area - An area considered to have air quality that meets or exceeds 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 nonattainment area for others. Nonattainment areas are areas considered not to have met these standards for designated pollutants.

Authorization Act - Basic substantive legislation or that which empowers an agency to implement a particular program and also establishes an upper limit on the amount of funds that can be appropriated for that program.

Bikeway - A facility designed to accommodate bicycle travel for recreational or commuting purposes. Bikeways are not necessarily separated facilities; they may be designed and operated to be shared with other travel modes.

Budget Authority - Empowerment by Congress that allows Federal agencies to incur obligations to spend or lend money. This empowerment is generally in the form of appropriations; however, for the major highway program categories, it is in the form of “contract authority.”

Bus lane - A lane reserved for bus use only. Sometimes also known as a “diamond lane.” See also “HOV.”

Carbon monoxide (CO) - A colorless, odorless, tasteless gas formed in large part by incomplete combustion of fuel. Human activities (i.e. transportation or industrial processes) are largely the source for CO contamination.

Conformity - Process to assess the compliance of any transportation plan, program, or project with air quality implementation plans. The conformity process is defined by the Clean Air Act.

Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) - A categorical funding program created with ISTEA and continued under TEA-21 . Directs funding to projects that contribute to meeting National air quality standards. CMAQ funds generally may not be used for projects that result in the construction of new capacity available to SOV's (single-occupant vehicles).

Congestion Management System (CMS) - ISTEA requires that each Transportation Management Area (see definition of TMA) 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.

Contract Authority - A form of budget authority that permits obligations to be made in advance of appropriations. The Federal-Aid Highway Program operates mostly under contract authority rules.

Demand-responsive - Descriptive term for a service type, usually considered paratransit, in which a user can access transportation service that can be variably routed and timed to meet changing needs on an as-needed basis.

Dial-a-ride -Term for demand-responsive systems usually delivering door-to-door service to clients, who make request by telephone on an as-needed reservation or subscription basis.

Emissions inventory - A complete list of sources and amounts of pollutant emissions within a specific area and time interval.

Enhancement activities - Refers to activities related to a particular transportation project that 'enhance' or contribute to the existing or proposed project. Examples of such activities include provision 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.

Environmental Impact Statement - Report developed as part of the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, 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 Federal regulatory agency responsible for administering and the enforcement of Federal environmental laws including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and others.

Expenditures (outlays) - A term signifying disbursement of funds for repayment of obligations incurred. An electronic transfer of funds, or a check sent to a State highway or transportation agency for voucher payment, is an expenditure or outlay.

Expressway - A controlled access, divided arterial highway for through traffic, the intersections of which are usually separated from other roadways by differing grades.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - An agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation that funds highway planning and programs.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - An agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation that funds transit planning and programs.

Financial capacity - Refers to the ISTEA requirement that an adequate financial plan for funding and sustaining transportation improvements be in place prior to programming Federally-funded projects. Generally refers to the stability and reliability of revenue in meeting proposed costs.

Fiscal Year (FY) - The 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 1991 began October 1, 1990, and ended September 30, 1991).

Fixed-route - Term applied to transit service that is regularly scheduled and operates over a set route; usually refers to bus service.

Freeway - A divided arterial highway designed for the unimpeded flow of large traffic volumes. Access to a freeway is rigorously controlled and intersection grade separations are required.

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 use by carpools, vanpools, and buses. The term HOV is also sometimes used to refer to high-occupancy vehicle lanes themselves.

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.

Hydrocarbons (HC) - Colorless gaseous compounds originating from evaporation and the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels.

Infrastructure - A term connoting the physical underpinnings of society at large, including, but not limited to, roads, bridges, transit, waste systems, public housing, sidewalks, utility installations, parks, public buildings, and communications networks.

Inspection and Maintenance Program (I/M) - An emissions testing and inspection program implemented by States in nonattainment areas to ensure that the catalytic or other emissions control devices on in-use vehicles are properly maintained.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) - Use of computer and communications technology to facilitate the flow of information between travelers and system operators. Includes concepts such as “freeway management systems,” “automated fare collection,” and “transit information kiosks.”

Intermodal - The ability to connect, and connections between modes of transportation.

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) - Legislative initiative by the U.S. Congress that restructured funding for transportation programs. ISTEA authorized increased levels of highway and transportation funding from FY92-97 and increased the role of regional planning commissions/MPOs in funding decisions. The Act also required comprehensive regional and Statewide long-term transportation plans and places an increased emphasis on public participation and transportation alternatives.

Interstate Highway System - The system of highways that connects the principal metropolitan areas, cities, and industrial centers of the United States. The Interstate Highway System also connects the U.S. to internationally significant routes in Mexico and Canada.

Land use - Refers to the manner in which portions of land or the structures on them are used (i.e. commercial, residential, retail, industrial, etc.).

Level of Service (LOS) - This term refers to a standard measurement used by transportation officials which reflects the relative ease of traffic flow on a scale of A to F, with free-flow being rated LOS-A and congested conditions rated as LOS-F.

Limitation on Obligations - Any action or inaction by an officer or employee of the United States that limits the amount of Federal assistance that may be obligated during a specified time period. A limitation on obligations does not affect the scheduled apportionment or allocation of funds, it just controls the rate at which these funds may be used.

Local street - A street intended solely for access to adjacent properties.

Long term - In transportation planning, refers to a time span of, generally, 20 years. The transportation plan for metropolitan areas and for States should include projections for land use, population, and employment for the 20-year period.

Maintenance area - means any geographic region of the United States previously designated nonattainment pursuant to the CAA Amendments of 1990 and subsequently redesignated to attainment subject to the requirement to develop a maintenance plan under section 175A of the CAA, as amended.

Management Systems - Six systems originally required under ISTEA (all but one are now optional) to improve identification of problems and opportunities throughout the entire surface transportation network, and to evaluate and prioritize alternative strategies, actions and solutions.

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 of an urbanized area.

Mobile source - Mobile sources include motor vehicles, aircraft, seagoing vessels, and other transportation modes. The mobile source related pollutants are carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC) or volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and small particulate matter (PM-10).

Mobility - The ability to move or be moved from place to place.

Mode - A form of transportation such as an automobile, bus or bicycle.

Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget - is that portion of the total allowable emissions defined in the submitted or approved control strategy implementation plan revision or maintenance plan for a certain date for the purpose of meeting reasonable further progress milestones or demonstrating attainment or maintenance of the NAAQS, for any criteria pollutant or its precursors, allocated to highway and transit vehicle use and emissions.

Multi modal - The availability of transportation options using different modes within a system or corridor.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) - Federal standards that set allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various pollutants. The EPA developed the standards in response to a requirement of the CAA.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - Is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

National Highway System (NHS) - The Federal transportation system designated by Congress that includes nationally significant interstate highways and roads for interstate travel, national defense, intermodal connections, and international commerce.

Nonattainment area - A geographic region of the United States that the EPA has designated as not meeting the NAAQS.

Obligations - Commitments made by Federal agencies to pay out money as distinct from the actual payments, which are “outlays.” Generally, obligations are incurred after the enactments of budget authority.

Oxygenated gasoline - Gasoline enriched with oxygen bearing liquids to reduce CO production by permitting more complete combustion.

Ozone (O₃) - Ozone is a colorless gas with a sweet odor. Ozone is not a direct emission from transportation sources. It is a secondary pollutant formed when HC and NO_x combine in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is associated with smog or haze conditions. Although the ozone in the upper atmosphere protects us from harmful ultraviolet rays, ground-level ozone produces an unhealthy environment in which to live. Ozone is created by human and natural sources.

Paratransit - A variety of smaller, often flexibly scheduled-and- routed 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 that standard mass-transit services would serve with difficulty, or not at all. Often, the patrons include the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Particulate Matter (PM), (PM-10) - Any material that exists as solid or liquid in the atmosphere. Particulate matter may be in the form of fly ash, soot, dust, fog, fumes, etc. Small particulate matter, or PM-10, is less than 10 microns in size and is too small to be filtered by the nose and lungs.

Parts per million (ppm) - A measure of air pollutant concentrations.

Pedestrian walkway - A secured path for walking.

Public participation - The active and meaningful involvement of the public in the development of transportation plans and programs.

Reformulated gasoline (RFG) - Gasoline specifically developed to reduce undesirable combustion products.

Small particulate matter (PM-10) - Particulate matter which is less than 10 microns in size. A micron is one millionth of a meter. Particulate matter this size is too small to be filtered by the nose and lungs.

State Implementation Plan (SIP) - A plan mandated by the CAA and developed by the State that contains procedures to monitor, control, maintain, and enforce compliance with the NAAQS.

Stationary source - Relatively large, fixed sources of emissions (i.e. chemical process industries, petroleum refining and petrochemical operations, or wood processing).

Surface Transportation Program - A new categorical funding program created in ISTEA and retained in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). 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.

Telecommuting - The substitution, either partially or completely, of transportation to a conventional office through the use of computer and telecommunications technologies (e.g. telephones, personal computers, modems, facsimile machines, electronic mail).

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.

Transit dependent - Persons who rely on public transit or paratransit services for most of their transportation.

Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) - Actions to adjust traffic patterns or reduce vehicle use to reduce air pollutant emissions. These may include HOV lanes, provision of bicycle facilities, ridesharing, telecommuting, etc. Such actions may be included in a SIP if needed to demonstrate attainment of the NAAQS.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Also known as a transportation program, a TIP is a program of transportation projects drawn from, or consistent with, the transportation plan and developed pursuant to Title 23, U.S.C. (United States Code) and the Federal Transit Act. This document is prepared by metropolitan planning organizations listing projects to be funded with FHWA/FTA funds for the next one- to three-year period.

Transportation Management Area (TMA) - All urbanized areas over 200,000 in population. Within a TMA, all transportation plans and programs must be based on a continuing and comprehensive planning process carried out by the MPO in cooperation with States and transit operators. The TMA boundary 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 plan - This is a long-range plan that identifies facilities that should function as an integrated transportation system, and developed pursuant to Title 23, U.S.C. (United States Code) and the Federal Transit Act. It gives emphasis to those facilities that serve important national and regional transportation functions, and includes a financial plan that demonstrates how the long-range plan can be implemented.

Transportation System Management (TSM) - The element of a TIP that proposes non-capital intensive steps toward the improvement of a transportation system, such as refinement of system and traffic management, the use of bus priority or reserved lanes, and parking strategies. It includes actions to reduce vehicle use, facilitate traffic flow, and improve internal transit management.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) - The principal, direct, Federal funding agency for transportation facilities and programs. Includes the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and others.

Urbanized area - Area which contains a city of 50,000 or more population plus incorporated surrounding areas meeting set size-or-density criteria.

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) - The sum of distances traveled by all motor vehicles in a specified region.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) - VOCs come from vehicle exhaust, paint thinners, solvents, and other petroleum-based products. A number of exhaust VOCs are also toxic, with the potential to cause cancer.

Zone - The smallest geographically designated area for analysis of transportation activity. A zone can be from one to ten square miles in area. Average zone size depends on the total size of study area.