

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**3-C - Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive:** planning process

**ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990:** Federal law that requires public facilities (including transportation services) to be accessible to persons with disabilities including those with mental disabilities, temporary disabilities, and the conditions related to substance abuse.

**ADT - Average Daily Traffic:** The number of vehicles passing a fixed point in a day, averaged over a number of days. The number of count days included in the average varies with the intended use of data.

**AMPO - Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations:** Nonprofit membership organization serving the interests of metropolitan planning organizations nationwide.

**AVO - Average Vehicle Occupancy:** The ratio of person trips to vehicle trips; often used as a criteria in judging the success of trip reduction programs.

**AVR - Average Vehicle Ridership:** The number of employees scheduled to start work during specified period divided by the number of vehicles arriving at the site during that same period.

**CAAA - Clean Air Act Amendments:** 1990 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act which classify non-attainment areas and provide for rules dealing with air pollution in such areas; specifically brought transportation decisions into the context of air quality control.

**CCRTA - Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority:** "The B" as it is locally known, is the urban public transportation service provider. Operations began in January 1986 with services to the citizens of the Coastal Bend, including the cities of Agua Dulce, Banquete, Bishop, Corpus Christi, Driscoll, Gregory, Port Aransas, Robstown, and San Patricio City.

**CCUAS - Corpus Christi Urban Air Shed:** The Corpus Christi metropolitan statistical area, comprised of Nueces and San Patricio Counties are considered an urban airshed in which air emissions from sources in both counties interact to influence the level of ambient air pollution in the community.

**CIA - Community Impact Assessment:** "A process to evaluate the effects of a transportation action on a community and its quality of life." It is a way to incorporate community considerations into the planning and development of major transportation projects. From a policy perspective, it is a process for assessing the social and economic impacts of transportation projects as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The assessment may address a variety of important community issues such as land development, aesthetics, mobility, neighborhood cohesion, safety, relocation, and economic impacts.

**CITY:** City of Corpus Christi, Texas

**CMAQ - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program:** A categorical funding program under ISTEA, which directs funding to projects that contribute to meeting national air quality standards in non-attainment areas for ozone and carbon monoxide.

**CMP - Congestion Management Process:** A systematic process required for all TMAs that addresses congestion management through the metropolitan planning process that provides for effective management and operation, based on a cooperatively developed and applied metropolitan-wide strategy of new and existing transportation facilities eligible for funding under Title 23 and Chapter 53 of Title 49 through the use of travel demand reduction and operational management strategies. The CMP is required

under 23 CFR 500.109 and shall include methods to monitor and evaluate the performance of the multi-modal transportation systems, identify causes of congestion, identify and evaluate alternative actions, provide information supporting the implementation of actions, and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation actions.

**CSJ - Control Section Job Number** - TxDOT assigned number for projects entered into the Project Development Program (PDP).

**DOT - Department of Transportation:** Agency responsible for transportation at the local, state, or federal level. For title 23 U.S.C. federal-aid highway actions, this would mean the Federal Highway Administration and for federal-aid transit actions under title 49 U.S.C, this would mean the Federal Transit Administration.

**EIS - Environmental Impact Statement:** A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document that explains the purpose and need for a project, presents project alternatives, analyzes the likely impact of each, explains the choice of a preferred alternative, and finally details measures to be taken in order to mitigate the impacts of the preferred alternative.

**Environmental Justice:** Describes the impact of transportation plans or projects, either positive or negative, on a particular community or population. Derived from Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Environmental Justice strives to ensure public involvement of low income and minority groups in decision making, to prevent disproportionately high and adverse impacts on low income and minority groups, and to assure that these groups receive equal benefits from transportation improvements.

**EPA:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**ETJ:** Extraterritorial Jurisdiction: Geographic area subject to urban municipality ordinance and platting requirements.

**FHPP - Federal High Priority Projects:** Discretionary projects earmarked by the U.S. Congress as high priorities at the federal level during the Congressional appropriations and reauthorization process. This amounts to roughly 5% of the total transportation budget.

**FHWA - Federal Highway Administration:** U.S. Department of Transportation - Division responsible for administrating federal highway transportation programs under title 23 U.S.C.

**Fiscal Constraint:** A requirement, originally of ISTEA, that all plans be financially – constrained, balanced expenditures to reasonably expected sources of funding over the period of the TIP or Long-Range Transportation Plan.

**FTA - Federal Transit Administration:** Federal entity responsible for transit planning and programs under title 49 U.S.C.

**Funding Category** - The Texas Transportation Commission (Commission) and TxDOT use the UTP as TxDOT's ten year plan to guide transportation project development and construction. The UTP has two major components: Preservation & Safety and Mobility.

**F. CLASS - Functional Classification:** Functional classification is the process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes, or systems, according to the character of service they are intended to provide. Basic to this process is the recognition that individual roads and streets do not serve travel independently in any major way. Rather, most travel involves movement through a network of roads. It becomes necessary then to determine how this travel can be channelized within the network in a logical and

efficient manner. Functional classification defines the nature of this channelization process by defining the part that any particular road or street should play in serving the flow of trips through a highway network.

**FY - Fiscal Year:** A federal fiscal or budget year; runs from October 1 through September 30 for the MPO and the federal government.

**HOV - High Occupancy Vehicle:** In Texas, vehicles carrying two (2) or more people receive this designation and may travel on freeways, expressways and other large volume roads in lanes designated for high occupancy vehicles.

**IMS - Incident Management System:** A systematic process required under SAFETEA-LU to provide information on accidents and identify causes and improvements to the Transportation system to increase safety of all users.

**Intergovernmental Agreement:** Legal instrument describing tasks to be accomplished and/or funds to be paid between government agencies.

**ISTEA - Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991:** Federal law which restructured transportation planning and funding by requiring consideration of multimodal solutions, emphasis on the movement of people and goods as opposed to traditional highway investments, flexibility in the use of transportation funds, a greater role of MPOs, and a greater emphasis on public participation.

**ITE - Institute of Transportation Engineers:** An international society of professionals in transportation and traffic engineering; publishes Trip Generation (a manual of trip generation rates by land use type).

**ITS - Intelligent Transportation System:** Use of computer and communications technology to facilitate the flow of information between travelers and system operators to improve mobility and transportation productivity, enhance safety, maximize the use of existing transportation facilities, conserve energy resources and reduce adverse environmental effects; includes concepts such as “freeway management systems,” “automated fare collection” and “transit information kiosks.”

**LEP - Limited English Proficiency:** Clarifies the responsibilities of recipients of federal financial assistance and assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities to LEP persons, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations.

**LOS - Level of Service:** A qualitative assessment of a road’s operating condition, generally described using a scale of A (little congestion) to E/F (severe congestion).

**MAP-21 - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act:** Enacted July 6, 2012, the federal law creates a streamlined and performance-based surface transportation program and builds on highway, transit, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies established in 1991.

**MAB - Metropolitan Area Boundary:** Encompass the entire existing urbanized area and the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within a 20-year forecast period for the metropolitan transportation plan.

**MG - Minimum Guarantee:** A funding category created in TEA-21 that guarantees a 90% return of contributions on formula funds to every state.

**Mobility:** funding category of the UTP includes projects that add capacity to the transportation system. Categories are: CAT 2: Metropolitan and Urban Area Corridor Projects; CAT 3: Non-Traditionally Funded

**Transportation Projects; CAT 4:** Statewide Connectivity Corridor Projects; **CAT 5:** Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement; **CAT 7:** Metropolitan Mobility and Rehabilitation; **CAT 9:** Transportation Enhancements; **CAT 10:** Supplemental Transportation Projects; **CAT 11:** District Discretionary; **CAT 12:** Strategic Priority.

**MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization:** The forum for cooperative transportation decision-making; required for urbanized areas with populations over 50,000.

**MTP - Metropolitan Transportation Plan:** 25-year forecast required of MPOs and state planning agencies; considers a range of social, environmental, energy, and economic factors in determining overall regional goals and how transportation can best meet these goals.

**NAAQS:** National Ambient Air Quality Standards

**NHS - National Highway System:** Specific major roads to be designated September 30, 1995; the NHS will consist of 155,000 (plus or minus 15%) miles of road and represents one category of roads eligible for federal funds under ISTEA.

**Officials:** Are people who have governmental decision-making, planning or administrative responsibilities that relate to MPO activities.

**PHASE:** Project phase for federal funding - E: Preliminary Engineering; R: Right of Way Acquisition; C: Construction; T: Transfer.

**PMS - Pavement Management System:** A systematic process utilized by state agencies and MPOs to analyze and summarize pavement information for use in selecting and implementing cost-effective pavement construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance programs; required for roads in the National Highway System as a part of ISTEA; the extent to which the remaining public roads are included in the process is left to the discretion of state and local officials; criteria found in 23 CFR 500.021-209.

**Preservation & Safety:** funding category of the UTP includes maintenance and rehabilitation projects to maintain the existing transportation system and to improve certain safety aspects. Categories are: **CAT 1:** Preventive Maintenance and Rehabilitation; **CAT 6:** Structures Replacement and Rehabilitation (Bridges); **CAT 8:** Safety.

**PROJ ID - Project Identification:** Identification number assigned by the MPO for local tracking and identification. Used to relate projects to the MTP.

**PTMS - Public Transportation Facilities and Equipment Management System:** A systematic process utilized by state agencies and MPOs to collect and analyze information on the condition and cost of transit assets on a continual basis; data is to be used to help people choose cost effective strategies for providing and keeping transit facilities and equipment in good condition; process must be developed in Transportation Management Areas (TMAs); the use of CMS in non-TMAs is left to the discretion of state and local officials.

**PPP - Public Participation Plan:** Is an integral part of a planning or major decision-making process. It provides opportunities for the public to be involved with the MPO in an exchange of data and ideas. Citizen participation offers an open process in which the rights of the community, to be informed to provide comments to the Government and to receive a response from the Government, are met through a full opportunity to be involved and to express needs and goals.

**Public:** Includes citizens, public agencies, advocacy groups and the private sectors that have an interest in or may be affected by MPO activities.

**RCAT - RTA Committee on Accessible Transportation:** Members act as ambassadors on transportation ridership issues related to transportation disadvantaged riders and services.

**ROW - Right-of-Way:** Real property that is used for transportation purposes; defines the extent of the corridor that can be used for the road and associated drainage.

**RTDM - Regional Travel Demand Model:** This is a tool for forecasting impacts of urban developments on travel patterns as well as testing various transportation alternative solutions to traffic patterns. The travel patterns are determined from US census results and in simple terms tell where residents live and where they go to work or school on a regional wide basis.

**SAFETEA-LU - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act:** A Legacy for Users - legislation enacted August 10, 2005, as Public Law 109-59. SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009.

**SIB - State Infrastructure Bank:** Method of financing large capital projects by taking advantage of borrowing against future state revenues.

**SMP - Statewide Mobility Plan:** TxDOT's 10 year plan for adding capacity to the system by using the Mobility Category Funds of Federal and State Transportation funding.

**Sponsoring Agencies:** Organizations or governmental units, which enter into agreements with the MPO to undertake transportation related activities.

**SPP - Statewide Preservation Plan:** TxDOT's 10 year plan for maintaining the system using the preservation categories of Federal and State Transportation funding.

**STIP - State Transportation Improvement Program:** The TxDOT Five Year Work Program as prescribed by federal law.

**TAC - Technical Advisory Committee:** A standing committee of most metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs); function is to provide advice on plans or actions of the MPO from planners, engineers and other staff members (not general citizens).

**TCEQ:** Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

**TCI - Texas Congestion Index:** An index to measure the magnitude of congestion in a single performance measure across the state. The index measures the mobility of people and goods in each Texas metropolitan area, with attention to the delay time experienced by drivers.

**TEA-21 - Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century:** Federal Legislation authorizing funds for all modes of transportation and guidelines on the use of those funds. Successor to ISTEA, the landmark legislation that clarified the role of the MPOs in the local priority setting process. TEA-21 emphasizes increased public involvement, simplicity, flexibility, fairness, and higher funding levels for transportation.

**TIP - Transportation Improvement Program:** A priority list of transportation projects developed by a metropolitan planning organization that is to be carried out within the four (4) year period following its adoption; must include documentation of federal and state funding sources for each project and be consistent with adopted MPO long range transportation plans and local government comprehensive

plans.

**Title VI - Civil Rights Act:** As a recipient of federal funds, the MPO ensures that no person shall, on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any agency programs or activities.

**TMA - Transportation Management Area:** An area designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation given to all urbanized areas with a population over 200,000 (or other area when requested by the Governor and MPO); these areas must comply with special transportation planning requirements regarding congestion management systems, project selection and certification; requirements identified in 23 CFR - 450.300-33.6.

**TMMP - Texas Metropolitan Mobility Plan:** This is a state based requirement intended to serve as a framework for identifying unmet transportation needs in the state's larger metropolitan areas. The TMMP is a needs-based plan which quantifies transportation needs beyond the fiscal constraint barrier.

**TPC - Transportation Policy Committee:** Committee created for the purpose of serving as spokespersons for the citizens of the metropolitan area and is the designated MPO to prioritize and direct federal transportation funds to local projects. TPC is comprised of elected officials from the cities and two counties in the urbanized area. TPC representatives include TXDOT, RTA, and Port Authority. TPC is responsible for creating policies regarding transportation planning issues. TPC meetings, open to the public, is where members of the public can address the MPO on transportation issues. TPC meets on the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 P.M. at the Corpus Christi City Hall, City Council Chambers.

**Transportation Disadvantaged:** People who are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation due to disability, income status or age.

**Transportation Enhancements:** Specific activities which can be funded with Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds; activities include pedestrian/bicycle facilities, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic historic sites, scenic or historic highway programs, scenic beautification, historic preservation, rehabilitation/operation of historic transportation structures, railway corridor preservation, control/removal of outdoor advertising, archeological planning/research and mitigation of highway runoff water pollution.

**TSM - Transportation Systems Management:** Strategies to improve the efficiency of the transportation system through operational improvements such as the use of bus priority or reserved lanes, signalization, access management, turn restrictions, etc.

**TTI - Texas Transportation Institute:** A legislatively created research center, located at Texas A & M University, whose purpose is to conduct and facilitate research and serve as an information exchange on issues related to urban transportation problems in Texas.

**TxDOT - Texas Department of Transportation:** State agency responsible for transportation issues in Texas.

**UAB - Urbanized Area Boundary:** A Census-designated area consisting of a central core and adjacent densely settled territory with populations of 50,000 residents or more.

**UPWP - Unified Planning Work Program:** Developed by MPOs to identify transportation and planning activities anticipated within the next one to two years, including a schedule for the completion of the

identified tasks and activities.

**UTP - Unified Transportation Plan:** This is the state's 10 year Transportation Plan with the first 10 years programmed and the second 15 years of projects under design. This document has two parts. The two parts are: The SMP and SPP respectively.

**V/C Ratio Volume over Capacity Ratio:** This is a roadway performance measure to show how a highway volume compares with a highway's capacity.

**VMT - Vehicle Miles Traveled:** This is an output of the travel demand model and is a measure of traffic flow over a highway segment. While 1000 vehicles traveling over a mile road and 1 vehicle traveling over 1000 miles are mathematically equal only the former 1000 vehicle mile means anything to the transportation planner.