

Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization

TRANSPORTATION TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

3-C - Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive: A metropolitan planning organization's transportation planning process for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, consistent with the region's overall economic, social and environmental goals .

AADT - Average Annual Daily Traffic: The number of vehicles passing a fixed point in a year, averaged over 365 days.

Accessibility: A measure of how easy it is to reach (and interact with) destinations or activities around a city or county.

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.

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.

CMP - Congestion Management Process: A systematic process that addresses congestion in the metropolitan area. It emphasizes effective management and operations, 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). This number is unique to each individual project.

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.

EJ - 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.

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

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FAST ACT – Fixing America’s Surface Transportation: The federal law passed in 2015 to provide long-term funding for surface transportation infrastructure, planning and investment. It expires on September 30, 2020. It is likely that continuing resolutions will be necessary to extend past this expiration date.

Federal Aid Highway: Those highways eligible for assistance under Title 23 of the United States Code (U.S.C), which does not include those functionally classified as local streets or rural minor collectors.

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 administering federal highway transportation programs under title 23 U.S.C.

Fiscal Constraint: A requirement, that all plans be financially – constrained, balanced programmed expenditures are not more than the 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 Class: Categorizes streets and highways according to their ability to 1) move traffic, and 2) provide access to adjacent properties. It also determines eligibility for federal funds. There are three main functional classes as defined by the United States Federal Highway Administration: arterial, collector, and local. In addition to mobility and access, other factors can help determine the proper category to which a particular roadway belongs - such as trip length, speed limit, volume, and vehicle mix.

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

Goals: The description of a desired outcomes. The purpose toward which funding is directed. (e.g., provide safe and secure transportation across modes.)

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.

IJA - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Public Law 117-58, also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”) into law. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is the largest long-term investment in our infrastructure and economy in our Nation’s history. It provides \$550 billion over fiscal years 2022 through 2026 in new Federal investment in infrastructure, including in roads, bridges, and mass transit, water infrastructure, resilience, and broadband.

IMS - Incident Management System: A systematic process first required under SAFETEA-LU, and continued under the FAST Act 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.

Indicator: A performance measure that is used to identify relevant background conditions and trends.

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).

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ITS - Intelligent Transportation Systems: A range of advanced computer and communications technologies that improve mobility, enhance safety, maximize the use of existing transportation facilities, conserve energy resources and reduce adverse environmental effects.

LCA – Lifecycle Cost Analysis: A methodology for assessing the sum of project costs for all stages of the lifespan of a transportation project. This includes planning, design, construction, environmental impact mitigation, operations, preventive maintenance, and reconstruction.

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.

MPA - Metropolitan Planning Area: 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.

Maintenance: Activities undertaken to keep transportation infrastructure and equipment operating as intended, to eliminate deficiencies, and to extend or achieve the expected life of facilities before reconstruction is needed. These include routine or day-to-day activities (e.g., pothole patching, mowing, litter removal, guardrail repair and striping, routine bus inspection and maintenance, and periodic dredging of channels) and periodic major projects (e.g., resurfacing roadways and runways and rehabilitating bridges).

Measures: Indicators of how well the transportation system or specific transportation projects will improve transportation conditions. Used in assessing relevant background conditions and trends to aid identifying projects for funding and trajectory toward desired future conditions.

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

Mobility: The ability to move or be moved freely and easily. It is typically used in conjunction with accessibility. This term is also used by TxDOT for one of the major groups of transportation funds. funds.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 of local elected officials responsible 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.

NHS - The National Highway System: Consists of roadways important to the nation's economy, defense, and mobility. The NHS includes the following subsystems of roadways:

- **Interstate:** The Eisenhower Interstate System of highways retains its separate identity within the NHS.
- **Other Principal Arterials:** These are highways in rural and urban areas which provide access between an arterial and a major port, airport, public transportation facility, or other intermodal transportation facility.
- **Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET):** This is a network of highways which are important to the United States' strategic defense policy and which provide defense access, continuity, and emergency capabilities for defense purposes.

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- **Major Strategic Highway Network Connectors:** These are highways which provide access between major military installations and highways which are part of the Strategic Highway Network.
- **Intermodal Connectors:** These highways provide access between major intermodal facilities and the other four subsystems making up the National Highway System. A listing of all official NHS Intermodal Connectors is available.

Operations: The implementation of policies, projects, and technologies to improve road performance. The overriding objectives of operations programs include minimizing congestion (and its side effects), improving safety, and enhancing overall mobility.

Performance Based Planning and Programming: The process developed to evaluate and select transportation projects. This includes monitoring progress toward achieving goals and objectives at the agency strategic, decision-making and project delivery levels.

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

Phase: Project phase for federal funding - PE: Preliminary Engineering; ROW: Right of Way Acquisition; CON: 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 - CCRTA Committee on Accessible Transportation: Members act as ambassadors on transportation ridership issues related to transportation disadvantaged riders and services.

Resurfacing: Projects that are intended to preserve the structural integrity of highway pavements by rehabilitation, minor reconstruction, and pavement milling and recycling.

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.

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Routine Maintenance: Operations that may be predicted and planned in advance. These operations (e.g.: cleaning and debris removals, regular inspections, mowing, preventive maintenance, etc.), which may be preventive or corrective in nature, should be conducted on a regularly scheduled basis using standard procedures.

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.

Safety Analysis: A comprehensive assessment of safety outcomes with and without a specific project under consideration, including a general analysis of historical crash data on the facility under consideration, a detailed review of fatal crashes and their causes.

SHSP – Strategic Highway Safety Plan: A Federally required plan to reduce crashes on all public roads adopted by TxDOT in 2019. The current plan includes 7 emphasis areas.

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. It is one half of the overall 10-year Unified Transportation Plan.

Stakeholders: Individuals and groups with an interest in the outcomes of policy decisions and actions.

STIP - State Transportation Improvement Program: The TxDOT Five Year Work Program as prescribed by federal law. It incorporates the TIPs from all MPO in the state without modification. Projects included in the STIP must be consistent with the regional and state long-range transportation plan.

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: The TCEQ is the environmental agency for the state.

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.

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.

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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: The decision-making body for the MPO. This committee was created to serve as spokespersons for the citizens of the metropolitan area and to prioritize and direct federal transportation funds to local projects. The TPC is comprised of elected officials from the cities and two counties in the urbanized area, along with TXDOT, RTA, and Port Authority. TPC meetings are open to the public 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 Alternatives Program: A funding program that includes the federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program. These funds may be awarded for the following activities: Construction of sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic-calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Construction of infrastructure-related projects that provide safe routes for non-drivers. Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrian, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users. Construction of infrastructure-related projects to improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school.

TSMO - Transportation Systems Management and Operations: 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 in College Station, Texas, 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.

UZA - Urbanized Area: 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.