

TRANSPORTATION GLOSSARY & ACRONYM GUIDE

Assembly Bill (AB) 2766: Local Air District grant program to reduce emissions from mobile sources funded through legislative action (Assembly Bill 2766) authorizing a Department of Motor Vehicles vehicle registration fee of up to \$4.00, per vehicle, per year.

Accessible: A transportation vehicle, facility or program is accessible if it can be used by persons with disabilities through the provision of ramps, lifts, curb cuts and other special equipment, planning or amenities.

ACOE: see Army Corps of Engineers

ADA: see Americans with Disabilities Act

ADT: see Average Daily Traffic

Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP): Prepared by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD), the region's AQMP addresses attainment of federal and state air quality standards within Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey counties.

Allocate: The process used to release funding to sponsors of a previously approved transportation project.

AMBAG: see Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): Federal bill approved in February 2009 aimed at creating jobs and spurring economic activity. Included funding for transportation infrastructure projects, among other non-transportation projects and programs. The RTC was responsible for selecting projects to receive \$12.1 million from the Highway portion of the bill. ARRA projects that will not be completed by July 2010 are included in this document.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The federal legislation defining the responsibilities of and requirements for transportation providers to make transportation accessible to individuals with disabilities. Examples include public and private entities providing fixed-route or demand-

responsive transportation services using accessible vehicles, complementary paratransit service for individuals who cannot use fixed-route service, curb cuts and other accessible sidewalk facilities.

APE: see Area of Potential Effect

Appropriate: An act by the State Legislature or Congress to provide budgeted funds to programs that have been previously authorized by other legislation. The amount of funding appropriated may be less than what was authorized.

AQMP: see Air Quality Management Plan

Area of Potential Effect (APE): A term used to describe the area in which resources may be affected by a project.

Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE): An organization of the U.S. Army including civilians and military personnel responsible for providing responsive engineering services, including the planning, design, construction, and operation of water resources and other civil works and military projects.

ARRA: see American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Arterial Road System: Roads which provide corridors for through traffic movement, many of which feed into the highway network. Most are served by bus transit and have marked bicycle lanes.

Assembly Bill (AB) 32: California bill signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger in 2006 that requires a comprehensive program of regulatory and market mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gases.

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG): A voluntary association, formed by a Joint Powers Agreement, of Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey counties and the cities therein. AMBAG

has been designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the State of California.

Authorize: An act by Congress that creates the policy and structure of a program, including formulas and guidelines for awarding funds. Authorizing legislation (such as TEA-21) may set an upper limit on program spending or may be open ended. Revenues to be spent under an authorization must be appropriated annually by separate legislation.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT): An estimate of the 24-hour volume of traffic that passes a point on an "average" day. Depending on the location, ADT can be assumed to be a two-way volume. Annual ADT volumes or AADT estimate traffic volumes during an average day of the year, calculated using the average daily traffic and factoring in weekday and seasonal characteristics.

Average Vehicle Ridership (AVR): The average number of people per motorized vehicle. Also called Average Vehicle Occupancy (AVO).

AVR: see Average Vehicle Ridership

Bikeway: There are three types of bicycle facilities.

1. *Bike Path or Bike Trail (Class I Bikeway)* — Provides a completely separated right-of-way designated for the exclusive use of bicyclists and pedestrians with cross-flows by motorists minimized.

2. *Bike Lane (Class II Bikeway)* — Provides a striped and/or signed right-of-way for use by bicycles, but with occasional adjacent vehicle parking and cross-flows by pedestrians and motorists permitted.

3. *Bike Route (Class III Bikeway)* — Highlights direct or scenic routes for bicyclists using signs or permanent markings. Routes may be shared with pedestrians or motorists.

California Air Resources Board (CARB): State agency which oversees air quality regulations and creates guidelines for compliance with the California Clean Air Act.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans): State agency which builds and maintains state highways, some state railways, and administers multi-modal transportation programs within the state.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Legislation which requires private entities, state and local agencies to disclose, consider and mitigate the environmental impacts of their actions.

California Highway Patrol (CHP): State agency which is responsible for management and regulation of traffic to achieve safe, lawful and efficient use of the highway transportation system.

California State Association of Counties (CSAC): Agency representing the 58 county governments before the California Legislature, administrative agencies and the federal government.

California Transportation Commission (CTC): A board appointed by the governor and state legislature that sets spending priorities for highways and transit, reviews Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) and Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIPs) and allocates funds to transportation projects from several funding programs.

Call Box System: A network of roadside phones which link motorists directly with dispatchers to request assistance or emergency services.

Caltrans: see California Department of Transportation

Capital Improvements: Physical infrastructure improvements such as pavement, sidewalks, bridges, signals and purchases of equipment, vehicles.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): A document which sets forth the cost, funding and year of construction for projects over a specified number of years (typically five to seven years).

CARB: see California Air Resources Board

Categorical Exemption (CE): One of 33 classes of projects that is usually exempt from CEQA, provided that no exceptions apply.

CE: see Categorical Exemption

CEQA: see California Environmental Quality Act

CHP: see California Highway Patrol

CIP: see Capital Improvement Program

CMAQ: see Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

CMIA: see Corridor Mobility Improvement Account

CMS: Changeable Message Signs. Large overhead signs providing advisory information to travelers. Typically on highways.

Collector Streets: Streets that collect traffic from local streets, channeling it to arterials, freeways, or local destinations such as schools or shops.

COMMISSION: see Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

Commute Solutions: Santa Cruz County's rideshare program which provides information about transportation alternatives to the single occupant vehicle and carpool match lists.

Commute: The trip to/from a regular location, usually work or school.

Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC): A coalition of agencies and individuals that promotes bicycle and pedestrian safety, particularly for school children. Operated by the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency and partially funded by the RTC.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ): A federal funding program established specifically for projects and programs that contribute to the attainment of a national ambient air quality standard. Funds distributed to regions based on population, Air Quality maintenance/attainment category and air pollution severity. Due to

changes in federal air quality measurements, the RTC is no longer eligible for these funds, but may be eligible in the future if federal standards are tightened.

Consolidated Transportation Services

Agency (CTSA): Agency responsible for coordinating specialized transportation services. In Santa Cruz County, the CTSA is Lift Line, a division of Community Bridges.

Constrained: Denotes a funding scenario based on projections of current funding assumptions. This document defines constrained projects as "Within Projected Funds."

Coordinated Public Transit-Human

Services Transportation Plan (CPTP): A federally-required plan to serve as a unified, comprehensive strategy for the delivery of transportation services for people with disabilities, older adults, and low-income individuals. A three-county plan is approved by AMBAG.

Corridor: A major transportation route which can consist of one or more highways, arterial streets, transit lines, rail lines and/or bikeways.

Corridor Mobility Improvement Account

(CMIA): Authorized by voters in 2006 as part of Proposition 1B to fund state transportation projects that provide demonstrable congestion relief, enhanced mobility, improved safety, and stronger connectivity.

County Shares: A formula in state law that requires a minimum return of STIP revenues to counties based on population and state highway miles.

CPTP: see Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

CSAC: see California State Association of Counties

CT: see California Department of Transportation

CTC: see California Transportation Commission

CTSA: see Consolidated Transportation Services Agency

Dedicated Funds: Federal, state or local funds which can be used only for specific purposes or by specific agencies.

Demand Responsive: Individualized transportation services requested by passengers, and/or where routes are developed around a group of requests, which may change on a daily basis. Oftentimes provided to people unable to use fixed-route buses by taxis or by advance reservation on paratransit vehicles.

Discretionary Funds: Federal, state and local funds which can be used for a variety of purposes. Sometimes also referred to as "flexible funds."

DMV: CA Department of Motor Vehicles

DOT: Department of Transportation

EA: see Environmental Assessment

EB: Eastbound

ED: see Environmental Document

EIR: see Environmental Impact Report

EIS: see Environmental Impact Statement

EMS: see Extinguishable Message Sign

Environmental Assessment (EA): A concise public document for which a federal agency is responsible that serves to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or FONSI. It is the federal equivalent of the CEQA term "initial study."

Environmental Document (ED): The draft or final Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Impact Report, Finding of No Significant Impact, Environmental Assessment or Negative Declaration.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): An assessment of the environmental effects and mitigations for a proposal or decision which, under the California Environmental Quality Act

(CEQA), has been determined may significantly impact the environment.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Document that details any adverse economic, social and environmental effects of a proposed transportation project prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), roughly analogous to an EIR under CEQA.

Expenditure: In transportation terms, this is any allowable expense associated with a project or program.

Expressway: An expressway is a divided highway for high-speed traffic with at least partial control of access. In some areas, expressways are divided arterial roads with limits on the frequency of driveways and intersecting cross-streets. In other area, access to expressways is limited only to grade-separated interchanges, making them the full equivalent of freeways.

Extinguishable Message Sign (EMS): Signs along roadways that provide advisory messages or direct motorists to Highway Advisory Radio broadcasting current information about traffic conditions.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): The federal agency responsible for the approval of transportation projects related to the roadway system.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA): The federal department of public transportation, also part of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP): Federally required capital improvement program for projects using federal funding. AMBAG prepares the FTIP in the Monterey Bay area and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) based on the Regional Transportation Improvement Plans (RTIP) from Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito Counties.

FHWA: see Federal Highway Administration

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): Federal environmental document (NEPA) term

roughly analogous to Negative Declaration under CEQA.

Fiscal Year (FY): The fiscal year for state and most local governments in California begins July 1 and ends June 30. The federal fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30.

Fixed Guideway: A term for transportation modes that feature guidance along a fixed structure, such as a track, a concrete channel, or a cable. Examples include diesel powered railroad trains, electrified light rail trolleys, monorails, funiculars, gondolas, and people movers.

Fixed Route: A fixed route is a bus transit route in which a vehicle operates on a regular schedule to the same locations at scheduled times regardless of individual requests for service. Metro operates fixed route bus service.

Flex Hours: Work hours which allow an employee to work a non-standard work schedule and thereby commute during non-peak hours. Common examples include the 4/10 where an individual works four 10-hour days per week or the 9/80 where an individual works longer hours each day with one day off every other week.

FONSI: see Finding of No Significant Impact

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

Freeway Service Patrol (FSP): Roving tow truck service that clear incidents on roadways during peak travel periods.

FSP: see Freeway Service Patrol

FTA: see Federal Transit Administration

FTA Funds: Fund programs through Federal Transit Administration. Section 5310 based on Elderly/Disabled population estimates. Section 5311 based on non-urban population.

FTIP: see Federal Transportation Improvement Program

FY: see Fiscal Year.

GHG: see Greenhouse Gas

Greenhouse Gas (GHG): Any of the atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation produced by solar warming of the Earth's surface. Although greenhouse gases occur naturally in the atmosphere, the elevated levels especially of carbon dioxide and methane that have been observed in recent decades are directly related, at least in part, to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and the deforestation of tropical forests.

HAR: see Highway Advisory Radio

HBR: see Highway Bridge Program

HCM: see Highway Capacity Manual

Headquarters (HQ): The main offices in Sacramento of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), a government agency in California charged with improving mobility across the state.

Headways: Time interval between transit vehicles traveling the same direction on the same route; i.e., 15-minute or 2-hour headways indicates service every 15 minutes or every 2 hours.

HSIP: see Highway Safety Improvement Program

High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes: A lane on a multi-lane highway designated for use, primarily in the peak periods, free of charge by vehicles with two or more occupants or for single-occupant vehicles paying a toll.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes: A lane on a multi-lane highway designated for use, primarily in the peak periods, only by vehicles with more than one (or sometimes two) occupants. Sometimes called diamond lanes.

Highway Advisory Radio (HAR): Radio station providing updated information on traffic conditions. Channel 840AM in Santa Cruz County.

Highway Bridge Program (HBR): Federal funding program administered by Caltrans for bridge replacement or rehabilitation on public roads.

Highway Capacity Manual (HCM): Provides information for estimating highway capacities, design characteristics and Level of Service.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP): Formerly the Hazard Elimination and Safety Program (HES). Federal funding program administered by Caltrans for addressing safety problems.

HOT: see High Occupancy Toll Lanes

HOV: see High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

HQ: see Headquarters

Infill Development: Development of land within an established urbanized area.

Initial Study: Under CEQA, a systematic review of a proposed project undertaken to determine whether there is substantial evidence that it may result in one or more significant impacts.

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS): Applications of information technology to enhance transportation system management, e.g., real-time information about traffic incidents, routing alternatives and/or the guidance of vehicles through remotely controlled equipment.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC): A Regional Transportation Commission committee consisting of representatives from planning and public works departments, transit, UCSC and Cabrillo College, transportation management associations, the Air District, and other entities who review and make recommendations about projects and funding.

Inter-modal: Using or addressing inter-connections between various transportation modes.

Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP): A state

funding program designated to receive 25% of funds programmed in the STIP (the other 75% are RTIP funds). Available for major state highway and passenger rail routes which link regions. Projects are proposed by Caltrans and subject to CTC approval.

IS: see Initial Study

ISTEA: Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, expired 1997.

ITAC: see Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

ITIP: see Interregional Transportation Improvement Program

ITS: see Intelligent Transportation Systems

Jobs/Housing Balance: The interrelationship between the location and type of housing versus the location and type of jobs in a region. This interrelationship has implications for transportation demand.

LCP: see Local Coastal Program

Level of Service (LOS): A qualitative assessment of a facility's operating conditions. The extent or degree of service provided by, or proposed to be provided by, a facility based on and related to the operational characteristics of the facility. Level of Service indicates the capacity per unit of demand for each public facility.

Local Coastal Program (LCP): Local Coastal Programs are basic planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone, in partnership with the Coastal Commission.

Local Jurisdictions: The four cities (Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville) and the (unincorporated) County of Santa Cruz, each of which has its own elected decision-makers, planning and public works departments, and control over land-use decisions within its boundaries.

Local Streets: Streets that provide direct access to adjacent residential areas, on which through traffic is generally discouraged.

Local Transportation Commission (LTC):

Established under SB 325 to allocate Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues and designated under AB 69 as the regional transportation planning agency (RTPA). The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is the LTC for Santa Cruz County.

LOS: see Level of Service/Level of Service Standard

Low Emission Vehicles: Vehicles using alternative fuel sources which emit little or no tailpipe exhaust, e.g., electric, hybrid electric, and fuel cell.

LTC: see Local Transportation Commission

Maintenance Area: Area which, at one time did not, but now does meet current state or federal air quality standards.

Major Transportation Investment Study

(MTIS): An analysis of project alternatives formerly required to receive federal and state funds. An MTIS was completed in 1999 for the Watsonville-Santa Cruz-UCSC corridor, the most heavily traveled corridor in Santa Cruz County.

Mass Transit: A common carrier service provided for transporting passengers on established routes, with fixed schedules, published rates of fares.

MBSST Network: see Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network

MBUAPCD: see Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District

Metro: see Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Metropolitan Planning Organization

(MPO): A federally-designated agency responsible for overseeing regional employment, residential and transportation issues. AMBAG is the MPO for Santa Cruz County as part of the three-county Monterey Bay region.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): A summary federal transportation plan composed

of transportation projects from the transportation plans from Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties prepared by AMBAG.

Modal Split: The proportion of total travel in each transportation mode.

Mode: Method of travel, e.g., private automobile, bicycle, transit, airplane, etc.

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail

(MBSST) Network: A planned recreation, transportation and interpretive pathway that links existing and new trail segments into a continuous coastal trail around the Monterey Bay, from Lover's Point in Monterey County to the San Mateo County line in Santa Cruz County.

Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control

District (MBUAPCD): Agency responsible for implementing and enforcing state and federal air quality regulation in Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties.

MTD: see Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

MTIP: Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. See Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

MTIS: see Major Transportation Investment Study

MPO: see Metropolitan Planning Organization

Multi-modal: Using or addressing more than one transportation mode.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

Federal law identifying environmental disclosure requirements. Required to be followed on projects using federal funds.

National Highway System (NHS): A

federally established national road system. In Santa Cruz County, the NHS includes Highway 1 between Highway 17 and Monterey County.

NB: Northbound

ND: see Negative Declaration

Negative Declaration (ND): A determination based upon an initial study that there is no substantial evidence that a proposed project may result in a significant effect.

NEPA: see National Environmental Policy Act

NHS: see National Highway System

Non-Attainment Area: An air basin which does not meet existing state or federal air quality standards.

Obligate: The act of securing commitment from Federal or State government (e.g. FHWA or Caltrans) to pay or reimburse entities for a project's eligible costs. Many funding programs require a project sponsor to obligate funds in a timely manner or lose the funds.

Operations: On-going activities necessary to manage and perform services for a system, such as labor costs. For transit, costs include fuel, salaries and replacement parts.

Paratransit: Term used to describe transportation services which operate on flexible routes and/or provide demand-responsive service, and is most frequently used by elderly and disabled passengers unable to take fixed route transit. Generally vans, small buses, or taxis are used to provide this service.

Parking Management: Strategies which use parking supply or pricing as an incentive or disincentive to affect the demand for parking. Preferred parking for carpools is an example of a parking management incentive, and charging parking fees is an example of a disincentive.

Pay as You Drive (PAYD) Insurance: A type of automobile insurance whereby the costs are dependent upon type of vehicle used, and measured against time, distance and location.

Peak Periods: The hours during which the greatest traffic volumes occur.

"Planned" Projects: Projects on the Within Projected Funds list which have not previously been approved for funding by the RTC. Projects are expected to be funded over the next 25 years.

Primary Transportation Network: Includes state highways, principal arterials and rail line in Santa Cruz County.

Program: Verb: to assign funds to a project.

"Programmed" Projects: Projects on the Within Projected Funds list for which funding has already been approved. These projects will be initiated and/or completed by 2015.

Proposition 116: Bond measure passed by voters in June 1990 providing \$1.9 billion in funds primarily for rail projects, but also included funds for paratransit vehicles, bicycle facilities, and ferries. \$11 million was earmarked for Santa Cruz County rail projects.

PVTMA: Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Association, a non-profit organization focused on promoting alternative transportation modes to travelers in southern portions of the county.

Rail Transit: Public transportation services provided on a fixed rail line, e.g., light rail.

RDA: see Redevelopment Agency

Redevelopment Agency (RDA): Established by local ordinance to assist a specifically designated area with capital improvement projects intended to revitalize the area.

Regional Blueprint: A collaborative planning processes that engage residents of a region in articulating a vision for the long term future of their region. The goal of the process is to develop a preferred growth scenario that can guide regional and local land use and transportation.

Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP): A flexible federal funding program initially established by ISTEA and distributed to regions based on population formula to fund transit, highway, and local streets and roads projects.

Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX): Regional Surface Transportation Program funds (federal) exchanged for state funding.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP): The state required multi-year capital improvement program for transportation projects using state and federal funds. The RTIP for Santa Cruz County is adopted by the SCCRTC and is submitted to the California Transportation Commission for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and to AMBAG for inclusion in the FTIP.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): The state-mandated long-range plan that acts as a blueprint to guide transportation development. Developed by regional transportation planning agencies, it includes a policy, action, and financial elements. The SCCRTC prepares and adopts the RTP for Santa Cruz County. The RTP must be consistent with other local plans.

Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA): RTPAs are designated by the State of California to provide regional transportation planning and make funding decisions, including preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is the designated RTPA for Santa Cruz County.

Rideshare: Alternatives to driving alone, including carpooling, vanpooling, taking the bus, bicycling, walking and telecommuting.

Right-of-Way (ROW): The area of property owned by a public or private entity used for transportation purposes.

ROW: see Right-of-Way

RSTP: see Regional Surface Transportation Program

RSTPX: see Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange

RTC: see Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

RTIP: see Regional Transportation Improvement Program

RTP: see Regional Transportation Plan

RTPA: see Regional Transportation Planning Agency

Rural Planning Assistance (RPA): Funds awarded by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) annually for use by the Regional Transportation Planning Agency.

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU): Funding and authorization bill, signed into law in 2005, that governs federal surface transportation spending.

SAFETEA-LU: see Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users

SAFE: see Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

Santa Cruz Metro: see Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD): The public transit operator for Santa Cruz County. Also known as Santa Cruz Metro.

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC or RTC): Transportation policy, planning and funding body designated as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), Local Transportation Commission (LTC), Rail/Trail Authority and Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) for Santa Cruz County.

SB: Southbound

SCCRTC: see Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

Senate Bill (SB) 375: California state law approved in 2008 that requires California's Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regional reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and requires MPO's to develop "Sustainable Community Strategies" (SCS) to reduce emissions from vehicle use through integrated land use and transportation planning and demonstrate an ability to attain the proposed reduction targets by 2020 and 2035.

SCCRTC: see Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

SCMTD: see Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Self-Help Counties: A term used to describe counties that have enacting local voter-approved funding mechanisms -- such as half-cent sales taxes -- to pay for transportation improvements.

Service Authority for Freeway

Emergencies (SAFE): As the designated SAFE for Santa Cruz County, the SCCRTC owns and manages the call box system on local state highways and other motorist aid programs. Funded by \$1-per-year vehicle registration fee.

SHOPP: see State Highway Operations and Protection Program

Signal Preemption: A system used for emergency and public transit vehicles to change signal phasing from red to green allowing for more rapid crosstown access.

Specialized Transportation: Often used synonymously with "paratransit," refers to vehicle and programs operated primarily for the elderly and persons living with disabilities. Service is generally provided door-to-door in vans or automobiles on a semi-fixed route or demand- responsive basis.

SRTP: see Short Range Transit Plan

STA: see State Transit Assistance

Senate Bill (SB) 45: Bill (Chapter 622, Statutes of 1997, Kopp), that mandated major transportation reforms impacting many areas of transportation planning, funding and development. Transferred from the state to the regions more authority in deciding how to invest transportation funds.

State Highway Operation and Protection Plan (SHOPP): State plan to maintain the operational integrity and safety of the state highway system. It includes primarily rehabilitation, safety, and operational improvement projects.

State Transit Assistance (STA): State funding program for mass transit operations and capital projects. As of March 2010, funds derived from statewide sales tax on diesel fuel, distributed based on population.

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP): The four-year statewide Capital Improvement Program adopted biennially by the California Transportation Commission, which combines the RTIPs from around the state and the ITIP. Funds distributed to regions based 75% on population and 25% on highway miles.

STIP: see State Transportation Improvement Program

STP: see Surface Transportation Program

Surface Transportation Program (STP): Federal program which distributes funds to states 25% based on federal-aid highway miles, 40% on vehicle miles traveled, and 35% on tax payments to highway account. 75% of the funds are distributed to urban areas with a population over 200,000.

TCM: see Transportation Control Measure

TCRP: Transportation Congestion Relief Program

TDA: see Transportation Development Act

TDM: see Transportation Demand Management

TEA: see Transportation Enhancement Activities

TEA-21: see Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

Telecommute: Working from a location other than the normal worksite, usually from home, and often with the assistance of telecommunications equipment.

TIA: see Transportation Improvement Area

TMA: see Transportation Management Association

TMC: Traffic Management Center. Monitors roadways using closed circuit cameras, loop detectors and information from the CHP and field staff. Posts and updates messages on traffic conditions on various systems, including the 511 telephone number, road signs, and websites.

TOS: see Traffic Operations System

Traffic Operations System (TOS): A system of highway communications equipment to monitor traffic conditions and relay traveler information in real time.

Transit Dependent: An individual who because of age, income, physical/mental condition, geographic location, or personal choice, does not have a private vehicle available and relies on transit for his/her transportation needs.

Transportation Control Measure (TCM): A project or program intended to reduce air pollution generated by automobiles.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM): Strategies concerned with altering or reducing demand for transportation facilities and services.

Transportation Development Act (TDA): State law enacted in 1971. Local TDA funds are generated from a one-quarter of one percent state sales tax. Revenues are allocated annually to support transportation planning and administration, transit, transportation for the elderly/disabled, bikeway and pedestrian projects, based on state law and RTC rules and regulations.

Transportation Disabled: People who cannot use public transportation easily or at all because of physical, emotional, or mental limitations.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21): Legislation passed by Congress in 1998 that provided funding for the federal transportation program directly to regional agencies to be allocated according to local priorities. Followed by SAFETEA-LU in 2005.

Transportation Enhancements: Federal funding program, incorporated into the STIP in 2004, for the provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, scenic beautification, historic preservation, preservation of abandoned railway corridors, archaeological planning and research, and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff.

Transportation Improvement Area (TIA): Area designated by a local jurisdiction where new development is required to pay fees based on the amount of traffic it is expected to generate.

Transportation Management Association (TMA): An organized group that provides transportation services in a particular area, with a focus on TDM programs to facilitate the movement of people and goods within an area. TMAs are frequently led by the private sector in partnership with the public sector to solve transportation problems.

Transportation Model: A computer software program using demographic data to estimate the transportation impacts of population growth and land use decisions on the transportation system, and to assess the utility of transportation projects.

Transportation System Management (TSM): A transportation planning approach encompassing a variety of primarily low cost methods to improve the efficiency of the existing transportation network either from the supply side (improving system operation) or the demand side (altering demand for transportation facilities and services).

Trip: A one-way journey that proceeds from an origin to a destination by a single type of vehicular transportation.

TSM: see Transportation System Management

UCSC: University of California, Santa Cruz

Unconstrained: Denotes a funding scenario not constrained by existing funding assumptions. This document uses the terms "Need New Funds" for unconstrained projects.

Unmet Transit Needs Findings: TDA funds can be used for local streets and roads in smaller counties only if the RTPA in their jurisdiction makes a finding that public transit service and operations in the county have no unmet needs that are reasonable to meet. RTPAs must hold public hearings prior to making such a determination.

Urbanized Area: An area with a population of 50,000 or more as designated by the U.S. Census.

U.S. DOT: United States Department of Transportation. The federal agency responsible for highways, mass transit, aviation and ports and headed by the Secretary of Transportation. Includes the FHWA, FTA and FAA, among others.

Vanpool: A group of seven to fifteen people traveling together to work or school in a van at set times. Many vans are leased from companies which include insurance, emergency services and maintenance in the monthly rental fees.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): The term used for the total number of miles traveled by motor vehicles within a specified region during a particular time period.

Vehicle Occupancy Rate: Also known as Average Vehicle Occupancy or Ridership; the number of persons per vehicle on a given road at a given time without distinguishing trip purpose.

VMT: see Vehicle Miles Traveled

VTA: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

WB: Westbound

Year of Expenditure (YOE): Revenue and cost estimates for a project or program based on reasonable financial principles/information about the timeframe in which the expenditure is expected to occur.