

# Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

## TALKING THE TALK

### A GUIDE TO THE LANGUAGE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

#### INTRODUCTION

TALKING THE TALK defines the key terms that are commonly used by those who speak the language and do the work of transportation planning. It is meant to be a guide for people who are presently involved or who would like to participate in the planning process. The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission certainly encourages engagement in the process. For without involvement, planning is a mere technical, lifeless activity and is not nearly as fruitful or as much fun as when lots of people are involved. We hope that this publication increases your knowledge and appreciation of transportation planning.

This guide was adapted from a similar publication of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council in St. Louis. Our thanks to them for letting us borrow their idea.

#### ALTERNATE FORMATS

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## TALKING THE TALK

Any motor fuel other than ordinary gasoline which generally results in lower levels of air pollutants. Examples are reformulated gasoline, natural gas, liquid propane, liquefied natural gas, bio-diesel, electricity, and ethanol (also known as gasohol).

### **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ( ADA )**

Federal law which requires accessible public transportation services for persons with disabilities, including complementary or supplemental paratransit services in areas where fixed route transit service is operated. Expands definition of eligibility for accessible services to persons with mental disabilities, temporary disabilities, and the conditions related to substance abuse. The Act is an augmentation to, but does not supersede Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability against otherwise qualified individuals in programs receiving federal assistance.

### **Apportionment**

A method for dividing federal funds by established formula. An apportionment operates like a line of credit to sub-federal governments. (See Obligation).

### **Appropriation**

The annual Congressional process by which authorized funds are approved for release. Funds may be appropriated only for activities and purposes that have been authorized. (See Authorization). Transportation funds are appropriated in the annual US Department of Transportation Appropriations bill, one of 13 that Congress adopts each year. Amounts appropriated never exceed amounts authorized.

### **Area Source**

**Small stationary and non-highway mobile pollution sources that are too small and/or numerous to be included as point sources, but may collectively contribute significantly to air pollution.**

### **Arterial**

A class of street serving major traffic movement that is not designated as a highway. There are principle and minor arterials which are designed to primarily provide mobility and are a higher class than local or collector streets which are designed to primarily provide access.

### **Attainment Area**

An area (consisting of a county or multiple counties) which has air quality at least as good as the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health standards used in the Clean Air Act. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a non-attainment area for others. (See National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Non-Attainment Area).

### **Attraction**

**The pull or attracting power of a zone normally measured as a function of employment activity, population, or income. For non-home based trips, attractions in a zone can be considered synonymous with trip destinations in that zone.**

**Authorization** The level of funding designated by Congress by Legislation. For example, ISTEA authorized \$151 billion for transportation projects over a six-year period beginning in Fiscal Year 1992.

### **Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVL)**

A combination of radio and computer equipment that provides a central operations center with information regarding the current location of vehicles outfitted with transponders.

### **Average Daily Traffic (ADT)**

The average number of vehicles passing a fixed point in a 24-hour time frame; a standard for measuring traffic volume. Annual average daily traffic (AADT) is determined by using a factor to adjust for the changing amounts of traffic at different times of the year.

### **Average Passenger Occupancy (APO)**

The average number of people in a vehicle reporting to individual employer worksites, which can vary from one worksite to another.

### **Average Vehicle Occupancy (AVO)**

The average number of people in a vehicle reporting regionally to worksites or other related activity centers. The average auto occupancy for work trips in Northwest Indiana is 1.17 persons per vehicle.

### **Base Fleet**

The average number of transit revenue vehicles in scheduled operation during the non-peak hours of the average weekday operation.

### **Base Year**

The lead-off year of data used in a study. It is often the year in which the U.S. Census was taken, such as 2000.

### **Bikeway**

A facility intended to accommodate bicycle travel for recreational or commuting purposes. Bikeways are often, but not necessarily separate facilities; they may be designed and operated to be shared with other travel modes.

### **Body on Chassis (BOC)**

A body on chassis vehicle seats from 12 to 18 passengers and is typically composed of a light truck chassis underneath a special body. It is sometimes referred to as a cutaway or light transit vehicle (LTV).

### **Capacity**

The maximum number of vehicles that can pass over a given section of a lane or roadway in one direction during a given time period under prevailing roadway and traffic conditions.

### **Capital Assistance**

Financial assistance granted to an agency by the Federal Transit Administration for the purchase or construction of facilities, rolling stock or equipment required to provide public transportation services. In addition, maintenance, capital cost of contracting, and complementary service for persons with disabilities are eligible capital costs.

### **Carbon Monoxide (CO)**

A gas without color and odor which is toxic because too much of it can dangerously reduce oxygen in the bloodstream. It is formed, in large part by combustion of fuel.

### **Catenary**

The overhead power line system for electrically propelled rail vehicles, including light-rail or commuter rail cars. The South Shore Railroad, operated by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, uses such a system.

### **Central Business District (CBD)**

The most intensely commercial sector of a city. Often referred to as the downtown.

### **Centroid**

An assumed point in a zone that represents the origin or destination of all trips to and from the zone. (Refer to Traffic Analysis Zone).

### **Centroid Connector**

A transportation model network link that provides the linkage between the transportation system and the theoretical point of origin or destination of the trips to or from a particular traffic analysis zone.

### **Charter Service**

Transportation by bus of persons who, pursuant to a common purpose and under a single contract, at a fixed

**charge for the vehicles or service, in accordance with the carrier's tariff, have acquired the exclusive use of a bus to travel together with an itinerary, either agreed on in advance, or modified after having left the place of origin. Certain types of transportation of students, school personnel and equipment can be regarded as charter service.**

### **Closed-Door Route Segment**

That portion of a transit route in which there are no bus stops to board or disembark.

### **Cold Start**

The starting of an engine which is significantly below normal operating temperature. It is of significance in understanding vehicle emissions because the rate and composition of emissions vary with engine temperatures. Cold starts usually emit greater pollutants.

### **Collector**

**A class of street serving neighborhood circulation, and providing a balance between accessibility to land and through movement of traffic.**

### **Comprehensive Planning**

**A planning process that requires inclusion of land use, transportation, water and sewer, education, recreation, health, housing, annexation, potential and economic development potential. Also known as master planning.**

### **Conlanequildevelopme4 nch**

**keeps that party informed about actions taken.**

### **Continuous Counter**

A machine that provides an uninterrupted count of traffic volume on a particular point of the highway system. The detector is generally embedded into the pavement in a relatively permanent installation. The equipment provides hourly traffic information for every day of the year.

### **Coordination**

The comparison of the transportation plans, programs, and schedules of one agency with related plans, programs and schedules of other agencies or entities and adjustment of plans, programs and schedules to achieve general consistency.

### **Cooperation**

The parties involved in carrying out the planning and/or project development processes working together to achieve a common goal or objective.

### **Cordon Line**

An abstract line encompassing a study area such as a central business district, a shopping center or a larger planning area like NIRPC's 3-county region. Origin-destination surveys and traffic counts are typically conducted along points on this line to determine the characteristics of travel entering and leaving the study area. It measures the transportation activity generated by the study area. The line is usually associated with physical barriers, such as rivers or major highways with limited crossings.

### **Corridor**

Broad geographical band connecting major sources of trips. Usually associated with transportation facilities.

### **Coverage Count**

A traffic count taken as part of the requirement for system-level estimates of traffic. The count is typically short-term, and may be volume, classification, speed, or weigh-in-motion counts. Coverage counts are usually used to estimate average daily traffic volumes throughout the system.

### **Cutline**

An arbitrary line strategically drawn across the corridor of a transportation network to connect all the paths in the corridor. Its purpose is to check the larger scale comparability of the model with real-world knowledge of the area.

### **Deadhead**

Refers to bus travel between a garage and a passenger route, or between passenger routes during which time it is carrying no passengers. Less deadhead time means more efficiency.

### **Demand-Response**

Descriptive term for a service type, usually considered paratransit, in which a user can access transportation service which can be variably routed and timed to meet changing needs on a semi-daily basis. Sometimes referred to as dial-a-ride. (Compare with Fixed-Route.)

### **Demonstration Project**

A transit or highway project that is authorized by an act of Congress.

### **Design Concept**

Means the type of facility identified by the project, for example, freeway, expressway, arterial highway, grade adjusted highway, reserved right-of-way rail transit, mixed traffic rail transit, exclusive busway, etc.

### **Designated Recipient**

**City of East Chicago, and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. For the Indiana portion of the Michigan City IN/MI urbanized area, there are two Designated Recipients: The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning commission and the City of Michigan City. [The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), although not a Designated Recipient itself, does receive and disburse FTA grant funds directly from FTA by way of an agreement with NIRPC.]**

**Desire Line**

A representation of the number of trips between various origins and destinations as identified through travel surveys. These trips are represented by straight lines between the centroids of traffic analysis zones where trips begin and end, without regard to the specific transportation facilities and services used to make the trips. The thickness of the line sometimes represents the number of trips between the same centroids.

**Destination**

End point of a trip. It is the *there*, in “are we there yet?”

**Dial-a-Ride**

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

**Discretionary User**

A transit rider who has an alternate means (auto) to make the trip, but chooses to use transit.

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**

A report presenting the impacts of alternative projects prepared for public comment.

**Emissions Inventory**

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

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

A document prepared by a government agency that evaluates the impacts of a proposed federal action on the environment. Alternative projects are evaluated for the kind and magnitude of their respective impacts. An EIS 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. An EIS usually includes measures to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of a project.

The ratio equating public transportation fare revenue to total expenses. This measure is used to indicate the level at which the basic route fares support the transit system.

### **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**

A division of the U.S. Department of Transportation, which executes the highway-oriented provisions of the federal transportation program, through the state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations. The FHWA administers federal funding for highway planning, and programming, leading to construction of highway oriented projects. In cooperation with the Federal Transit Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, the FHWA prepares and issues regulations as required by law, monitors compliance, provides support for the technical developments necessary to implement the federal transportation authorizing act.

### **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

A division of the U.S. Department of Transportation, which is responsible for administering federal public transportation funds and programs. This ranges from planning and operating assistance to the purchase of buses, trains and building of transit stations. Formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

### **Field Check**

Physical inspection of land used to confirm or learn more about impacts the transportation project would have on some portion of the natural or socio-economic environment.

### **Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)**

A revised version of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, reflecting the consideration of public and resource agency input.

### **Financial Capacity, Capability**

Refers to U.S. Department of Transportation requirements 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.

### **Fixed Guideway**

Any public transportation facility which utilizes and occupies a separate right-of-way, or rails, for the exclusive use of public transportation service including but not limited to fixed rail, automated guideway transit, and exclusive facilities for buses and other high occupancy vehicles.

### **Fixed Route**

Term applied to public transit service that is regularly scheduled and operating over a predetermined route. Usually refers to bus service.

### **Forecasting**

The process of estimating the future values of specific variables used in the transportation modeling process, including population, income and employment.

### **Fuel Volatility**

The rate at which fuel evaporates.

### **Functional Classification**

The categorization of streets and roadways based on their intended use. The classifications range from expressways, which are a controlled access facility that serves through traffic movement and provides no access to adjacent land, to the local street that primarily serves access to adjacent land, and provides little movement of through traffic.

### **Gasohol**

A special motor fuel that is a blend of 90% ordinary gasoline and 10% ethanol which is fermented from biomass (i.e. corn).

## **Headway**

A transit term meaning the time between buses or trains on the same route or line.

## **High Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs)**

Generally applied to vehicles carrying two or more people (some define it as three or more). Freeways, expressways and other large volume roads may have lanes designated for HOV use, such as by carpools, vanpools and buses. The term HOV is sometimes used to refer to high occupancy vehicle lanes themselves. Such lanes are often called "diamond" lanes.

## **Highway**

Term applies to roads, streets, and parkways. It also includes rights-of-way, bridges, railroad crossings, tunnels, drainage structures, signs, guard rails, and protective structures in connection with highways.

## **Highway Capacity Manual (HCM)**

A guide for engineers and planners to estimate the capacity of the elements of the highway system, including freeways, ramps, arterial streets and intersections, based on factors that cause the reduction of capacity, such as parking, curves, topography and other similar factors.

## **Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)**

The system used by the FHWA to provide information to Congress, the states, and the public on the extent and physical condition of the nation's highway system, its use, performance and needs. For clean air act conformity analyses, the **HPMS** provides an official base estimate of vehicle-miles of travel, which is used to adjust model-derived estimates of vehicle-miles of travel for base and future years.

## **Home-Based Work Trip**

A trip for the purpose of one's employment with either trip end being one's home.

## **Hot Soak Emissions**

Emissions which occur after a hot engine is turned off. Unburned fuel evaporates from the emissions control system.

## **Hot Spot**

A location with higher-than-ambient levels of a pollutant. Hot-spots may be attributed to such things as weather patterns, topography and traffic intensity.

## **Hydrocarbons (HC)**

An organic compound containing only carbon and hydrogen. Hydrocarbons are a major pollutant resulting from incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. It contributes to the formation of Ozone. HC is one of the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

## **Illustrative Project**

A transportation improvement that would be included in a financially constrained transportation plan and program if reasonable additional financial resources were available to support its implementation.

## **Impact Fees**

Monetary charges imposed upon new development to defray the capital costs of infrastructure needed to serve that development. Pursuant to Public Law 221 of 1991, impact fees can now be collected by communities in Indiana.

## **Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)**

State of Indiana Department responsible for completing and carrying out environmental policies and requirements.

## **Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)**

The multi-modal transportation agency for the state which builds projects, maintains the state and interstate highway systems, and administers transportation funds.



### **Indiana State Transportation Improvement Program (INSTIP)**

Indiana's multi-year program of transportation projects that is comprised of all the MPO's Transportation Improvement Programs, projects for non-urbanized areas and state jurisdiction projects.

### **Infrastructure**

A term connoting the physical underpinnings of society at large, or system of public works, 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 non-attainment areas to ensure that the catalytic or other emissions control devices on in-use vehicles are properly maintained. Enhanced I/M includes use of a Dynamometer to test performance with wheels turning.

### **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)**

The integration of transportation facilities and services with computers, communication and other electronic equipment to enhance the safety and efficiency of the transportation system. ITS uses equipment and procedures to monitor and manage the flow of people and goods. ITS gets the right emergency responders to the scene fast and gets information about delays to the users.

An entire trip that is part of a chain of trips made for various purposes between the origin of the first trip and the



**3) Transit funds are said to be “obligated” by a transit recipient when the recipient either enters into a third party contract for those funds or has received funding agency approval of a force account plan for those funds.**

### **Obligation**

**The means by which a state government contracts for a project or activity up to a certain limit, known as the obligation limitation. The state may then apply to the federal government for reimbursement of obligated funds.**

### **Obligation Limitation or Obligation Ceiling**

Obligation limitation is the amount of contractual authority allowed to a state against the Highway Trust Fund or other budget source within a fiscal year. A limitation on obligation does not affect the scheduled apportionment or allocation of funds; it just controls the rate at which these funds may be used. It is a limitation on spending which is lower than the authorization levels provided in an Act, such as TEA-21.

### **Off-Peak Period**

Referring to the times and directions of travel not associated with the major commuting direction; that is, all times and directions other than toward the central business district or activity center(s) in the morning and away from it in the late afternoon and early evening.

### **Operating Assistance**

Financial assistance granted to an agency by the Federal Transit Administration for the payment of costs related to the day to day operation of the transit system. Such expenses as labor, fuel, lubricants, small spare parts (less than \$300 value), marketing, utilities and insurance are considered to be operating expenses. It is only eligible in rural and small urban areas.

### **Operating Subsidy**

Revenue received through federal, state, and local cash grants or reimbursements to fulfill operating expense obligations not covered by fares or other revenues generated by the transit system.

### **Origin**

For transportation purposes, it is the location of the beginning of a trip or the zone in which the trip begins.

### **Origin-Destination Survey (O-D Survey)**

A survey typically undertaken of travelers (motorists or transit passengers) to identify travel patterns, habits and needs.

### **Ozone (O<sup>3</sup>)**

A substance that exists in the atmosphere with both positive and negative health effects. In the upper atmosphere, ozone screens out ultraviolet radiation, making life on Earth possible. In the lower atmosphere (at ground level), concentrations above .12 parts per million cause serious health effects, including lung cancer, asthma and emphysema. Ozone is formed in the atmosphere when hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, and in some cases small particulate matter combine at high temperature in the presence of sunlight. These precursor pollutants are emitted from point sources (including industrial smokestacks), mobile sources (including automobile tailpipes) and area sources (including a wide range of activities, such as the use of lawn-mowers, charcoal started fluid, and volatile chemicals).

### **Paratransit**

**Alternatively known as *special transportation* when applied to social services systems. Applies to a variety of smaller, often flexibly-scheduled and routed nonprofit oriented 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 whom standard mass transit services would serve with difficulty, or not at all. Common patrons are the elderly and persons with disabilities.**

**Particulate Matter (PM)**

Solid matter of a small diameter that is carried into the atmosphere by industrial processes, and by transportation activities. In high concentrations, the particles cause respiratory difficulty.

**Passenger Boarding**

The total number of all passengers carried by the system during the reporting period.

**Passenger Miles**

The sum of the distance ridden by each passenger.

**Pavement Management System (PMS)**

A systematic process of evaluating the condition of the pavement on all elements of the transportation system. The PMS provides information to decision-makers in selecting cost-effective strategies for providing and maintaining pavements in a serviceable condition, and in balancing the various investment needs.

**Peak Hour or Peak Period**

The period in the morning or evening in which the largest volume of travel is experienced. Travel peaks are typically the result of trips to and from work.

**Person-Trip**

A trip made by one person from one origin to one destination.



## **Route Miles**

**Total miles over which public transportation vehicles travel while in revenue service.**

## **Rural Areas**

Includes all areas of a State outside of the FHWA-approved adjusted Census boundaries of small urban and urbanized areas. In Northwest Indiana, rural or non-urbanized areas include the approximate southern half of Lake County , the southern two-thirds of Porter County and most of LaPorte County .

## **Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**

Legislation passed by Congress on August 10, 2005, authorizing funding and programs for highway, public transit, airports, ports and railroads for federal fiscal years 2005-2009. Predecessor transportation acts were ISTEA and TEA-21.

## **Screen Line**

**An imaginary line bisecting an area. Traffic counts are taken at regular intervals at all streets intersecting the screen line. The line is associated, where possible, with physical barriers, such as rivers, or major highways with limited crossings. Counts taken along the screen line determine the traffic moving between two areas. These counts are intended to detect long-range changes in volume and direction of traffic due to significant changes in land use and travel patterns.**

## **Section 5309 (formerly 3)**

An FTA discretionary transit capital grant program for vehicles and facilities. The federal share is 80%.

## **Section 5307, 5309, 5310 and 5311 (formerly 9, 3, 16 and 18)**

Refers to Section in Title 49 US Code, Chapter 53. These are the major funding titles of FTA's grant programs. Section 5307 authorizes annual grants to urbanized areas for public transit, Section 5309 is a three-tiered capital investment program (providing funds for rail modernization, new starts and bus projects), Section 5310 is a capital program for organizations which primarily serve the elderly or persons with disabilities, and Section 5311 authorizes annual grants to states for use in subsidizing public transit service in rural or small urban areas.

## **Section 5307**

FTA's formula-based public transit grant subsidy program for urbanized areas (USA's). Funds are allocated to each UZA. Section 5307 funds in small UZA's (e.g., Michigan City) may be used for operating assistance (50% local match), or capital/planning projects (20% local match). Section 5307 funds in large UZA's (e.g., Lake/Porter Counties) may only be used for capital or planning projects (20% local match).

## **Section 5333 (formerly 13 (c))**

Refers to the section of the Federal Transit Act which mandates the protection of the interests of employees affected by the obtaining of funding under the Federal Transit Act, and which requires the establishment and maintenance of arrangements to protect such interests.

## **Section 5310 (formerly 16)**

Refers to funding made available under Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Act to assist public agencies, as well as non-profit corporations and associations, in meeting the specialized needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

## **Section 5311 (formerly 18)**

FTA's formula-based public transit grant subsidy program for rural or small urban areas. Funds are allocated by INDOT to eligible transit projects. Section 5311 funds may be used for operating assistance (50% local match), or capital/planning projects (20% local match). Section 5311-funded transit projects may provide service into a UZA, but generally not from point-to-point within the UZA.

## **Shuttle**

A public transit service that connects major trip destinations and origins on a fixed- or route-deviation basis. Shuttles can provide feeder service to main transit routes, or operate in a point-to-point or circular fashion.

### **Single Occupant Vehicles (SOVs)**

Vehicles carrying a driver with no passengers. The vehicle occupancy of SOVs is therefore 1.00.

### **Smart Growth**

Mixing land uses with more sustainable compact, walkable, and transit-oriented development. It is also about directing development toward existing communities and redeveloping the older urban and close-in suburban areas. It is also about creating and preserving open space, protecting critical environmental areas, and promoting farmland preservation.

### **Sprawl**

The commercial and residential development of land away from urban communities into areas that have lower or no population that results in the increased need for roads, cars, infrastructures, and which could promote further segregation economically and racially, thereby isolating low income and people of color from economic and social opportunities.

### **State Implementation Plan (SIP)**

A process for a state to specify actions, programs and regulations to implement designated responsibilities under the Clean Air Act that lead to the attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The SIP includes several components, including the attainment strategies for each pollutant in each non-attainment area, the emissions inventories and procedures for assuring that the implementation of the transportation plans, programs and projects would not hinder the attainment or maintenance of the NAAQS.

### **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**

A staged, multi-year, statewide, intermodal program of transportation projects which is consistent with the statewide transportation plan and planning processes and metropolitan plans, TIPs and processes.

### **Statewide Transportation Plan**

The official statewide, intermodal transportation plan that is developed through the statewide transportation planning process.

### **Stationary Source**

One of the source categories of the emissions that combines in the atmosphere to form ozone. Also called point sources, these are the industrial smokestacks or other relatively large mixed sources of emissions.

### **Surface Transportation Program (STP)**

A category of federal transportation funds administered by the Federal Highway Administration and allocated to states and metropolitan areas based on a prescribed formula. This category of funds can provide 80% of the cost to complete transportation improvement projects. These funds are flexible, and can be used for planning design, land acquisition, and construction of highway improvement projects, the capital costs of transit system development, and up to two years of operating assistance for transit system development.

### **Sustainable Development**

Defined as a human activity that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

### **3-C Planning**

Comprehensive, Cooperative and Continuous transportation planning process required in metropolitan areas.

### **Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act**



### **Traffic Analysis Zone**

A subdivision of the metropolitan area used for transportation modeling. The characteristics of the traffic analysis zone are used to estimate the number of trips that start and end in the zone, for a base year, and for specific forecast years.

### **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 Bus**

A transit bus seats from about 19 to 53 passengers and has both a body and a chassis which are designed specifically for transit use.

### **Transit Dependent**

Persons who must rely on public transit or paratransit services for most of their transportation. Typically refers to individuals without access to a personal vehicle, or a person with mobility limitations requiring mobility assistance.

### **Transit Dependent by Choice**

A transit user who has the means and the ability to use an automobile, but decides to depend upon public transportation.

### **Transportation**

The moving of people and goods from one place to another.

### **Transportation Control Measures (TCMs)**

Local actions to adjust traffic patterns for traffic flow improvement, or to reduce vehicle use to reduce air pollution emissions. TCMs are specifically identified and committed to in the applicable implementation plan.

### **Transportation Enhancements Activities (TEA)**

Refers to activities conducted in relationship to a particular transportation project which "enhance" or enrich the existing or proposed project. Examples of such activities include provision of facilities for pedestrians or bicyclists, 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. ISTEA requires each state to set aside 10% of all Surface Transportation Program funds for TEA projects.

### **Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)**

Legislation by the U.S. Congress, authorizing funding and programs for highway and public transportation for federal fiscal years 1998-2003.

### **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

A staged, multi-year intermodal program of transportation projects in the metropolitan planning area which is consistent with the metropolitan transportation plan.

### **Transportation Improvement Program Update**

The periodic reexamination and version of TIP contents, including but not limited to non-exempt projects. The TIP is normally updated at least every two years.

### **Transportation Management Area (TMA)**

An urbanized area designated by the Secretary of Transportation, having an urbanized area population over 200,000. Within a TMA, all transportation plans and programs must be based on a continuing and comprehensive planning process carried out by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in cooperation with state and transit operators.



qualify for Surface Transportation Program (STP) Group III highway improvement funds from INDOT.

**Urbanized Area**

A geographic area with a population of at least 50,000. The urbanized area of Northwest Indiana as defined by the Census is the approximate northern half of Lake County, and the northern third of Porter County, plus a separate urbanized area in LaPorte County, which includes the Cities of Michigan City and LaPorte and nearby areas.

**Vehicle Hours**

One vehicle (or in the case of a train, the entire train) in operation for one hour. For example, 10 vehicles operating for 10 hours each, equals 100 vehicle hours.

**Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT)**

A standard area wide measure of travel activity. The most conventional VMT calculation is to multiply average length of trip by the total number of trips, or to sum the traffic volume of links multiplied by link length.

**Vehicle Equivalent Miles of Travel (VEMT)**

**ATM**

Advanced Traffic Management System

<b>HPMS</b>	Highway Performance Monitoring System
<b>INDOT</b>	Indiana Department of Transportation
<b>INSTIP</b>	Indiana Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
<b>ISTEA</b>	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
<b>ITS</b>	Intelligent Transportation Systems
<b>LMOP</b>	Lake Michigan Ozone Plan
<b>LOS</b>	Level of Service
<b>MPO</b>	Metropolitan Planning Organization
<b>NAAQS</b>	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
<b>NARC</b>	National Association of Regional Councils
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environmental Policy Act
<b>NHS</b>	National Highway System
<b>OTAQ</b>	Office of Transportation and Air Quality
<b>PDR</b>	Purchase of Development Rights
<b>PM-10</b>	Particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter.
<b>PMS</b>	Pavement Management System
<b>PMSA</b>	Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
<b>PRT</b>	Personal Rapid Transit
<b>PUD</b>	Planned Unit Development
<b>RFP</b>	Requests for Proposals
<b>RFQ</b>	Requests for Qualifications
<b>ROW</b>	Right-of-Way
<b>RPC</b>	Regional Plan Commission

<b>RTA</b>	Regional Transportation Authority
<b>RTP</b>	Regional Transportation Plan
<b>SAFETEA-LU</b>	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users
<b>SIP</b>	State Implementation Plan
<b>SMSA</b>	Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area
<b>SOV</b>	Single Occupant Vehicle
<b>STP</b>	Surface Transportation Program
<b>TAZ</b>	Traffic Analysis Zones
<b>TEA-21</b>	Transportation Efficiency Act of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
<b>TDM</b>	Travel Demand Management
<b>TIF</b>	Tax Increment Financing
<b>TIGER</b>	Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Reference File
<b>TIP</b>	Transportation Improvement Program
<b>TOD</b>	Transit Oriented Design
<b>TMA</b>	Transportation Management Area
<b>TSM</b>	Transportation System Management
<b>USDOT</b>	United States Department of Transportation
<b>USEPA</b>	United States Environmental Protection Agency
<b>UWP</b>	Unified Work Program
<b>VHT</b>	Vehicle Hours of Travel
<b>VMT</b>	Vehicle Miles of Travel
<b>VOC</b>	Volatile Organic Compound

**AND NOW FOR SOME FUN!**

<b>ACO</b>	Acronym Control Officer, who is the person responsible for developing acronyms. A substantial reward is offered for the capture and disposal of this person.
<b>AICP</b>	Any Idiot Can Plan
<b>BANANAS</b>	Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything
<b>BS</b>	Bureaucratically Saleable
<b>CAVE</b>	Citizens Against Virtually Everything
<b>DUDE</b>	Developer Under Delusions of Entitlement
<b>IGMFY</b>	I've Got Mine, Forget You
<b>LULU's</b>	Locally Unwanted Land Uses
<b>MIGA</b>	Make It Go Away
<b>MOOT</b>	Move Out Of Town
<b>NIABY</b>	Not In Anyone's Back Yard
<b>NIMBI</b>	Now I Must Become Involved
<b>NIMBY</b>	Not In My Back Yard
<b>NIMEY</b>	Not In My Election Year
<b>NIMFYE</b>	Not In My Front Yard Either
<b>NIMTOO</b>	Not In My Term Of Office
<b>NOPE</b>	Not On Planet Earth
<b>PIITBY</b>	Put It In Their Back Yard
<b>TOADS</b>	Temporarily Obsolete Abandoned Derelict Sites
<b>WIIFM</b>	What's In It For Me?
<b>WNK</b>	We'll Never Know
<b>WOMBAT</b>	Waste Of Money, Brains And Time