

Linking Transportation Policy and Public Health

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Glossary of Terms

Transportation and Land Use Terms	
Terms	Definitions
Alternative Fuels	The Energy Policy Act defines alternative fuels as methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohol mixtures containing 85% or more (but not less than 70% as determined by the Secretary of Energy) by volume of methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols with gasoline or other fuels; currently includes also compressed natural gas, liquid petroleum gas, hydrogen, coal-derived liquid fuels, or any other fuel the Secretary of Energy determines is substantially not petroleum and yields substantial energy security and environmental benefits.
Arterial	Class of roads serving major traffic movements (high-speed, high volume) for travel between major points, used primarily for through traffic.
Bicycle	Vehicle having two tandem wheels, propelled solely by human power, upon which any person(s) may ride.
Bikeway	1) Any road, path, or way which in some manner is specifically designated as being open to bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicycles or are to be shared with other transportation modes. 2) Facility designed to accommodate bicycle travel for recreational or commuting purposes. Bikeways are not necessarily separated facilities; they may be designed and operated to be shared with other travel modes.
Brownfields	Abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.
Buffer	A strip of land that physically and/or visually separates two land uses, especially if the uses are incompatible.
Built Environment	Consists of all buildings, roads, utilities, homes, fixtures, parks, and other aspects that form the physical character of an area.
Bus	Large motor vehicle used to carry 10+ passengers, including school buses, intercity buses, and transit buses.
Bus Lane (Diamond Lane)	1) Street or highway lane intended primarily for buses, either all day or during specified periods, but sometimes also used by carpools. 2) Lane reserved for bus use only.
Carpool	An arrangement where two or more people share the use and cost of privately owned automobiles in traveling to and from pre-arranged destinations together.
Central Business District (CBD)	A traditional downtown area usually characterized by established businesses fronting the street, sidewalks, slow traffic speeds, on-street parking and a compact grid street system.
Chicanes	Lateral shifts in the street to slow vehicles.
Cluster Development	Allows a parcel to be considered in its entirety and permits development that is concentrated on a portion of a tract, leaving the rest of a tract



	undeveloped. Clustering is accomplished by allowing the same number of houses as traditional zoning but reducing the size of lots, setbacks, yards, and other dimensional requirements.
Collector	In rural areas, routes that serve intra-county rather than statewide travel. In urban areas, streets that provide direct access to neighborhoods and arterials.
Community Design (or Urban Design)	The process of giving form, in terms of both function and aesthetic beauty, to selected urban areas or to whole cities. It is concerned with the location, mass, and design of various urban components and combines elements of urban planning, architecture, and landscape architecture.
Community Trip Reduction (CTR)	Legislation requiring major employers to take measures to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicle trips and the number of vehicle miles traveled by their employees.
Commuter	Regular travel between home and a fixed location (e.g., work, school).
Commuter	A person who travels regularly between home and work or school.
Commuter Rail	Urban passenger train service for short-distance travel between a central city and adjacent suburb. Does not include rapid rail transit or light rail service.
Comprehensive Plan (or General Plan, or Master Plan)	The adopted official statement of a legislative body of a local government that sets forth goals, policies, and guidelines intended to direct the present and future physical, social, and economic development that occurs within its planning jurisdiction and that includes a unified physical design for the public and private development of land and water.
Context Sensitive Design (CSD)	A collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources while maintaining safety and mobility. CSD is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist, while keeping the design in harmony with the natural, social, economic and cultural environment.
Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards	The law requires auto manufacturers to produce fleets with a composite sales-weighted fuel economy not lower than the CAFE standards in a given year. For every vehicle not meeting the standard, a fine is paid for every one-tenth of a mile per gallon that vehicle falls below the standard.
Curb Bulb	An extension of the curb line into the roadway.
Curb Cut	A depression in the curb to accommodate a driveway; where there is no curb, the point at which the driveway meets the roadway pavement is considered the curb cut.
Corridor	A broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow connecting major sources of trips that may contain a number of streets, highways and transit route alignments.
Demand-Responsive	Descriptive term for a service type, usually considered paratransit, in which a user can access transportation service that can be variably routed and timed to meet changing needs on an as-needed basis.
Density	The average number of persons, households, or dwellings per acre of land.
Development Review	Consists of the processes conducted by a jurisdiction, of review and approval of applications for any of the following: 1) a site development plan, 2) zoning or rezoning, 3) general, preliminary, or final development plan, 4) final or preliminary subdivision plat, 5) annexation, 6) variance, 7) project development plan, 8) overall development plan, 9) lot merger, 10) boundary line adjustment, 11) zoning compliance plan, and 12) appeal.
Expressway	A controlled access, divided arterial highway for through traffic, the intersections of which are usually separated from other roadways by



	differing grades.
Fixed-Route	Transit service that is regularly scheduled and operates over a set route; usually refers to bus service.
Freeway	A divided arterial highway designed for the unimpeded flow of large traffic volumes. Access to a freeway is rigorously controlled and intersection grade separations are required.
Heavy Rail	An electric railway with the capacity to transport a heavy volume of passenger traffic and characterized by exclusive rights-of-way, multicar trains, high speed, rapid acceleration, sophisticated signaling, and high-platform loading. Also known as: Subway, Elevated (railway), or Metropolitan railway (metro).
High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)	Vehicles carrying two or more people. The number that constitutes an HOV for the purposes of HOV highway lanes may be designated differently by different transportation agencies.
High Occupancy Vehicle Lane	Exclusive road/traffic lane limited to buses, van/carpools, & emergency vehicles.
Highway	Any road, street, parkway, or freeway/expressway that includes rights-of-way, bridges, railroad-highway crossings, tunnels, drainage structures, signs, guardrail, and protective structures in connection with highways. The highway further includes that portion of any interstate or international bridge or tunnel and the approaches thereto.
Household Vehicle	A motorized vehicle that is owned, leased, rented, company-owned, or available under some other arrangement, such as borrowed, and available to be used regularly by household members.
In-Fill Development	In land-use and transit planning, the development of vacant parcels in urbanized or suburbanized areas, typically bringing the density of the area closer to that allowed by the existing zoning regulations.
Intermodal	The ability to connect, and the connections between, modes of transportation.
Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)	Implemented broad changes in the way transportation decisions are made by emphasizing diversity and balance of modes and preservation of existing systems over construction of new facilities.
Intersection	1) A point defined by any combination of courses, radials, or bearings of two or more navigational aids. 2) Used to describe the point where two runways, a runway and a taxiway, or two taxiways cross or meet.
Interstate	Limited access divided facility of at least four lanes designated by the Federal Highway Administration as part of the Interstate System.
Journey-To-Work	Travel to or from a place where one reports for work; doesn't include other work-related travel.
Land Use	Refers to the manner in which portions of land or the structures on them are used, i.e. commercial, residential, retail, and industrial, etc.
Land Use Plan	A plan which establishes strategies for the use of land to meet identified community needs.
Level of Service	1) A qualitative assessment of a road's operating conditions or capacity per unit of demand for each public facility. 2) Refers to a standard measurement used by transportation officials which reflects the relative ease of traffic flow on a scale of A to F, with free-flow being rated LOS-A and congested conditions rated as LOS-F.
Light Rail	A streetcar-type vehicle operated on city streets, semi-exclusive rights-of-way, or exclusive rights-of-way. Service may be provided by step-entry vehicles or by level boarding.
Light Truck	Trucks of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating or less, including



	pickups, vans, truck-based station wagons, and sport utility vehicles.
Light-Duty Vehicle	A vehicle category that combines light automobiles and trucks.
Local Street	A street intended solely for access to adjacent properties.
Means of Transportation	<p>A mode used for going from one place (origin) to another (destination). Included are private and public modes, as well as walking. For all travel day trips, each change of mode constitutes a separate trip. The following transportation modes, grouped by major mode, are included:</p> <p><u>Private Vehicle</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Automobile: A licensed motorized vehicle, including cars, jeeps, and station wagons. 2. Van: Vans and minivans designed to carry passengers or to haul cargo. 3. Pickup: Motorized vehicle with enclosed cab that accommodates 2-3 passengers & an open rear cargo area. 4. Other Truck: All trucks other than pickups (such as dump trucks and trailer trucks) 5. RV or Motor Home: Self-powered recreational vehicles that operate w/out being towed by another vehicle. 6. Motorcycle: Includes large, medium, and small motorcycles. Does not include minibikes. <p><u>Public Transportation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Bus: Includes intercity buses, mass transit systems, buses, and shuttle buses that are available to the general public. Also included are Dial-A-Bus and Senior Citizen buses that are available to the public. Excluded from this category are (1) shuttle buses operated by a government agency or private industry for the convenience of employees, or (2) contracted or chartered buses or school buses. 8. Commuter Train: Includes local and commuter train service other than elevated rail and subway. Intercity service by Amtrak is excluded. 9. Streetcar/Trolley: Includes trolleys, streetcars, and cable cars. 10. Elevated Rail/Subway: Includes elevated rail and subway trains. <p><u>Other Modes</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Taxi: The use of a taxicab by a passenger for a fare. Also included are airport limousines. 12. Bicycle: Includes bicycles of all speeds and sizes that do not have a motor. 13. Amtrak: The U.S. national passenger railroad service providing intercity train service. 14. Walk: Walking to a destination; Excludes walking for exercise where trip origin & destination are the same. 15. School Bus: Includes county school buses, private school buses, and buses chartered from private companies for the express purposes of carrying students to or from school and/or school-related activities. 16. Moped (motor bicycle): Includes motorized bicycles equipped with a small engine, typically 2 horsepower or less. Also included are minibikes such as dirt bikes and trail bikes.
Metropolitan Planning Area	The geographic area in which the metropolitan transportation planning process required by 23 U.S.C. 134 and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607) must be carried out.



Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	<p>1) Regional policy body, required in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000, and designated by local officials and the governor of the state. Responsible in cooperation with the state and other transportation providers for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning requirements of federal highway and transit legislation.</p> <p>2) Formed in cooperation with the state, develops transportation plans and programs for the metropolitan area. For each urbanized area, an MPO must be designated by agreement between the Governor and local units of government representing 75% of the affected population.</p>
Minor Arterials	Roads linking cities and larger towns in rural areas. In urban areas, roads that link but do not penetrate neighborhoods within a community.
Mixed Use	Different, compatible land uses located within a single structure or in close proximity to each other.
Mode	A specific form of transportation, such as automobile, subway, bus, rail, or air.
Motorcycle	A two- or three-wheeled motor vehicle designed to transport 1-2 people, including motor scooters, minibikes, and mopeds.
Motor Vehicle Accident	An unstable situation that includes at least one harmful event (injury or property damage) involving a motor vehicle in transport (in motion, in readiness for motion, or on a roadway, but not parked in a designated parking area) that does not result from discharge of a firearm or explosive device and does not directly result from a cataclysm.
Motorized Vehicle	Includes all vehicles that are licensed for highway driving. Specifically excluded are snow mobiles and minibikes.
Multimodal	The availability of transportation options using different modes within a system or corridor.
Multimodal Transportation	Often used as a synonym for intermodalism. Congress and others frequently use the term intermodalism in its broadest interpretation as a synonym for multimodal transportation. Most precisely, multimodal transportation covers all modes without necessarily including a holistic or integrated approach.
Multi-Use Path	A path physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier and either within a highway right-of-way or an independent right-of-way, used by bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, skaters and other non-motorized travelers.
New Urbanism	A set of development principles summarized in the Charter of the New Urbanism to create more human-scaled places intended to increase accessibility and decrease reliance on the automobile as the primary mode of travel.
Occupancy (Vehicle)	The number of persons, including driver and passenger(s) in a vehicle. Occupancy rates are generally calculated as person miles divided by vehicle miles.
Paratransit	<p>1) Comparable transportation service required by the American Disabilities Act (ADA) for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use fixed route transportation systems.</p> <p>2) A variety of smaller, often flexibly scheduled-and-routed transportation services using low-capacity vehicles, such as vans, to operate within normal urban transit corridors or rural areas. These services usually serve the needs of persons that standard mass-transit services would serve with difficulty, or not at all. Often, the patrons include the elderly and persons with disabilities.</p>
Passenger Car	A motor vehicle designed primarily for carrying passengers on ordinary roads, includes convertibles, sedans, and stations wagons.



Passenger Mile	1) One passenger transported one mile. Total passenger miles are computed by summation of the products of the aircraft miles flown on each inter-airport flight stage multiplied by the number of passengers carried on that flight stage. (AIA1) (FAA11) (NTSB1) 2) The cumulative sum of the distances ridden by each passenger.
Pedalcycle	A vehicle propelled by human power and operated solely by pedals; excludes mopeds.
Pedestrian	Any person not in or on a motor vehicle or other vehicle. Excludes people in buildings or sitting at a sidewalk cafe. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration also uses another pedestrian category to refer to pedestrians using conveyances and people in buildings. Examples of pedestrian conveyances include skateboards, nonmotorized wheelchairs, roller skates, sleds, and transport devices used as equipment.
Pedestrian Walkway (or Walkway)	A continuous way designated for pedestrians and separated from the through lanes for motor vehicles by space or barrier.
Person Miles of Travel (PMT)	A measure of person travel. When one person travels one mile, one person mile of travel results. When one person travels five miles, five person miles of travel results. When four persons travel five miles in the same vehicle, 20 miles of travel result.
Person Trip	A person trip is a trip by one person in any mode of transportation. If more than one person is on the trip, each person is considered as making one person trip.
Placemaking	Local efforts involving city government, the business community, residents and other stakeholders to identify and revitalize underutilized public spaces. The process upgrades existing public spaces through small-scale, short-term projects such as traffic calming, pedestrian improvements, and street furniture.
Principal Arterials	Major streets or highways, many of multi-lane or freeway design, serving high-volume traffic corridor movements that connect major generators of travel.
Public Transit	Passenger transportation services, usually local in scope, that is available to any person who pays a prescribed fare. It operates on established schedules along designated routes or lines with specific stops and is designed to move relatively large numbers of people at one time.
Public Transit Agencies	A public entity responsible for administering and managing transit activities and services. Public transit agencies can directly operate transit service or contract out for all or part of the service provided.
Public Transit System	An organization that provides transportation services owned, operated, or subsidized by any municipality, county, regional authority, state, or other governmental agency, including those operated or managed by a private management firm under contract to the government agency owner.
Public Transportation	Transportation by bus, rail, or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, which provides to the public general or special service on a regular and continuing basis. Also known as "mass transportation", "mass transit" and "transit."
Public Road	Any road under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority (federal, state, county, town or township, local government, or instrumentality thereof) and open to public travel.
Rapid Rail Transit	Transit service using railcars driven by electricity usually drawn from a third rail, configured for passenger traffic, and usually operated on exclusive rights-of-way. It generally uses longer trains and has longer station spacing than light rail.
Regional Planning Organization	An organization that performs planning for multi-jurisdictional areas.



(RPO)	MPOs, regional councils, rural transportation associations are examples of RPOs.
Revenue Vehicle-Miles	One vehicle (bus, trolley bus, or streetcar) traveling one mile, while revenue passengers are on board, generates one revenue vehicle-mile. Revenue vehicle-miles reported represent the total mileage traveled by vehicles in scheduled or unscheduled revenue-producing services.
Right of Way	The land (usually a strip) acquired for or devoted to highway transportation purposes.
Road	An open way for the passage of vehicles, persons, or animals on land.
Road Diet	Narrowing of streets.
Shy Distance	The distance between the edge of a travel way and a fixed object.
Smart Growth	A set of policies and programs design to protect, preserve, and economically develop established communities and valuable natural and cultural resources.
Sprawl	Urban form that connotatively depicts the movement of people from the central city to the suburbs. Concerns associated with sprawl include loss of farmland and open space due to low-density land development, increased public service costs, and environmental degradation.
State Implementation Plan (SIP)	Produced by the state environmental agency, not the MPO. A plan mandated by the CAA that contains procedures to monitor, control, maintain, and enforce compliance with the NAAQS. Must be taken into account in the transportation planning process.
State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)	A staged, multi-year, statewide, intermodal program of transportation projects, consistent with the statewide transportation plan and planning processes as well as metropolitan plans, TIPs, and processes.
Surface Transportation Program (STP)	Federal-aid highway funding program that funds a broad range of surface transportation capital needs, including many roads, transit, sea and airport access, vanpool, bike, and pedestrian facilities.
Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND)	Refers to a style of urban or suburban development, evolving since the 1970s that revisits many of the features of urban neighborhoods of 50 to 100 years ago. Variously called "neotraditional" development or "urban villages," the most distinguishable feature of TND is the continuous fabric of intimately blended land uses, arranged so that travel between them can be made by a variety of methods (walk, bicycle, transit, taxi) in addition to the usual privately-operated auto.
Traffic Calming	Of or relating to transportation techniques, programs or facilities intended to slow the movement of motor vehicles.
Traffic Reducing Housing (or Walk to Work Housing)	Selects residents with fewer cars who will drive less. Incentives such as rent reductions and work location requirements often are in place.
Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)	Compact, mixed-use development near transit facilities with high-quality walking environments.
Transit Vehicle	Includes light, heavy, and commuter rail; motorbus; trolley bus; van pools; automated guideway; and demand responsive vehicles.
Transportation Control Measures (TCM)	Transportation strategies that affect traffic patterns or reduce vehicle use to reduce air pollutant emissions. These may include HOV lanes, provision of bicycle facilities, ridesharing, telecommuting, etc. Such actions may be included in a SIP if needed to demonstrate attainment of the NAAQS.
Transportation Demand Management (TDM)	Programs designed to reduce demand for transportation through various means, such as the use of transit and of alternative work hours.
Transportation Enhancement Activities (TE)	Provides funds to the States for safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic routes, beautification, restoring historic buildings, renovating streetscapes, or providing transportation museums and visitors centers. 23 U.S.C. 101(a) and 133(b)(8).



Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)	A mapped line that separates land on which development will be concentrated from land on which development will be discouraged or prohibited. Typically, facilities and services necessary for urban development are provided within the boundary, while service extensions outside the boundary are restricted.
Unlinked Passenger Trips	The number of passengers boarding public transportation vehicles. A passenger is counted each time he/she boards a vehicle even if the boarding is part of the same journey from origin to destination.
Vanpool	Public-sponsored commuter service operating under prearranged schedules for previously formed groups of riders in 8- to 18-seat vehicles. Drivers are commuters who receive little or no compensation besides the free ride.
Vehicle	All motorized vehicles including autos, passenger vans, pickup trucks, and other light trucks, RV's, motorcycles and mopeds owned or available to the household.
Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT)	A unit to measure vehicle travel made by a private vehicle, such as an automobile, van, pickup truck, or motorcycle. Each mile traveled is counted as one vehicle mile regardless of the number of persons in the vehicle.
Vehicle Trip	A trip by a single vehicle regardless of the number of persons in the vehicle.
Walkable	Refers to a single route, or a system of routes, between points that is relatively short, barrier free, interesting, safe, well-lighted, comfortable and inviting to pedestrian travel.

Sources

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/glossary/index.cfm> or <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/1969/gloss.htm>
- Active Living by Design: <http://www.activelivingbydesign.org/index.php?id=10>
- National Safety Council (NSC): <http://www.nsc.org/lrs/glossary.aspx#UNIN>
- American Planning Association (APA) / National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO): <http://www.planning.org/research/healthy/pdf/jargonfactsheet.pdf>

