



West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee

LIST OF TRANSPORTATION ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

	ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments - A voluntary association of cities and counties that is the land-use planning agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.
El Cerrito	ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act - Federal civil rights legislation for disabled persons passed in 1990. Requires public transit systems to make services more fully accessible, as well as to underwrite a parallel network of paratransit service.
	ADT	Average Daily Traffic
Hercules	ARB	Air Resources Board
	ARTERIAL STREET	A major thoroughfare, used primarily for through traffic rather than for access to adjacent land, that is characterized by high vehicular capacity and continuity of movement.
Pinole	AVI	Automated Vehicle Identification
	AVO	Average Vehicle Occupancy - The number of people traveling by private passenger vehicles divided by the number of vehicles used.
Richmond	AVR	Average Vehicle Ridership - The ration of all people traveling by any mode - including cars, buses, trains, and bicycles (or telecommuting) - in a given area during a given time period to the number of cars on the road.
	BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District - Regulates industry and employers to keep air pollution in check and sponsors programs to clean the air.
San Pablo	BCDC	Bay Conservation and Development Commission - A state-established agency with jurisdiction over filling and dredging of San Francisco Bay and limited jurisdiction over development within 100 feet of the Bay.
	BUSWAY	Exclusive freeway lane for buses and carpools.
	CARB	California Air Resources Board
	CALTRANS	California Department of Transportation - The state agency that operates California's highway and rail systems.
AC Transit	CCTA	Contra Costa Transportation Authority
	CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
	CHP	California Highway Patrol - State law enforcement agency responsible for highway safety, among other things.
BART	CCTA	Contra Costa Transportation Authority
	CCTP	Countywide Comprehensive Transportation Plan
	CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
	CIP	Capital Improvement Plan
Contra Costa County	CMA	Congestion Management Agency - A countywide agency responsible for preparing and implementing a county's congestion

	management program. CMAs came into existence as a result of state legislation and voters' approval of Proposition 111 in 1990.
CMAQ	Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement Program
CMP	Congestion Management Plan
COE	(U.S. Army) Corps of Engineers
COMMUTER RAIL	Railroad local and regional passenger train operations between a central city, its suburbs, and/or another central city. Also known as "suburban rail."
CTC	California Transportation Commission - A state agency that sets state spending priorities for highways and transit, and allocates funds. Its nine members are appointed by the governor.
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report
DIAL-A-RIDE	Non-fixed-route service utilizing vans or buses with passengers boarding and alighting at pre-arranged times at any location within the system's service area. Also called "Demand Response."
EBRPD	East Bay Regional Parks District
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration - The federal agency responsible for the approval of transportation projects that affect the defined federal highway system. Administratively it is under USDOT and is the sister agency of UMTA.
FIXED GUIDEWAY SYSTEM	A system of vehicles that can operate only on its own guideway constructed for that purpose (e.g. rapid rail, light rail). Federal usage in funding legislation also includes exclusive right-of-way bus operations, trolley coaches and ferryboats as "fixed guideway" transit.
FIXED ROUTE	Service provided on a repetitive, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers to specific locations; each fixed-route serves the same origins and destinations, unlike demand response and taxicabs. Modes include motorbus, trolleybus, jitney, vanpool, heavy rail, light rail, commuter rail, aerial tramway, automated guideway, monorail, cable car, inclined plane, and ferryboat.
FLEXIBLE FUNDING	Unlike funding that flows only to highways or only to transit by a rigid formula, this is money that can be invested on a range of transportation projects.
HEAVY RAIL	An electric railway with the capacity for a "heavy volume" of traffic and characterized by exclusive rights-of-way, multi-car trains, high speed and rapid acceleration, sophisticated signaling, and high platform loading.
HIGH SPEED RAIL	A rail transportation system with exclusive right-of-way which serves densely traveled corridors at speeds of 124 miles per hour and greater.

HOV LANE	High Occupancy Vehicle Lane - The technical term for a carpool lane, commuter lane, or diamond lane.
INTERMODAL	Those issues or activities which involve or affect more than one mode of transportation, including transportation connections, choices, cooperation and coordination of various modes. Also known as "multimodal."
ISTEA	Intermodal Transportation and Efficiency Act - \$155 billion federal legislation signed into law in December 1991. Calls for broad changes in the way transportation decisions are made. Reauthorized in 1998 with the Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century - "TEA-21."
JITNEY	Privately-owned, small or medium-sized vehicle usually operated on a fixed route but not on a fixed schedule.
KISS AND RIDE	A place where commuters are driven and dropped off at a station to board a public transportation vehicle.
LIGHT RAIL	An electric railway with a light volume of traffic capacity compared to heavy rail. Light rail may use shared or exclusive right-of-way, high or low platform loading, and multi-car trains or single cars. Also known as "streetcar," "trolley car," and "tramway."
LOS	(Traffic) Level of Service
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization - A federally required planning body responsible for the transportation planning and project selection in its region; the governor designates an MPO in every urbanized area with a population of over 50,000 people. MTC is the Bay Area's MPO.
MTC	Metropolitan Transportation Commission - The transportation planning, financing, and coordinating agency for the nine counties that touch San Francisco Bay.
MULTIMODAL	Refers to the availability of multiple transportation options, especially within a system or corridor.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHS	National Highway System - This approximately 160,000-mile network consists of the 42,500 miles of the interstate system, plus other key roads and arterials throughout the U.S. The NHS is designed to provide an interconnected system of principal routes to serve major travel destinations and population centers.
OPERATING REVENUES	Monies used to fund general, day-to-day costs of running transportation systems. For transit, costs include fuel, salaries and replacement parts; for roads, operating costs involve maintaining pavement, filling potholes, etc.
PARATRANSIT	Comparable transportation service required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use fixed-route transportation systems.
PVEA	Petroleum Violation Escrow Account - Money set aside by petroleum companies because of overcharging for gasoline.
PSR	(Caltrans) Project Study Report

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."
RIDESHARING	A form of transportation, other than public transit, in which more than one person shares the use of the vehicle, such as a van or car, to make a trip. Also known as "carpooling" or "vanpooling."
ROLLING STOCK	The vehicles used in a transit system, including buses and rail cars.
RTIP	Regional Transportation Improvement Program - A listing of highway and transit projects for which the region hopes to capture funds; compiled by MTC every two years from priority lists submitted by local jurisdictions.
RTP	A blueprint to guide the region's transportation development for a 20-year period. Updated every two years, it is based on projects of growth and travel demand coupled with financial projections. Required by state and federal law.
RTPC	Regional Transportation Planning Committee (there are four designated in Contra Costa County - SWAT, TRANSPAC, TRANSPLAN and WCCTAC).
SHUTTLE	A public or private vehicle that travels back and forth over a particular route, especially a short route or one that provides connections between transportation systems, employment centers, etc.
SOV	Single occupant vehicle
SRTP	Short Range Transit Plan - A seven-year comprehensive plan required by federal and regional transportation funding agencies of all transit operators.
STA	State Transit Assistance - Provides funding for mass transit operations and capital projects.
STATE/LOCAL PARTNERSHIP	Originally created by SB140, and subsequently funded by the passage of Proposition 111 by the voters in June 1990, the State/Local Partnership provides state matching funds for locally funded and constructed highway and exclusive public mass transit guideway projects.
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program - what the CTC ends up with after combining and whittling down various regional transportation improvement programs. The STIP determines when and if transportation projects will be funded by the state.
SWAT	Southwest Area Transportation (Lamorinda and San Ramon/Danville area)

TCM	Transportation Control Measure - A strategy to reduce driving or smooth traffic flows in order to reduce auto emissions and resulting air pollution. Required by the Clean Air Act, TCMs for the Bay Area are jointly developed by MTC and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.
TDA	Transportation Development Act - State law enacted in 1971. TDA funds are generated from a one-quarter of one percent tax on all retail sales in each county; used for transit, special transit for disabled persons, and bicycle and pedestrian purposes.
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TFCA	Transportation Fund for Clean Air
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program - This is the primary spending plan for federal funding expected to flow to the region from all sources for transportation projects of all types.
TOS	Traffic Operations System - In the Bay Area, Caltrans and the CHP will monitor traffic flows by means of detectors embedded in pavement and closed-circuit television cameras, quickly dispatching tow trucks and other assistance. Message signs and broadcasts will alert drivers and transit riders to conditions ahead, while ramp metering will control traffic flows. All these devices together comprise the TOS.
TRANSIT CENTER	A fixed location where passengers interchange from one route or vehicle to another.
TRANSLINK	MTC's prototype for a universal ticket valid on all transit modes, from BART to buses to ferries.
TRANSPAC	Transportation Partnership Advisory Committee (Central Contra Costa)
TRANSPLAN	Transportation Planning Committee (East Contra Costa)
TSM	Transportation Systems Management
UMTA	Urban Mass Transit Administration - The federal department of mass transportation, which is under the larger US DOT. The sister agency to FHWA.
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation - The federal cabinet-level agency with responsibility for highways, mass transit, aviation and ports; headed by the Secretary of Transportation. The DOT includes the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, among other things.
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
V/C	Volume-to-Capacity ratio
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled - The more cars there are on the road at the same time in the same area, the worse congestion will be. This term helps in the calculation of some technical data. Reducing VMT can help ease traffic congestion and improve air quality.
WCCTAC	West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee

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