

## Definitions

**Accessibility:** A measure of the ability or ease of all people to travel between places or to access forms of travel.

**ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act):** 1990 federal law that governs the provision of services and facilities necessary to accommodate people with disabilities. The law includes specific requirements regarding access to transportation services and facilities.

**Administrative Modification:** A minor revision to a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that includes minor changes to project/project phase costs, funding sources for previously approved projects, and phase initiation dates. An administrative modification does not require public review and comment or re-demonstration of fiscal constraint.

**Amendment:** A revision to a MTP, TIP, or STIP that involves a major change to a project including the addition or deletion of a project or a major change in project cost, project/project phase initiation dates, design concept, or scope. An amendment is a revision that requires public review and comment, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint, and a public comment period.

**Available Funds:** Funds derived from an existing source dedicated to or historically used for transportation purposes. Authorized and/or appropriated funds and the extrapolation of formula and discretionary funds at historic rates of increase are

considered available.

**CAA (Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990):** Federal law that stresses the relationship between transportation and air quality and the attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

**Capacity:** The maximum volume of traffic that a particular segment of roadway or intersection can accommodate during a time period.

**Committed Funds:** Funds dedicated or obligated for transportation purposes.

**Conformity (Air Quality Conformity):** A method to ensure that federal funding is applied to those transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals. Conformity applies to transportation plans (such as the DCTC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan), TIPs, and projects funded or approved by the Federal Highway Administration or the Federal Transit Administration in areas that do not meet or previously have not met air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, or nitrogen dioxide. These areas are known as "non-attainment areas" or "maintenance areas," respectively. Transportation projects must demonstrate conformity to be funded.

**CMP (Congestion Management Process):** A required planning process for a TMA to measure and manage the performance of a transportation system. The process must describe methods to collect and analyze transportation network data, with the intent of developing effective strategies to mitigate identified congestion.

**Congestion:** The state of a roadway that occurs as use approaches or exceeds the capacity of the road. Characterized by slower speeds, longer trip times, and increased queuing.

**DCTC/Transportation Council (Dutchess County Transportation Council):** MPO for the Dutchess County portion of the Poughkeepsie-Newburgh Urbanized Area. Established in 1982, the DCTC is responsible for adopting a Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and Unified Planning Work Program.

**EPA (Environmental Protection Agency):** Federal agency responsible for implementing the Clean Air Act, as well as other environmental laws that protect natural resources.

**Federal-Aid System:** The system of roads eligible for federal highway funding. Includes all roads not functionally classified as Local or Rural Minor Collector.

**FFY:** Federal Fiscal Year (Starts October 1; ends September 30).

**FHWA (Federal Highway Administration):** USDOT agency responsible for approval of transportation projects that affect the federal-aid highway system. FHWA is a non-voting member of the DCTC.

**FTA (Federal Transit Administration):** USDOT agency responsible for approval of mass transit projects that receive federal funding. FTA is a non-voting member of the DCTC.

**Financial Plan:** Documentation required in a MTP and TIP to demonstrate the consistency between reasonably available and

projected federal, state, local, and private funding, and the cost of proposed transportation improvements.

**Fiscal Constraint:** The requirement that the MTP, TIP, and STIP include sufficient financial information to demonstrate that projects can be implemented using committed, available, or reasonably available revenue sources, with reasonable assurance that the federally supported transportation system is being adequately operated and maintained. For the TIP and the STIP, financial constraint applies to each program year.

**Fixed Route Service:** Transit service that runs on regular, scheduled routes, usually with printed/posted bus schedules and designated stops.

**Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP):** Federal highway program focused on achieving a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads, including non-State-owned public roads and roads on tribal lands. The HSIP requires a data-driven, strategic approach to improving highway safety on all public roads that focuses on performance.

**Highway Trust Fund:** Transportation fund administered by FHWA. Most funds for highway improvement are apportioned to states using a formula based on population, area, and mileage.

**ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems):** Projects and programs that use communications technology to provide information to travelers about road and transit conditions and help monitor, guide, and control the operation of vehicles. The application of

ITS technologies offers improved safety, more efficient use of infrastructure, and enhanced user choices.

**Multimodal:** A transportation system connecting or including different types of transportation (e.g. bus service connecting to a train station).

**Local Authorities:** Any county, municipal or other local board, body or officer, county park commissioner, parkway authority, bridge authority, bridge and tunnel authority, the office of parks and recreation, the New York State Thruway authority or similar body or person having authority to enact laws or regulations relating to traffic under the constitution and laws of this state (New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law).

**Match:** State or local funds required by federal funding programs to complement federal money for a project.

**MNR (Metro-North Railroad):** An operating affiliate of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) that provides rail service to Dutchess County and other areas in the New York metropolitan area. MTA is a voting member of the DCTC.

**MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan):** An official multimodal transportation plan addressing no less than a 20-year planning horizon. The MTP is developed, adopted, and updated by an MPO through the metropolitan transportation planning process. Moving Dutchess Forward is the current MTP for Dutchess County.

**Mode:** A specific form of travel, for example, walking, or traveling by automobile, bus, bicycle, or train.

**MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization):** Federally mandated organization for coordinating transportation planning in a Census-designated metropolitan area. All urbanized areas over 50,000 in population are required to have an MPO. The MPO is responsible for developing the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and Unified Planning Work Program.

**NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards):** Federal standards that set allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various air pollutants.

**NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969):** Federal law that establishes a national policy for the environment, requiring that federal agencies integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.

**NHS (National Highway System):** A nation-wide system of highways and roads designated by the US Congress to link the states, major urban areas, and other important destinations.

**National Highway Performance Program (NHPP):** Provides support for the condition and performance of the National Highway System (NHS), for the construction of new facilities on the NHS, and to ensure that investments of Federal-aid funds in highway construction are directed to support progress toward the achievement of performance targets established in a state's asset management plan for the NHS. NHPP projects must be on an eligible facility and support progress toward achievement of national performance goals for improving infrastructure



condition, safety, mobility, or freight movement on the NHS, and be consistent with Metropolitan and Statewide planning requirements and plans, such as [Moving Dutchess Forward](#). Major eligible activities include the reconstruction and rehabilitation of NHS road segments and NHS bridges and tunnels, and highway safety improvements on the NHS. Bridge resurfacing, preservation, and reconstruction on non-NHS Federal-aid highways are eligible for NHPP funding under the FAST Act.

**NYSBA (New York State Bridge Authority):** An authority created by New York State to maintain and operate bridges across the Hudson River. The NYSBA is a non-voting member of the DCTC.

**OCTC (Orange County Transportation Council):** The MPO for the Newburgh and Middletown metropolitan areas, which covers Orange County.

**Nonattainment Area:** Geographic area designated by the EPA where NAAQS have been exceeded. Prior to 2012, Dutchess County was part of the Poughkeepsie Ozone Nonattainment Area with Putnam and Orange counties.

**Non-Exempt:** For air quality analysis, a highway or road project that changes capacity by at least one travel lane or a transit project that changes capacity on a fixed route system. A non-exempt determination is made if the project type is not found on the list of exempt projects in Table 2 (Exempt Projects) in 40 CFR Parts 93.126 and 127 and NYCRR Part 240.27.

**NYMTC (New York Metropolitan Transportation Council):** MPO for the New York metropolitan area that includes New York

City, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley counties of Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester.

**NYSDEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation):** The State agency with primary responsibility for developing and amending the New York State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Air Quality.

**NYS DOT (New York State Department of Transportation):** The State agency with primary responsibility for State transportation facilities and programs. NYS DOT is a voting member and Secretary of the DCTC.

**Park-and-Ride Lot:** Parking area where passengers leave their vehicles for the day and take public transit or carpools/vanpools to their destination (typically related to journey-to-work trips).

**Planning Committee:** The non-voting body of the Transportation Council responsible for identifying specific transportation planning issues for inclusion in the MTP, TIP, and UPWP, and identifying and undertaking special studies as requested by DCTC members.

**Regionally Significant Project:** A transportation project that is on a facility that serves regional transportation needs, such as access to and from the area outside the region; major activity centers in the region; major planned developments such as new retail malls, sports complexes, or employment centers; or transportation terminals, and would normally be modeled in the metropolitan area's transportation network. This includes all projects on principal arterial highways and all fixed guideway

transit facilities that offer a significant alternative to regional highway travel. Typically used for air quality conformity.

**Right-of-Way (ROW):** Land, property or interest therein, acquired for or devoted to a highway, transit, railroad, or other transportation project.

**Roadway:** The portion of the highway, including shoulders, for vehicular use.

**SDF (State Dedicated Fund):** Funds collected and allocated by New York State to fund highway and transit improvements.

**Section 5303 (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning):** FTA program that funds transit planning and research.

**Section 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula Funding program):** FTA program that authorizes grants to urban areas under a legislated formula. The program provides funding to urbanized areas for transit capital and operating assistance, preventive maintenance, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services. Funds can also support pedestrian and bicycle access to transit.

**Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program):** FTA program that authorizes transportation capital and operating grants for transit service for the elderly and handicapped. The program provides formula funding to states to assist private nonprofit groups with meeting the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. Funds are apportioned based on each state's share of population for these population groups. Per MAP-21,

funding can only be awarded if the project stems from a locally developed Coordinated Public Transportation–Human Service Transportation Plan.

**Section 5337 (State of Good Repair Grants):** FTA program that provides capital assistance for maintenance, replacement, and rehabilitation projects of high-intensity fixed guideway (e.g. commuter rail).

**Section 5339 (Buses and Bus Facilities program):** FTA program that supports the replacement, rehabilitation, and purchase of buses and related equipment, and construction of bus-related facilities including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities. Funding is provided through formula allocations and competitive grants.

**SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act):** A New York State law that introduces a process to incorporate the consideration of environmental factors into the early planning stages of actions to avoid adverse impacts on the environment.

**SFY:** State Fiscal Year (Starts April 1 and ends March 31).

**SIP (State Implementation Plan):** A plan mandated by the Clean Air Act that contains procedures to monitor, control, maintain, and enforce compliance with the NAAQS.

**STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program):** A statewide compilation of MPO and rural area TIPs that is submitted by NYSDOT to FHWA and FTA for approval. The STIP serves as the basis for the obligation of federal transportation funds to the State.

**STBG (Surface Transportation Block Grant) Program:** Provides flexible funding that may be used by States and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals. Fifty percent of a State's STBG apportionment is to be obligated to areas in proportion to their relative share of the State's population. Major eligible activities include the construction and rehabilitation of federal-aid eligible highways and bridges on any public road.

**Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):** Federal highway program that supports alternatives to vehicle-based travel such as walking and bicycling projects.

**TDM (Transportation Demand Management):** Activities and programs designed to reduce congestion by reducing the number of single occupant vehicles. Examples include programs to promote ridesharing, transit use, bicycling, and telecommuting.

**TIP (Transportation Improvement Program):** A five-year program of highway, transit, and other transportation capital projects developed by an MPO. All federally funded projects must appear on an approved TIP to be implemented.

**TMA (Transportation Management Area):** A USDOT designation for Urbanized Areas with populations of 200,000 or more. The TMA designation carries additional responsibilities for an MPO. These include a system to disburse Section 5307 funds and a formal federal certification review every four years. The DCTC is

part of the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA.

**Transportation Performance Management:** A strategic approach that uses transportation system data to make investment and policy decisions to achieve national performance goals.

**UCTC (Ulster County Transportation Council):** The MPO for the Kingston metropolitan area, which covers Ulster County.

**UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program):** The statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within a metropolitan planning area over a period of no more than two years. The UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products and identifies which organization will perform the work, the time-periods for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the sources of funds.

**USDOT (United States Department of Transportation):** The federal cabinet department that includes the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

**Urbanized Area:** A densely populated area with a combined minimum population of 50,000, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled):** A measure of vehicle travel that sums the miles driven by all vehicles in a given area, over a specific time-period.



**YOE (Year of Expenditure):** Dollars that are adjusted for inflation, based on the year they will be used.