

Appendix A: Definitions

Definitions

AADT (Average Annual Daily Traffic): The average traffic volume on a given facility over a 24-hour period, adjusted for seasonal variation.

Access Management: Road design concepts that organize access to properties while simultaneously preserving the flow of traffic on the surrounding road system and improving safety, capacity, and speed.

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.

ACS (American Community Survey): An annual survey of a subset of the population by the U.S. Census Bureau. Population, social, housing and economic data is collected. One-, three- and five-year estimates are generated from the data.

ALIS (Accident Location Information System): An electronic database of vehicle crashes created by NYSDOT and the State's Office of Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure Coordination (CSCIC). The data in ALIS comes from crash reports from police agencies and the State's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

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.

Bicycle Lane (Bike Lane): A portion of roadway that has been designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists (New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law).

Bicycle Path (Bike Path): A path completely separated from vehicular traffic and within an independent right of way or the right of way of another facility. Includes travel-ways separated from vehicles, but shared by both bicycles and pedestrians.

BRT (Bus Rapid Transit): A form of bus transit that typically includes a separated bus lane, fewer stops, signal priority, and off-board payment, resulting in faster travel speeds.

Bulb-out: A bulge in the curb intended to narrow the travel lane and thereby reduce the speed of vehicles. Used at intersections to increase visibility of pedestrians and shorten crossing distance.

CAAA (Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990): Federal law which 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

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section of roadway or intersection is able to accommodate in a given time period.

Capital Costs: Non-recurring or infrequently recurring costs of long-term assets, such as land, bus/train stations, buildings, and vehicles.

Carpool: An arrangement in which two or more people share the driving, use and/or cost of traveling in privately owned automobiles between fixed points, often on a regular basis.

Committed Funds: Funds dedicated or obligated for transportation purposes.

Conformity (Transportation 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 PDCTC Metropolitan Transportation Plan), Transportation Improvement Programs, 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 in order to be funded.

CMP (Congestion Management Process): A formal process required 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.

CHIPS (Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program): State funding program that provides counties and municipalities with funds for operating, maintaining, and rehabilitating local highways and bridges. Typically used for projects on non Federal-Aid eligible roadways.

DCDPW (Dutchess County Department of Public Works): Dutchess County department charged with responsibility for County highway, bridge, and building facilities.

Demand-Response Service: Transit service in which passengers request door-to-door or point-to-point service at a specific time; a common example is Dial-A-Ride.

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. All roads included in the Federal-Aid system are functionally classified higher than 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

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the federal-aid highway system. FHWA is a non-voting member of the PDCTC.

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 PDCTC.

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.

Financial/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.

Functional Classification: The process by which highways are grouped into classes according to the character of service they are intended to provide. Classes include Interstate, Principal and Minor Arterial, Major and Minor Collector, and Local. Urban and rural highways have slightly different classes.

Highway: A general term denoting a public way for vehicular

travel. Includes the entire area within the right-of-way.

HBRR (Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation): Federal funding program for rehabilitation and replacement of deficient highway bridges.

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.

HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle): A vehicle carrying two or more passengers, including carpools, vanpools, and buses.

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.

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

LOS (Level of Service): A measure of congestion relating actual or forecasted traffic volume to the capacity of a particular roadway. LOS A indicates free flow traffic; LOS F denotes a very congested roadway in which traffic flow exceeds the capacity of the roadway.

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

Median: The portion of a divided highway separating one direction of traffic from traffic traveling in the opposite direction.

Metropolitan Planning Area: The region in which an MPO carries out its transportation planning responsibilities. The area is designated by the MPO and the Governor in accordance with federal regulations. The PDCTC's metropolitan planning area includes all of Dutchess County.

MNRR (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 PDCTC.

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.

Mode: A particular form of travel, for example, walking, or traveling by automobile, bus, 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.

Multi-Use Path: A facility physically separated from the roadway and intended for shared use by bicyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorized users.

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. Also a federal funding program for projects and programs on designated NHS facilities.

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 PDCTC.

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OCTC (Orange County Transportation Council): MPO for Orange County.

Nonattainment Area: Geographic area designated by the EPA where NAAQS have been exceeded. The Poughkeepsie Ozone Nonattainment Area includes Dutchess, 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.

NHTS (National Household Travel Survey): Periodic survey of travel behavior of a sample of people in the United States.

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 PDCTC.

Park-and-Ride Lot: Parking area where passengers leave their cars for the day and board transit vehicles or join carpools and vanpools.

Planning/Technical Committee: The non-voting body of the 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 the Council.

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

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.

Right-Of-Way (ROW): Land corridors needed for the construction of highways, transit, railroads, and other

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transportation projects.

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

SAFETEA-LU (Safe Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act- A Legacy for Users): Federal law signed in 2005 that governs how federal transportation funds are spent. With guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$244.1 billion, SAFETEA represented the largest surface transportation investment in U.S. history. SAFTEA requirements are jointly administered jointly by FHWA and FTA.

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

Section 5303 (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning): Federal Transit Act section that funds transit planning and research.

Section 5307: Federal Transit Act section that authorizes grants to urban areas under a legislated formula. The program primarily provides funding to urbanized areas for transit capital assistance. It also provides funding for preventive maintenance costs and some Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit service costs.

Section 5309: Federal Transit Act section that authorizes discretionary grants for capital projects. Provides assistance for three main activities: 1) modernization of existing rail systems, 2) new and replacement buses and facilities, and 3)

new fixed guideway systems.

Section 5310: Federal Transit Act section 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 SAFETEA, funding can only be awarded if the project stems from a locally developed Coordinated Public Transportation–Human Service Transportation Plan.

Section 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute): Federal Transit Act section that provides formula funding to support projects that help transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income persons to and from work. Funds can support both capital and operating costs, though each has different local match requirements.

Section 5317 (New Freedom): Federal Transit Act section that provides funding for new public transportation services beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 that assist individuals with disabilities.

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

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 in order to avoid adverse impacts on the

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environment.

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.

STP (Surface Transportation Program): The major federal funding program for transportation projects and plans.

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, 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 with it additional responsibilities for an MPO. These include a Congestion Management Process (CMP), a system to disburse Section

5307 funds, and a formal federal certification review every four years. The PDCTC is part of the Mid-Hudson Valley TMA.

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

UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program): A 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 frames 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: An incorporated place and adjacent densely populated area with a combined minimum population of 50,000, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled): Measure of vehicle travel. The sum of miles driven by all vehicles in a given area over a specific period of time.

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