

GLOSSARY

TRANSPORTATION TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Access, limited (or controlled access) – In transportation, to have entry and exit limited to predetermined points, as with interstates, freeways and rapid transit.

Arterial street – A major thoroughfare used primarily for through traffic rather than for access to abutting land, characterized by high vehicular capacity and continuity of movement.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) – The average number of vehicles that pass a specified point during a 24-hour period.

Base Year – The year to which the major portion of the data gathered in a (transportation) study or survey relates. The base year is also the first year of a planning or forecast period.

Benefit-cost analysis – An analytical technique that compares the costs and benefits (measured in monetary terms) of proposed programs or policy actions. Alternative actions are compared to allow selection of one or more that yields the greatest net benefits or benefit-cost ratio.

Benefit-cost ratio – The ratio of the dollars of discounted benefits achievable to the given outlay of discounted costs.

Capital costs – Nonrecurring or infrequently recurring costs of long-term assets such as land, structures, bridges, roadways, and vehicles (such as publicly owned and operated transit vehicles).

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) – An organized group of local people who supply their ideas and input to a particular (transportation) study or plan.

Constant dollars – Current dollars, that is, the value of the dollar for the year selected as a base, adjusted by using the change in the GNP deflator index or other specified indicator between the current (base) year and the desired year. The intent of using constant dollars is to remove the distortion caused by inflation during the intervening time period.

Corridor – In planning, a broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow or connects major sources of trips. It may contain a number of streets and highways.

Council of Governments (COG) – A voluntary consortium of local government representatives, from contiguous communities, meeting on a regular basis and formed to cooperate on common planning and to solve common development problems of their area. In Central Oklahoma, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) serves as the COG representing the communities within Oklahoma, Cleveland, Canadian, and Logan Counties.

Count (or traffic count) – In transportation, a process that tallies a particular movement of people or vehicles past a given point during a stated time period. It may be a directional or a two-way value.

COTPA – Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority; the transit operator of the Oklahoma City and Norman MetroTransit bus systems.

Cutline – In planning, an imaginary line drawn perpendicular to the flow of traffic to measure congestion in a subarea. Cutlines are generally drawn across major traffic corridors.

Department of Transportation (DOT) – A municipal, county, state, or federal agency responsible for transportation. On the federal level, the U.S. DOT is a cabinet-level federal agency responsible for the planning, safety, and system and technology development of national transportation, including highways, mass transit, aircraft, and ports. On the state level, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) oversees planning, design and construction of transportation improvements statewide under the direction of the Secretary/Director of Transportation.

Endangered or Threatened Species – Animal and plant species which have been identified for special protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Environmental Justice – A 1994 Presidential Executive Order implemented by the United States Department of Transportation that requires agencies receiving federal transportation dollars to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – An independent federal agency in the executive branch whose responsibilities include development and enforcement of national air quality emission standards and support of anti-pollution activities by state and local governments.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – A component of the U.S. Department of Transportation, established to ensure development of an effective national road and highway transportation system. It assists states and local governments in constructing highways and roads.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – A component of the U.S. Department of Transportation, delegated by the Secretary of Transportation to administer the federal transit program under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, and various other statutes.

Forecasting – In planning, the process of determining the future conditions, magnitudes, and patterns within the urban area, such as future population, demographic characteristics and travel demand.

Forecast (or target) year – In planning, the terminal year for a projection. Usually designates the year in the future for which the improvements embraced in the transportation plan are to be designed.

Freeway – A divided highway for through traffic that has full access control and grade separations at all intersections.

Goal – A broad statement of direction in which planning or action is aimed; a general value statement representing an ideal end that the community or area wishes to attain.

Grade separated crossing – A crossing where the intersecting facilities (road, rail, etc.) are separated vertically, by the provision of crossing structures.

HOV Lane – A high occupancy vehicle lane. A lane of traffic that is delineated for use by transit buses or passenger vehicles carrying more than one occupant.

Home-based trip – A trip that has either its origin or destination at the traveler's residence.

Input – Information to be used in an analysis.

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) – The application of advanced technology to current transportation problems, including incident detection, signal coordination, real-time information, and other technology.

Intermodal – The interaction of various modes of transportation, particularly as it relates to connections, choices, coordination and cooperation.

Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee (ITPC) – An OCARTS area committee composed of an elected official from each member entity and representatives of local, state, and federal transportation agencies. This committee is responsible for transportation policies, plan review and adoption, and development of programs for plan implementation.

Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee (ITTC) – An advisory committee to the ITPC composed of technical representatives from each OCARTS entity and representatives of transportation agencies, including staff persons knowledgeable in engineering, planning, and administration. Transportation policies, plans and programs are presented to the ITTC for a recommendation prior to consideration by the ITPC.

ISTEA – Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. The Act was signed into law on December 18, 1991, and was effective for a six-year period (federal fiscal years 1992 through 1997). ISTEA resulted in broad changes to the way transportation decisions are made by emphasizing diversity and balance of modes and preservation of existing systems over construction of new transportation facilities. Plans must consider social, environmental, and energy factors in planning, programming and project selection. ISTEA was replaced by TEA-21.

Land Use – The purpose for which land or the structure on the land is being used; for example, residential, commercial, light industry, etc.

Level of Service (LOS) – A set of characteristics that indicate the quality and quantity of transportation service provided. For highway systems, a qualitative rating of the effectiveness of a highway or highway facility in serving traffic in terms of operating conditions. The Highway Capacity Manual identifies operating conditions ranging from A, for best operation (low volume, high speed), to F, for worst conditions.

Link – A section of a transportation system network defined by intersection points (nodes) at each end. A link connects two nodes, and may be one way or two way.

Major Metropolitan Investment Study (MIS) – The primary purpose of a MIS is to provide a tool for developing strategies for projects identified as needing major investments and involving federal funds. A separate MIS for major investments is no longer required under the guidelines of TEA-21.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) – As designated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, an MSA consists of the central county or counties containing a city or an urbanized area with a population of at least 50,000 and the adjacent or outlying counties that have close economic and social relationships with the central counties, with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000. The term was adopted after the 1980 census and replaces the term Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA).

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – According to the United States Code, the organization designated by the governor and local elected officials as responsible, together with the state, for transportation planning in an urbanized area. It serves as the forum for cooperative decision making by principal elected officials of general local government. In Central Oklahoma, ACOG serves as the MPO.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan – The official intermodal transportation plan developed and adopted through the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) transportation planning process; also known as the long range plan (LRP).

Mode – A means of transporting people and goods which includes automobiles, transit (i.e. buses, carpooling, HOV lanes, fixed guideway), bicycling, walking, air travel, railroads, waterways, and trucking.

Multimodal – Refers to all types of transportation.

Network, OCARTS – In highway engineering, the configuration of major streets and highways that constitutes the regional system.

Non-home based trip – A trip that has neither its origin nor its destination at a residence.

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (Section 402 (a) (1) of the Clean Water Act) – set up to control the disposal of pollutants into navigable waters of the United States. A permit must be sought and approved prior to allowing any discharge into a waterway.

OCARTS – Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study; OCARTS refers to a geographical area within Central Oklahoma (for transportation planning) which includes all of the currently urbanized area plus the surrounding area which is anticipated to become urbanized over the next 20 years. The OCARTS area encompasses all of Oklahoma County and portions of Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Logan and McClain Counties.

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) – An agency of the State of Oklahoma responsible for collecting and analyzing various population and employment statistics. The OESC also provides data to the U.S. Department of Labor for federal government level statistical analysis.

Output – Something produced, such as the result of an analytical process.

Parameter – A measurable fixed characteristic of a sample or population. Also an independent variable used in the development of mathematical models.

Right-of-way (ROW) – A general term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.

Study area – In this study, the transportation study area is synonymous with the OCARTS area; also known as metropolitan planning area and the transportation management area (TMA).

Superfund – Also known as **CERCLA** (Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act). A law that provides for compensation, cleanup, and emergency response for hazardous substances released into the environment, and the cleanup of hazardous waste disposal sites.

Transportation Demand Management – Tools designed to maximize the people-moving capability of the transportation system by increasing the number of people in each vehicle or by influencing the time of, or need to travel. To accomplish these demand-side changes, TDM programs must rely on incentives or disincentives to make the shifts in behavior attractive. The term TDM encompasses both the alternatives to driving alone and the techniques or supporting strategies that encourage the use of these modes. Specific TDM strategies include public support, employer based support, telecommunications, land use policies, and public policy such as pricing or other regulation.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) – TEA-21 was signed into law on June 9, 1998, and is effective for a six-year period (federal fiscal years 1998 through 2003). Federal funds for surface transportation and transit are guaranteed through fiscal year 2003. TEA-21 builds upon the initiatives and structure established in ISTEA. New areas of program focus include safety, environmental quality, and ITS research and development.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – The TIP is a financially constrained short range document that lists specific projects to be implemented within the transportation planning area. Projects included in the TIP must be consistent with the long-range plan, and inclusion of projects in the TIP is a requirement for the use of federal transportation funding.

Transportation System Management (TSM) – That part of the urban transportation planning process undertaken to improve the efficiency of the existing transportation system. The intent is to make better use of the existing transportation system by using short-term, low capital transportation improvements that generally cost less and can be implemented more quickly than large, capital intensive options.

Trip – A one-way movement of a person or vehicle between two points for a specific purpose; sometimes called a one-way trip to distinguish it from a round trip.

Trip purpose – The primary reason for making a trip; for example, work, shopping, medical appointment, recreation.

Urban transportation planning process – The federally required planning process for urbanized areas that is aimed at developing programs to meet a region's transportation needs by analyzing the existing system and preparing plans and studies in a comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative manner. Also known as the metropolitan planning process, it results in several documents including a unified planning work program (UPWP), a transportation improvement program (TIP), and a long-range regional transportation plan (LRP).

Vehicle Hours of Travel (VHT) – On roadways, a measurement of the total hours traveled by all vehicles in the area for a specified time period. It is calculated by multiplying the number of vehicles times the number of hours traveled in a given area or on a given roadway during the time period.

Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) – On roadways, a measurement of the total miles traveled by all vehicles in the area for a specified time period. It is calculated by multiplying the number of vehicles times the number of miles traveled in a given area or on a given roadway during the time period. In transit, the number of vehicle miles operated on a given route or line or network during a specified time period.

Volume – In transportation, the number of units (passengers or vehicles) that pass a point on a transportation facility during a specified interval of time, usually one hour.

Volume-to-Capacity Ratio (V/C Ratio) – A measure of the congestion level of streets and highways which compares the vehicular carrying capacity of a roadway with the actual volume of vehicles which travel the roadway, within a specified period of time.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials
ACOG	Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
APTAC	Areawide Planning and Technical Advisory Committee
B/C	Benefit to Cost
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
CBD	Central Business District
CMS	Congestion Management System
COTPA	Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority
CTPP	Census Transportation Planning Package
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EDP	Early Deployment Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAR	Flexible Attainment Region
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GAM	Growth Allocation Model
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle
IME	Intermodal Element
IMS	Intermodal Management System
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
ITPC	Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
ITTC	Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee
LOS	Level of Service

L RTP	Long Range Transit Plan
MIS	Major Metropolitan Investment Study
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOX	Nitrogen Oxide
NPTS	National Personal Transportation Survey
OCARTS	Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study
ODOC	Oklahoma Department of Commerce
ODOT	Oklahoma Department of Transportation
OESC	Oklahoma Employment Security Commission
OTA	Oklahoma Transportation Authority
PIP	Public Involvement Process
ROW	Right-of-Way
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
SOV	Single Occupancy Vehicle
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TMA	Transportation Management Area
TRB	Transportation Research Board (of the National Academy of Sciences)
TSM	Transportation Systems Management
V/C	Volume to Capacity
VHT	Vehicle Hours of Travel
VMT	Vehicle Miles of Travel
WRWA	Will Rogers World Airport