

THE TRANSPAC ACRONYM DECODER RING

Acronyms/Transportation Terms

AA – Alternatives Analysis: An analysis of the engineering and financial feasibility of alternatives under consideration for a rail extension or other major transit construction project, required before federal monies can be allocated to a project. An AA is usually done in conjunction with a DEIS and a DEIR, leading to a mix that boils over into alphabet soup: AA/DEIS/DEIR study. The same type of analysis for road projects is called an **MIS (Major Investment Study)**.

AASHTO – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials: An interest group based in Washington, D.C., whose membership is obvious from the name. Involved in research, advocacy and technical assistance.

AB – Assembly Bill

ABAG – Association of Bay Area Governments: A voluntary association of counties and cities (otherwise known as a **Council of Governments, COG**) that is the land-use planning agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. Also provides demographic, financial, administrative, training and conference services to local governments and businesses. A member sits on MTC. ABAG publishes forecasts of projected growth for the region and adopts housing need numbers which are used in Housing Elements.

Accessibility: The extent to which facilities are usable by people with disabilities, including wheelchair users.

ACE – Altamont Commuter Express: A commuter train service providing trips between Stockton and San Jose.

Action Plan: A document prepared by a Regional Transportation Planning Committee that includes: (1) a specific program for each designated Route of Regional Significance consisting of traffic service objectives and actions and implementing responsibilities; (2) regional actions for reducing congestion such as land use policy changes and demand management strategies; and (3) a process for monitoring and review of activities that might affect performance of the regional transportation system. (Detailed information about Action Plan requirements is included in the Authority's Growth Management Program Implementation Documents).

AC Transit: A bus service operator in Alameda and Western Contra Costa counties. Berkeley is located within AC Transit's service area.

ADA – Americans With Disabilities Act: Federal civil rights legislation for disabled persons passed in 1990; calls on public transit systems to make their services more fully accessible as well as to underwrite a parallel network of paratransit service.

ADT – Average Daily Traffic: The average number of vehicles passing a specified point during a 24-hour period.

Ad Valorem Tax: A tax based on value (e.g. a property tax).

Air Carrier: A commercial airliner with published schedules operating at least five round trips per week.

Air Taxi: An Aircraft certificated for commercial service available for hire on demand.

Allocated: When either a check for the full amount is given or it is put into an account to be used by municipality. A promise to make the funds available.

Alternative Modes or Alternative Transportation: Any way of getting from Point A to Point B other than driving alone in a car, van or truck. Alternative modes include carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, walking, or riding transit.

APCC – Action Plan Coordinating Committee: Refers to a CCTA committee of the technical staff from each RTPC responsible for the development of each subregion's Action Plan for Routes of Regional Significance. APCC also works with the TDM Program Managers on transportation demand management projects and programs for Contra Costa.

APCC/TDM Program Managers: A joint committee of Action Plan Managers and TDM Program Managers charged with implementation of the Contra Costa Commute Alternative Network (511contracosta), implementation of BAAQMD requirements for TFCA funding of TSM programs and recommendations on funding of TSM projects.

Apportioned: The formula share from which one receives funds. Example: The city's apportionment grew by 5% this year.

APTA – American Public Transit Association: An international lobbying and research organization for transit operators and suppliers based in Washington, D.C.

APTS – Advanced Public Transportation Systems. See IVHS.

AQAP – Air Quality Attainment Plan: The plan for attainment of state air quality standards, as required by the California Clean Air Act of 1988. It is adopted by air quality districts and subject to approval by the State Air Resources Board.

ARB – Air Resources Board, aka CARB: The California state agency responsible for adopting state air quality standards, establishing emission standards for new cars sold in the state, and overseeing activities of regional and local air pollution control agencies.

Arrival Procedure: A series of directions from air traffic control, using fixes and procedures, to guide an aircraft from the enroute environment to an airport for landing.

ARTCC – Air Route Traffic Control Center: A facility providing air traffic control to aircraft on an IFR flight plan within controlled airspace and principally during the enroute phase of flight.

Arterial Streets: provide for traffic movement through a city or between cities.

Article XIX Restriction: A provision in the California Constitution that limits the use of state gasoline tax revenues to projects related to roadway (including bicycle and pedestrian projects) or fixed guide way (rail or trolley coach) improvements.

ATC – also known as FasTrak Automated Toll Collection, aka electronic toll collection (IVHS term): Now even law-abiding commuters will be able to zoom past the toll takers. Sensors at toll booths will pick up billing information from devices installed in cars, allowing motorists to drive through without stopping. The amount of the toll is automatically deducted from a prepaid account or billed to the vehicle's owner.

ATCT – Airport Traffic Control Tower – A central operations tower in the terminal air traffic control system with an associated IFR room if radar equipped, using air/ground communications and/or radar, visual signaling and other devices to provide safe, expeditious movement of air traffic.

ATIS – Advanced Traveler Information Systems (IVHS term): No more fumbling with the map, no more dreading unknown traffic hazards that lurk ahead of you -- these innovations provide travelers with information to help in trip planning and changing course en route to bypass congestion, e.g., broadcast traffic reports, in-car computerized maps and highway Changeable Message Signs (CMS). Also can include automated transit trip planning and automated rideshare matching.

ATMS – advanced traffic management systems (IVHS term): A high-tech version of the old-fashioned traffic cop, ATMS uses a variety of means to more efficiently manage traffic. It can include roadside sensors, ramp metering, HOV lanes and synchronized traffic signals that respond to traffic flows. May also be known as "smart corridor".

Authority: Contra Costa Transportation Authority aka CCTA.

Authorized: Legislation assigns a dollar amount which is the maximum amount that can be spent. They can be trust funds or annual. Example: The legislative body authorizes the total amount of funds which can be budgeted for the two-year cycle.

Automated Guideway Transit: Guided transit vehicles operating singly or multi-car trains with a fully automated system (no crew on transit units). Service may be on a fixed schedule or in response to a passenger-activated call button. Automated guideway transit includes personal rapid transit, group rapid transit and people mover systems.

AVCS – advanced vehicle control system (IVHS term): New techniques to ease the stresses and strains of driving are evolving, possibly leading to the day when you may be able to sit back and leave your car in charge. AVCS spans the gamut from ordinary cruise control to "smart cruise control" that helps maintain safe following distance to, researchers hope, "platooning"---the ability to electronically link and guide a dense pack of cars moving in formation at high speed.

Average Daily Traffic: It is the total volume of traffic passing a single point of a roadway in both directions for a 24-hour period.

Average Travel Time: It is the time spent by drivers on road segment between two locations.

AVI – automated vehicle identification (IVHS term): You won't even be asked to flash your driver's license when this system is in place. It combines an in-car device as well as a roadside receiver that will identify vehicles for purposes of automated toll collection, stolen vehicle recovery, etc.

AVL – automated vehicle location system (IVHS term): This computerized system can tell you the answer: It employs satellites and other technologies to track vehicles in a fleet, assisting with dispatching and other applications. Currently used by truckers and courier services, it could be used in the future by transit systems to provide real-time schedule information for patrons, and will help the CHP monitor Freeway Service Patrol tow trucks.

AVO – average vehicle occupancy: The number of people traveling by private passenger vehicles divided by the number of vehicles used.

AVR – average vehicle ridership: The ratio 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. A key measure of the efficiency and effectiveness of a transportation network--the higher the AVR, the better you're doing in terms of energy consumption and air pollution.

Awarded: This refers to a contract, not funds. A contract is awarded once the selection process has been completed and a contractor has been chosen.

AWSC – All Way Stop Controlled

Basic Routes: All local roads not designated as Routes of Regional Significance. Measure C level-of-service standards, which are tied to adjoining land uses, apply to all signalized intersections on Basic Routes.

BAAQMD – Bay Area Air Quality Management District: Since the acronym seems to take longer to say than the full name, it is referred to as the Air District or the Air Board. The regional agency created by the state legislature for the Bay Area air basin (Alameda, CCC, half of Solano, half of Sonoma, Marin, Napa, SF, San Mateo, Santa Clara counties) is charged with implementation of the Clean Air Act. Polices industry to keep air pollution in check and implements certain Transportation Control Measures (TCMs). The Air District prepares the CAP with input from ABAG and MTC. Also allocates Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) funds.

Bay Area Partnership: This group often referred to as “The Partnership” is a confederation of the top staff of various regional transportation agencies (MTC, public transit operators, county CMAs, city and county public works depts., ports, Caltrans, U.S. DOT, environmental protection agencies). The Partnership works by consensus to improve the overall efficiency and operation of the Bay Area’s transportation network, including developing strategies for financing transportation improvements.

BART (San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District): A heavy rail commuter system serving Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and San Mateo counties in the San Francisco Bay Area. An extension to the San Francisco Airport has been completed and an extension Fremont to San Jose is being discussed. Other extensions to Eastern Contra Costa and the Tri-Valley, etc., called eBART and tBART, are under analysis. These extensions may use a lightweight, self-propelled diesel multiple-unit rail vehicle (DMU) with a 135 seat capacity and a 75 mph maximum speed. For more information about BART, check out www.bart.gov.

BATA – Bay Area Toll Authority: Created by the State legislature and acting as a separate legal entity of MTC to administer the base \$1 toll from the Bay Area’s seven state-owned (which one isn’t

state-owned?) toll bridges, a responsibility previously held by the California Transportation Commission. The second dollar is a surcharge to cover seismic retrofit costs, which is administered by Caltrans. The state Legislature created BATA in 1998 to take over this responsibility from the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

BCDC – Bay Conservation and Development Commission: A state-established agency with jurisdiction over filling and dredging of San Francisco Bay and jurisdiction over development within 100 feet of the Bay; a representative sits on MTC.

Bicycle Facilities: Categorized according to the degree to which bicycle circulation is separated from vehicular circulation.

Bid Targets: Based on the county minimum formula, each county is limited in the amount of funds that can be requested from the state in a given STIP cycle. This limit is called the bid target. In a multi-county region such as MTC, bid targets can be pooled to give additional flexibility at the regional level. MTC also uses bid targets for the federal Surface Transportation Program and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program under the ISTEA and TEA-21 federal funding programs.

Bill: A proposed law introduced during a session for consideration by the Legislature and identified as AB or SB (indicating whether the amendment was introduced on the Assembly or Senate side of the California legislature) plus a numeric identification in order of presentation. Also a reference that may include joint and concurrent resolutions and constitutional amendments.

Bond: A City may raise capital by issuing a written promise to pay a specified sum of money called the face value, or principal amount, at a specified date or dates in the future, together with periodic interest, at a special rate.

BOS – Board of Supervisors: The term BOS refers to those Commissioners appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

BTCC – Bus Transit Coordinating Council

Budget: A plan of financial and program operations which lists appropriations and the means of financing for a given time period.

Busway: Exclusive freeway lane for buses and carpools.

CAA – Clean Air Act, aka FCAA: Federal legislation that sets national air quality standards; requires each state with areas that have not met federal air quality standards to prepare a State Implementation Plan. The sweeping 1990 amendments to the CAA, sometimes referred to as CAAA, established new air quality requirements for the development of metropolitan transportation plans and programs.

CAC – Citizens Advisory Committee

Caltrans – California State Department of Transportation: Owner/operator of the state highway system.

CAP – (Bay Area) Clean Air Plan: A regional plan adopted by the BAAQMD in response to the California Clean Air Act to meet state standards for ozone and carbon monoxide pollution (which in the case of the ozone standard is more stringent than the federal standard). Includes TCMs to reduce vehicle emissions as well as controls on stationary sources of pollution like factories.

Capital Funds: Moneys to cover one-time costs for construction of new projects — such as roads, bridges, bicycle/pedestrian paths, transit lines and transit facilities — to expand the capacity of the transportation system, or to cover the purchase of buses and rail cars.

Capital Improvements: Physical improvements which typically cost over \$5,000 and will have a useful life of a year or more and involve the construction or reconstruction of a physical asset. Examples are street resurfacing, storm drain construction, recreation, facility construction, etc.

Capital Outlay: "All money allocated by the California Transportation Commission from the State Highway Account, and the net revenues from the passenger rail bond transportation Bond Fund for streets, highways, guideways, and rail, but not including allocations or expenditures for projects for maintenance, traffic system management, intercity rail and the state-local partnership program, which are expended for construction, including the acquisition of rights-of-way, reconstruction, and construction engineering." (Streets and Highways Code, Section 188)

Capital Priorities: A process used by MTC to evaluate and prioritize transit projects in the region. All sources of transit funding, including federal grants, state programs, and other sources are considered. This process involves all of the transit operators in the region, including bus, rail, and ferries.

CARB – California Air Resources Board: See ARB.

Carpool: Two to six people traveling together in the same vehicle for the majority of a trip.

CBD – Central Business District

CBPP – Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

CCAA – California Clean Air Act of 1988: Why we do a CAP.

CCCFCWD – Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

CCCTA – Central Contra Costa Transit Authority: Also known as County Connection or "triple CTA", it is the Central County bus company. It provides service within the Central County and San Ramon Valley areas with connections at BART stations and to other bus carriers at key transfer points. It is **not** the CCTA – the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

CDFG – California Department of Fish and Game

Commuter Rail: Urban passenger train service for local short-distance travel operating between a central city and adjacent suburbs. Service must be operated on a regular basis by or under contract with a transit operator for the purpose of transporting passengers within urbanized areas, or between urbanized areas and outlying areas. Such rail service, using either locomotive-hauled or self-propelled railroad passenger cars, is generally characterized by multi-trip tickets, specific

station-to-station fares, railroad employment practices and usually only one or two stations in the central business district. It does not include heavy rail rapid transit or light rail/street car transit service. Intercity rail service is excluded, except for that portion of such service that is operated by or under contract with a public transit agency for predominately commuter services. Predominately commuter services means that for any given trip segment (i.e., distance between any two stations), over 50 percent of the average daily ridership travels on the train at least three times a week. Only the predominately commuter service portion of the intercity route is eligible for inclusion when determining commuter rail route miles.

... **Light Rail:** Lightweight passenger rail cars operating singly (or in short, usually two-car, trains) on fixed rails in right-of-way that is not separated from other traffic for much of the way. Light rail vehicles are driven electrically with power being drawn from an overhead electric line via a trolley or a pantograph.

...**Heavy Rail:** High-speed, passenger rail cars operating singly or in trains of two or more cars on fixed rails in separate rights-of-way from which all other vehicular and foot traffic are excluded.

Constitutional Amendment: A resolution proposing a change to the California Constitution. It may be presented by the Legislature or by initiative and is adopted upon voter approval at a statewide election. May be referred to as ACA or SCA, indicating whether the amendment was introduced on the Assembly or Senate side of the California legislature plus a numeric identification in order of presentation.

CCTA – Contra Costa Transportation Authority: (Not to be confused with the bus company defined above) A Transportation Authority established pursuant to SB 142. CCTA may also be referred to as the Authority or the Partnership and occasionally is incorrectly referred to as TRANSPAC (see below). CCTA should not be confused with the other CCTA, Contra Costa Taxpayers' Association or as noted CCCTA, the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority. CCTA also functions as Contra Costa's Congestion Management Agency (CMA). See below.

CCTA Subcommittees:

APC – Administration and Programs Committee: Responsible for administrative, legal, legislative, personnel and office matters for the Commission as well as project and program development, allocation recommendations etc.

CAC – Citizens' Advisory Committee: CAC is a citizens' advisory committee. Representatives are appointed by each local jurisdiction (20) and seven (7) by the Authority.

Executive Committee: empowered to act on CCTA issues in an emergency. Composed of the CCTA Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Chairs.

PC – Planning Committee: A subcommittee of the Authority dealing with growth management and other planning issues.

TCC – Technical Coordinating Committee of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority: The TCC is composed of staff engineers and planners from Contra Costa Cities and the County, Caltrans and MTC. TRANSPAC and each RTPC designates members of its TAC (one city planner, one city engineer and one transportation planner) to attend TCC meetings.

CDBG – Community Development Block Grant

Census Data: Information used by transportation planners to make projections about future Bay Area travel patterns, housing needs and the like. Required by the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Census is a complete enumeration of the population conducted every 10 years by the U.S. Census Bureau (the last one was completed in 2000).

CEQA – California Environmental Quality Act of 1970: See EIR. State law providing certain environmental protections that apply to all transportation projects funded with state funds.

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

CHP – California Highway Patrol: You know who they are!

CIP – Capital Improvement Program: Multi-year investment program (5,7,20 years, etc.) for capital projects including project descriptions and financial plans. Measure C and the Congestion Management Program both require the development of CIP's. CMP CIP means the Capital Improvement Program required by the Congestion Management Program (CMP).

CMA – Congestion Management Agency: A countywide organization responsible for preparing and implementing the county's CMP. The CMA can be a new or existing public agency designated by a county's cities and board of supervisors. CMAs came into existence as a result of state legislation and voters' approval of Prop. 111 in 1990 (increase in State gas tax). Subsequent legislation made them optional. Most Bay Area counties still have them. Many CMAs double as a county's sales tax authority. In Contra Costa County, the CCTA is the designated CMA.

CMAQ – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program: A pot of money contained in Federal ISTEA legislation for projects and activities that reduce congestion and improve air quality in regions that have not attained federal air quality standards.

CMP – Congestion Management Program: Administered by the CMA (see above), and required by the passage of Proposition 111 (June, 1990) of every county in California with an urbanized area of at least 50,000 people. Updated biennially, a CMP sets performance standards for roadways and public transit, and shows how local jurisdictions will attempt to meet those standards through TDM strategies (including a Trip Reduction Ordinance) and a seven-year capital improvement program. The CMP requires the establishment of traffic level of service requirements, trip reduction programs involving transportation systems management and job/housing balance strategies and capital improvement programming for reducing the cumulative regional traffic impacts of development. A CMP is necessary in order to qualify for certain funds made available through the state gas tax increase authorized in 1990. CMPs must be consistent with the RTP. Measure C was used as a model for the CMP legislation although the CMP was modified for statewide application. The requirements of the two programs are very similar.

CMS – Changeable Message Sign: Signs on the side of the road with information indicating construction ahead, change in freeway configuration or reason for delay.

CNEL – Community Noise Equivalent Level

CNG – Compressed Natural Gas: A clean-burning alternative fuel for vehicles.

CO – Carbon Monoxide

COG – Council of Governments: A voluntary organization of local governments that strives for comprehensive, regional planning. If you are in a fog over the duties of your local COG, let it be known that a COG can also be an M.O., an RTP, a CMA, or any combination of the four.

Collector Streets: Connects arterial streets and local streets and provide traffic circulation within residential, commercial and industrial areas.

COM – Conference of Mayors: The Contra Costa Mayors' Conference. The term "COM Rep" refers to the Mayors' Conference representative to the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

Committed Revenues: Revenues that are dedicated by law, ballot measure or prior MTC programming actions to specific transportation investments. Committed revenues comprise the vast majority of all funds identified in the long-term regional transportation plan. (Also see Uncommitted Revenues.)

Community Bus Routes: Transit routes that operate on fixed route/fixed schedule that join key trip generators and attractors within the local community. The routes provide frequent service within a small service area to locations such as apartment complexes, senior residences, transit hubs, retail concentrations, educational institutions and employment centers.

Commute: Travel between work and home.

Commuter Airline: Operator of small aircraft (maximum size of 30 seats) performing scheduled service between two or more points.

CCR: Three letter designator for the Buchanan Field Airport.

Conformity: A process in which transportation plans and spending programs are reviewed to ensure the plans are consistent with federal clean air requirements; transportation projects collectively must not worsen air quality.

County Minimums: Instituted in 1983 by SB 215 (Foran), the county minimum represents the minimum share of state fund programming each county should receive. Under this Statute (Section 188.8 of the Streets and Highways Code), 70% of the capital outlay funds must be expended in each county according to a formula based 75% on county population and 25% on centerline state highway miles in the county. The county minimum is accounted for over a fixed five-year period called a quinquennium.

Couplet: It is the term for parallel one-way roadways that accommodate traffic streams traveling in opposite directions.

Critical Intersection Traffic Volumes: Applies to the combination of the highest conflicting traffic volumes (north/south and east/west) passing through an intersection.

Cross-section: Is the term that describes street width (traffic lanes) and other features (such as medians and bicycle lanes).

CSMP – Corridor System Management Plan

CTC – California Transportation Commission: A nine-member board appointed by the Governor to oversee and administer state and federal transportation funds and provide oversight on project delivery. The CTC adopts the State Transportation Improvement Program, or STIP, and implements state transportation policy.

CTP – California Transportation Plan: A requirement of ISTEA and TEA-21 for states to prepare as a long-range, policy-oriented plan for all transportation modes.

Cul-de-sacs: Short streets with a single access point.

Curb-to-curb: Refers to demand responsive transportation wherein services are provided from the curb of the origin to the curb of the destination.

CVO – commercial vehicle operations: See IVHS.

CY – Calendar Year

dB – decibels; dBA: decibels adjusted for A-weighting

Deadhead: Refers to the time in hours or miles spent driving a bus to or from the beginning or end of its route without passengers.

Debt: An obligation resulting from the borrowing of money or purchase of goods and services. Debts of governments include bonds, time warrants and notes.

Debt Service Requirements: The amount of money required to pay interest on outstanding debt, serial maturities of principal for serial bonds and required contributions to accumulate monies for future retirement of term bonds.

Decibel (dB): In sound, decibels measure a scale from the threshold of human hearing, 0 dB, upward towards the threshold of pain, about 120-140 dB. Because decibels are such a small measure, decibels are computed logarithmically and cannot be added arithmetically. An increase of ten dB is generally perceived by human ears as a doubling of noise.

dBA: A-weighted decibels adjust sound pressure towards the frequency range of human hearing.

dBC: C-weighted decibels adjust sound pressure towards the low frequency end of the spectrum. Although less consistent with human hearing than A-weighting, dBC can be used to consider the impacts of certain low frequency operations.

DEIR/DEIS – Draft Environmental Impact Report: Prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). See EIR/EIS.

Demand Responsive Transit: Public transportation system which provides service door-to-door or point-to-point at the user's request.

DNL: Day/night noise level – The daily average noise metric in which that noise occurring between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is penalized by 10 db. DNL is often expressed as annual average noise levels.

DNL Contour: The "map" of noise exposure around an airport. A contour is computed through a FAA model called the Integrated Noise Model (INM), which calculates the annual noise exposure. FAA defines significant noise exposure as any area within the 65dB DNL contour; that is the area within an annual average noise exposure of 65 decibels or higher.

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."

Door-to-door: Refers to demand responsive transportation wherein services are provided from the door of the origin to the door of the destination.

DOT – Department of Transportation: At the federal level, a cabinet agency with responsibility for highways, mass transit, aviation and ports; headed by the secretary of transportation. The DOT includes the FHWA, the FTA and the FAA, among others. There are also state DOTs (California's is referred to as Caltrans).

Drawn Down: Using funds which have been awarded.

Duration: The length of time in seconds that a noise event lasts. Duration is usually measured in time above a specific noise threshold.

EBMUD – East Bay Municipal Utilities District

EBRPD – East Bay Regional Parks District

EBTR – Employer-Based Trip Reduction Program

ECCID – East Contra Costa Irrigation District

EIR/EIS – Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement: An analysis of the environmental impacts of proposed land development and transportation projects; it's an EIR when developed pursuant to The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, 1970 as amended), and an EIS when conducted for federally funded or approved projects per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 1969 as amended). A Draft EIR or Draft EIS (DEIR and DEIS often prepared simultaneously) is circulated to the public and agencies for comments. A DEIR or DEIS grows up to be a certified Final EIR or Final EIS. Once this process is completed, a project is considered to be "environmentally cleared" and design construction/implementation may proceed.

Eminent Domain: The power of a government to acquire private property for public purposes. It is used frequently to obtain real property that cannot be purchased from owners in a voluntary transaction. When the power of eminent domain is exercised, owners normally are compensated by the government in an amount determined by the courts.

Encumbered: The point at which there is a complete contract. Used in various terms, encumbered is one type of obligation.

Encumbrances: Financial commitments related to unperformed services or contracts for goods for which part of an appropriation has been reserved.

Entitlement: The amount of payment to which a state or local government is entitled pursuant to an allocation formula contained in applicable statutes.

Environmental Justice: This term stems from a Presidential Executive Order to promote equity for disadvantaged communities and promote the inclusion of racial and ethnic populations and low-income communities in decision-making. Local and regional transportation agencies must ensure that services and benefits, as well as burdens, are fairly distributed to avoid discrimination.

Equity Analysis: Consistent with federal requirements for environmental justice, MTC conducts an equity analysis covering the 25-year regional transportation plan to determine how the benefits and burdens of the plan's investment strategy affect minority and low-income communities.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (federal)

ETC – employee transportation coordinator: An employee designated by a business or organization to assist its workers with forming carpools and vanpools. (Also stands for electronic toll collection: See ATC.)

Expended: Same as drawn down, but uses its own funds.

Expenditures: Expenditures include current operating expenses which require the current or future use of net current assets, service and capital outlays.

Expenses: Decreases in net total assets. Expenses represent total cost of operations during a period regardless of the timing of related expenditures.

FAA – Federal Aviation Administration: The Federal Aviation Administration is the agency responsible for aircraft safety, movement and controls. See DOT

FasTrak: Allows drivers to go non-stop through Bay Area Toll Plazas through a prepaid account.

FCAA – Federal Clean Air Act: See CAA.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

FHWA – Federal Highway Administration: (Why not FHA? That acronym was already taken, so they threw in a 'W'.) See DOT. FHWA also governs the safety of hazardous cargo on the nation's highways.

FIP – Federal Implementation Plan: When you don't do your SIP as required by the CAA, you get "FIPped," which means the feds step in and do one for you.

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 Transit: A transit vehicle, such as a bus, which follows one or more established routes. It is different from other modes of transportation, such as taxicabs or demand-response, in which each trip may differ in its origin and destination.

Flexible funding: Unlike funding that flows only to highways or only to transit by an established formula, this is money that can be invested on a range of transportation projects. Examples include the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the Congestion Management and Air Quality program (CMAQ).

FRR – Farebox Recovery Ratio: The total fare value divided by total expenses.

FSP – Freeway Service Patrol: Faster than you can say "change my tire" chances are this free, roving tow truck service will be by to get you moving. FSP trucks aid stranded motorists and help to clear incidents along 100 miles of the region's most congested freeways. The program is administered by MTC.

FTA – Federal Transit Administration: (Pre-ISTEA, known as the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, or UMTA.) This Division of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) administers federal transit programs, provides financial and planning assistance to help plan, build and operate rail, bus and paratransit systems. The agency also assists in the development of local and regional traffic reduction programs.

FTE – Full-time Equivalent (Employee)

FTIP (Federal Transportation Improvement Program): A three-year list of all transportation projects proposed for federal transportation funding within the planning area of an MPO (for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)).

Financial Constraint: A federal requirement that long-range transportation plans include only projects that have a reasonable expectation of being funded, based upon anticipated revenues. In other words, long-range transportation plans cannot be pie-in-the-sky wish lists of projects. They must reflect realistic assumptions about revenues that will likely be available during the 25 years covered in the plan.

Fund Estimate: The STIP cycle begins with the development of the Fund Estimate, which compares existing commitments against total estimated revenue expected from state and federal sources. Caltrans estimates state and federal funds "reasonably expected" in annual increments for 5 years (the STIP period). The calculation of existing capital program commitments is based on Caltrans' Project Delivery Report, while non-capital expenditures of operation and administration costs are estimated based on current spending and projected needs. This comparison of revenues to commitments results in an estimate of total uncommitted funds that are available for programming and which are then prorated to each program category.

FY – Fiscal Year: Annual schedule for keeping financial records and for budgeting transportation funds. California's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30, while the federal fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

GA – General Aviation: Civil aviation excluding air carriers, commercial operators and military aircraft.

GME – Growth Management Element: Required in local jurisdiction General Plans by the Measure C Growth Management Program.

GMP – Growth Management Program

Goal: Statement describing in general terms a condition or quality desired by the jurisdiction. Goals may be used as the policy basis for standards and objectives.

Grant: Contributions or gifts of cash or other assets from a governmental entity or private organization to be used or expended for a specific purpose, activity or facility.

Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH): A program which offers a free ride home to employees who have traveled to work using a mode other than driving alone, in the event of an emergency. Programs can be provided by employers or public entities, like the City or County. Free rides can be provided by a taxi service, fleet vehicles, or rental cars.

Handicap Accessible Parking: Specially designated parking spaces conveniently located at building access points and pedestrian facilities; designed to specific dimensions.

HAR – Highway Advisory Radio (IVHS term): "Chains required on Donner Summit." Such radio warnings broadcast via a special frequency are to assist drivers who want to prepare for, or avoid altogether, hazardous or difficult road conditions ahead. See TOS.

HCD – Housing and Community Development Department of the State of California: administers Housing Element requirements for jurisdictions.

HCM – Highway Capacity Manual: A manual of procedures on how to calculate the capacity of freeways, roads and intersections.

Headway: The scheduled length of time between buses or trains on a transit route.

HIP – Housing Incentive Program: A program initiated by MTC to provide seed money to municipalities and development partners to encourage the development of compact residential communities near public transit hubs.

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.

Horizon Year: It is a future year assumed for the analysis so that anticipated traffic characteristics can be identified.

HOT Lanes – High Occupancy Toll Lanes: The use of excess capacity in a carpool lane, commuter lane or diamond lane reserved for buses, vanpools and carpools (2 or 3 occupants per car) by paying customers in single occupant cars.

HOV: High Occupancy Vehicle. May also refer to a road or freeway lane or facility for buses and carpools.

HOV lane – High-Occupancy-Vehicle lane: The technical term for a carpool lane, commuter lane or diamond lane reserved for buses, vanpools and carpools (2 or 3 occupants per car).

HPD – Historic Properties Directory

HVAC – Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

IFR – Instrument Flight Rules: Rules and regulations established by the FAA to govern flight under conditions in which flight by visual reference is not safe.

ILS – Instrument Landing System: A precision instrument approach system which normally consists of a localizer, glide slope, outer marker, middle marker, and approach lights.

Inclined Plane: Special tramway type of vehicles operating up and down slopes on rails via a cable mechanism so that passenger seats remain horizontal while the undercarriage (truck) is angled parallel to the slope.

Infrastructure: Facilities on which the continuance and growth of a community depend on such as roads, water lines, sewers, public buildings, parks and so forth.

In-Lieu Tax: Tax levied in place of another tax or taxes. The State of California provides in-lieu motor vehicle fees to local governments to compensate for local personal property, not subject to property tax.

Instrument Approach: A series of predetermined maneuvers for the orderly transfer of an aircraft under instrument flight conditions from the beginning of the initial approach to a landing, or to a point from which a landing may be made visually.

Intermodal: The term “mode” is used to refer to a means of transportation, such as automobile, bus, train, ship, bicycle and walking. Intermodal refers specifically to the connections between and among modes and may be a designated location where such connections occur.

Interregional Travel: As defined in California Government Code Section 65088.1(g), "any trip that originates outside the boundary of the agency." i.e. trips to or going through Contra Costa County from another county.

IOZ – (CMP) Infill Opportunity Zones

IRRS – Interregional Road System: On 2/1/90 Caltrans submitted a plan to the state legislature that identified a set of projects that "Will provide the most adequate interregional road system to all economic centers in the State." Statute defines eligible routes that were included, and specified that these be located outside the boundaries of urbanized areas of over 50,000 population, "except as necessary to provide connection for continuation of the routes within urban areas." From this plan, Caltrans includes projects, consistent with the Fund estimate, in its PSTIP to the CTC for programming in the STIP.

ISTEA (pronounced ICE TEA as though you were going to drink it) – INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1991: A seminal piece of legislation passed by Congress in December of 1991 that provides for major restructuring of the highway program. Key components of this Act include greatly increased flexibility in the programming of projects, a "level playing field" between highway and transit projects with a consistent 80/20 matching ratio, ties to the Federal Clean Air Act and Americans with Disabilities Act, major earmarks for the Bay Area's New

Rail Starts program, with an emphasis on maintenance of the existing system and operation improvements. ISTEA stressed the importance in local officials directing transportation investments and allows some flexibility in use of the funds for highway and transit projects. Reauthorized as **TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century)** in 1998 (see below), and SafeTEA-LU in 2005.

ITE – Institute of Transportation Engineers

ITIP (Interregional Transportation Improvement Program): The portion of the STIP that includes projects selected by Caltrans (25% of STIP funds; the other 75% are RTIP funds).

ITS – Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California: (Not pronounced "its.") The stated goal of this multi campus research unit is to "improve the way transportation is organized, managed and maintained. Projects cover transportation policy, new technology (see PATH), safety, traffic management, infrastructure, and freight and logistics.

IVHS – intelligent vehicle-highway systems: Also known as "smart cars," "smart streets" and even "smart buses," it promises to move the daily commute from the era of the Flintstones to the age of the Jetsons, from frustration-filled gridlock to computer-guided navigation. The term refers to a wide range of advanced electronics and communications technology applied to roads and vehicles. Designed to improve safety and productivity, IVHS also can have a positive impact on air quality by cutting congestion. When the term is applied to transit, it is called APTS; in commercial trucking, it is referred to as CVO.

IVHS America – Intelligent Vehicle Highway Society of America: Non-profit, public/private scientific and educational corporation based in Washington, D.C., that coordinates IVHS activities among government agencies and the private sector and promotes the application of advanced technology to the nation's highways and public transportation systems.

Jitney: Privately-owned, small or medium-sized vehicle usually operated on a fixed route but not on a fixed schedule.

JPA – Joint Powers Agreement

Kiss and Ride: A place where commuters are driven and dropped off at a station to board a public transportation vehicle.

Knots: A measure of speed used in aerial navigation. One knot is equal to one nautical mile per hour (1.15 knots = 1 mile).

LAIF: Local Agency Investment Fund is used by local agencies for investments.

Lifeline Transportation Network: An MTC initiative to enhance low-income residents' access to key destinations such as job centers, government buildings and medical facilities during both peak commute periods and off-peak hours. While most of the Lifeline network identified by MTC is already served by existing transit routes, some low-income communities and/or destinations are not served by transit or lack service at specific times of day. MTC is working with transit operators and potential funding partners to fill these gaps in the network.

LIFT – Low-Income Flexible Transportation: An MTC program that provides financial assistance for services to help low-income residents get to and from work and other locations. Examples of eligible LIFT projects include new and expanded public transit services, transportation to child care centers, development of child care facilities at transit hubs, rideshare activities and “guaranteed ride home” programs.

Lmax: The peak noise level reached by a single aircraft event.

LOS – Traffic Level of Service: A scale that measures the amount of traffic using a given roadway segment or intersection. Levels range from A to F with A representing the highest standard meaning free flow of traffic with no limitations on vehicle movement or speed. Level of Service F usually means vehicles have to wait through one or more signal changes and traffic stoppages of long duration. Level of Service standards, comparing traffic volumes with intersection or road segment capacity, are the primary measure of effectiveness used in the Growth Management Program for Basic Routes. The Congestion Management Program required LOS standards to be applied to a designated network of State highways and principal arterials.

Load Factor: It is the ratio of passengers to seats on a transit vehicle. If all seats are occupied and no one is standing, the load factor equals 1.0. **OR,** the percentage of seats occupied in an aircraft.

Local Streets: Roads that provide local access to businesses and residences.

LRT – light-rail transit: Fixed-guideway transportation mode that typically operates on city streets and may draw its electric power from overhead wires; includes streetcars, trolley cars and tramways. Differs from heavy rail (which has a separated right of way, and includes commuter and intercity rail) in that it can operate on streets and has and more closely spaced stops.

LRV – light-rail vehicle: Fancy word for a streetcar.

LSM – Local Street Maintenance and Improvement Funds

LTF (Local Transportation Fund): Fund which receives TDA revenues.

LTP – Lifeline Transportation Program

LTS – Less Than Significant (impact classification)

LUIS – Land Use Information System

Maglev – magnetic levitation: This technology permits trains to move at high speed above a guideway on a cushion of air generated by magnetic force.

Maintenance and Operations: A budget category which accounts for all the supplies, goods, and services required to support a program or activity.

Mass Transportation: Generally referring to any mode of conveyance, e.g., bus, train, etc., designed to provide the general public with regular and continuing transport service.

Measure C: The Revised Contra Costa Transportation Improvement and Growth Management Program was approved by Contra Costa voters in 1988. Placed on the ballot by the cities and County, Measure C established a local option retail transactions and use tax (.5%) and specified the allocation of the sales tax revenues for transportation projects and programs. Measure C was the first local option sales tax to include a Growth Management Program. Local jurisdictions which complied with the requirements of the Growth Management Program receive Measure C funds for local street maintenance, local, subregional and regional transportation projects and may also be used to cover the costs associated with complying with Measure Growth Management requirements. The funds, usually and incorrectly referred to as return to source funds, include a basic \$50,000 allocation with remaining funds allocated based on a 50% population and 50% maintained street and road mileage. Eighteen percent of Measure funds are set aside for this purpose.

Measure J: Reauthorization of Measure C approved by Contra Costa voters in 2004. Go to www.ccta.net for project/program list.

MES – Modeling Evaluation Study

Mode Split: The percentage of travelers who use each of the different travel modes (see definition of travel mode below). Different mode splits can be measured, including, but not limited to: commuter mode split, peak hour mode split, and 24-hour mode split. Mode splits can be measured among many different groups, including, but not limited to: employees of a specific employer, residential populations, and all travelers to certain sites or geographic areas or sites.

Model – Gravity: A mathematical trip distribution model that is based on the premise that the amount of travel between two zones is proportional to the amount of activity in each of the two zones and inversely proportional to the impedance to travel between the two zones. In other words, trips produced in any given area will distribute themselves in accordance with the accessibility of other areas and the opportunities.

Model – Land Use: A model used to predict the future spatial allocation of urban activities (land use), given total regional growth, the future transportation system, and other factors.

Model – Mode Choice/Trip Generation: A model used to forecast the proportion of total person trips on each of the available transportation modes.

Model: Regional Growth: A model used to project aggregate land uses in a region.

Model: Traffic: A mathematical equation or graphic technique used to simulate traffic movements, particularly those in urban areas or on a freeway.

Modified Accrual Basis: The accrual basis of accounting adapted to the governmental fund-type measurement focus. Under it, revenues and other financial resource increments (e.g., bond issue proceeds) are recognized when they become susceptible to accrual, that is, when they become both “measurable” and “available to finance expenditures of the current period.” “Available” means collectible in the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recognized when the fund liability is incurred except for (1) inventories of materials and supplies that may be considered expenditures either when purchased or when used, and (2) prepaid insurance and similar items that may be considered expenditures either when paid

for or when consumed. All governmental funds, expendable trust funds and agency funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting.

MOE – Maintenance of Effort: Pronounced M.O.E. not Moe (as in Larry, Moe and Curly) : MOE is required by many state and federal funding programs as well as Measure C. Generically, it means that an entity receiving certain types of State, Federal or local funds may not use those funds to replace its own investment in a program. For example, under Measure C, local "return to source" funds may not be used to replace monies currently being used for transportation purposes. Additionally, funds from the Measure may not be used to replace developer fee funding for transportation projects.

MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization: If this were "Jeopardy," the question would be, what is MTC? The answer is an MPO, a federally required transportation planning body responsible for the RTP and the TIP in its region; the governor designates an MPO in every urbanized area with a population of over 50,000.

MTC – Metropolitan Transportation Commission: See above! The transportation planning and financing agency (programming for federal, state and regional funds) for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

MTS – Metropolitan Transportation System: At the heart of ISTEPA and by extension the Regional Transportation Plan, this is an integrated, multimodal transportation system consisting of the major highways, arterials and other transit routes used to move people and goods around a region.

MTSO – Multi-Modal Transportation Service Objective

Multimodal: Refers to the availability of multiple transportation options, especially within a system or corridor.

Municipal: In its broadest sense, an adjective denoting the state and all subordinate units of government. In a more restricted sense, an adjective denoting a city or village as opposed to other local governments.

Municipal Corporation: A political and corporate body established pursuant to state statutes to provide government services and regulations for its inhabitants. A municipal corporation has defined boundaries and a population and usually is organized with the consent of its residents. It usually has a seal and may sue and be sued.

NARC – National Association of Regional Councils: The nationwide organization for MOPs, COGs and other such entities; based in Washington, D.C.

NAS – National Airspace System: The common network of U.S. airspace; air navigation facilities, equipment and services, airports or landing areas; aeronautical charts, information and services; rules, regulations and procedures, technical information, manpower and material.

Near Capacity: Describes the situation in which the traffic volume is approaching the street's theoretical maximum, and therefore congestion occurs.

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act of 1969: See EIS. Federal environmental law that applies to all projects funded with federal funds or requiring review by a federal agency.

Nexus: refers to an **IMPACT FEE**, also called a development fee, or depending upon the discussion, a mitigation fee pursuant to Measure C Regional Traffic Mitigation Program (RTMP). Such fees are levied by a city, county, or other public agency to pay for impacts a project will produce. California Government Code Section 66000 et seq. specifies that development fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. To lawfully impose a development fee, the public agency must verify its method of calculation and document proper restrictions on the use of the fund. (Commonly referred to as establishing a nexus).

NHS – National Highway System: An approximately 160,000-mile network brewed in ISTEA to provide an interconnected system of principal routes to serve major travel destinations and population centers. Picks up where the Interstate Highway System left off.

No Shows: A term related to a door-to-door trip which was scheduled by a person, but not taken, either because the trip was not canceled or the person was not at the pre-arranged pick-up point.

North/South Split: State law (Section 188 of the Streets and Highway Code) requires that programming be balanced so that 60 percent of the capital outlay (see definition above) is spent in the 11 Southern counties, and 40 percent is spent in the 45 Northern counties. This balance must occur for the period July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1993, and for each subsequent five year period. This rule has a serious impact on the type of projects programmed in the North or the South. Rehabilitation and safety funds have historically tended to be spent roughly 60% in the north, and only 40 % in the South, due to worse weather conditions and more mountainous roads in the North. In addition, engineering costs are relatively higher in the North than in the South. Furthermore, Caltrans' project support for locally funded projects, of which the North has a disproportionate share, is also included. Thus, funds for capacity increasing projects have historically been weighted towards the South, so that the overall balance remains 60%/40%.

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Objective: Statement representing a level or quality of performance that the jurisdiction seeks to attain through its programs and policies and describing significant activities to be accomplished during the fiscal year.

Obligated: The money for a project becomes obligated once the monies have gone from the 'promise' to actually being in an account. Effective once an E76 form is signed for Caltrans and FHWA projects.

Obligation: An action by an administrative agency approving the spending of money for a specific purpose to a specific grant recipient. Amounts a government may be required legally to meet out of its resources. They include not only actual liabilities, but also unliquidated encumbrances.

Operating Budget: A financial, programmatic, and organization plan, for furthering the goals of the City Council through the City departments, which does not include one-time capital improvement projects.

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, paying workers' salaries, and so forth.

Org. – Budget Organization Number

Ozone Attainment Strategy: This plan details the strategy by which the Bay Area will comply with federal ozone—or “smog”—standards. The Ozone Attainment Strategy is prepared by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Association of Bay Area Governments and MTC, then submitted for review and approval by the California Air Resources Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The plan also provides a transportation “emissions budget” that identifies allowable levels of pollution from motor vehicles traveling in the Bay Area. (Also see Conformity)

PAC – Policy Advisory Committee: A group of elected officials established to oversee a transportation or planning study.

Paratransit: All forms of public transportation other than those provided on a fixed-route, fixed-schedule basis, such as door-to-door bus, van and taxi services used to transport elderly and disabled riders.

Pass-by Traffic: It is the term used to describe drivers who are on the road system between destinations and make an intermediate stop at a business adjacent to the road.

PATH – (California) Partners for Advanced Transit and Highways: A leading research and development program for IVHS, sponsored by Caltrans and managed by ITS-Berkeley. Research is carried out by public and private academic institutions across the state.

PCA – Priority Conservation Area

PCC – Paratransit Coordinating Council: MTC-created body composed of representatives of social service and paratransit agencies as well as users to set priorities for annual paratransit operating subsidies and capital assistance allocated by MTC. There is one in each of the Bay Area's nine counties.

PD – Planned Development

PDA – Priority Development Area

Peak (Peak Period, Rush Hour): 1) The period during which the maximum amount of travel occurs. It may be specified as the morning (A.M.) Or afternoon or evening (P.M.); 2) The period when demand for transportation service is the heaviest.

Performance Measures: Indicators of how well the transportation system or specific transportation projects will improve transportation conditions.

PIO - Public Information Officer

PIP – Productivity Improvement Program: Where MTC, per state mandate and in conjunction with transit operators, lays out projects and programs to streamline and integrate the region's more than two dozen transit systems.

Plan Holding Capacity: Maximum possible development within a stated planning period given existing regulations and policies in the local General Plan and implementing ordinances.

Planning Area: Land area identified within a jurisdiction's General Plan for which the jurisdiction has designated land uses.

PM₁₀ : Particulate matter less than ten microns in diameter

PMA – Public Managers Association: The association of Contra Costa City Managers and County Administrator. As necessary, issues are referred to the PMA, usually by the Mayors Conference, for review, evaluation and recommendation.

PMS – Pavement Management System: Used in the Bay Area to refer to MTC's computer-assisted program for diagnosing and curing potholes as well as other street problems in a timely, cost-effective manner, and prevention through judicious maintenance. In wide use among the region's cities and counties. Required by Section 2108.1 of the Streets and Highways Code, any jurisdiction that wishes to qualify for funding under the STIP must have a PMS that is in conformance with the criteria adopted by the Joint City/County/State Cooperation Committee. At a minimum, the PMS must contain: An inventory of the arterial and collector routes in the jurisdiction that is reviewed and updated at least biennially; An assessment of pavement condition for all routes in the system, updated biennially; Identification of all sections of pavement needing rehabilitation or replacement; and Determination of budget needs for rehabilitation or replacement of deficient sections of pavement for the current biennial period, and for the following biennial period. Certification is done by implementing jurisdiction and submittal to MTC. MTC then makes a finding of agreement with the certification and transmits the certification to the CTC with the RTIP.

POP: Breakfast cereal brother of "Snap" and "Crackle," or a **Program of Projects:** Adopted by MTC every fall, it shows projects and programs to benefit from federal transit funding flowing to the Bay Area by formula in the coming fiscal year from the FTA Section 9, FTA Section 3 Fixed Guideway, STP and CMAQ programs.

Potential New Revenues: Funds that may be available for transportation investment in the future if proposed new revenue sources are approved. Current legislative proposals include a \$1 increase in the base toll on state-owned bridges and indexing the federal gasoline tax to inflation. These potential revenues are not included in the financially constrained portion of the long-term transportation plan.

Ppm: parts per million

PPM – (State) Planning, Programming, and Monitoring

PRC – Public Resources Code

Principal Arterial: This federal functional classification system defines principal arterials for rural areas, urbanized areas, and small urban areas. In urbanized areas, the principal arterial system can be identified as unusually significant to the area in which it lies in terms of the nature and composition of travel. Principal arterials derive importance from service to rural oriented traffic and from service for major movements within the urbanized area. The principal arterial system should carry the major portion of trips entering and leaving the urban area, as well as the majority of

through movements desiring to bypass the central city. In addition, significant intra-area travel, such as between major business districts and outlying residential areas, between major inner city communities or between major suburban centers should be served by this system. Frequently, the principal arterial system will carry important intra-urban as well as intercity bus routes. This term is also mentioned in the Congestion Management Program legislation which requires that the CMP network include all "State Highways and Principal Arterials ." The legislation does not, however, make any reference or specific linkage to the federal designation.

Probable Plan Buildout: Amount of development that can be reasonably expected in a stated time period given General Plan land use policies. In some cities, Probable Plan Buildout will be less than Plan Holding Capacity.

Program: (1) *verb* - to assign funds to a project that has been approved by MTC, the state or other agency; (2) *noun* - a system of funding for implementing transportation projects or policies, such as through the State Transportation Improvement Program (see STIP).

Programmed: Funds are programmed in the TIP after authorization. Funds are considered to be programmed at the point that the TIP is adopted by the MPO. Example: The bridge project was programmed in the last TIP.

Project Study Report (PSR): Chapter 878 of Statutes 1987 requires that any capacity-increasing project on the state highway system, prior to programming the STIP, have a completed PSR. The PSR must include a detailed description of the project scope and estimated costs. The intent of this legislation was to improve the accuracy of the schedule and costs shown in the STIP, and thus improve the overall accuracy of the estimates of STIP delivery and costs.

Proposed State Transportation Improvement Program (PSTIP): This program is based on the adopted STIP and the most recent Project Delivery Report. It may include additional schedule changes and/or cost changes, plus new projects that Caltrans proposed for the interregional road system, retrofit soundwalls, and toll bridge and aeronautics programs, as well as the intercity rail program. Caltrans may also propose, under specified conditions, alternative FCR projects to those proposed in the RTIPs; this is the only overlap with the RTIPs. The PSTIP is due to the CTC on 12/1 of odd numbered years.

Proposition 4: Initiative constitutional amendment approved in the November 1979 ballot which imposes limits on allowable appropriations of state and local governments. Article XIII B of the California Constitution. Also commonly known as the Gann Limit.

Proposition 13: Enacted as Article XIII A of the California Constitution. Initiative constitutional amendment approved in the June 1978 ballot which imposes a 1% limit on property taxes, various assessment restrictions and limitations on the levy of new taxes.

Proposition 42: A state constitutional amendment passed by California voters in March 2002 that permanently dedicates 100 percent of the state sales tax on gasoline for transportation investments, although the Legislature is able to suspend these provisions in times of fiscal crisis.

Proposition 111: Limit. On June 5, 1990, California voters approved Proposition 111, to amend Article XIII B, of the California Constitution, relating to the Gann Appropriations Limit Initiative.

Proposition 116: Passed by voters in June of 1990, this initiative sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League provides \$1.99B in rail bonds, primarily to projects specified in the legislation. Guidelines for the implementation of the program were available in the Fall of 1990. All of the monies under this Proposition have been allocated.

PS – Potentially Significant (impact classification); **'S'** – significant (impact classification); **'SU'** – significant unavoidable effect (impact classification)

PSR – (Caltrans) Project Study Report

PTA – Public Transportation Account: The major state transportation account for mass transportation purposes. Revenues include a portion of the sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuels.

PTAC – Paratransit Advisory Committee

PTF – Public Transportation Fund

Public Transit: See Mass Transportation.

Public Transportation: Transportation available to the general public as opposed to restricted to individual and private use. Public transportation refers to both paratransit and mass transportation.

PVEA – Petroleum Violation Escrow Account: Money set aside by petroleum companies because of overcharging for gasoline.

RACC – Regional Agency Coordinating Committee: A nine-member committee—composed of three representatives each from MTC, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Association of Bay Area Governments—that coordinates activities of the three agencies on issues that affect transportation, land use and air quality.

RACM – Reasonably Available control Measure

RBPP – Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Reimbursed: Paid back. In some cases, municipalities must first spend the money before getting funds back from the government.

Reimbursements: Payments remitted on behalf of another party, department, or fund. These amounts are recorded as expenditures, or expenses, in the reimbursing fund, and as reductions of the expenditure, or expense, in the fund that is reimbursed.

RFP - Request for Proposal: A request from an agency asking for formal bids (proposals) from outside entities to provide a specified set of services for a specified cost.

Return to Source: A requirement with some funding programs (such as TDA) that the money flow back to the county where it originated from tax revenues, regardless of need. In Contra Costa's Measure C, funds for Local Street Maintenance and Improvements are commonly (and erroneously) referred to as "return to source". The funds are actually allocated on 50% population and 50% road mile basis to Contra Costa jurisdictions found in compliance with Measure C's

Growth Management Program.

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.”

ROG - Reactive Organic Gases

Rolling Stock: The vehicles used in a transit system, including buses and rail cars.

Route of Regional Significance (RORS): Road designated by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, consistent with procedures described in the *Implementation Guide: Traffic Level of Service Standards and Programs for Routes of Regional Significance*. These roads are subject to objectives and programs in adopted Action Plans. Also referred to as "Regional Routes".

RTCC – Regional Transit Coordinating Council: Created by state statute and overseen by MTC, the RTCC was created in 1992 to better coordinate transit routes, schedules, fares and transfers throughout the Bay Area, and to explore potential advantages of joint ventures in areas such as marketing, maintenance and purchasing. Membership in the RTCC includes the senior managers of the region's transit agencies. The RTCC also functions as a standing committee of See The Bay Area Partnership, an MTC-led body of transportation and environmental agencies.

RTEP – Regional Transit Expansion Program: An identified list of high-priority rail and express/rapid bus improvements to serve the Bay Area’s most congested corridors. The program was adopted in December 2001 pursuant to MTC Resolution 3434 to establish clear priorities for the investment of transit expansion funds over the next decade. (Resolution 3431)

RTIP – Regional Transportation Improvement Program: The first stop on the way to the STIP, it lists highway, transit and bicycle projects. Compiled by MTC every two years from priority lists submitted by Congestion Management Agencies/local jurisdictions. MTC may only include projects in its RTIP that are first included in a CMP.

RTP – Regional Transportation Plan: Federally required 25-year plan prepared by metropolitan planning organizations, updated every three years. Includes projections of population growth and travel demand, along with a specific list of proposed projects to be funded. The Bay Area’s 2005 update of its long-range transportation plan, now under way, is known as Transportation 2030.

RTPA – Regional Transportation Planning Agency: A state designated agency responsible for monitoring the RTP and RTIP; administering TDA and other state funds; and other tasks. MTC is the Bay Area's RTPA.

RTC – Regional Transit Connection: A one-stop shopping center for the sale of transit tickets, passes and tokens at Bay Area worksites. In this MTC/RTCC-sponsored program, member companies receive tickets on consignment and administer their own ticket sales.

RTCC – Regional Transit Coordinating Council: Composed of the general managers of the region's largest transit operators, this committee coordinates routes, schedules, fares and transfers among operators; provides input to MTC on transit policy and funding; and conducts legislative advocacy. MTC's executive director chairs the panel, while MTC staff provide day-to-day support.

Formed in 1992 to assume the responsibilities of both the Regional Transit Association and the Transit Operator Coordinating Council.

RTPC – Regional Transportation Planning Committee: Each of the four geographic regions has an established regional transportation planning committee responsible for transportation issues within that area including the development of Action Plans. The following are the four RTPCs:

TRANSPAC – RTPC for the Central County Area: Jurisdictions include Clayton, Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek and the County.

TRANSPLAN – RTPC for Eastern Contra Costa: Jurisdictions include Antioch, Brentwood, Pittsburg, Oakley and the County.

SWAT – Southwest RTPC: Jurisdictions include Danville, San Ramon, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda and the County.

WCCTAC – Western Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee: Jurisdictions include El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole, Richmond, San Pablo and the County.

RTPC-TAC – Regional Transportation Planning Committee – Technical Advisory Committee

RWQCB – Regional Water Quality Control Board

RVH – Revenue Vehicle Hour: It refers to the amount of time, in hours, that a vehicle is actually in service. This does not include Deadhead time.

RVM – Revenue Vehicle Miles: It refers to the number of miles that a vehicle is actually in service. This does not include deadhead mileage.

Route Ridership: Refers to the total number of passengers carried on all routes in the system for a given time period.

SAFE – Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways: Made up of the MTC commissioners and staffed by MTC, this body administers the roadside call boxes and roving tow truck patrols (FSP) that help stranded motorists get safely off the highways. State legislation in 1987 created the MTC SAFE, which is funded in part through a \$1 surcharge on motor vehicle registrations.

SAFETEA-LU: The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was enacted August 10, 2005, as Public Law 109-59. SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009.

Sales Tax Authority: An agency that administers a voter-approved county transportation sales tax program; in most Bay Area counties, the congestion management agency (CMA) also serves as the sales tax authority.

Self-Help Counties: A term used to describe counties that have taken the initiative to supplement available state and federal funds by enacting local voter-approved funding mechanisms — such as half-cent sales taxes — to pay for transportation improvements. In the Bay Area, five counties have passed such measures: Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara.

SB 45 (Chapter 622, Statutes of 1997, Kopp): Senate bill which established the current STIP process and shifted control of decision-making from the state to the regional level.

SCS – Sustainable Communities Strategy

SEL – Single event noise levels

Sequencing Process: Procedure in which air traffic is merged into a single flow, and/or in which adequate separation is maintained between aircraft.

Service Area: Defined as the area within 1/4 mile of a bus route.

SHA - State Highway Account: The major state transportation account for highway purposes. Revenues include the state excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel and truck weight fees.

Shared Parking: It occurs when two (or more) uses in a mixed use project have different parking characteristics: parking demand patterns that differ by time of day or time of week that allow sharing of parking spaces.

SHOPP (State Highway Operation and Protection Program): A capital improvement program for rehabilitation, safety, and operational improvements on state highways.

SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office; also State Historic Preservation Officer.

Shuttles: Transit routes serving specific travelers and specific origins and destinations. Shuttles are often provided by private organizations and employers for their memberships or employees.

SIG Alert: "Sig-Alerts" are unique to Southern California. They came about in the 1940s when the L.A.P.D. got in the habit of alerting a local radio reporter, Loyd Sigmon, of bad car wrecks on city streets. These notifications became known as "Sig-Alerts." Later Mr. Sigmon developed an electronic device that authorities could use to alert the media of disasters. Caltrans latched on to the term "Sig-Alert" and it has come to be known as any traffic incident that will tie up two or more lanes of a freeway for two or more hours.

Signalized Intersections: Controlled by signal lights that control drivers through the intersection by providing alternate right-of-way for each movement through the intersection.

Signal Warrants: Documented in the *Traffic Manual* published by Caltrans which defines 10 criterion or "signal warrants" for determining whether or not a traffic signal should be installed at an unsignalized intersection.

SIP – State Implementation Plan: Here's a case where one term refers to two different--albeit related--documents. Metropolitan areas prepare local and regional SIPs showing steps planned to take to meet federal air quality standards (outlined in the CAA). Take several SIPs and what do you have? A big gulp, and the ARB's plan for cleaning the air statewide--also known as a SIP.

Smart Growth According to MTC: A set of policies and programs designed to protect, preserve and economically stimulate established communities, while protecting valuable natural and cultural

resources and limiting sprawl.

SOV – Single-occupant vehicle: Epithet hurled by frustrated transportation planners (Also referred to as a drive alone).

Spare Ratio: FTA defines spare ratio as the number of buses in the fleet (63) minus the number of buses needed during the peak period (51) divided by the peak requirement ($12/51=23.5$ percent). FTA requires that the spare ratio not exceed 20 percent

Special Assessment: A compulsory levy made against certain properties to defray all or part of the cost of a specific capital improvement or service deemed to benefit primarily those properties.

Sphere of Influence: Sometimes called SOI. The probable ultimate physical boundaries and service area of a local agency or government as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

SR2S – Safe Routes to School

SR4 – State Route 4

SRF – Special Revenue Fund

S RTP – Short-Range Transit Plan: A nine-year comprehensive plan required of all transit operators by federal and regional transportation funding agencies.

Standard: Statement representing a commitment by a public agency to attain a specified level or quality of performance through its program and policies.

STA (State Transit Assistance): State funding program for mass transit operations and capital projects. Current law requires that STA receive 50 percent of PTA revenues.

State/Local Transportation Partnership: Originally created by SB 140, and subsequently funded by the passage of Proposition 111 by the voters in June of 1990, the State/Local Partnership provides state matching funds for locally funded and constructed highway and exclusive public mass transit guideway projects. \$2 billion over ten years have been allocated under this program. The amount of state match available in a given year is dependent upon the number of eligible applicants and the size of the appropriation to the program by the legislature during the budget process. The state match cannot exceed 50 percent. Program has been fully implemented and is no longer operational.

STIP – State Transportation Improvement Program: What the CTC ends up with after combining and whittling down all the RTIPs. Includes a five year span and updated every two years, the STIP establishes when and for how much transportation projects will be funded by the state. The STIP is approved and adopted by the CTC and is the combined result of the ITIP and the RTIP.

STP – Surface Transportation Program: One of the key capital programs in TEA-21. In the words of the STP, it provides flexibility in expenditure of "road" funds for transit modes, as well as for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Subventions: Revenue collected by the State (or other level of government), which are allocated to the City on a formula basis. The major subventions received by the City, from the State of California, include Motor Vehicle In-Lieu, gasoline taxes, and homeowner's property tax exemptions.

SWAT – South West Area Transportation

SWPPP – Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (East County)

System Management: A coordinated series of programs involving MTC and partner agencies such as the California Highway Patrol and Caltrans to make the region's existing transportation system work more efficiently. These efforts include congestion relief initiatives such as the roving Freeway Service Patrol tow trucks, and traveler information programs such as the toll-free 511 phone service and the <http://511.org> and <http://tripplanner.transit.511.org> web pages.

System Ridership: System ridership refers to the total number of passengers carried by Citifare during a given time period. This includes both route passengers and special service passengers, such as those who rode the SkyFire Shuttle on the 4th of July.

TAC – Technical Advisory Committee: CCTA and the Regional Transportation Planning Committees (RTPCs) have supporting technical staff committees which meet separately from the RTPC. Such groups are referred to as a TAC. The TRANSPAC TAC meets once a month. A TAC may also be convened for a transportation or planning study.

TACs – Toxic air contaminants

Taxiway: A paved strip that connects runways and terminals providing the ability to move aircraft so they will not interfere with takeoffs or landings.

TAZ – Traffic Analysis Zone: Geographic area delineated for the purpose of organizing land use or travel data to be used in computer modeling of traffic patterns.

TCCR – Traffic Corridor Concept Report: Developed by Caltrans to establish a concept for a future transportation system (over a 20 year span) in a specified corridor. The TCCR examines the existing transportation network, planned improvements and programmed improvements, land uses, and projected growth in order to analyze future operating conditions and ultimate corridor improvements and right-of-way requirements.

TCM – Transportation Control Measure: A strategy to reduce driving or smooth traffic flows in order to cut 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. Examples of TCMs include roving tow truck patrols to clear stalls and accidents from congested roadways, new or increased transit service, or a program to promote carpools and vanpools.

TCRP – Traffic Congestion Relief Program: A five-year state transportation investment plan passed by the California Legislature and signed into law by Governor Gray Davis in 2000. The plan originally called for \$6.8 billion of spending (with \$1.7 billion to the Bay Area) from fiscal 2000–01 to 2005–06, but subsequent refinancing agreements postponed the funding until fiscal 2002–03 to 2007–08.

TDA – Transportation Development Act: State law enacted in 1971. TDA funds are generated from a tax of one-quarter of one percent on all retail sales in each county; used for transit, paratransit, bicycle and pedestrian purposes, they are collected by the state and allocated by MTC to projects and programs within the county of origin. In non-urban areas, TDA funds may be used for streets and roads in certain circumstances.

TDM – Transportation Demand Management: Mechanisms to reduce and/or manage the number of vehicles using a roadway and/or the number of persons driving alone during commute periods. Increasing the number of trips made by carpools, vanpools, buses, etc. TDM can be an element of a TSM program (see below). Low-cost ways to reduce demand by automobiles on the transportation system include programs which promote telecommuting, flextime and ridesharing.

511 Contra Costa is the TDM Program (formerly known as the Contra Costa Commute Alternative Network, or CCCAN) which was established to provide a more cohesive and singular identity for the purposes of representing the combined TDM implementation efforts, the three TDM Programs (TRANSPAC/TRANSPLAN, WCCTAC and SWAT) cooperatively developed the CCCAN. This umbrella program encompasses all of the Countywide Programs, and includes projects which affect all commute alternative modes.

TEA – Transportation Enhancement Activities: Ten percent of STP monies must be set aside for projects that enhance the compatibility of transportation facilities with the surrounding area. Examples of TEA projects include bicycle and pedestrian paths, restoration of rail depots or other historic transportation facilities, acquisition of scenic or open space lands next to travel corridors, and murals or other public art projects.

TEA-21 – Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century: Federal transportation act covering the period from 1998 through 2004. Provides about 40 percent more funding than previous federal act (see ISTEA). Reauthorizes federal surface transportation programs for six years (1998–2003) and significantly increases overall funding for transportation. Reauthorized in 2005 as SAFETEA-LU.

Telecommuting: Working at home in lieu of commuting to an office location.

Terminal Airspace: The air space that is controlled by a TRACON (Terminal Radar Approach Control).

TFCA – Transportation Fund for Clean Air: The BAAQMD allocates these funds for cost-effective projects which reduce air pollution from motor vehicles. The TFCA is funded by a \$4 per vehicle surcharge on motor vehicles registered in the Bay Area and generates about \$20 million per year. Forty percent of TFCA revenues are distributed through a designated Program Manager in each Bay Area county (CCTA in Contra Costa). Sixty percent of TFCA funds are allocated by the BAAQMD through a competitive grant process. Funding for natural gas and electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging stations is also available.

TIC – Transportation Information Center: See TravelInfo.

TIP – Transportation Improvement Program: A spending plan for federal funding expected to flow to the region from all sources for transportation projects of all types. MTC prepares the three-volume TIP annually with the cooperation of local governments, transit operators and Caltrans.

Depending on the funding source, it covers a three to seven year period.

Title VI: Refers to Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, and requires that transportation planning and programming be nondiscriminatory on the basis of race, color and national origin. Integral to Title VI is the concept of environmental justice. (Also see “Environmental Justice.”)

TLC – Transportation for Livable Communities: New funding program created by MTC in 1998 to fund small scale, community- and transit-oriented projects that improve neighborhood vitality. Funding for TLC projects is also included in Measure J.

TMA – Transportation Management Association: A voluntary group set up by employers or other entities to reduce vehicle trips within a certain area.

TMA – Transportation Management Area: A region subject to certain planning requirements under ISTEA. Any urbanized area with a population of more than 200,000 automatically is a TMA.

TMP – Transportation Management Plan: The feds require a TMP showing how traffic flows will be smoothed or diverted during construction. A TMP might call for installing ramp meters or upgrading parallel roads; boosting public transit service; aggressively marketing carpooling and vanpooling; and mounting a public information campaign.

TOC – Traffic Operations Center: TOS Headquarters.

TOD – Transit-Oriented Development: Higher density residential and commercial development near transit stops or hubs.

TOS – Traffic Operations System: In the Bay Area, Caltrans and the CAP monitor traffic flows by means of detectors embedded in pavement and closed-circuit television cameras, quickly dispatching tow trucks and other assistance. CMSs and HAR will alert drivers to trouble ahead, while ramp metering will control traffic flows. By the year 2000, all 500 miles of Bay Area's freeways should be TOS-equipped.

T-PLUS - Transportation Planning - Land Use Solutions Funds

TRACON: Terminal Radar Approach Control is an FAA air traffic control service to aircraft arriving and departing or transiting airspace controlled by the facility. TRACONS control IFR and participating VFR flights

Traffic Flow Gaps: The time interval between vehicles in a traffic stream.

Traffic Models: Mathematical equations that simulate travel demand based on land use, demographic, and transportation characteristics.

Transit: Bus, Light Rail, Heavy Rail, Ferry, Shuttles.

Transit-Dependent: Someone who must use public transportation for travel.

Transit Transfer Center: It is used by passengers transferring from one transit line to another line and by transit operators to for lines originating or terminating there at the center.

Transportation Demand: Commuters, travelers, school kids; people needing to get from Point A to Point B constitute demand for transportation.

Transportation Disabled: Persons who, due to mental or physical disability, have difficulty using mass transportation.

Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA): A funding source managed by counties and air districts that supports projects created to improve air quality.

Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC): A federal funding source for planning studies and capital expenditures for projects that improve town centers, public transit hubs, or key streets as a way of fostering the link between transportation alternatives and land use.

Transportation Supply: The transportation infrastructure of highways, streets, roads, parking spaces, transit lines, bicycle lanes, bike parking, sidewalks, vanpools, ferries, and shuttles.

Travel Demand Model: Used by transportation planners for simulating current travel conditions and for forecasting future travel patterns and conditions. Models help planners and policy-makers analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of alternative transportation investments in terms of mobility, accessibility, and environmental and equity impacts.

Travel Mode: The method by which a person travels: car (drive alone or carpool); walk; bike; transit (bus, light rail, ferry, heavy rail); vanpool; skateboards.

TransLink[®]: MTC's prototype for a universal ticket valid on all transit modes, from BART to buses to ferries. TransLink will be tested in a pilot project involving six Bay Area transit operators someday.

TravInfo – Bay Area Intermodal Traveler Information System: Spearheaded by MTC, detailed, timely information on transit schedule adherence and roadway congestion--possibly even parking accessibility is available to the public. Travelers can obtain data from home or at work as well as en route. Currently operational and accessed by the phone number 817-1717 throughout the nine Bay Area counties.

Tribal Government Consultation: A formal process between MPOs and federally recognized Indian tribes, which are recognized as sovereign nations that calls for government-to-government consultation regarding transportation planning and programming efforts.

Trip assignment: Predicting of travel routes. Travel between specified origins and destinations is assigned to a specific travel route and mode.

Trip distribution: Projection of destinations for trips originating in a TAZ.

Trip generation: The number of trips associated with a specific type and density of land use, usually estimated based on number of dwelling units, gross square feet of commercial space, or other appropriate independent variable.

TRO – Trip Reduction Ordinance: Trip reduction ordinances have been enacted by local governments in response to Measure C and CMP requirements in Contra Costa County. These

requirements vary from county to county. Although originally drafted to impose requirements of employers, current ordinances describe a variety of TDM/TSM strategies to reduce the number of SOV users.

TSA – Transportation Security Administration

TSM – Transportation Systems Management: A comprehensive strategy for addressing an increase in trips. TSM focuses on more efficient utilization of existing highway and transit systems rather than increasing capacity. TSM measures are usually characterized by low cost and short implementation time frame, such as traffic signal coordination. TSM Programs increase the efficiency of the transportation system, reduce demand for road capacity during the peak hours and otherwise affect travel behavior to minimize the need for capacity-increasing capital projects.

TSO – Traffic Service Objective: A flexible, quantifiable measure of transportation facility performance, such as vehicle occupancy or delay. Used in RTPC Action Plans to establish objectives for Routes of Regional Significance.

TWSC – Two-Way Stop Controlled

UBC - Uniform Building Code

UMTA – The Urban Mass Transportation Administration: Now the Federal Transit Administration (see FTA).

Uncommitted Revenues: Anticipated transportation revenues available for new investments after accounting for revenue committed by law, ballot measure or MTC programming actions. These revenues account for about 10 percent of all revenues forecasted to be available over the 25-year period of the regional transportation plan, and are the major focus of the update process. (Also see Committed Revenues.)

Unsignalized Intersections: Controlled by stop signs either at the side-street approaches to the intersection, or at all approaches to the intersection.

UPRR – Union Pacific Railroad

UPWP: The Unified Work Program is prepared annually and describes specific transportation planning activities to be undertaken by the MPO in cooperation with local agencies during the coming fiscal year.

Urbanized Area: As defined by the Bureau of the Census, a population concentration of at least 50,000 inhabitants, generally consisting of a central city and the surrounding, closely settled, contiguous territory (suburbs). The boundary is based primarily on a population density of 1,000 people/mile, but also includes some less densely settled areas, as well as such areas as industrial parks and railroad yards, if they are within areas of dense urban development.

U.S. DOT – United States Department of Transportation: The federal cabinet-level agency with responsibility for highways, mass transit, aviation and ports; it is headed by the Secretary of Transportation. The DOT includes the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, among others. There also are state DOTs (known in California as Caltrans).

USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Value Pricing: The concept of assessing higher prices for using certain transportation facilities during the most congested times of the day, in the same way that airlines offer off-peak discounts and hotel rooms cost more during prime tourist seasons. Also known as congestion pricing and peak-period pricing, examples of this concept include higher bridge tolls during peak periods or charging single-occupant vehicles that want to use carpool lanes.

Vanpool: Seven to 15 people traveling together in the same vehicle for the majority of the trip.

Vehicle Peak Hour: It is the term used to define the highest one-hour period of the day when traffic levels are highest.

Vehicle Platoon: A group of vehicles traveling together as a group because of signal control, geometrics or other factors.

Vehicle Queue: It is a line of vehicles waiting to be served by the system.

V/C – Volume-To-Capacity Ratio

VER – Vehicle-Employee Ratio: The ratio of the number of vehicles to the number of employees arriving at a given worksite. If everyone drove alone the ratio would be 1. If 100 employees arrive in 81 cars, the VER is .81. The lower the VER, the fewer the number of cars.

VFR – Visual Flight Rules: Rules governing procedures for conducting flight under visual meteorological conditions, or weather conditions with a ceiling of 1,000 feet above ground level and visibility of three miles or greater. It is the pilot's responsibility to maintain visual separation, not the air traffic controllers, under VFR.

VFV – variable fuel vehicle, aka flexible fuel vehicle; also called hybrid (now quite popular on Bay Area roadways): While the BAAQMD exhorts us to make "clear choices for clean air," "more choices for clean air" could be the motto for this kind of vehicle, which can run on gasoline along with less polluting alternative fuels, such as CNG.

VHT – Vehicle Hours Traveled: The estimated running time for all vehicles on the roadways during a given period of time such as an AM or PM peak hour.

Visual Approach – Wherein an aircraft on an IFR flight plan, operating in VFR conditions under the control of an air traffic facility and having an air traffic control authorization, may proceed to destination airport under VFR.

VLF – Vehicle License Fee

VMT – vehicle miles traveled: How many miles we all travel in a day, month or year on a regional or other geographic basis. This term helps pin down the numbers. Reducing VMT is usually a goal of transit and transportation planners and can help ease traffic congestion and improve air quality. One vehicle (whether a car carrying one passenger or a bus carrying 30 people) traveling one mile constitutes a vehicle mile. VMT is one measure of the use of Bay Area freeways and roads.

Vehicle Occupancy: The number of people aboard a vehicle at a given time; also known as auto or automobile occupancy when the reference is to automobile travel only.

VPH – Vehicles Per Hour: The number of vehicles passing a specified point for a specified one hour duration. Types of vehicles passing the point may also be determined.

Vehicle Trip: A one-way movement of a vehicle between two points.

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**For Whom
the Road Tolls**

Bay Area roads and the people for whom they are named

...from the San Jose Mercury News (4-18-01)

Bay Bridge: Official name is the James "Sunny Jim" Rolph Bridge, after the mayor of San Francisco from 1911 to 1931.

Benicia-Martinez Bridge (common name): Named after Gen. Mariano Vallejo's wife, Francisca Benicia, and after Ignacio Martinez, commandant of the Presidio at San Francisco. Opened in 1962 as the George Miller, Jr. Bridge.

Cabrillo Highway: Route 1 from Santa Barbara to San Francisco. Cabrillo was a California explorer.

Caldecott Tunnel: Highway 24 between Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Thomas Caldecott was an Alameda County supervisor. It was originally called the Broadway Low-Level Tunnel.

James Lick Freeway: 101 in San Francisco. Lick was a piano and organ maker who financed the observatory atop Mount Hamilton. He moved to San Francisco and made a fortune in real estate.

Cmdr. Isiah Nelson Memorial Hanging Gardens: The large retaining wall on I-280 between Army and Mariposa streets. Nelson was a San Francisco police officer killed in a motorcycle accident nearby.

Eisenhower Highway: I-80. The former president is considered the father of the interstate system.

Eugene A. Doran Bridge: Bridge on I-280 at San Mateo Creek. Doran was a Hillsborough police officer killed in the line of duty.

Gillian Cichowski Memorial Overcrossing: Bridge over Highway 17 at Lexington Reservoir. Cichowski was killed in an accident here, resulting in construction of the overcrossing to eliminate left turns.

Nimitz Freeway: I-880. Named for World War II admiral who lived on Yerba Buena Island.

Richard "Fresh Air" Janson Bridge: Route 37 in Sonoma County. Janson was one of the premier decoy carvers in the American West.

Sig Sanchez Highway: 101 through Morgan Hill. Sanchez was a Santa Clara County supervisor.

Waldo Tunnel: 101 in Sausalito. Waldo ran for governor in 1853 but lost.

Warren Freeway: Route 13 through the Oakland hills. Named for former California governor and Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren.