

Appendix E: Definitions

Definitions

Sources: FHWA, IA DOT

American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO): A nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. It represents all five transportation modes: air, highways, public transportation, rail and water. Its primary goal is to foster the development, operation and maintenance of an integrated national transportation system.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The legislation defining the responsibilities of and requirements for transportation providers to make transportation accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Arterial: A class of roads serving major traffic movements (high-speed, high volume) for travel between major points.

Arterial Highway: A major highway used primarily for through traffic

Arterial Street: A class of street serving major traffic movements (high speed, high volume) for travel between major points

Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT): The total volume of traffic on a highway segment for one year, divided by the number of days in the year.

Complete Streets: A policy that ensures transportation planners and engineers consistently design and operate the entire roadway with all users in mind, including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

Comprehensive Design: The intent that all roads are designed and built in a safe and comprehensive manner so that all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, users of mass transit, people with disabilities, the elderly, and motorized vehicles can travel safely and independently throughout the transportation network.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement: A categorical Federal-aid funding program created with ISTEA. Directs funding to projects that contribute to meeting national air quality standards. CMAQ funds generally may not be used for projects that result in the construction of new capacity available to single-occupant vehicles.

Collector Streets: The principal purpose of this category of roadways is to connect the local street network to the arterial and primary system. They may also include land access (stores, buildings, etc.), particularly to larger more intense land uses, but 'through' trips and total capacity starts to become important. Speeds are higher than on local streets.

Environmental Justice (EJ): Environmental justice assures that services and benefits allow for meaningful participation and are fairly distributed to avoid discrimination.

Fiscal Constraint: Making sure that a given program or project can reasonably expect to receive funding within the time allotted for its implementation.

Fixed Route: Term applied to transit service that is regularly scheduled and operates over a set route; usually refers to bus service.

Highway Trust Fund: An account established by law to hold Federal highway user taxes that are dedicated for highway and transit related purposes. The Highway Trust Fund has two accounts: the Highway Account, and the Mass Transit Account.

Infrastructure: 1) In transit systems, all the fixed components of the transit system, such as rights-of-way, tracks, signal equipment, stations, park-and-ride lots, but stops, maintenance facilities. 2) In transportation planning, all the relevant elements of the environment in which a transportation system operates. (TRB1) 3) A term connoting the physical underpinnings of society at large, including, but not limited to, roads, bridges, transit, waste systems, public housing, sidewalks, utility installations, parks, public buildings, and communications networks.

Intermodal: The ability to connect, and the connections between, modes of transportation

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA): Legislative initiative by the U.S. Congress that restructured funding for transportation programs. ISTEA authorized increased levels of highway and transportation funding from FY 92-97 and increased the role of regional planning commissions/MPOs in funding decisions. The Act also required comprehensive regional and Statewide long-term transportation plans and places an increased emphasis on public participation and transportation alternatives.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS): The application of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency and safety of transportation systems.

Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAPP): To fund highway/street, transit, or trail projects or programs which help maintain Iowa's clean air quality by reducing transportation-related emissions.

Livability Community: A neighborhood, community or region with compact, multidimensional land use patterns that ensure a mix of uses, minimize the impact of cars, and promote walking, bicycling and transit access to employment, education, recreation, entertainment, shopping and services.

Local Streets: The principal purpose of these facilities is to provide transportation access to local land uses. Consequently, ‘through’ movement on local streets is not a priority and in many cases is actively discouraged. Speeds are nominal and capacities are usually low.

Long Range Transportation Plan: A document resulting from regional or statewide collaboration and consensus on a region or state's transportation system, and serving as the defining vision for the region's or state's transportation systems and services. In metropolitan areas, the plan indicates all of the transportation improvements scheduled for funding over the next 20 years.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): Regional policy body, required in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000, and designated by local officials and the governor of the state. Responsible in cooperation with the state and other transportation providers for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning requirements of federal highway and transit legislation. 2) Formed in cooperation with the state, develops transportation plans and programs for the metropolitan area. For each urbanized area, a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) must be designated by agreement between the Governor and local units of government representing 75% of the affected population (in the metropolitan area), including the central cities or cities as defined by the Bureau of the Census, or in accordance with procedures established by applicable State or local law (23 U.S.C. 134(b)(1)/Federal Transit Act of 1991 Sec. 8(b)(1)). (FHWA2) * source FHWA website <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/glossary>

Metropolitan Planning Area: The geographic area in which the metropolitan transportation planning process required by 23 U.S.C. 134 and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607) must be carried out. (23CFR420)

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): Areas defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. A Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is 1) A county or a group of contiguous counties that contain at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or 2) An urbanized area of at least 50,000 inhabitants and a total MSA population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). The contiguous counties are included in an MSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city. In New England, MSAs consist of towns and cities rather than counties.

National Highway System: This system of highways designated and approved in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 103b). (23CFR500)

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU): Serves as an update to ISTEA and TEA-21 and authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009.

Safe Routes to School: Federal initiative to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; to make walking and bicycling to school safe and more appealing; and to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects that will improve safety, and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO): a council of governments serving the tri-state area of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Surface Transportation Program: Federal-aid highway funding program that funds a broad range of surface transportation capital needs, including many roads, transit, sea and airport access, vanpool, bike, and pedestrian facilities.

Title VI: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Prohibits discrimination in any program receiving federal assistance.

Transportation Enhancement Program: Provides funds to the States for safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic routes, beautification, restoring historic buildings, renovating streetscapes, or providing transportation museums and visitors centers. 23 U.S.C. 101(a) and 133(b)(8).

Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21): Authorized in 1998, TEA-21 authorized federal funding for transportation investment for fiscal years 1998-2003. Approximately \$217 billion in funding was authorized, which was used for highway, transit, and other surface transportation programs.

Transportation Improvement Program: A document prepared by a metropolitan planning organization that lists projects to be funded with FHWA/FTA funds for the next one- to three-year period.