



GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Attainment Area

An area that meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Attainment Maintenance Area

An area that has previously been designated as non-attainment for air quality but is now consistently meeting attainment status.

Code of Federal Regulations

A compilation of the general and permanent rules of the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government as published in the Federal Register. The code is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation.

Conformity Determination

Determination that total emissions projected for a transportation plan and program are within the emissions limits (or budgets) established by a State Implementation Plan (SIP), and that transportation control measures (TCMs) are implemented in a timely fashion.

Construct Authority

Stage of project advancement that allows projects in years one through four of the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) to proceed to the final stages of development in preparation for construction.

Develop Authority

Stage of project advancement that allows projects in years five through ten of the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) to begin preliminary design, environmental review, cost estimates, and other early development activities.

Discretionary Grant Programs

Special funding categories where the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) solicits for candidates and selects projects for funding based on applications received. Each program has its own eligibility and selection criteria that are established by law, by regulation, or administratively.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Federal agency within the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) responsible for administering the Federal-Aid Highway Program.

Federal Lands Access Program

A program designed to improve transportation facilities that provide access to or are located within Federal lands.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Federal agency within the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) that is the principal source of federal financial assistance to America's communities for planning, development, and improvement of public or mass transportation systems.

Fiscal Constraint

Requires that revenues in transportation planning and programming are identified and are reasonably expected to be available to implement the metropolitan long range transportation plan and the STIP/TIP, while providing for the operation and maintenance of the existing highway and transit systems.

Formula Grants Program

Allocated funding to recipients based on formulas set by Congress. The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) distributes these funds to States, Federally recognized Tribal recipients, and transit agencies.

Interstate Highway System

A network of controlled-access highways that spans the continental United States.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

A transportation policy-making body made up of representatives from local government and transportation agencies with authority and responsibility to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process in areas with 50,000 or greater population.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

The official intermodal transportation plan that is developed and adopted through the metropolitan transportation planning process for the metropolitan planning area.

Motor Vehicle Emissions Budget

The portion of total allowable emissions in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) that is allocated to on-road mobile sources, such as cars, trucks, and buses.

Multimodal Transportation

The process of moving goods or people from one place to another using more than one method or mode of transportation.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Federal standards that set allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various pollutants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the standards in response to a requirement of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Air quality standards have been established for the following six criteria pollutants: ozone (or smog), carbon monoxide, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and sulfur dioxide.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

A policy requiring that any project using federal funding or requiring federal approval, including transportation projects, examine the effects of proposed and alternative choices on the environment before a federal decision is made.

National Highway System

A network of strategic highways located in the United States. It includes the Interstate Highway System and roads that serve airports, ports, military bases, rail and truck terminals, railway stations, pipeline terminals, and other transport facilities.

Non-Attainment Area

An area that does not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Non-Metropolitan Area

An area that is not an urbanized area as defined by the US Census Bureau.

Plan Authority

Stage of project advancement that allows projects outside of the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) which have long-term development needs to begin feasibility studies and certain limited development activities.

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL)

A collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision-making that considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the transportation planning process.

Planning Emphasis Area

Areas identified by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for consideration in transportation planning to guide metropolitan planning organizations, state departments of transportation, transit agencies and federal land management agencies in their planning processes.

Proposition 1

A 2014 State of Texas constitutional amendment for transportation funding. The amendment directs a portion of existing oil and natural gas production taxes (also known as severance taxes) to be divided evenly between the Economic Stabilization Fund and the State Highway Fund. Under Section 49-g(c), Article III, Texas Constitution, the funds deposited to the State Highway Fund may only be used for constructing, maintaining, and acquiring rights-of-way for public roadways other than toll roads.

Proposition 7

A 2015 State of Texas constitutional amendment authorizing increased funding for the state highway system. Under the amendment, a portion of sales and use taxes as well as a smaller portion of motor vehicle sales and rental taxes may only be used pursuant to Section 7-C, Article VIII of the Texas Constitution, to (1) construct, maintain, or acquire rights-of-way for public roadways other than toll roads and; (2) the legislature may appropriate Proposition 7 funds to pay for the debt service on Proposition 12 Highway Improvement General Obligation Bonds.

Regional Planning Organization

An organization that identifies local transportation needs, conducts planning, assists local governments, and supports the statewide transportation planning process in nonmetropolitan regions of a State.

Regionally Significant Project

A project that is on a facility which serves regional transportation needs (such as access to and from the area outside the region; major activity centers in the region; major planned developments such as new retail malls, sports complexes, or employment centers; or transportation terminals).

State Implementation Plan (SIP)

A plan mandated by the Clean Air Act (CAA) and prepared by the state environmental agency that contains procedures to monitor, control, maintain, and enforce compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP)

The official, statewide, multimodal transportation plan covering no less than 20 years developed through the statewide transportation planning processes.

Strategic Highway Network

A network of highways that is important for defense mobility and deployment of military equipment and personnel.

Texas Administrative Code (TAC)

A compilation of all state agency rules in Texas.

Texas Transportation Commission

The commission which governs the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and is responsible for policymaking regarding the state's highway system, developing a statewide transportation plan, assisting the development of public transportation, and adopting rules for TxDOT's operation.

Transportation Asset Management Plan

A focal point for information about the transportation assets, their management strategies, long-term expenditure forecasts, and business management processes.

Transportation Conformity

A Clean Air Act requirement that ensures that Federal funding and approval goes to those transportation activities that are consistent with air quality goals. Conformity applies to transportation plans, transportation improvement programs, and projects funded or approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in nonattainment or maintenance areas.

Transportation Control Measure

A strategy to reduce transportation-related air pollution, greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, and fuel use by reducing vehicle miles traveled and improving roadway operations.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

A document prepared by a metropolitan planning organization that lists projects to be funded with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) / Federal Transit Administration (FTA), state, or local funds within the next four-year period.

Unified Transportation Program (UTP)

TxDOT's ten-year multimodal program of transportation projects that guides the development of transportation work across the state. The UTP authorizes the distribution of construction dollars expected to be available over the next 10 years.

United States Code (USC)

The general and permanent laws of the United States, organized by subject matter.