

GLOSSARY

MPO/RTPO TRANSPORTATION TERMS AND ACRONYMS

ACCT	Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation: A WSDOT-sponsored council of state agencies, transportation providers, consumer advocates, and legislators. ACCT promotes coordination of transportation resources for people with special transportation needs.
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act: This federal legislation mandated significant changes in transportation, building codes, and hiring practices to prevent discrimination against people with disabilities.
Capacity	The number of people or amount of goods that can be served by a transportation facility or program. It is most often used to describe the number of vehicles served by a roadway.
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant:
Commute Trips	Regular trips made from home to a fixed location, e.g. work or school.
Concurrency	This is the requirement that public facilities and services be provided at the same time as new development takes place. It is also a process of reassessment that links land use and transportation. The State's Growth Management Program specifically defines "concurrent with development" for transportation as meaning that "improvement or strategies are in place at the time of development, or that financial commitment is in place to complete the transportation improvements within a 6-year planning period."
CTR	Commute Trip Reduction: Legislation requiring employers in the nine largest counties to implement measures to reduce the number of single occupant vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled by their employees. Yakima County is one of the affected counties.
Deficiency	The condition when a facility does not meet adopted level of service standards. (See also Need)
Delay	This is an indicator of transportation level of service at an intersection as measured by the length of time in which a vehicle is stopped.
Density	As a transportation measure, density represents a level of service measure defined as the number of vehicles per linear mile per lane.
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration

FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GMA	Growth Management Act: State legislation passed in 1990 requiring urban counties and their associated jurisdictions to cooperatively develop and periodically update plans related to land use, infrastructure, services, housing, etc. Under GMA, planning organizations are responsible for creating and maintaining a regional transportation plan and for certifying that the transportation elements of each jurisdiction meet GMA requirements. (<i>House Bill 2929 [RCW 36.70a and RCW 47.80]</i>).
GMP	Growth Management Program: Program authorized under Washington Law that relates to land use, transportation, capital facilities, housing, public utilities, and environmental protection in its requirements.
HCT	High Capacity Transit: Transit systems operating on a fixed guideway, dedicated right-of-way, or freeway/express facility, designed to carry a large number of riders at faster speeds than conventional transit. Frequent and express bus service, passenger ferries, and rail are examples of HCT.
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicles: Vehicles that carry more than one occupant, such as busses, vanpools, and carpools.
HOV Lane	Roadway travel lanes dedicated exclusively for buses, carpools, and vanpools.
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems: A wide range of advanced technologies that improve the safety and efficiency of existing transportation facilities or services. Common examples of ITS include central dispatch of road emergency assistance, freeway traffic maps shown on television or the internet to warn motorists of accidents, and devices that map ‘real time’ location of transit vehicles.
Intermodal	Multiple modes of transportation working together in an efficient, integrated system.
Land Use Assumptions	The proposed and existing land uses, i.e. retail, residential densities, industry and so on used in developing travel forecasts. Population and employment numbers in the travel forecasting process represents these land uses.
Land Use Based Travel Models	Land use based travel models are used to forecast future travel on the transportation system. The forecast is linked to the land use assumptions. This travel forecast is used to identify future deficiencies in the transportation system, and to determine concurrency.

Local Programs A division of the Washington State Department of Transportation responsible for the overall administration of federal funding programs. Funding known as *Transaid*.

LOS **Level of Service:** This is a method of measuring and defining the type and quality of a particular public-service such as transportation. The county and cities must cooperatively develop standards for level of service for public services and infrastructure as part of the policies of growth management. LOS measures are qualitative and describe operational traffic conditions. Current application of LOS in this region is based on the Volume-to-Capacity ratio (V/C ratio) of a given roadway segment. As the volume of traffic on a roadway during the peak commute time approaches the designed capacity, congestion increases.

MAP-21 **Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century:** On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law P.L. 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Funding surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014, MAP-21 is the first long-term highway authorization enacted since 2005. MAP-21 represents a milestone for the U.S. economy – it provides needed funds and, more importantly, it transforms the policy and programmatic framework for investments to guide the growth and development of the country’s vital transportation infrastructure.

MAP-21 creates a streamlined, performance-based, and multimodal program to address the many challenges facing the U.S. transportation system. These challenges include improving safety, maintaining infrastructure condition, reducing traffic congestion, improving efficiency of the system and freight movement, protecting the environment, and reducing delays in project delivery.

MAP-21 builds on and refines many of the highway, transit, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies established in 1991. This summary reviews the policies and programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration. The Department will continue to make progress on transportation options, which it has focused on in the past three years, working closely with stakeholders to ensure that local communities are able to build multimodal, sustainable projects ranging from passenger rail and transit to bicycle and pedestrian paths.

Mobility A measure of transportation service performance that takes into consideration the ability of a traveler to move from origin to destination at the time, and with the travel mode, desired.

Model This is a mathematical formula that expresses the actions and interactions of a transportation system in a way that the system can be evaluated under any set of possible conditions, i.e. land use, economic, socio-economic, or travel characteristics.

MPO	<p>Metropolitan Planning Organization: The agency designated by the governor to administer the federally required transportation planning in a metropolitan area. An MPO must be in place for every urbanized area over 50,000 population.</p> <p>The function of an MPO is to provide continuing, coordinated, comprehensive transportation planning in urbanized areas. The most visible products that result from the effort are a financially constrained 20-year Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a three-year Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).</p>
NAAQS	<p>National Ambient Air Quality Standards: Air quality standards for measureable amounts of ozone, carbon monoxide, particulants (i.e. dust), nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and lead. The standard for carbon monoxide is 35 parts per million (PPM) over a one-hour period or 9 PPM over an eight-hour-period. The standard for ozone is 0.08 PPM over an eight-hour-period. The standard for PM₁₀ is 50,mg/m³ annual arithmetic mean or 150,mg/m³ maximum twenty-four hour average concentration.</p>
Need	<p>A need is defined as the conceptual solution for an identified deficiency. This is most often expressed as an estimated project cost.</p>
Nonattainment Area	<p>The geographic area designated as not meeting the NAAQA for a criteria pollutant. The boundaries are proposed by the governor, approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, and include that area required to implement plans and programs for attainment of the NAA QS published in the Federal Register.</p>
Peak Period	<p>The time period during which the maximum amount of travel occurs. Generally, there is a morning peak and an afternoon peak period, and less frequently, a mid-day peak period. The peak period usually extends for at least two hours, which encompasses the peak hour.</p>
RTIP	<p>Regional Transportation Improvement Program: Federally required document produced by YVCOG that identifies all federally funded projects for the current 3-year period. The RTIP is developed every year. In order for any federally-funded project to proceed, it must be included in the RTIP and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. This results in the need to amend the RTIP occasionally throughout the year in order to add projects which were recently awarded funding.</p>
RTPO	<p>Regional Transportation Planning Organization: A state-designated agency of neighboring local jurisdictions within one or more counties, through voluntary association, created to ensure that regional transportation planning is consistent with the planning policies and growth strategies for the region. YVCOG is the</p>

Regional Transportation Planning Organization for Yakima County, with is a single-county RTPO.

Service Level Ordinances	An ordinance which requires that a fixed LOS be met on all of a community's roadway's or transit routes. Development impacts are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act: An act which requires consideration of alternatives and mitigation of environmental impacts for major projects and programs, both public and private.
SIP	State Implementation Plan: A plan that is intended to eliminate or reduce the severity and number of violations of the national ambient air quality standards and expeditiously achieve those standards.
Strategy Plan	A plan of actions necessary to achieve the adopted goals.
SCR	South Central Region: Subdivision of WSDOT that deals with state transportation issues in south central Washington, includes Yakima County as well as several other counties. The SCR office is located in Union Gap.
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program: Federally required document identifying all federally-funded and/or regionally significant projects in the state. Projects must be included in the STIP before applicants can use federal money awarded to their projects. In order for a project to be included in the STIP it must first be included in the RTIP.
STP	Surface Transportation Program: The primary federal funding program resulting from MAP-21 that provides money for a wide range of transportation projects awarded funding and selected by a regional prioritization process.
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee: Advisory body to the YVCOG on transportation issues, primarily technical in nature. The TAC is made up of the Public Works Directors and/or Engineering Staff from member jurisdictions, representatives of Yakima City Transit, the Yakama Nation, People for People, and WSDOT SCR.
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program: A schedule of intended transportation improvements (or continuation of current activities) as required by Section 134 of Title 23 USC. A TIP shall include projects within the MPO's area that are proposed for funding under Title 23 USC and the Federal Transit Act, projects that are part of or consistent with the transportation plan as previously defined, and transportation control measures that are included in the State Implementation Plan for meeting NAAQS.

TMODEL	Travel Demand Forecasting Model: Used for the Regional Transportation Plan Update. TMODEL analyzes the movement of cars on the road network, but is less capable at evaluating other modes of transportation.
TPB	Transportation Policy Board: Advisory board to the Regional Council that focuses specifically on regional transportation issues.
Transportation Plan	A document that describes transportation policies, strategies, and facilities within the metropolitan area boundary defined in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (PL 102-240). A plan is based on existing and future transportation needs with due consideration given to the transportation elements of local comprehensive plans and forecasts. It is required under the regulation implementing Section 134 of Title 23 USC, Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act, and is intended to foster a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process.
Transit	The entire public transportation/high occupancy vehicle system including buses, ferries, vanpools, carpools, etc.
TCM	Transportation Control Measure: A transportation project, program, or action listed in the SIP that will aid in elimination or reduction of the severity or number of violations of the national ambient air quality standards and help expeditiously attain and maintain those standards.
Transportation Demand Management	Action intended to modify travel behavior, usually to avoid more costly expansion of the transportation system. Transportation demand management addresses traffic congestion by focusing on reducing travel demand rather than increasing transportation supply to increase transportation efficiency. Travel demand is reduced by measures which either eliminate trip making or accommodate person trips in fewer vehicles and may include incentives, disincentives, and the provision of transportation alternatives.
Transportation Element	Describes the location, capacity, and level of service for all transportation facilities and services. The transportation element of the comprehensive plan includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use assumptions • Level of service standards • Inventory of existing services and facilities • Current and future deficiencies • Analysis of financing • Reassessment/concurrency • Action strategy • Intergovernmental coordination

Trip	A one-way journey between one origin and one destination, e.g. from home to work. Multiple destinations during a journey are considered multiple trips.
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program: A federally required annual report describing the agency's regional transportation work program and budget, detailing the various state and federal funding sources that will be used. It reflects the state fiscal year (July 1-June 30) and is developed in the third quarter of the fiscal year for the ensuing fiscal year.
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled: Refers to the number of miles traveled on roadways by a car for a specific time period, usually per year.
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation
WTP	Washington Transportation Plan