



Transportation Glossary of Terms and Acronyms



August 2013

INTRODUCTION

Transportation terms and acronyms can be confusing. The Office of Policy Planning has compiled a Transportation Glossary (the Glossary) of terms and acronyms used in transportation planning. The Glossary is also available on the Internet at www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/glossary. Please check this site for the latest version of this document.

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Transportation Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

AADT

Annual Average Daily Traffic

AADTT

See Annual Average Daily Truck Traffic.

Access Management

The control and regulation of the spacing and design of driveways, medians, median openings, traffic signals and intersections on arterial roads to improve safe and efficient traffic flow on the road system.

Accessibility (a dimension of mobility)

Conceptually the ease in engaging in activities; ability to reach desired destinations, activities, goods, and services – mobility performance measure typically associated with this mobility dimension are

1. Time to reach a destination
2. Distance to reach a destination
3. Modal choices
4. Connectivity

Action Plan

The initial consideration of the engineering design principles to be applied to the facilities of corridor segments. Action Plans provide detailed planning guidance for the project development process of controlled access facilities that make up corridors or corridor segments by establishing the basis for the Purpose and Needs Statement. The plans identify preliminary typical sections for facilities in the corridor segment, define the controlling design criteria, such as design speed for a highway, and identify multimodal opportunities.

Advance Acquisition

The acquisition of real property rights for use on a transportation corridor in advance of the fiscal year in which right of way acquisition would normally occur. This is done to take advantage of favorable prices or the availability of land and to preclude further development that would make the property more costly to the public.

Alternative Modes

Non-highway surface modes, such as rail, transit, walking and bicycling.

Annual Performance Report

An annual report documenting FDOT's implementation of the Florida Transportation Plan. It tracks progress toward attaining its goals and objectives based on the Performance-Based Planning and Programming Process.

Automobile (auto)

A travel mode that includes all motor vehicle traffic using a roadway except transit buses (includes such vehicles as trucks, recreational vehicles, motor cycles and tour buses) (HCM definition).

Annual Average Daily Traffic

The total volume of traffic on a highway segment for one-year, divided by the number of days in the year.

Annual Average Daily Truck Traffic

The total volume of truck traffic on a highway segment for one-year, divided by the number of days in the year.

Benchmark

A reference point used for comparisons for performance measures practices.

Bottleneck

A segment of a transportation network that experiences significant operational problems such as oversaturated congestion.

Buffer Index

A travel time reliability performance measure defined by the ratio of an actual travel time (typically the 95th percentile travel time) to the average travel time; conceptually represent the extra travel time (or time cushion) travelers must add to their average travel time when planning trips to ensure on-time arrival (Note, this measure is not recommended for statewide reporting of travel time reliability or in project prioritization).

Bus

A transit mode operated by rubber tired vehicles that follow fixed routes and schedules along roadways.

Busway

A corridor for the exclusive use of transit buses. Typically, these corridors may include grade-separations and signal preemptions. The Miami-Dade busway is an example.

Capacity (for auto mode)

The maximum number of vehicles that reasonably can be expected to traverse a point or a uniform section of roadway during a given period under prevailing conditions.

Capacity Funds

Funds allocated by FDOT for (1) highway rights of way and construction, and (2) aviation, rail, seaports and intermodal access programs after funds for operations, preservation, safety and security have been excluded.

Categorical Exclusion

A formal ruling by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation that a transportation project or group of projects do(es) not individually or cumulatively have a significant environmental effect on the natural or human environment.

CIA

See *Community Impact Assessment*.

Climate Trends

Trends reflecting changes in the statistical distribution of weather over periods of decades or longer (e.g., rainfall, flooding [hundred year storm], storm surge, and mean high water).

COFC

See *Container on Flatcar*.

Commercial Service Airport

An airport receiving scheduled passenger service and having 2,500 or more enplaned passengers per year.

Community

A physical or cultural grouping of stakeholders with common interests created by shared proximity or use. Community can be defined at various levels within a larger context (e.g., neighborhood or city or metropolitan area or region).

Community Impact Assessment

A process to evaluate the effects of a transportation action on a community and its quality of life. The main areas of emphasis for a Community Impact Assessment are social, economic, land use, aesthetic, relocation and displacement, and civil rights.

Community Livability

Encompasses those elements of home and neighborhood that contribute to welfare, health, convenience, mobility and recreation.

Concept Strategy

The first of three stages in the Corridor Planning and Screening Process, during which the study area is identified, policy objectives are defined, preliminary mobility and connectivity needs are summarized, economic development opportunities are identified, a list of potential corridor options is compiled, high-level environmental and community issues and resources are identified, an initial list of FDOT and partner commitments is developed, and a corridor purpose and need is developed. The products of the Concept Stage include a Concept Report, summarizing all of the above, and a framework for further study, including potential corridor segments that may be advanced for further study and the types of study recommended.

Concurrency

As used in growth management, the requirement that public facilities and services needed to support development shall be available at the same time the impacts of such development will occur. For transportation facilities and services, there are specific legal criteria that address the time requirements for providing services and facilities, jurisdiction over level of service standards for specific portions of the highway and road system, and other issues.

Conformity

Under subsection 176(c) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, defined as agreement "... to an implementation plan's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and achieving expeditious attainment of such

standards...” ensuring that “...such activities will not cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area; increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area; or delay timely implementation of any standard or any required interim emission reductions or other milestone on any area.”

Congestion (for the auto mode)

A condition in which traffic demand is sufficient to cause the LOS to be or at or below FDOT’s LOS standard (note: congestion is not necessarily related to speed or delay). Adjectives describing the severity of congestion are:

1. Mild
2. Heavy
3. Severe

Adjectives describing the types of congestion are:

1. Non-recurring
2. Recurring

Connector

Highways, rail lines or waterways that connect hubs and corridors.

Constrained Connector

A connector that is not suitable for future expansion due to capacity/geometrics or facility plans. Constrained connectors have been identified in the workshop draft materials only when a connector or new alignment is funded in an adopted cost-feasible plan.

Consultation

When one party confers with another identified party and, prior to taking action(s), considers that party’s views.

Container

A large, standard sized metal box into which cargo is packed for shipment.

Container on Flatcar

Containers resting directly on railway flatcars without a truck chassis underneath. (See also *Trailer on flatcar.*)

Containerized Cargo

Cargo that is transported in containers that can be transferred easily from one transportation mode to another.

Context Measure

See Indicator

Controlled Access Facility

A roadway where the spacing and design of driveways, medians, median openings, traffic signals and intersections are strictly regulated by consideration of such factors as traffic volume, number of lanes and adjacent land use.

Cooperation

When parties involved work together to achieve a common goal or objective.

Coordination

The comparison of plans, programs and schedules of one agency with related plans, programs and schedules of other agencies or entities with legal standing, and adjustment of plans, programs and schedules to achieve general consistency.

Corridor

Any land area designated by the state, a county, or a municipality which is between two geographic points and which is used or is suitable for the movement of people and goods by one or more modes of transportation (aviation, bicycle, highway, paratransit, pedestrian, pipeline, rail [commuter, intercity passenger, and freight], transit, space, and water), including areas necessary for management of access and securing applicable approvals and permits.

Corridor (for auto mode)

(1) A set of essentially interrelated, parallel transportation facilities for moving people and goods between two points; (2) A geographic area used for the movement of people and goods; (3) highway, rail line, waterway and other exclusive-use facilities that connect major origin/destination markets within Florida or between Florida and other states/nations

Cost-Feasible Plan

A phased plan of transportation improvements that is based on (and constrained by) estimates of future revenues.

Deepwater Seaport

A seaport defined in Chapters 311 and 403 of the Florida Statutes. Florida's 14 deepwater seaports handle most of the marine cargo passing into and out of the state.

Delay (for auto mode)

Additional travel time beyond some norm (e.g., LOS C in urbanized areas, LOS B elsewhere) experienced by a traveler; any additional travel time experienced by a traveler.

Demand

The number of persons or vehicles desiring to use a mode or facility.

Demand to Capacity Ratio

See volume to capacity ratio

Demand Management

A set of strategies that promote increased efficiency of the transportation system by influencing individual travel behavior.

DEP

See *Department of Environmental Protection*.

Department

See *Florida Department of Transportation*.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

The lead agency for environmental management and stewardship, protecting Florida's air, water and land. DEP is divided into three primary areas: Regulatory Programs, Land and Recreation, and Water Policy and Ecosystem Restoration.

Department of Transportation

The Florida Department of Transportation is responsible for providing a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity and preserves the quality of our environment and communities.

Destination

The point in a trip where travel ends.

Discretionary

A term used to indicate that the Florida Department of Transportation has some legal discretion on how and where funds can be expended.

DOT

See *Department of Transportation*.

EA

See *Environmental Assessment*.

Economic Competitiveness

A state or region's ability to compete in global markets, as evidenced in the attraction of new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses.

Economic Connectivity

Service to key origin-destination markets and population centers.

Economic Development

Sustained increase in the economic standard of living of the population of a country (or any other defined geographic region), normally accomplished by increasing its stocks of physical and human capital and improving its technology.

Economic Diversification

The development and growth of new industries that are not a large part of a state's or region's existing industries.

Economically Productive Rural Land

Lands whose greatest economic value is derived from rural uses such as agriculture and other resource based industries, recreation and tourism, renewable energy, military, and related research and development activities.

Economic Regions

The strategic planning areas defined in the Florida Strategic Plan for Economic Development.

Ecosystem Management

An integrated, flexible approach to management of Florida's biological and physical environments conducted through the use of tools such as planning,

land acquisition, environmental education and pollution prevention. This management approach is designed to maintain, protect and improve the state's natural, managed and human communities.

Efficient Transportation Decision Making

A FDOT initiative to improve and streamline the environmental review and permitting process by involving resource protection agencies and concerned communities from the first step of planning. Agency interaction continues throughout the life of the project, leading to better quality decisions and an improved linkage of transportation decisions with social, land use and ecosystem preservation decisions.

EIS

See *Environmental Impact Statement*.

Emergency Management and Response

Actions taken to prepare for, respond to, and recover from an incident threatening life, property, operations, or the environment (natural and manmade hazards).

Emerging SIS

Facilities and services of statewide or interregional significance that meet lower levels of people and goods movement than Strategic Intermodal System facilities.

Empowerment Zones

Urban areas designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services designed to stimulate the creation of new jobs, particularly for the disadvantaged and long-term unemployed, and to promote revitalization of economically depressed areas.

Enplanements

Passenger boarding at airports.

Enterprise Community

Areas designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (urban areas) or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (rural areas) designed to promote financial assistance for essential public facilities, economic development through funding, technical assistance for agricultural programming and technical assistance for community development initiatives.

Enterprise Zones

Areas designated by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development of the Executive Office of the Governor, located in areas of the state where high poverty rates and little economic growth persist. Enterprise Zones may be in rural or urban areas of Florida, and businesses locating within an Enterprise Zone qualify for sales and corporate tax credits. Enterprise Zones may also include brownfield sites offering additional financial incentives for businesses. Through the provision of key incentives, enterprise zones are designed to encourage private sector investment, business expansion and employment.

Environmental Assessment

A document that must be submitted for approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation for transportation projects in which the significance of the environmental impact is not clearly established. An EA is required for all projects for which a Categorical Exclusion or Environmental Impact Statement is not applicable.

Environmental Impact Statement

A document that must be submitted for approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation for transportation projects that significantly affect the human environment as defined by CEQ (Council on Environmental Quality) regulations. The type of actions which would normally require an EIS are: a new controlled access freeway; a highway project of four or more lanes on new location; new construction or extension of fixed rail transit facilities; and new construction or extension of a separate roadway for buses or high-occupancy vehicles not located within an existing highway facility.

Environmental Stewardship

A philosophical concept of government, the public, resource users and businesses all taking responsibility and working together to care for natural resources.

ETDM

See *Efficient Transportation Decision Making*.

Evaluation Stage

The second of three stages in the Corridor Planning and Screening Process, during which multiple corridor options are evaluated against meeting the preliminary mobility and connectivity needs identified during the concept stage. The range of corridor options considered includes operational strategies to optimize efficiency for all modes, capacity improvements within existing facility rights of way, or new facilities or alignments. High level costs and potential financing or partnership opportunities are also considered during this stage. The products of the Evaluation Stage includes an Evaluation Report with a Corridor purpose and need; an Implementation Plan laying out FDOT and partner commitments for addressing corridor issues and opportunities, including specific action items for moving forward; and guidance for incorporating one or more projects into appropriate state, regional, and local plans.

Facility (for auto mode)

A length of roadway composed of points and segments.

Fast-Growing Economic Region

A Florida county that ranks among the top 25 percent statewide in terms of population growth rate over the next 20 years, according to the annual forecast prepared by the Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research, or for employment growth rate over the next 20 years, according to Woods & Poole Economics.

Fatality Rate

The number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

FDOT

See *Department of Transportation*.

Federal-Aid Highway(s)

Those highways eligible for assistance under Title 23 of the United States Code, which does not include those functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors.

FIHS

See *Florida Intrastate Highway System*.

Fixed Guideway

A form of transit consisting of vehicles that can operate only on a guideway constructed for a specific 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.”

Florida Intrastate Highway System

A system of existing and future limited-access and controlled-access facilities that have the capacity to provide high-speed and high-volume traffic movements in an efficient and safe manner.

Florida Transportation Commission

The Florida Transportation Commission was created by the 1987 Legislature to serve as a citizen's oversight board for the Florida Department of Transportation. The Commission is independent of the Department.

Florida Transportation Plan

A statewide plan that defines Florida's long range transportation goals and objectives for at least the next 20-50 years.

Free Flow Speed (for auto mode)

The average speed of vehicles not under the influence of speed reduction conditions (typically assumed to be 5 mph over the posted speed limit).

Free Flow Time (for auto mode)

The average time spent by vehicles traveling at the free flow speed over a facility length.

Freight

Any commodity being transported.

FTC

See *Florida Transportation Commission*.

FTP

See *Florida Transportation Plan*.

Gateway

A major airport, seaport or other terminal for passengers or freight, where custom clearance may or may not take place.

General Aviation Airport

An airport that serves corporate aviation, flight schools, air charter operations, light cargo or private pilots flying for business or recreation.

Geographic Information System

A computer system capable of assembling, storing, manipulating and displaying geographically referenced information, i.e., data identified according to their locations. Practitioners also regard the GIS as including operating personnel and the data that go into the system.

GIS

See *Geographic Information System*.

Grade Separation

The raising or lowering of a road or highway grade to bridge over/under another road or highway to eliminate traffic movement conflicts.

Greenway

A corridor of protected open space that is managed for conservation or recreation purposes. Greenways follow natural land or water features such as ridges or rivers, or human landscape features such as abandoned railroad corridors or canals. They link natural reserves, parks, and cultural and historic sites with one another and, in some cases, with populated areas.

Heavy Congestion (for the auto mode)

A situation in which traffic demand is sufficient to cause the level of service to be below FDOT's LOS standard.

Heavy Vehicle (auto)

A vehicle with more than four wheels touching the pavement during normal operation.

High-Occupancy Vehicle

Any vehicle carrying two or more passengers. The term usually refers to private vehicles.

Highway

A general term for denoting a public way for purposes of vehicular and people travel, including the entire area with the right-of-way.

Highway Fatalities

All deaths in which a motor vehicle was the cause of the fatality. This includes pedestrians and bicyclists killed by motor vehicles as well as vehicle occupants.

Highway Modes

Automobile, Bicycle, Bus, Pedestrian

HOV

See *High-Occupancy Vehicle*.

Hub

Ports and terminals that move goods or people between Florida regions or between Florida and other origin/destination markets in the U.S. and the rest of the world.

Human Environment

The surroundings in which people conduct their lives, including built and natural environments, as well as cultural resources.

Impacts

The effects of a transportation project, including (a) direct (primary) effects; (b) indirect (secondary) effects; and (c) cumulative effects.

Incident

An event that causes a temporary, significant disruption in transportation services.

Indicator

A mobility performance measure which primarily shows a trend over time and is not used to achieve a goal or objective or used in a decision making process

Intelligent Transportation System

A wide range of advanced technologies and ideas, which, in combination, can improve mobility and transportation productivity, enhance safety, maximize the use of existing transportation facilities, conserve energy resources and reduce adverse environmental effects.

Intercity

Relating to the connection between any two or more cities. Such connections may be within a region (see *Intraregional*) or between two regions if the cities are different regions (see *Interregional*).

Integrated

Having different forms of transportation with different infrastructure, information systems and payment structures combined to form a single, unified transportation system.

Intermodal

Relating to the connection between any two or more modes of transportation.

Intermodal Access Program

This Florida Department of Transportation Program includes improvement of access to intermodal facilities, airports and seaports, and the acquisition of right-of-way.

Intermodal Center

An existing or planned transportation facility providing an interface between more than one mode of transportation [at least one of which must provide interstate or interregional service to be designated as Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) or Emerging SIS]. An example of an intermodal center is the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC), which provides connections between Amtrak, Tri-Rail and the local transit system.

Intermodal Connector

See *Connector*.

Interregional

Relating to the connection between any two or more regions.

Intracoastal Waterway

A waterway approximately 3,000 miles (4,827 kilometers) long, partly natural, partly man-made, providing sheltered passage for commercial and leisure boats along the U.S. Atlantic coast from Boston, Massachusetts to Key West, Florida; and along the Gulf of Mexico coast from Apalachee Bay, Florida to Brownsville, Texas.

Intraregional

Relating to the connections that have both ends within a single region.

ITS

See *Intelligent Transportation System*.

Key Industry

Also known as a “target industry”; an existing or emerging industry that is of strategic importance to the state of Florida. Examples include the high-tech industry, the agriculture industry, the mining industry, and the tourism industry.

Large Hub Airport

A term used by the Federal Aviation Administration to identify commercial service airports that account for at least one percent of the U.S. passenger enplanements in the United States.

Legislative Budget Request

A request to the legislature filed pursuant to S. 216.023, Florida Statutes, or supplemental detailed requests filed with the Legislature, for the amounts of money an agency or branch of government believes will be needed to perform the functions that it is authorized, or which it is requesting authorization by law, to perform. A Legislative Budget Request is filed each year.

Level of Service

A quantitative stratification of the quality of service to a typical traveler of a service or facility into six letter grade levels, with “A” describing the highest quality and “F” describing the lowest quantity. Level of Service indicates the capacity per unit of demand for each public facility.

Livable 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 Comprehensive Plan

Florida’s Growth Management Act requires all of Florida’s 67 counties and 476 municipalities to adopt Local Comprehensive Plans that guide future

growth and development. Comprehensive plans contain chapters or “elements” that address future land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, coastal management, conservation, recreation and open space, intergovernmental coordination and capital improvements.

Long Distance Trips

Trips of 100 miles or more.

Long Range Goal

A long-term (20-50 years) end toward which programs and activities are ultimately directed.

Long Range Objective

A long-term (20-50 years) general end that is achievable and marks progress toward a goal.

Long Range Program Plan

A 5-year plan, updated annually, developed by each state agency to achieve state goals, agency program objectives and the service outcomes from those programs. It provides the framework for developing agency budget requests and related performance measures.

Long Range Transportation Plan

A long range (20-year) strategy and capital improvement program developed to guide the effective investment of public funds in transportation facilities. The plan is updated every three years and may be amended as a result of changes in projected federal, state and local funding, major improvement studies, congestion management system plans, interstate interchange justification studies and environmental impact studies.

LOS

See *Level of Service*.

LRPP

See *Long Range Program Plan*.

L RTP

See *Long Range Transportation Plan*.

Maintenance

Activities undertaken to keep the state’s transportation infrastructure and equipment operating as intended, to eliminate deficiencies, and to extend or achieve the expected life of facilities before reconstruction is needed. These include routine or day-to-day activities (e.g., pothole patching, mowing, litter removal, guardrail repair and striping, routine bus inspection and maintenance, and periodic dredging of channels) and periodic major projects (e.g., resurfacing roadways and runways, and rehabilitating bridges and bulkheads at seaports).

MAP-21

See *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act*

Master Plan

A comprehensive plan to guide the long-term physical development of a particular transportation facility.

Medium Hub Airport

A term used by the Federal Aviation Administration to identify commercial service airports that account for between 0.25 percent and 1.0 percent of the U.S. passenger enplanements in the United States.

Megaregion

Large networks of metropolitan regions. The five major categories of relationships that define megaregions are: environmental systems and topography; infrastructure systems; economic linkages; settlement patterns and land use; and shared culture and history.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

An organization made up of local elected and appointed officials responsible for developing, in cooperation with the state, transportation plans and programs in metropolitan areas containing 50,000 or more residents. MPOs are responsible for the development of transportation facilities that will function as an intermodal transportation system and the coordination of transportation planning and funding decisions.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

A statewide organization created by the Florida Legislature to augment the role of the individual Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the cooperative transportation planning process. The MPOAC assists the MPOs in carrying out the urbanized area transportation planning process by serving as the principal forum for collective policy decisions.

MGT/M

See *Million Gross Ton-Miles/Mile*.

Mild Congestion

(For auto mode) - A situation in which traffic demand is in the LOS range of FDOT's LOS standard.

Military Base

For the purpose of the Strategic Intermodal System designation process, military bases refer to U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps installations to which active duty soldiers, sailors or aviators are assigned.

Million Gross Ton-Miles/Mile

Measurement of freight density on a rail line.

Mobility

The movement of people and goods.

Mobility Performance Measure

A metric which quantitatively tells us something about mobility – measure could be considered as two types:

1. a mobility metric directly tied to achieving a goal or objective or used in a decision making process

2. an indicator or context measure which is not used to achieve a goal or objective

Mode

Any one of the following means of moving people or goods: aviation, bicycle, highway, paratransit, pedestrian, pipeline, rail (commuter, intercity passenger and freight), transit, space and water.

Motor Carrier

A firm engaged in providing commercial motor freight or long distance trucking.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act

A highway authorization for funding surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014.

MPO

See *Metropolitan Planning Organization*.

MPOAC

See *Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council*.

Multimodal

More than one travel mode potentially including the four highway modes (auto, bicycle, bus, pedestrian), aviation, rail, seaports, and transit.

Multimodal Corridor Plan

A plan that identifies interregional transportation needs involving Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), Emerging SIS, regionally significant and local facilities in a corridor.

Multimodal Transportation

Denotes the use of more than one mode to serve transportation needs in a given area.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Federal air quality standards established pursuant to Section 109 of the Clean Air Act that apply to ambient air quality designed to protect public health. Included are standards for carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM-10), and sulphur dioxide (SO₂).

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), established a national environmental 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

Approximately 160,000 miles (256,000 kilometers) of roadway important to the nation's economy, defense and mobility. The NHS includes Interstate highways and other major roadways, the Department of Defense's Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) and major connectors to military installations and intermodal facilities.

Natural Environment

The surroundings not made by humans within which the transportation system operates. This includes both physical and ecological aspects, including traditional cultural resources.

Need

A demand for a mobility improvement that has been identified on the basis of accepted and adopted standards and other assumptions (e.g., land use) and documented in a formal long range or master plan.

NEPA

See *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*.

NHS

See *National Highway System*.

Non-Attainment

Relating to not meeting federal air quality standards.

Non-Highway Modes

Modes of transportation that do not utilize highway right-of-way. Examples include fixed guideway transit, rail and water modes.

Non-Recurring Congestion (for auto mode)

Congestion caused by unexpected disruptions or other events, particularly lane blocking incidents.

On-Time Arrival

A travel time reliability performance measure defined by a designated travel time (typically based on a 45 mph speed or 1.33 travel time index); conceptually represents a trip that arrives or does not arrive within a defined travel time.

Origin

The point in a trip where travel begins.

P&RP

See *Program and Resource Plan*.

Paratransit

Forms of transportation service that are more flexible and personalized than conventional fixed route, fixed schedule service; often utilized to accommodate the elderly and disabled passengers unable to use the fixed route service.

Partners, Transportation

Those parties with interests in transportation facilities and services including the public, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, public and private sector users and providers, Native American Nations, the Florida Department of Transportation, and other federal and state agencies.

Passengers (aviation, rail, seaport, transit)

People in a vehicle making use of a mode

PD&E

See *Project Development and Environmental*.

Peak Hour

(1) The hour in which the greatest amount of travel occurs (typically considered 5:00-6:00 pm on a weekday); (2) The hour in which the greatest amount of travel occurs for a mode.

Peak Period

(1) A multi-hour period in which travel is greatest; (2) For the auto mode in large urbanized areas the two-hour weekday time period of 5:00-7:00 pm at which congestion is typically highest.

Percent of Standard

When used in reference to the Maintenance Program, this refers to the percentage of the acceptable Department standard achieved. For the Maintenance Program, the “maintenance rating” goal is 80, and is based on the Department’s evaluation of its performance using the Maintenance Rating Program. If the Department achieves a rating of 80, this is reported as achieving 100% of the standard.

Performance Based Planning

Application of performance management principles to transportation system policy and investment decisions.

Performance-Based Planning and Programming Process

The process developed to monitor progress toward achieving goals and objectives at the agency strategic, decision-making and project delivery levels.

Performance Measures

A metric composed of a number and a unit of measure.

Planned Facility

A planned facility that is designated as part of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) or Emerging SIS before it is operational. Planned facilities must be projected to meet all applicable criteria and thresholds, be agreed to by partners and be financially feasible.

Planning Time Index

A travel time reliability performance measure defined by the ratio of an actual 95th percentile travel time to the free flow travel time; conceptually represents the once a month extra travel time travelers must spend compared to uncongested travel times (a value of 3.00 indicates a traveler should allow 60 minutes to make an important trip that takes 20 minutes in uncongested traffic.)

Preservation

Action taken to protect existing natural and human environments, investments and mobility options.

Program and Resource Plan

A 10-year plan that establishes financial and production targets for the Florida Department of Transportation programs, thereby guiding program funding decisions to carry out the goals and objectives of the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP).

Project

A specific proposed transportation facility or service that is listed in an adopted Work Program or Cost-Feasible Plan.

Project Development and Environmental

Florida Department of Transportation process for design and environmental assessment of transportation projects.

Project Development Stage

The third of three stages in the Corridor Planning and Screening Process, during which FDOT and its partners conduct detailed planning and preliminary design for specific improvements to existing facility segments, specific alignments and modes for parallel and new facility segments. As part of the established Project, Development and Environmental (PD&E) processes, detailed mobility impacts of specific alignments, detailed economic impacts (regional and localized), and impacts on social, cultural, and natural resources of each project are compared to the no build option. Preliminary cost estimates and financing plans are developed. When a project's environmental documents and permits are approved, the preferred alternative may be advanced into final design and engineering, followed by construction and implementation.

Purpose and Need

A description of the transportation problem (not solution) explaining the primary goal or reason for which a project is being pursued. The statement should be specific enough so that the range of alternatives developed will offer real potential solutions and should reflect priorities and limitations in the area such as environmental resources, growth management, land use planning, and economic development.

Quality

(a dimension of mobility) - Conceptually how well people or goods are being transported – mobility performance measure typically associated with this mobility dimension are:

1. Average travel speed
2. Travel time reliability
3. Vehicle delay
4. Level of service

Quality of Life

All of the characteristics of an area's living conditions, including such things as housing, education, transportation infrastructure, leisure time offerings, climate, employment opportunities, medical and health care infrastructure and environmental resources.

Quality of Service

A user based perception of how well a service or facility is operating.

Quantity

(a dimension of mobility) - Conceptually the number of people or goods being transported – mobility performance measures typically associated with this mobility dimension are

1. Person trips
2. Person miles traveled
3. Vehicle miles travel
4. Truck miles traveled
5. Tonnage

Record of Decision

A record of agreement that a proposed project meets all applicable requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as issued by the designated lead agency.

Recurring Congestion (for auto mode)

The routine presence of large numbers of vehicles on a facility.

REDI

See *Rural Economic Development Initiative*.

Region

An area of distinctive communities, cities, and counties where residents share: a geographic identity and are socially, economically, and culturally interdependent; a capacity for planning and function; and a capacity to create competitive advantage.

Regional Activity Center

A major facility or area at which an interregional, interstate or international trip begins or ends. Regional activity centers should be connected to the Strategic Intermodal System via regional and local strategic linkages. Examples include central business districts, theme parks or freight distribution centers.

Regional Planning Council

An organization that promotes communication, coordination and collaboration among local governments, metropolitan planning organizations and other local regional authorities on a broad range of regional issues, including transportation and land use planning. There are 11 Regional Planning Councils in Florida.

Regionally Significant Facility

A facility that connects urban, urbanizing or rural areas within multi-county regions, provides connections from regional activity centers to the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS)/Emerging SIS, or otherwise serves important regional travel. Examples of regionally significant facilities could include highway, waterway, rail and transit corridors serving major regional commercial, industrial or medical facilities; and regional transportation hubs

such as passenger terminals, commercial service and major general aviation airports, deepwater and special generator seaports, and major regional freight terminals and distribution centers.

Reliability

See time travel reliability

Reliever Hub

Port or terminal that functions as an alternative for a heavily used hub for the movement of goods or people.

Resurfacing Program

Provides for pavement resurfacing, rehabilitation, minor reconstruction, and pavement milling and recycling. Such projects are intended to preserve the structural integrity of highway pavements.

Routine Maintenance

Operations that may be predicted and planned in advance. These operations (e.g.: cleaning and debris removals, regular inspections, mowing, preventive maintenance, etc.), which may be preventive or corrective in nature, should be conducted on a regularly scheduled basis using standard procedures. Proper scheduling of these operations should be utilized to provide minimum disruptions and hazards to the driving public.

RPC

See *Regional Planning Council*.

Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern

Designated by the Governor, these areas must be a rural community or region that has been adversely affected by an extraordinary economic event or a natural disaster, or that presents a unique economic development opportunity of regional impact that will create more than 1,000 jobs over a five-year period. Such areas are to be priority assignments of the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI).

Rural Economic Development Initiative

The Rural Economic Development Initiative was established by Florida law in 1999 within the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development. It is a proactive, multi-agency effort that assists rural communities in solving problems that affect their fiscal economic or community viability. Among REDI's statutory responsibilities is recommendation to the Governor of up to three rural areas of critical economic concern.

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)

Authorization of the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009

SAFETEA-LU

See *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users*

Safety Management System

A systematic process that has the goal of reducing the number and severity of traffic crashes by ensuring that all opportunities to improve highway safety are identified, considered, implemented as appropriate and evaluated in all phases of highway planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation; and by providing information for selecting and implementing effective highway safety strategies and projects.

Safety Program

Projects designed to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety on the city, county and state highway systems. The program is divided into three subprograms - rail/highway crossings, highway safety and traffic safety grants.

Security

Actions taken to protect system users and workers, critical infrastructure, cargo and other assets, and communities from terrorism and crime related to the transportation system.

Severe Congestion (for auto mode)

A condition in which traffic demand exceeds the capacity.

Short Range Objective

One or more statements of the specific, measurable, intermediate end that is achievable and marks progress toward a goal and long range objective. Specific objectives may be associated with more than one goal or long range objective.

SHS

See *State Highway System*.

SIS

See *Strategic Intermodal System*.

Sketch Plan

A description of the transportation problem (not solution) explaining the primary goal or reason for which a project is being pursued. The statement should be specific enough so that the range of alternatives developed will offer real potential solutions and should reflect priorities and limitations in the area such as environmental resources, growth management, land use planning, and economic development.

Small Hub Airport

A term used by the Federal Aviation Administration to identify commercial service airports that account for 0.05 percent to 0.25 percent of the U.S. passenger enplanements in the United States.

Southeast Florida Rail Corridor

An operating rail corridor owned by the Department. It extends from north of West Palm Beach to Miami. Maintenance and corridor operations are performed by CSX under contract to the Department. Tri-Rail, Amtrak and CSX freight all operate on this Corridor.

Special Generator Seaport

Those seaports in Florida that are not designated as one of the 14 deepwater seaports. Special generator seaports typically handle one or two specific commodities or serve a specific industry.

SRPP

See *Strategic Regional Policy Plan*.

Stable Flow

A flow of traffic on freeways which is not stop and go.

Stakeholders

Individuals and groups with an interest in the outcomes of policy decisions and actions.

State Environmental Impact Report

Process used for environmental review of qualifying non-federal major transportation projects, as defined by FDOT's Project Development and Environmental manual.

State Highway System

A network of approximately 12,000 miles of highways owned and maintained by the State of Florida or state-created authorities. Major elements include Interstate highways, Florida's Turnpike and other toll facilities operated by transportation authorities and arterial highways.

State Implementation Plan

The plan developed by the state and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that contains the strategies and mechanisms, enforceable under state law, necessary to meet the national ambient air quality standards and comply with federal and state air quality laws and regulations.

State Transportation Trust Fund

A trust fund used to fund Florida's transportation needs. Revenues from highway fuel taxes, motor vehicle fees (e.g., title and registration fees) and aviation fuel taxes are deposited into the STTF to fund transportation improvements statewide.

Statewide Transportation Corridor

Currently, one of eight corridors identified by the Florida Legislature to provide for the efficient movement of significant volumes of intrastate, interstate, and international commerce by seamlessly linking multiple modes of transport.

STRAHNET

See *Strategic Highway Network*.

Strategic

Important or essential to Florida's statewide economic competitiveness.

Strategic Highway Network

A network of highways which are important to U.S. strategic defense policy and which provide defense access, continuity and emergency capabilities for defense purposes.

Strategic Intermodal System

Florida's transportation system composed of facilities and services of statewide and interregional significance, including appropriate components of all modes.

Strategic Rail Corridor Network

An interconnected and continuous rail line network consisting of over 38,000 miles of track serving over 170 defense installations in the United States.

Strategic Regional Policy Plan

A plan, required by Section 186,507 of Florida Statutes, developed by each of Florida's 11 Regional Planning Councils. A SRPP serves as the regional long range guide for the physical, economic and social development of the comprehensive planning district, and identifies regional goals and policies. SRPP subject areas include affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, natural resources of regional significance and regional transportation. The statutory requirement is implemented by Rule Chapter 27E-5 of the Florida Administrative Code.

Strategy

A specific activity that is designed to help achieve an objective.

STTF

See *State Transportation Trust Fund*.

Superpave

An asphalt mixture designed to resist the rutting and fatigue cracking caused by heavy loads and extreme temperatures, as experienced with the previous standard (known as the Marshall mix).

Sustainability

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of the future.

System

A combination of facilities or services forming a network or being selected for analysis.

System Maintenance

Actions taken to preserve the state's transportation infrastructure investment (e.g., resurfacing pavements of roadways and airport runways, repairing and replacing bridges, maintaining existing transit routes and frequencies) to eliminate deficiencies and to extend/achieve the expected life of facilities before, for example, reconstruction is needed.

Target

A quantifiable point in time at which an organization achieves all or a portion of its goals.

TDLC

See *Transportation Design for Livable Communities*.

TEA-21

See *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century*.

Throughput

The maximum number of people or vehicles that reasonably can be expected to traverse a point or a uniform transportation facility section during a given time period under prevailing conditions.

TIP

See *Transportation Improvement Plan*.

TOFC

See *Trailer on flatcar*.

Trailer on flatcar

Transporting entire truck trailers, including container and chassis, on a railway flatcar. Also known as “piggyback.”

Transit

A travel mode in which vehicles (including busses, streetcars, and street-running light rail) stop at regular intervals along the roadway to pick up and drop off passengers.

Transportation Alternative Study

A type of corridor study that identifies facility-specific transportation issues and opportunities within the corridor for enhancing the movement of people and goods, improvements in emergency management and response, enhancing homeland security, and ensuring opportunities for economic development. It also discusses potential options for implementation. The study is one of many that contribute to the concept and evaluation stages of the Corridor Planning and Screening Process.

Transportation Corridor

Any land area designated by the state, a county or a municipality which is between two geographic points and which area is used or is suitable for the movement of people and goods by one or more modes of transportation, including areas necessary for management of access and securing applicable approvals and permits.

Transportation Design for Livable Communities

The means by which the Florida Department of Transportation responds to and implements the solutions that have been arrived at during community impact assessment. Considerations include the safety of transportation system users, efficient use of energy, protection of the natural and manmade environment, relationships between land use and transportation planning, and local and state economic development goals. See also *Community Impact Assessment*.

Transportation Disadvantaged

Those persons who, because of disability, income status or age, are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation services.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

An Act of the U.S. Congress authorizing federal highway and transit programs for the fiscal years 1998 through 2003. The core federal programs

established in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) are continued in TEA-21.

Transportation Improvement Plan

Short-term (three to five years) plan of approved policies developed by an MPO for a jurisdiction that is fiscally constrained.

Travel time

The total time spent from one point to another.

Travel Time Index

A travel time reliability performance measure defined by the ratio of an actual travel time (typically the 50th, 80th or 95th percentile travel time) to the free flow travel time; conceptually represents the extra travel time travelers must spend compared to an uncongested travel time.

Travel Time Reliability

(1) The percent of trips that succeed in accordance with a predetermined performance standard for time or speed; (2) The variability of travel times that occur on a facility or a trip over a period of time – frequently used performance measures are:

1. Buffer index
2. On-time arrival
3. Planning time index
4. Travel time index

Tri-Rail

A commuter rail system in Southeast Florida operated by the Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority between West Palm Beach and Miami.

Truck

A heavy vehicle engaged primarily in the transport of goods and materials (notes, [1] trucks are included in the definition of HCM definition of automobile, [2] commonly within FDOT use of the term “truck” for traffic purposes is more accurately termed “heavy vehicle”).

Truckway

Highway facilities for exclusive use of heavy-haul trucks (none existing in Florida).

Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit (TEUS)

The eight-foot by eight-foot by twenty-foot intermodal container used as a basic measure for container cargo. A 40-foot container is considered the equivalent of two TEUs.

Urban Sprawl

Scattered, untimely and poorly planned urban development that occurs in urban fringe and rural areas. It frequently invades land important for environmental and natural resource protection. Sprawl is typically manifested by one or more of the following patterns: leapfrog development; ribbon or strip development; or large expanses of low-density development of one type, such as single family homes.

Utilization (A dimension of mobility)

Conceptually how efficiently the system is used– mobility performance measure typically associated with this mobility dimension are:

1. Volume to capacity ratios
2. Percent miles severely congested
3. Percent travel severely congested

Vehicle

A motorized mode of transportation

Vehicle Miles Traveled (For auto mode)

The total number of miles traveled by vehicles using a highway system.

Vehicle Occupancy

The number of persons, including driver and passenger(s) in a vehicle; also includes persons who did not complete a whole trip. Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey vehicle occupancy rates are calculated as person miles divided by vehicle miles.

Vision(ing)

A description of the future physical appearance and qualities of a community.

VMT

See *Vehicle Miles Traveled*.

Volume to Capacity Ratio

The ratio of demand to capacity.

Wetland and Wildlife Conservation Banks

Large land areas purchased for wetland and wildlife conservation to mitigate transportation impacts on a regional basis.

Work Program

The five-year listing of all transportation projects planned for each fiscal year by the Florida Department of Transportation, as adjusted for the legislatively approved budget for the first year of the program.