

# Glossary

## Access Management

The careful control of the location, design, and operation of all driveways and public street connections to a roadway, to improve roadway safety, and for efficiency.

## Accessibility

A measure of the ability or ease of all people to travel among various origins and destinations.

## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

This federal civil rights legislation mandated significant changes in transportation, building codes, and hiring practices to prevent discrimination against people with disabilities. The Act requires transit agencies to supply complementary or supplemental paratransit services within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of fixed routes to people who, because of their disability, are unable to use the fixed route system.

## Arterial

A class of street characterized by high vehicular capacity used primarily for through traffic rather than for accessing adjacent land.

## Bike Lane

A portion of the road or highway that is identified by pavement markings and/or signs reserved for bicycle use.

## Capacity

The number of people, vehicles, or amount of goods that can be served by a transportation facility or program. The term is most often used to describe the number of vehicles served by a roadway.

## Capital Facilities Plan (CFP)

The part of a jurisdiction's comprehensive plan that includes an inventory of capital facilities, and the proposed location and funding for future construction projects.

## Centerline Miles

A measure of road length along the "centerline" of any given road regardless of the number of lanes it contains.

## Collector

A roadway linking traffic on local roads to the arterial road network. A collector balances the need for mobility and through-put with the need for access to adjacent land uses.

**Commuter Trip Reduction Law (CTR)**

State legislation requiring employers in the state's 10 largest counties to implement measures to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by their employees during the peak travel periods. Thurston County is one of the affected counties. (RCW 70.94.521-551)

**Commuter Trips**

Regular trips made from home to a fixed work or school location, regardless of the distance or mode used. Currently, commuter trips represent about 20% of the travel on this region's transportation system. The remaining trips are often referred to as "discretionary trips."

**Commuter**

A person who travels regularly between home and work or school.

**Commuter Rail**

Also called metropolitan or regional rail, a passenger railroad service designed mainly for commuters serving a heavy volume of traffic, generally within and between metropolitan and high-density suburban areas. Typically, Commuter Rail is limited to only one or two stations in the central business district.

**Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan)**

The Growth Management Act requires local jurisdictions to adopt a long range plan to guide all development activity. One element of the Comprehensive Plan is the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP).

**Congestion**

A condition that prohibits movement on a transportation facility at optimal legal speeds. Congestion is often characterized as "recurrent" - resulting from constant excess traffic or "nonrecurring" - resulting from special events, incidents or accidents.

**Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)**

A federal program that funds projects and activities which reduce congestion and improve air quality. Areas qualify for these funds based on non-attainment status.

**Context Sensitive Design (CSD)**

This term refers to a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. CSD considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist.

**Corridor**

In planning, a linear segment of land that connects major residential areas and destinations. A corridor may contain a number of streets, highways, and transit routes, and may follow an interstate, freeway or major roadway. A corridor may be limited to a single jurisdiction or span multiple jurisdictions.

**Destination**

The point or location where a trip ends.

**Easement**

A right to use another person's real estate for a specific purpose. The most common type of easement is the right to travel over another person's land, known as a right of way. In addition, property owners commonly grant easements for the placement of utility poles, utility trenches, water lines or sewer lines. The owner of property agrees to not interfere with its designated use.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

A document required by the National Environmental Policy Act and Washington's State Environmental Policy Act for major projects or legislative proposals significantly affecting the environment. A tool for decision making, it describes the positive and negative effects of the undertaking and cites alternative actions.

**Environmental Justice (EJ)**

Refers to a Federal Executive Order that requires agencies to avoid, minimize, and mitigate disproportionately high and adverse effects of policies, programs, projects and other activities on minority and/or low income populations. The order implies that no population of people should be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts of pollution or environmental hazard due to a lack of political or economic strength.

**EPAMD**

An "electric personal assistive mobility device" (EPAMD) means a self-balancing device with two wheels not in tandem, designed to transport only one person by an electric propulsion system with an average power of seven hundred fifty watts (one horsepower) having a maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such propulsion while ridden by an operator weighing one hundred seventy pounds, or less than twenty miles per hour. (RCW 46.04.1695)

**Equilbre Multimodal/Multimodal Equilibrium (EMME/2)**

A software program used to forecast future travel demand on an existing or planned transportation facility, and to evaluate the performance of a given segment of the system. TRPC used this multimodal model for the 2025 RTP.

**Facility**

The means by which a transportation mode is provided or supported. A facility may refer to such elements as a road, sidewalk, Park-and-Ride Lot, or High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**

An agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation, with jurisdiction over highways.

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

An agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that funds and regulates transit planning and programs.

**Fixed Route**

Transit service that is regularly scheduled and repeatedly operates over a set route.

**Government-to-Government Relations**

Describes the manner of working with Indian tribes that recognizes their right to self-government and supports tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

**Growth Management Act (GMA)**

State legislation passed in 1990 that requires urban counties and their associated jurisdictions to cooperatively develop and periodically update plans related to issues such as land use, infrastructure, services, and housing. Under GMA, the Regional Planning Council is responsible for creating and maintaining a Regional Transportation Plan and for certifying that the transportation elements of each jurisdiction meet GMA requirements. (RCW 36.70a and RCW 47.80)

**Heavy Rail**

An electric powered rail transit system, typically a metro or subway, operating on a completely grade separated right-of-way, with high operating speeds.

**High Capacity Transit (HCT)**

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.

**High Speed Rail**

An intercity passenger rail system operating on exclusive rights of way. This form of rail serves densely traveled corridors with high operating speeds (up to 300 miles per hour) and limited stops.

**Highway and Local Programs (H&LP)**

A division of the Washington State Department of Transportation responsible for overall administration of federal funding programs.

**Highway System Plan (HSP)**

The state-owned component of the Washington Transportation Plan, this document is updated every two years and forms the basis for the Transportation Commission's biennial budget request to the Legislature.

**Impact Fee**

A fee imposed on new development activities as partial financing for public improvements such as public streets and roads, publicly owned parks, and school facilities.

**Infrastructure**

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.

**Intercity Rail**

Passenger rail service provided for occasional business and leisure travel between cities, typically with a single stop in each city served. Usually shares or leases track from freight railroads.

**Intercity Transit (I.T.)**

I.T. is Thurston County's public transportation provider.

**Intermodal**

Multiple types or "modes" of transportation working together in an interconnected, efficient, integrated system. The ability to connect and make connections among various modes of transportation, such as automobile, motorcycle, truck, bus, train plane, bicycle, pedestrian, boat, and ship.

**Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)**

This federal act revolutionized the way transportation decisions were made, and revenues spent, at the federal, state, and local levels. The Act placed a strong emphasis on coordination among local, regional, and state agencies with a mandate to better integrate transportation and land use decision-making processes. System preservation and management became at least as important as system expansion. ISTEA required a coordinated, comprehensive, and financially-constrained long-range transportation strategy. The original act expired in 1997 and was reauthorized as TEA21 in 1998.

**Jurisdiction**

This term refers to the authority of government to conduct activities and generally refers to tribes, states, counties and cities. For purposes of this Plan, the term is inclusive of federal and state agencies, and port and transit districts.

**Land Use**

The way that specific portions of land or the structures on the land are used, such as commercial, residential, retail, industrial. A land use plan establishes strategies for the use of land to meet identified community needs.

**Level of Service (LOS)**

A method of measuring operational traffic conditions. State law allows agencies to use any number of performance measures to evaluate operational efficiency of the transportation system, as long as it is coordinated regionally. Currently, this region uses the traditional Volume-to-Capacity ratio, or V/C ratio, of a given roadway segment during the busiest two hours of the evening commute period. As the volume of traffic on a roadway during the peak commute time approaches the designed capacity, congestion increases. LOS may use a grading system, with “LOS A” representing free flow and “LOS F” reflecting stop and go or failing traffic flows.

The term is most often used as a performance measure for automobile traffic. Some jurisdictions have attempted to define level of service standards for other modes, such as biking.

**Light Rail**

Also known as street cars, trams or trolleys, this electric powered rail system can operate in a variety of places – from on the street with automobile traffic to separate rights of way. With stations set every one-half to one mile, this form of rail has slower average operating speeds and less capacity than heavy rail.

**Local Street**

A street intended solely for access to properties contiguous to it.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

An agency designated by the governor to administer the federally required transportation planning in a metropolitan area. Every urbanized area with a population over 50,000 must be served by an MPO. MPOs provide continuing, coordinated, comprehensive transportation planning in urbanized areas and serve as a forum for cooperative decision making. The most visible MPO products include a 20-year Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a three-year Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

TRPC serves as the designated MPO for the urbanized area of Thurston County. Thurston County's MPO boundary is approximately that of the Lacey-Olympia-Tumwater urban growth area, with the inclusion of the Cooper Point peninsula.

**Mobility**

The ability of people or goods to move or be moved from place to place. Mobility also refers to the ease and safety with which desired destinations can be reached.

**Mode**

A particular form or means of transport – such as walking, traveling by automobile, bus or rail, or riding a bicycle. Some modes avoid trips, such as compressed work weeks or telework.

**Mode Split**

The proportion of total trips using various specified modes of transportation, such as the percentage of people carpooling, driving alone, or riding the bus.

**Multimodal**

Refers to the availability of multiple transportation options, especially within a system or corridor. A concept embraced by recent federal legislation (ISTEA, TEA21), a multimodal approach focuses on the most efficient way of transporting people or goods from place to place – combining truck, train, bicycle, automobile, bus, or foot.

**Non-Motorized Transportation**

Travel accomplished by cycling, walking, skating, wheelchairs or other assistive devices not involving a motor vehicle.

**Olympic Region**

One of six Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) geographic regions that deals with state transportation issues. The Olympic Region includes Thurston County, and is headquartered in Tumwater.

**On-Street Facilities**

Sidewalks and Bicycle Lanes.

**Origin**

The point or location where a trip begins.

**Park-and-Ride Lot (Park-and-Ride)**

A parking facility for individuals to transfer from one mode to another – usually from a private vehicle to a carpool, vanpool, or public transportation.

**Pavement Management System (PMS)**

A systematic process that gathers, analyzes, and summarizes pavement information for use in selecting and implementing cost-effective pavement construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance programs. Pavement includes all road surface types including paved, gravel, and improved or unimproved earth.

**Peak Period**

The time of the day when the maximum amount of travel occurs. Generally, there is a morning peak period (a.m. peak) and an afternoon peak period (p.m. peak).

**Pedestrian**

A person who travels on foot or who uses assistive devices, such as a wheelchair, for mobility.

**Performance Measure**

A measure of how well a program, project, activity or system is functioning.

**Person Trip**

A one-way trip made by a person from one place to another by any mode of travel.

**Public Transportation**

Transportation by bus, rail, vanpool, or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, serving the general public or special service on a regular and continuing basis (but not including school buses, or charter or sightseeing service).

**Regional Citizens Trails Advisory Committee (RCTAC)**

A volunteer committee of citizen trail users that participated in the development of the Regional Trails Plan. Members served as a sounding board to staff and provided input and recommendations during the planning process.

**Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

Federally required document produced by TRPC that identifies all federally funded projects for the current three-year period. The RTIP is developed every year. Any federally-funded project must be included in the RTIP and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). To satisfy this requirement, the RTIP is occasionally amended to add projects recently awarded funding.

**Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**

The long-range transportation strategy for the Thurston region.

**Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)**

State-designated agency created to ensure that regional transportation planning is consistent with county-wide planning policies and growth strategies for the region. TRPC is the Planning Organization for Thurston County, which is a single-county RTPO.

**Revised Code of Washington (RCW)**

The laws or statutes of Washington state, as enacted and amended.

**Right-of-Way (ROW)**

A general term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.

**Roundabout**

A circular intersection with a curved design that is engineered to keep traffic moving safely while accommodating pedestrians and bicycles.

**Shared-Use path/trail**

A facility on exclusive right-of-way with minimal cross flow by motor vehicles. It is designed and built for multiple non-motorized uses such as bicycling, walking, running, skating, and equestrian use. These facilities are wheel chair accessible and allow the use of electric wheel chairs. They are typically paved and may range in width from 8 to 14 feet. These facilities are also commonly referred to as urban trails, multi-use trails, greenway trails, or rail trails.

**Shared Roadway**

A segment of road that is open to both motor vehicle and bicycle travel.

**Signed Shared Roadway**

A segment of road that is open to both motor vehicle and bicycle travel, but is signed and designated as a preferred route for bicycle use. These facilities have a continuous wide shoulder to support bicycle use along the entire designated corridor.

**Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV)**

A vehicle carrying only one occupant – the driver. Often referred to as “driving alone.”

**Special Needs Transportation**

Refers to the needs of people, including their personal attendants, who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation.

**State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)**

Enacted in 1971, the Act provides the framework for agencies to consider the environmental consequences of a proposal before taking action. SEPA also gives agencies the ability to condition or deny a proposal due to identified likely significant adverse impacts. These decisions may be related to issuing permits for private projects, constructing public facilities, or adopting regulations, policies or plans.

**State-Interest**

The portion of the state transportation system that is owned and/or operated by local jurisdictions, agencies and private corporations, and is of importance to the entire transportation system.

**State-Owned**

The portion of the state transportation system that is owned and/or operated by the state, including state highways, Washington State Ferries, and state airports.

**Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**

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.

**Surface Transportation Program (STP)**

The primary federal funding program resulting from ISTEA and TEA21 that provides money for a wide range of transportation projects. Approximately \$2.4 million per year of STP funds are awarded to projects selected by TRPC through a regional prioritization process. TRPC awards funds every 2-3 years to projects that support funding priorities established by the Council. In 2001, TRPC awarded \$7.5 million to projects throughout the region.

These funds may be used for capital projects such as ridesharing projects, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit safety improvements and transportation control measures. Other eligible activities include planning activities such as transit research and development, environmental analysis and wetland mitigation.

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Advisory body to the Transportation Policy Board on transportation issues, primarily technical in nature. All member jurisdictions are eligible to participate. Currently the TAC is made up of transportation staff from Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, Yelm, Thurston County, Intercity Transit, and WSDOT Olympic Region.

**Telework**

The use of telephones, computers and other technology to work from a location other than the conventional office. Teleworking or telecommuting substitutes technology for a trip to work.

**Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)**

A 21-member council of governments representing the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Rainier, Tenino, Tumwater, and Yelm; the town of Bucoda; Thurston County; Intercity Transit; Port of Olympia; Thurston County PUD #1; Griffin School District; North Thurston Public Schools; Olympia School District; Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation; and the Nisqually Indian Tribe. Thurston Conservation District and Timberland Regional Library are Associate Members and The Evergreen State College is a Charter Member Emeritus.

**Trail**

Trails comprise both natural unpaved foot paths and graded and paved multipurpose non-motorized travel corridors.

**Transit Dependent**

Persons who rely on public transit or paratranist services for most or all of their transportation needs.

**Transportation**

The act of conveying persons or things from one place to another, through personal or communal means. As used in the Thurston region, it includes all modes of transportation, not just cars and trucks.

**Transportation Enhancement (TE)**

TE projects “enhance” or contribute to an existing or proposed transportation project. Examples of such activities include providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities; converting abandoned railroad rights-of-way into trails; historic preservation; acquiring scenic easements; landscaping; archaeological planning and research; mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff; and mitigating the negative impacts of a project on a community by providing additional benefits.

**Transportation Equity Act For The 21st Century (TEA-21)**

This is the federal act that superseded ISTEA in 1998.

**Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

A six-year list of projects developed by each jurisdiction or tribal government, in compliance with state or federal requirements. A project is ineligible for funding unless included in the TIP. (Comparable to a Tribal TIP.)

**Transportation Policy Board (TPB)**

The purpose of the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) is to advise and make recommendations to the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) on policy and programs relating to regional transportation issues pursuant to state and federal legislation. Each voting member agency of TRPC is entitled to one seat on the TPB. Membership also includes the participation of the Washington State Department of Transportation regional office (WSDOT), the Port of Olympia, and Intercity Transit. TPB membership also include up to three representatives of major employers, business, or industry associations, and two citizen representatives, all of whom shall be appointed by the TPB. Any members of the Washington State House of Representatives or Senate whose districts are wholly or partly within the boundaries of the regional transportation planning organization are considered ex officio, nonvoting members of the TPB.

**Travel Demand Management (TDM)**

TDM focuses on the “demand” rather than the “supply” side of a transportation system. TDM encompasses strategies intended to support personal travel choices in an effort to better manage the capacity resources of the transportation system and improve operating efficiency. Examples of TDM tools range from “incentive” type programs like employer-subsidized bus passes, compressed work weeks, and telework options, to “market measures” like employee-paid parking and variable-rate toll roads with rates based on time-of-day travel. The State’s Commute Trip Reduction program is a TDM element. Effective land use planning also supports TDM, since the way a community is built – and the kind of travel options it provides – will influence individual travel behavior.

**Travel Demand Model**

A system for analyzing a regional transportation network. The model is typically a software program or suite of programs that use a series of mathematical equations that simulate or represent choices people make when traveling. The model also analyzes the performance of existing and future transportation facilities under a variety of scenarios that can be modified by the user. TRPC currently uses a modeling product called EMME/2.

**Tribal Member**

A member of a tribe as determined by tribal membership rules.

**Tribal Sovereignty**

This term is used to describe the unique legal status of federally recognized Indian tribes. As domestic dependent nations, tribes exercise inherent sovereign powers over their members and territory.

**Tribe**

Generally, the term “tribe” refers to “Indian tribe” or “federally recognized tribe” and may also refer to State recognized tribes which are not Federally recognized but which are eligible for certain federal benefits and privileges under specific federal laws.

**Trip**

In modeling terms, a one-way, non-stop journey between a single origin and a single destination, such as from home to work. For modeling purposes, each trip segment counts as a trip, for example stopping at the grocery store on the way home from work constitutes two trips.

**Trip Purpose**

The reason for a trip - such as work, shopping, school, or medical appointment.

**Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

A federally-required annual report describing TRPC’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.

**United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)**

The principal direct federal funding and regulating agency for transportation facilities and programs. FTA and FHWA are contained within the USDOT.

**United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)**

The federal agency charged to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment – air, water, and land.

**Universal Design**

Transportation systems designed to accommodate a wide range of users, including people with disabilities and other special needs.

**Urban Growth Area (UGA)**

Under the Growth Management Act, those areas designated by cities and counties, and delineated by the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), where urban growth will be encouraged.

**Vanpool**

A vanpool refers to an organized ridesharing arrangement in a van occupied by seven to 15 people traveling together for their commute trip.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)**

The number of miles traveled on roadways by a vehicle for a specific time period, usually per year. VMT is calculated by multiplying the total road section length by the total number of vehicles that traveled over that section within a given time. VMT does not consider the number of passengers those vehicles are carrying.

**Volume-to-Capacity Ratio (V/C Ratio)**

The ratio of flow rate to capacity for a transportation facility.

**Washington Administrative Code (WAC)**

State agency rules and regulations. The WACs also detail how state agencies shall organize and adopt rules and regulations.

**Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)**

The agency responsible for transportation at the state level.

**Washington Transportation Plan (WTP)**

A long-range transportation plan for the state of Washington prepared by WSDOT.

**Zoning**

The regulation by a municipality (city, town, or county) or tribe of the use of land within its jurisdiction, and of the buildings and structures located there, in accordance with a general plan.