

Glossary

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Definitions of Technical Terms and Acronyms

Access Management: Refers to measures regulating access to streets, roads and highways from public roads and private driveways. Measures may include but are not limited to restrictions on the type and amount of access to roadways, and use of physical controls such as signals and channelization including raised medians, to reduce impacts of approach road traffic on the main facility.

Accessway: Refers to a walkway that provides pedestrian and or bicycle passage either between streets or from a street to a building or other destination such as a school, park, or transit stop.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT): This is the measurement of the average number of vehicles passing a certain point each day on a highway, road or street.

Alignment: Location and geometric arrangement/layout of a roadway (curvature etc.)

Alternative Modes: Transportation alternatives other than single-occupant automobiles such as rail, transit, bicycles and walking.

Arterial (Street): A street designated in the functional class system as providing the highest amount of connectivity and mostly uninterrupted traffic flow through an urban area.

Bicycle Facility: Any facility provided for the benefit of bicycle travel, including bikeways and parking facilities.

Bicycle Network: A system of connected bikeways that provide access to and from local and regional destinations.

Bike Lane: A portion of the roadway that has been designated by striping and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

Capacity: The maximum number of vehicles or individuals that can traverse a given segment of a transportation facility with prevailing roadway and traffic conditions.

Central Business District (CBD): This is the traditional downtown area, and is usually characterized by slow traffic speeds, on street parking and a compact grid system.

Collector (Street): A street designated in the functional class system that provides connectivity between local and neighborhood streets with the arterial streets serving the urban area. Usually shorter in distance than arterials, designed with lower traffic speeds and has more traffic control devices than higher classified roadways.

Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ): A program within the federal ISTEA and TEA-21 regulations that address congestion and transportation-related air pollution.

Coos County Area Transit (CCAT): The public transit provider for the Coos Country area.

Crosswalk: Portion of a roadway designated for pedestrian crossing and can be either marked or unmarked. Unmarked crosswalks are the natural extension of the shoulder, curb line or sidewalk.

Demand Management: Refers to actions which are designed to change travel behavior in order to improve performance of transportation facilities and to reduce need for additional road capacity. Methods may include subsidizing transit for the journey to work trip, charging for parking, starting a van or car pool system, or instituting flexible work hours.

Grade Separation: The vertical separation of conflicting travelways.

Grade: A measure of the steepness of a roadway, bikeway or walkway, usually expressed in a percentage form of the ratio between vertical rise to horizontal distance. (eg. a 5% grade means that the facility rises 5 feet in height over a 100 feet in length.)

Impervious Surfaces: Hard surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground, increasing the amount of stormwater running into the drainage system.

Intermodal Connectors: Short lengths of roads that connect intermodal facilities to the state highway system.

Intermodal Facilities: Facilities that allow transfers of a number of different modes for passenger and/or freight. Examples include airports, bus stations, ports and rail stations.

Level of Service (LOS): A qualitative measure describing the perception of operation conditions within a traffic stream by motorists and or passengers. An LOS rating of "A" to "F" describes the traffic flow on streets and at intersections, ranging from LOS A, representing virtually free flow conditions and no impedance to LOS F representing forced flow conditions and congestion.

Local (Street): A street designated in the functional class system that's primary purpose is to provide access to land use as opposed to enhancing mobility. These streets typically have low volumes and are very short in relation to collectors and arterials.

Local Street Standards: Include but are not limited to standards for right-of-way, pavement width, travel lanes, parking lanes, curb turning radius, and accessways.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): An organization in each federally recognized urbanized area (population over 50,000) designated by the Governor which has the responsibility for planning, programming and coordinating the distribution of federal transportation resources.

Multi-Modal: Involving several modes of transportation including bus, rail, bicycle, motor vehicle etc.

Multi-Use Path: A path separated from motor vehicle traffic by open space or barrier used by bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, skaters and other non-motorized travelers.

National Highway System (NHS): The National Highway System is interconnected urban and rural principal arterial and highways that serve major population centers, ports, airports and other major travel destinations, meet national defense requirements and serve interstate and interregional travel.

ODOT : Oregon Department of Transportation.

Peak Period or Peak Hour: The period of the day with the highest number of travelers. This is normally between 4-6 PM on weekdays.

Pedestrian: A person on foot, in a wheelchair or walking a bicycle.

Pedestrian Connection: A continuous, unobstructed, reasonably direct route between two points that is intended and suitable for pedestrian use. These connections could include sidewalks, walkways, accessways, stairways and pedestrian bridges.

Pedestrian District: A comprehensive plan designation or implementing land use regulation, such as an overlay zone, that establishes requirements to provide a safe and convenient pedestrian environment in an area planned for a mix of uses likely to support a relatively high level of pedestrian activity.

Pedestrian Facility: A facility provided for the benefit of pedestrian travel, including walkways, crosswalks, signs, signals and benches.

Pedestrian Scale: Site and building design elements that are oriented to the pedestrian and are dimensionally less than those sites designed to accommodate automobile traffic.

Realignment: Rebuilding of existing roadway where the geometry changes, but the connection between original roadway and the intersecting road is maintained.

Right-Of-Way (ROW): Publicly-owned land or property upon which public facilities and infrastructure is placed.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Federally mandated transportation planning document completed by MPO's identifying current conditions, deficiencies, and alternatives for a 20 year time horizon.

Shared Roadway: A type of bikeway where bicyclists and motor vehicles share a travel lane.

Sight Distance: The distance a person can see along an unobstructed line of sight.

Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV): A non-commercial vehicle with only one occupant.

Special Transportation Area (STA): Designation that may be applied to a highway segment when a downtown, business district or community center straddles the state highway within an urban growth boundary or an unincorporated community. Emphasis is placed on local auto, pedestrian, bicycle and transit movements as opposed to through traffic. Through traffic is de-emphasized by on street parking, landscaping and pedestrian facilities.

Traffic Control Devices: Signs, signals or other fixtures placed on or adjacent to a travelway that regulates, warns or guides traffic. Can be either permanent or temporary.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD): A mix of residential, retail and office uses and a supporting network of roads, bicycle and pedestrian ways focused around a major transit stop designed to support a high level of transit use.

Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ): A geographic sub-area used to assess travel demands using a travel demand forecasting model. Often defined by the transportation network and US Census blocks.

Transportation Disadvantaged: Individuals who have difficulty obtaining transportation because of their age, income, physical or mental disability.

Transportation Planning Rule (TPR): Directs cities, counties and MPO's to prepare TSP's consistent with the state TSP, providing for an integrated, multi-modal plan that address local, regional and statewide transportation, mobility and livability goals.

Transportation System Plan (TSP): A comprehensive plan that is developed to provide a coordinated, seamless integration of continuity between modes at the local level as well as integration with the regional transportation system.

Urban Area: The area immediately surrounding an incorporated city or rural community that is urban in character, regardless of size.

Urban Growth Boundary (UGB): The area surrounding an incorporated city in which the city may legally expand its city limits.

Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT): Automobile vehicle miles of travel excluding buses, heavy trucks and trips that involve commercial movement of goods. VMT is estimated through the transportation demand model of the local MPO and only includes trips with both an origin and destination within the MPO boundary.

Volume to Capacity Ratio (V/C ratio): A measure of roadway congestion, calculated by dividing the number of vehicles passing through a section of highway during the peak hour by the capacity of the section.