

Glossary of common acronyms and definitions

| ACRONYM | TERM | DEFINITION |
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| AASHTO | American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials | AASHTO is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Its primary goal is to foster the development, operation, and maintenance of an integrated national transportation system. |
| AB 32 | Assembly Bill 32 | Signed into law on September 26, 2006, it requires that the state's global warming emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. This reduction will be accomplished through an enforceable statewide cap on global warming emissions that will be phased in starting in 2012. In order to effectively implement the cap, AB 32 directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop appropriate regulations and establish a mandatory reporting system to track and monitor global warming emissions levels. |
| Active Transportation | | A mode of transportation that includes walking, running, biking, skateboarding, and other self-propelled forms of transportation |
| ADA | Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 | Guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. It prescribes federal transportation requirements for transportation providers. |
| ADT | Average Daily Traffic | Total daily volume of vehicle traffic of a highway or road |
| AIA | Airport Influence Area | The area around an airport that includes the overflight, noise and safety zones that the Airport Land Use Commission uses to determine compatibility of land uses surrounding the airport. |
| ALP | Airport Layout Plan | A graphic representation of the current conditions and the future long-term planned development for an airport that airports must keep up to date in order to receive federal assistance. |
| ALUC | Airport Land Use Commission | The Commission assists local agencies in ensuring orderly development around airports and discouraging incompatible land uses, including limiting the public's exposure to excessive noise and health and safety hazards. |
| ALUCPP | Airport Land Use Compatibility Policy Plan | Required by the State Aeronautics Act for all public use airports. Also known as a CLUP - Compatibility Land Use Plan - a policy planning tool that details the safety and noise compatibility criteria for development around airports, and is developed and used by Airport Land Use Commissions to conduct reviews to determine compatibility of proposed land uses on and around airports. |
| AMTRAK | National Railroad Passenger Corporation | Publicly funded railroad service operated and managed as a for-profit corporation |
| APCD | Air Pollution Control District | The Fresno area is under the auspices of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) which works with state and federal air quality agencies to attain health air in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. |
| ARB | Air Resources Board (also referred to as CARB, California Air Resources Board) | This is the state level air quality agency which works with local and federal air quality agencies to attain healthier air in California. |
| AVA | Abandoned Vehicle Abatement | A means to remove abandoned vehicles that create a public nuisance and a health or safety hazard |
| Base Year | | The year 2008, used in the RTP performance analysis as a reference point for current conditions. |
| BNSF | | Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company |
| BRT | Bus Rapid Transit | Bus transit service that seeks to reduce travel time through measures such as traffic signal priority, automatic vehicle location, dedicated bus lanes, limited stop service, and faster fare collection policies. |
| BTA | Bicycle Transportation Account | Annual program providing state funds for city and county projects that improve safety and convenience for bicycle commuters. |

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| CAA | Clean Air Act (Federal) | The Clean Air Act (CAA) is the comprehensive federal law that regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources. |
| CAAP | California Aid to Airports Program | Provides grants to public agencies — and, in some cases, to private owners and entities -- for the planning and development of public-use airports that are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems |
| CALCOG | California Association of Councils of Government | Association made up of the 35 Councils of Government in California |
| Caltrans | California Department of Transportation | State of California government agency whose mission is to maintain, repair and improve roads and highways throughout the State |
| Caltrans Headquarters | Caltrans Headquarters | Sacramento division of Caltrans that oversees state activities and Local Assistance |
| Caltrans Local Assistance | Caltrans Local Assistance | Division of Caltrans that assists Local and Regional Agencies by ensuring specific program requirements are met, project applications are processed, and projects are delivered in accordance with Federal and State requirements |
| CARB | California Air Resources Board | See definition for ARB on previous page |
| CASP | California Aviation System Plan | The means by which continuous aviation system planning is conducted by the State |
| CCAA | California Clean Air Act | The Clean Air Act (CAA) is the comprehensive state law that regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources. |
| CCR | California Code of Regulations | The official compilation and publication of the regulations adopted, amended or repealed by state agencies pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) |
| CEQA | California Environmental Quality Act | State law providing certain environmental protections that apply to all transportation projects funded with state funds. |
| CIP | Capital Improvement Program | 7-year program to maintain or improve traffic LOS & transit performance and to mitigate impacts identified by the CMP |
| CMAQ | Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality | Federal funding account designated for projects that improve air quality and reduce congestion. |
| CMP | Congestion Management Program | Established by Proposition 111 in 1990, requires each county to develop and adopt a CMP that includes highway and roadway system monitoring, multimodal system performance analysis, transportation demand management program, land-use analysis program, and local conformance. |
| CNG | Compressed Natural Gas | Is an alternative fuel for use in combustion-can reduce some criteria air pollutants. |
| CO | Carbon Monoxide | A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas formed when carbon in fuels is not burned completely. It is a byproduct of highway vehicle exhaust, which contributes about 60 percent of all CO emissions nationwide. |
| COG | Council of Governments | A governmental agency formed by joint powers agreement by all the member governments within a given region. Specific powers vary by agency, but usually involve transportation issues. |
| Corridor | | In planning, a broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow or connects major sources of trips. It may contain a number of streets and highways, as well as transit lines and routes. |
| CTC | California Transportation Commission | A board appointed by the governor to oversee and administer state and federal transportation funds and provide oversight on project delivery. |
| CTSA | Consolidated Transportation Service Agency | Designated under auspices of the Social Services Transportation Improvement Act to achieve the intended transportation coordination goals of that Act |

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| EIR | Environmental Impact Report | An informational document, required under CEQA, which will inform public agency decision-makers and the public generally of the significant environmental effects of a project, possible ways to minimize significant effects, and reasonable alternatives to the project. |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement | National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirement for assessing the environmental impacts of federal actions that may have a significant impact on the human environment |
| EJ | Environmental Justice | Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency (Federal) | This is the federal level agency which works with local and state air quality agencies to protect the environment to provide healthy living conditions and welfare for the nation. |
| EPSP | Expedited Project Selection Procedures | Process used to design and construct a project prior to the programmed year shown in the FTIP by moving the funds forward to the current year. |
| FAA | Federal Aviation Administration | Federal agency responsible for issuing and enforcing safety regulations and minimum standards, managing air space and air traffic, and building and maintaining air navigation facilities. |
| FAX | Fresno Area Express | Transit system serving the Fresno Metropolitan Area |
| FCMA | Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area | The geographical area representing the combined respective spheres of influence of the cities of Clovis and Fresno. |
| FCRTA | Fresno County Rural Transit Agency | Transit Agency serving the rural areas of Fresno County |
| FCTA | Fresno County Transportation Authority | The Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) is the entity created by legislation to administer the Measure C Program(s) and ensure the revenue is received and distributed appropriately. |
| FFY | Federal Fiscal Year | October 1 through September 30 |
| FHWA | Federal Highway Administration | Federal agency responsible for administering the Federal-Aid Highway Program, which provides federal financial assistance to the states to construct and improve the National Highway System, urban and rural roads, and bridges. |
| FRA | Federal Railroad Administration | Federal agency created to promulgate and enforce rail safety regulations, administer railroad assistance programs, conduct research and development in support of improved railroad safety and national rail transportation policy, and consolidate government support of rail transportation activities. |
| FSP | Freeway Service Patrol | The CHP, Caltrans and local transportation agencies joined forces to provide emergency roadside services during commute periods. The goal of the program is to remove impediments to traffic to expedite the flow of traffic. |
| FSTIP | Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program | Caltrans four year planning document that is updated every two years (made up of all MPO's in California FTIPs) |
| FTA | Federal Transit Administration | The federal agency responsible for administering federal transit funds and assisting in the planning and establishment of areawide urban mass transportation systems. As opposed to FHWA funding, most FTA funds are allocated directly to local agencies, rather than to Caltrans. |
| FTIP | Federal Transportation Improvement Program | A three-year list of all transportation projects proposed for federal transportation funding within the planning area of an MPO. |
| FY | Fiscal Year | July 1 through June 30 |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gases | Components of the atmosphere that contribute to the greenhouse effect. The principal greenhouse gases that enter the atmosphere because of human activities are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. |

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| GIS | Geographic Information Systems | Powerful mapping software that links information about where things are with information about what things are like. GIS allows users to examine relationships between features distributed unevenly over space, seeking patterns that may not be apparent without using advanced techniques of query, selection, analysis, and display. |
| HOV | High Occupancy Vehicle | Generally vehicles with more than one person, depending on the usage could mean many riders. |
| HPMS | Highway Performance Monitoring System | A federally mandated program designed by FHWA to assess the performance of the nation's highway system. |
| HSR | High Speed Rail | Intercity passenger rail service that is reasonably expected to reach speeds of at least 110 mile per hour. |
| ISTEA | Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 | Federal transportation planning and policy law (1991-1998) |
| ITIP | Interregional Transportation Improvement Plan | The portion of the STIP that includes projects selected by Caltrans (25 percent of STIP funds). |
| JPA | Joint Powers Agency | Two or more agencies that enter into a cooperative agreement to jointly wield powers that are common to them. JPAs are a vehicle for the cooperative use of existing governmental powers to finance and provide infrastructure and/or services in a cost-efficient manner. |
| LAFCO | Local Agency Formation Commission | LAFCos review proposals for the formation of new local governmental agencies and for changes in the organization of existing agencies. |
| LOS | Level of Service | A qualitative measurement of traffic flow. Is measured on a scale from A to F in which A signifies the least congested (free flow) while F signifies most congested. |
| LTF | Local Transportation Fund | Monies distributed to regional transportation planning agencies by the State of California. The annual allocation is the local share of revenues from ¼ cent of the state sales tax rate. COG receives this money and distributes it to the local jurisdictions based on population. The money must first be used to fill any unmet transit needs, and then can be used for local road and street expenses. A small portion of the money is also reserved for pedestrian/bikeway and planning expenditures. Is part of the Transportation Development Act fund. |
| MAP-21 | Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act | Federal transportation planning and policy law (2012-Present). |
| MPO | Metropolitan Planning Organization | Federally mandated transportation policy-making organization made up of representatives from local government (required in any urbanized area with a population greater than 50,000). |
| OWP | Overall Work Program | A list of the tasks that the Council of Governments expects to perform over a given year. The program is used as a management tool. |
| PAC | Policy Advisory Committee | Fresno COG's standing committee comprised of member agency City Managers. |
| PPP | Public Participation Plan | Fresno COG's guiding document to fulfilling federal public outreach requirements. |
| PL-Funds | Metropolitan Planning Funds | Made available to each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designated for an urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 individuals and responsible for carrying out the 3-C (continuing, cooperative and comprehensive) metropolitan planning process. |
| PM 2.5 | Particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns | Very small specks of particulate matter found to be harmful to human health and welfare. The smaller the particle, the more dangerous it is to human health. |
| PM10 | Particulate matter smaller than 10 microns | Tiny specks of particulate matter found to be harmful to human health and welfare. |
| PSR | Project Study Report | Defines and justifies the project's scope, cost, and schedule. Prepared for state highway projects and projects not on the State Highway System. |

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| PTIS | Public Transportation Infrastructure Study | An effort to identify strategies for transportation investments and land use policies that would result in measurable reductions in vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and improve mobility choices for greater Fresno County residents. |
| PUC | Public Utilities Code/ Commission | Regulates privately owned telecommunications, electric, natural gas, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies. |
| RFP | Request for Proposals | A document used to solicit bids for the preparation of a plan of completion of a project. |
| ROG | Reactive Organic Gases | Organic compounds assumed to be reactive at urban/regional scales. Those organic compounds that are regulated because they lead to ozone formation. |
| RSTP | Regional Surface Transportation Program | Federal funding account commonly used for maintenance or capacity increasing road projects. |
| RTIP | Regional Transportation Improvement Program | A seven year listing of proposed highway, transit and airport projects that implement the Regional Transportation Plan. Projects are listed in priority order with costs and funding sources identified. COG and other regional transportation planning agencies must prepare this document and submit it to the California Transportation Commission by December 1st of every odd year. Projects must be listed in the RTIP in order to be considered for funding in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). |
| RTMF | Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee | A fee program intended to ensure that future development contributes to its fair share towards the cost of infrastructure to mitigate the cumulative, indirect regional transportation impacts of new growth in a manner consistent with the provisions of the State of California Mitigation Fee Act. |
| RTP | Regional Transportation Plan | Metroplitan planning organization (MPO) 25 year transportation planning document that is updated every four years. |
| RTPA | Regional Transportation Planning Agency | Federally mandated transportation policy-making organization made up of representatives from local government (required in any rural or local area with a population less than than 50,000). |
| SAFETEA-LU | Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users | Signed into law by President Bush on August 10, 2005, it authorized the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period of 2005–2009. |
| SB 375 | Senate Bill 375 | Established to implement the state’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emission-reduction goals, as set forth by AB 32, in the sector of cars and light trucks. This mandate requires the California Air Resources Board to determine per capita GHG emission-reduction targets for each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in the state at two points in the future—2020 and 2035. In turn, each MPO must prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that demonstrates how the region will meet its GHG reduction target through integrated land use, housing, and transportation planning. |
| SCS | Sustainable Communities Strategy | A plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through coordinated transportation and land use planning. |
| SHOPP | State Highway Operation and Protection Plan | Four year program of projects that have the purpose of collision reduction, bridge and roadway preservation, mobility enhancement and preservation of other transportation facilities |
| SIP | State Implementation Plan | The planning document prepared to show how the State will attain the national ambient air quality standards. |
| SJVAPCD | San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District | The Fresno area is under the auspices of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) which works with state and federal air quality agencies to attain health air in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. |
| SOV | Single Occupant Vehicle | Privately operated vehicle that contains only one driver or occupant. |

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| SSTAC | Social Service Transportation Advisory Council | Committee that reviews transit issues with emphasis on the annual identification of transit needs within Fresno County. |
| STA | State Transit Assistance | State funding program for mass transit operations and capital projects. Current law requires that STA receive 50 percent of PTA revenues. |
| STIP | Statewide Transportation Improvement Program | Caltrans four year planning document that is updated every two years. |
| STP | Surface Transportation Program | Provides flexible funding that may be used by states and localities for projects on any federal-aid highway, bridge projects on any public road, transit capital projects, and intracity and intercity bus terminals and facilities. A portion of funds reserved for rural areas may be spent on rural minor collectors. |
| TAC | Technical Advisory Committee | A committee that provides ideas and feedback on plans or programs. |
| TAZ | Traffic Analysis Zones | Zone system used in travel demand forecasting. |
| TCM | Transportation Control Measure | A project or program that is designed to reduce emissions or concentrations of air pollutants from transportation sources. TCMs are referenced in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the applicable air basin and have priority for programming and implementation ahead of non-TCMs. |
| TDA | Transportation Development Act | State law enacted in 1971 that provided a 0.25 percent sales tax on all retail sales in each county for transit, bicycle, and pedestrian purposes. In non-urban areas, funds may be used for streets and roads under certain conditions. |
| TDM | Transportation Demand Management | Strategies that result in more efficient use of transportation resources, such as ridesharing, telecommuting, park-and-ride programs, pedestrian improvements, and alternative work schedules. |
| TEA-21 | Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century | Federal transportation planning and policy law (1998-2005). |
| TOD | Transit Oriented Development | A planning strategy that explicitly links land-use and transportation by focusing mixed housing, employment, and commercial growth around bus and rail stations (usually within ½ mile). TODs can reduce the number and length of vehicle trips by encouraging more bicycle/pedestrian and transit use and can support transit investments by creating the density around stations to boost ridership. |
| TSM | Transportation Systems Management | The Transportation Systems Management (TSM) approach to congestion mitigation seeks to identify improvements to enhance the capacity of existing system of an operational nature. Through better management and operation of existing transportation facilities, these techniques are designed to improve traffic flow, air quality, and movement of vehicles and goods, as well as enhance system accessibility and safety. |
| TTC | Transportation Technical Committee | The Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) serves as a standing committee that reviews materials and issues monthly before forwarding them to the Policy Advisory Committee. Membership includes member agency staff and representatives from a wide variety of transportation and community interest groups. |
| VMT | Vehicle Miles of Travel | On highways, a measurement of the total miles traveled by all vehicles in the area for a specified time period. It is calculated by the number of vehicles times the miles traveled in a given area or on a given highway during the time period. In transit, the number of vehicle miles operated on a given route or line or network during a specified time period. |
| VOC | Volatile Organic Compound | Organic gases emitted from a variety of sources, including motor vehicles, chemical plants, refineries, factories, consumer, and commercial products, and other industrial sources. Ozone, the main component of smog, is formed from the reaction of VOCs and NOx in the presence of heat and sunlight. |