

ACRONYMS/TERMS DIRECTORY

January 2008

*Denotes DRCOG Program, Committee or Report

(AAA) Area Agency on Aging

Organization designated by the state with lead responsibility for planning and coordinating services to older adults within specific regions.

(ADA) Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Federal law, which requires accessible public buildings and transportation facilities and services for persons with disabilities, including complementary or supplemental paratransit services in areas where fixed-route transit service is operated.

(AMPO) Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

A nonprofit membership organization serving the interests of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) nationwide

(APA) American Planning Association

(APCD) Air Pollution Control Division

A division of the State Department of Public Health and Environment, which implements and enforces air pollution programs and regulations established by the Air Quality Control Commission.

(AQCC) Air Quality Control Commission

A nine-member citizen board appointed by the governor, which develops state air pollution control policy and regulations.

Arterial

A road used primarily for major movement of through traffic; traffic control is usually by at-grade intersection signals.

Attainment Area

An area considered to have air quality at least as good as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health standards used in the Clean Air Act. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a nonattainment area for others. Non-attainment areas are areas that have not met standards for designated pollutants.

Attainment Demonstrations

A State Implementation Plan (SIP), revision which describes how an area will meet air quality standards before its federally-mandated attainment date.

(BMPs) Best Management Practices

Structural and nonstructural practices, which have proven effective in the control and management of water quality from stormwater and other runoff.

(CAAA) Clean Air Act Amendments

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, which identify "mobile sources" (vehicles) as primary sources of pollution and call for stringent new requirements in metropolitan areas and states where attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) is a problem.

(CARC) Colorado Association of Regional Councils

(CBD) Central Business District

The most intensely commercial sector of Denver.

(CWA) Clean Water Act

The law, its amendments, and the program derived from the statutes constitute a national water quality policy. It is intended to address almost any type of water pollution control problem.

(CCI) Colorado Counties, Inc.

(CDPHE) Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Charged with regulating air and water quality, and certifying nursing homes, among other public health related activities.

(CDOT) Colorado Department of Transportation

Charged with management of the state transportation system, including the construction, operation, and maintenance of the state highway system.

(CM/AQ) Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program contained in Title I of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA); provides funds for projects and activities, which reduce congestion and improve air quality. There are other eligibility requirements.

(CMAQ) Coalition for Mobility and Air Quality

A private-sector-funded, non-profit organization formed to develop a statewide vision for a multimodal transportation system, and appropriate financing and implementation strategies.

(CML) Colorado Municipal League

(CMS) Congestion Management System

A system developed for the effective management of new and existing transportation facilities through travel reduction and operational strategies. CMS is required by ISTEA for each

ACRONYMS/TERMS DIRECTORY

January 2008

*Denotes DRCOG Program, Committee or Report

transportation management area (TMA). New highway projects that significantly increase capacity for single-occupant vehicles may be ineligible for federal funds unless part of a CMS.

(CO) Carbon Monoxide

A colorless and odorless gas, which reduces oxygen in the bloodstream.

(COPS) Centralized Organization for Police Selection

A testing program for entry-level police officer positions. Formerly administered by DRCOG, now administered by the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police.

(CWP) Clean Water Plan*

Conformity

Process to show that any transportation plan, program or project supports regional air quality goals. The conformity process is required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

(DEIS) Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Demand-responsive

Descriptive term for a type of public transit service, often for the elderly or disabled, in which a person obtains transportation service, which is routed and timed to meet individual needs.

Density

A measure of compactness of persons, employment or households within a given area of land. In regional planning, density is often expressed as the number of persons per square mile.

(DIA) Denver International Airport

(DOT) Department of Transportation

Refers to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

(E&D) Elderly and Disabled

Designation for special transportation planning and services: "Elderly and Disabled."

(EIS) Environmental Impact Statement

Report which details any adverse economic, social, and environmental effects of a proposed project for which federal funding is being sought. Adverse effects could include air, water, or noise pollution; destruction or disruption of natural resources; adverse employment effects; injurious displacement of people or businesses; or disruption of desirable community or regional growth.

Emissions Budget

A part of a SIP that identifies the maximum allowable emissions that may be produced by mobile sources. A transportation conformity analysis must demonstrate that future emissions will not exceed the emissions budget.

Enhancement Activities

Activities to increase the benefits of a transportation project. Examples include pedestrian or bicycle facilities, landscaping or other scenic beautification projects, historic preservation, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archeological planning and research, and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff. Such projects must be beyond those routinely undertaken to meet standards.

(EPA) Environmental Protection Agency

EPA is the federal regulatory agency, which establishes environmental standards, particularly air and water quality.

(FAA) Federal Aviation Administration

Division of the U.S. Department of Transportation, which regulates aviation and funds aviation planning and development.

(FHWA) Federal Highway Administration

Division of the U.S. Department of Transportation which funds highway planning and construction.

(FTA) Federal Transit Administration

Division of the U.S. Department of Transportation, which funds transit planning operating assistance and construction.

(FIRE) Firefighter Interregional Recruitment & Employment*

Fixed-route

Term applied to transit service that is regularly scheduled and operating over a set route. Usually refers to bus service.

Four-step model

The traditional transportation planning computer process for estimating travel demand. The four steps are: trip generators, trip distribution, modal split, and trip assignment.

Freeway

A divided highway designed for the unimpeded flow of large traffic volumes. Access to a freeway is rigorously controlled; grade-separated interchanges are provided at major cross-streets and minor streets are terminated or grade-separated.

ACRONYMS/TERMS DIRECTORY

January 2008

*Denotes DRCOG Program, Committee or Report

GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

Geographic Information Systems are computerized tools that allow for the creation, analysis and display of information tied to some portion of the earth.

Headway

The time that separates transit vehicles moving in the same direction on a line or track.

HOT Lanes (High-Occupancy Toll Lanes)

HOT Lanes are high-occupancy vehicle, or carpool, lanes that have been expanded to allow single-occupant vehicles to use the lanes for a toll.

(HOV) High-Occupancy Vehicle

Any passenger vehicle carrying two or more persons. Carpools, vanpools and buses are examples.

(HUTF) Highway Users Trust Fund

Colorado road user funds, which support development and maintenance of state and local road systems.

(HC) Hydrocarbons

A precursor of ozone in addition to nitrogen oxides (NO_x). Hydrocarbons are also known as volatile organic compounds (VOC) or reactive organic gases (ROGs). Until recently, most efforts to reduce ozone have focused on controlling hydrocarbons. Hydrocarbons result from incomplete combustion of fuel.

Home-based Trip

A trip with either its origin or destination at home.

IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement)

An agreement between local governments to cooperate or contract with one another to provide a function, service or facility. Intergovernmental agreements may include the sharing of costs, the imposition of taxes, the incurring of debt, etc.

(ISDS) Individual Sewage Disposal System

Usually a septic tank system but may include other types of systems used to provide wastewater treatment for an individual home.

Infrastructure

A term connoting physical public facilities, including, but not limited to, roads, bridges, transit, waste systems, public housing, sidewalks, utility installations, parks, public buildings, and communications networks.

(IPA) Integrated Plan Assessment*

Process used by DRCOG to annually review and update its plans.

Interstate System

The system of highways that connects the principal metropolitan areas, cities, and industrial centers of the United States.

(ICMA) International City Management Association

(ISTEA) Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act

Federal law restructuring funding for highway and transit programs; authorized levels of highway and transportation funding and an enlarged role for regional planning commissions in funding decisions. The act also required comprehensive regional long-range transportation plans with a 20-year horizon. Linked transportation planning to attainment of air quality standards set by the EPA. Authorized the federal highway and transit program for 1991-1997.

(ITS) Intelligent Transportation System

A collection of new technologies that use vehicle guidance and roadway information systems to anticipate and avoid congestion problems. Demonstration projects are underway in a few large urban areas. Previously referred to as Intelligent Vehicle Highway System (IVHS).

Interchange

The system of interconnecting ramps between two or more grade-separated highways.

(LOS) Level of Service

Describes the operating condition on a facility (e.g., intersection or street) when it is accommodating various traffic flows. LOS "A" denotes a free-flow condition (low volume-to-capacity ratio and delay); LOS "F" denotes severe congestion.

Local Street

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

(MIS) Major Investment Study

A comprehensive evaluation of transportation needs on a corridor or subarea scale. The MIS is used to define the design concept or scope of a major transportation investment necessary to address the needs; an element of the comprehensive regional transportation planning process.

ACRONYMS/TERMS DIRECTORY

January 2008

*Denotes DRCOG Program, Committee or Report

Mixed-Use

A type of development that includes multiple land uses within one site; for example, mixed-use areas could include homes, stores and offices together in a single development.

(MOA/MOU) Memorandum of Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding

(Metro District) Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation District

Metro Vision 2030 Plan*

Currently adopted regional development plan.

Mobile Sources

Emissions from motorized vehicles, including cars, trucks, buses and other modes of transportation.

Mobility

The ease with which desired destinations can be reached.

Mode

Means of travel; auto driver, passenger, mass transit passenger, cyclist, pedestrian, and so on. **Multimodal** is an adjective referring to the integration of various modes in a transportation system.

Model

A mathematical and geometric projection of activity and the interactions in the transportation system in an area.

(MPO) Metropolitan Planning Organization*

The organization designated with lead responsibility for developing transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas of 50,000 or more in population. MPOs are established by agreement of the governor and units of general-purpose local government, which together represent 75 percent of the affected population of an urbanized area.

(MSA) Metropolitan Statistical Area

Defined by the federal Office of management and Budget as a standard for federal agencies in the preparation and publication of statistics relating to metropolitan areas. In most states, defined as groups of counties.

(MVIC) Metro Vision Issues Committee*

This committee, the primary policy committee of DRCOG, provides recommendations to the Board for action on *Metro Vision* issues, plans and implementation. The committee

is comprised of 20 Board members and alternates who are appointed by the DRCOG chairman and approved by the Board.

(NAAQS) National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Federal health-based standards set by the EPA for allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various pollutants.

(NEPA) National Environmental Policy Act

Declares national environmental policy and promotes consideration of environmental concerns by federal agencies. Creates Council on Environmental Quality, which promulgates regulations, which guide the NEPA process. Requires environmental impact statement (EIS) if major federal action is required which might significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Typically includes actions for federal construction grants, and dredge-fill permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

(NHS) National Highway System

A classification of roads authorized by ISTEA comprised of interstate highways and roads designated as important for interstate travel, national defense, intermodal connections, and international commerce. Some federal funds are designated for projects on the NHS system.

Network

A graphic and/or mathematical representation of multimodal paths in a transportation system.

(NOx) Nitrogen oxides

A precursor of ozone in addition to hydrocarbons. Recent EPA policy has begun to emphasize control of NOx.

NIMBY (Not In My Backyard)

Open Space

Open space is land permanently preserved from urban development and maintained in a relatively natural state or in an agricultural use. In particular, regional open space planning focuses on major parcels, which serve multiple jurisdictions while also providing linkages between such parcels.

Ozone

Created when hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from car exhausts and other sources react in the presence of strong sunlight. Reduction of ozone produced from "mobile source emissions" (motor vehicles) is a major objective of the region's air quality plan.

ACRONYMS/TERMS DIRECTORY

January 2008

*Denotes DRCOG Program, Committee or Report

PM_{2.5} Particulates or fine dust less than 2.5 microns in size.

PM₁₀ (Particulate Matter)

Particulates or fine dust less than 10 microns in size. Direct sources include road dust, brake lining, tires, wood smoke particles, and industrial and agricultural sources. Also produced from indirect sources such as chemical interaction.

Public participation

The involvement of the public in the development of regional plans and programs.

(RAQC) Regional Air Quality Council

Lead air quality planning agency for the Denver metro area.

(RFP) Request for Proposal

(RSA) Regional Statistical Area*

Created by DRCOG for statistical and planning purposes. Combinations of census tracts, which do not cross county lines and provide relatively stable subcounty analytical units, independent of shifting municipal boundaries.

(RTC) Regional Transportation Committee*

The Regional Transportation Committee is comprised of policy representatives of the major regional and state agencies concerned with transportation and air quality planning: DRCOG—five members; Colorado Department of Transportation—four members; Regional Transportation District—four members; and three other members appointed annually.

(RTD) Regional Transportation District

(RTP) Regional Transportation Plan*

Identifies future transportation needs and recommends an integrated multimodal metropolitan transportation system. Consists of a fiscally-constrained long-range element, a systems management element, a bicycle and pedestrian element, an elderly and disabled element and a rural area element.

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

Signed by President George W. Bush on Aug. 10, 2005, SAFETEA-LU authorizes the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety and transit for the five-year period 2005-2009.

SB 208

Colorado Senate Bill 208 provides that “the (RTD) Board shall take no action related to construction of a regional fixed-guideway mass transportation system until such system has been approved by the designated metropolitan planning organization ... such action shall include approval of the method of financing and the technology...”

(SIP) State Implementation Plans

Required documents prepared by states and submitted to EPA for approval, which identify state actions and programs to meet air quality standard goals under the Clean Air Act.

(STAC) State Transportation Advisory Committee

This Colorado Department of Transportation committee consists of representatives from all of the state’s Metropolitan Planning Organizations and transportation planning regions. The committee provides advice to CDOT on the needs of the state’s transportation system.

(STIP) State Transportation Improvement Program

Statewide six-year listing of transportation projects eligible for federal funding. Prepared by CDOT annually.

Stationary Sources

Relatively large, fixed sources of emissions, such as factories or power stations.

(STP) Surface Transportation Program

A categorical funding program created by ISTEA. Funds may be used for a wide variety of purposes, including: roadway construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation; roadway operational improvements; capital costs for transit projects; highway and transit safety improvement; bicycle and pedestrian facilities; scenic and historical transportation facilities; and preservation of abandoned transportation corridors.

(STP-Metro) Surface Transportation Program-Metro

A specific federal highway funding program (Surface Transportation Program) that is directed at issues specific to urban, or metro, areas. Funding decisions are made by the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

(SOV) Single-Occupant Vehicle

Vehicle with just one occupant.

ACRONYMS/TERMS DIRECTORY

January 2008

*Denotes DRCOG Program, Committee or Report

(TAC) Transportation Advisory Committee*

The DRCOG Transportation Advisory Committee is comprised of 25 members; 13 local governments, three Colorado Department of Transportation regional directors; the Colorado Department of Transportation, Regional Transportation District and DRCOG transportation planning directors; the executive director of the Regional Air Quality Council and five representatives of interest groups (freight, travel demand management, non-motorized modes, aviation, business and environmental). The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration are ex-officio members.

Transportation Commission

Establishes policy governing the transportation system of Colorado. Composed of 11 commissioners appointed by the Governor representing specific districts statewide.

(TCM) Transportation Control Measures

Local actions to adjust traffic patterns or reduce vehicle use to reduce air pollutant emissions. These may include HOV lanes, right turn on red permission, ridesharing, etc.

(TDM) Transportation Demand Management

Strategies to reduce peak period automobile trips by encouraging the use of carpools, vanpools, commuter assistance, parking incentives, and work policies, which reduce the volume of travel in a defined area and the distribution of travel throughout the day.

(TEA-21) 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

Federal law authorizing highway and transit programs and funding levels for 1998-2003 and establishing MPO transportation planning process.

(TIP) Transportation Improvement Program*

Six-year listing of projects to be funded under federal transportation programs. Without TIP inclusion, a project is ineligible for federal funding. The program must be fiscally constrained, i.e., affordable based upon existing or reasonably anticipated revenues.

(TLRC) Transportation Legislation Review Committee

Committee created by the General Assembly to give guidance and direction to the state Department of Transportation in the development of the state system of highways and to provide legislative overview of and input into such development.

(TMA) Transportation Management Area

Defined by statute for urbanized areas over 200,000 in popu-

lation. Within a TMA, all transportation plans and programs must be based on a continuing and comprehensive planning process carried out by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in cooperation with states and transit operators. The TMA boundary affects the responsibility for the selection of transportation projects that receive federal funds. The region's TMA is roughly seven counties (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson) minus Rocky Mountain National Park and the eastern plains of Adams and Arapahoe counties.

(TMO/TMA) Transportation Management Organization/ Transportation Management Agency

A voluntary association of public and private agencies and firms that cooperatively develops transportation demand-reduction programs in a given geographic area.

(TMDL) Total Maximum Daily Load

A wasteload allocation process for the South Platte urban watershed, which allows point source and stormwater permits to be dealt with on an integrated basis.

(TOD) Transit-Oriented Development

(TPR) Transportation Planning Region

The nine-county DRCOG region is one of the 15 state-designated Transportation Planning Regions (TPRs) across Colorado. As the region's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, DRCOG must prepare a Regional Transportation Plan for the nine-county Transportation Planning Region.

(TSM) Transportation System Management

Non-capital-intensive improvements to the transportation system with the goal of ensuring the efficient use of the present system, includes actions to reduce vehicle use, facilitate traffic flow, and improve transit management.

(UPWP) Unified Planning Work Program*

A document prepared annually describing transportation planning activities to be conducted during the federal fiscal year (October 1 to September 30).

Urbanized area

Area which contains a city of 50,000 or more population plus incorporated and unincorporated surrounding areas meeting density criteria.

(V/C) Volume-to-capacity ratio

A measure used to determine the LOS (level of service) at a

ACRONYMS/TERMS DIRECTORY

January 2008

*Denotes DRCOG Program, Committee or Report

particular intersection or roadway section.

(VMT) Vehicle Miles of Travel

The total distance traveled in miles by all motor vehicles in a given area in a given time period.

(VOC) Volatile Organic Compounds

Another name for hydrocarbons, a precursor of ozone.

(WEPC) Water and Environmental Planning Committee*

This committee is a regional advisory body and forum that brings water quality experts together under a unified structure to assist with regional water quality planning and management. The standing advisory body focuses on matters concerning wastewater planning, water quality, water and related environmental resources. The committee serves as a technical review body for wastewater utility planning and assists with

the update of the *Clean Water Plan*.

(WQCC) Colorado Water Quality Control Commission

A nine-member citizen board appointed by the governor, which develops state water quality control policy and regulates pollutant sources.

(WQCD) Colorado Water Quality Control Division

A division of the State Department of Public Health and Environment, which implements water quality programs and regulations established by the Water Quality Control Commission.

*******(ACO) Acronym Control Officer**

The person responsible for developing acronyms. A substantial reward is offered for the capture of this person.

ACRONYMS/TERMS DIRECTORY

January 2008

*Denotes DRCOG Program, Committee or Report