

# TRANSPORTATION GLOSSARY & ACRONYM GUIDE

## A

**AASHTO:** See American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

**AB 2766 – Motor Vehicle Fee Program:** A program that permits air districts to allocate vehicle registration surcharge fees of up to \$4.00, per vehicle, per year to projects that reduce motor vehicle emissions, such as zero-emission vehicles, roundabouts/traffic circles, and trip reduction programs.

**AB 32 (The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006):** California Assembly Bill (AB) which set goals to reduce the state’s greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regulations and establish a mandatory reporting system to track and monitor global warming emissions levels.

**Accessible:** A transportation vehicle, facility or program is accessible if it can be used by persons with disabilities through the provision of ramps, lifts, curb cuts and special equipment, planning or amenities.

**ACOE:** see Army Corps of Engineers

**Action Element:** The Action Element of the RTP consists of short and long-term activities that address regional transportation needs. All transportation modes (highways, local streets and roads, mass transportation,

rail, maritime, bicycle, pedestrian and aviation facilities and services) are addressed. In addition, the Action Element identifies project priorities beyond what is already programmed.

**Active Transportation:** Active Transportation includes any method of travel that is human-powered, but most commonly refers to walking and bicycling.

**Active Transportation Program:** State funding program established in 2013 for projects that increase bicycling and walking. Consolidates several federal and state programs – including the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)/formerly Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA), Safe Routes to Schools, and Bicycle Transportation Account.

**ADA:** see Americans with Disabilities Act

**ADT:** see Average Daily Traffic

**Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP):** Prepared by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD), the region’s AQMP evaluates attainment of federal and state air quality standards within Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey counties.

**Allocate:** The process used to release funding to transportation projects.

**Alternative Planning Scenario (APS):** Scenario required

to be developed by an MPO if the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) falls short of meeting regional greenhouse gas reduction targets from passenger vehicles. Scenario showing how targets would be achieved through alternative development patterns, infrastructure, or additional transportation measures or policies.

**Alternative Transportation Fuels:** Low polluting fuels that are used to propel a vehicle, in place of petroleum-based gasoline or diesel fuels. Examples include biodiesel, electricity, ethanol, propane, compressed natural gas, and liquid natural gas.

**AMBAG:** see Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

**American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO):** A national nonprofit, non-partisan association representing highway and transportation departments.

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA):** Federal bill approved in February 2009 aimed at creating jobs and spurring economic activity. Included funding for transportation infrastructure projects, among other non-transportation projects and programs. The RTC selected projects to receive \$12 million from the Highway portion of the bill.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** Federal legislation (1990) defining the responsibilities of and requirements for transportation providers to make transportation accessible to individuals with disabilities. Examples include public and private entities providing

fixed-route or demand-responsive transportation services using accessible vehicles, complementary paratransit service for individuals who cannot use fixed-route service, curb cuts and other accessible sidewalk facilities.

**APE:** see Area of Potential Effect

**Appropriate/Appropriation:** A budgetary term that refers to an act by a governing body to provide budgeted funds to programs that have been previously authorized by other legislation. The amount of funding appropriated may be less than what was authorized.

**APS:** see Alternative Planning Strategy

**AQMP:** see Air Quality Management Plan

**Area of Potential Effect (APE):** Area in which resources may be affected by a project.

**Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE):** Federal agency responsible for providing engineering services, including the planning, design, construction, and operation of water resources and other civil works and military projects.

**ARRA:** see American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

**Arterial Road System:** Roads which provide corridors for through traffic movement, many of which feed into the highway network. Most are served by bus transit and have marked bicycle lanes.

**Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments**

**(AMBAG):** A voluntary association of Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey counties and the cities therein. AMBAG has been designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the State of California and acts as the Council of Governments (COG) responsible for developing the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.

**ATP:** see Active Transportation Program

**Authorize:** An act by Congress that creates the policy and structure of a program, including formulas and guidelines for awarding funds. Authorizing legislation (such as MAP-21) may set an upper limit on program spending or may be open ended. Revenues to be spent under an authorization must be appropriated annually by separate legislation.

**Automated Vehicle Location (AVL):** A device that uses the coordinates from satellites to determine the precise location of vehicles. AVL is often used to manage bus, taxi and commercial vehicle fleet operations.

**Auxiliary Lane:** Freeway lanes linking adjacent interchanges to reduce weaving conflicts between exiting and entering vehicles.

**Average Daily Traffic (ADT):** The 24-hour volume of traffic that passes a point on an “average” day. Depending on the location, ADT can be assumed to be a two-way volume. Annual ADT volumes or AADT estimate traffic volumes during an average day of the year, calculated using the average daily traffic and factoring in weekday and seasonal characteristics.

**Average Vehicle Ridership (AVR):** The average number of people per motorized vehicle. Also called Average Vehicle Occupancy (AVO).

**AVL:** see Automated Vehicle Location

**AVO:** Average Vehicle Occupancy

**AVR:** see Average Vehicle Ridership

## B

**B2W:** Bike to Work

**Base Year:** Year used in performance analysis as a reference point for current conditions.

**Baseline:** Future scenario which includes only projects currently underway or programmed funds. The Baseline scenario functions as the “No Project” alternative in the MTP/RTP Program EIR.

**Bikeway:** Facility designated for use by bicyclists. There are three types of bicycle facilities.

*1. Bike Path or Bike Trail (Class I Bikeway)* — Provides a completely separated right-of-way designated for the exclusive use of bicyclists and pedestrians with cross-flows by motorists minimized.

*2. Bike Lane (Class II Bikeway)* — Provides a striped and/or signed right-of-way for use by bicycles, but with

occasional adjacent vehicle parking and cross-flows by pedestrians and motorists permitted.

*3. Bike Route (Class III Bikeway)* – Highlights direct or scenic routes for bicyclists using signs or permanent markings. Routes may be shared with pedestrians or motorists.

**Buffered Bike/Pedestrian Facility:** A bicycle or pedestrian facility that has additional space between the motor vehicle travel lane and the bicycle and pedestrian facility. A buffered facility offers a more comfortable biking or walking environment.

**BIL:** Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. See Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

**Bus Rapid Transit (BRT):** A broad term that, through improvements to infrastructure, vehicles and scheduling, attempt to use buses to provide a service that is of a higher quality than an ordinary bus line.

## C

**California Air Resources Board (CARB or ARB):** State agency responsible for adopting state air quality standards, establishing emission standards for new cars sold in the state, overseeing activities of regional and local air pollution control agencies, and setting regional targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**California Coastal Trail (CCT):** The CCT is a network of public trails that will extend the entire 1200-mile length

of the California Coast and currently is more than half complete.

**California Department of Transportation (Caltrans or CT):** State agency which builds and maintains state highways, some state railways, and administers multi-modal transportation programs within the state.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** Legislation which requires private entities, state and local agencies to disclose, consider and mitigate the environmental impacts of various actions.

**California State Association of Counties (CSAC):** Agency representing the 58 county governments before the California Legislature, administrative agencies and the federal government.

**California Transportation Commission (CTC):** A board appointed by the governor and state legislature that sets spending priorities for highways and transit, reviews Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) and Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIPs) and allocates funds to transportation projects from several funding programs.

**California Transportation Plan (CTP):** A statewide, long-range transportation policy plan that provides for the movement of people, goods, services, and information. The CTP offers a blueprint to guide future transportation decisions and investments that will ensure California's ability to compete globally, provide safe and effective mobility for all persons, better link transportation and land-use decisions, improve air quality, and reduce petroleum energy consumption.

**Call Box System:** A network of roadside phones which link motorists directly with dispatchers to request assistance or emergency services.

**Caltrans:** see California Department of Transportation

**Cap & Trade Program:** The California Air Resources Board, as part of AB 32, has established a cap and trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors. The program sets a limit or cap on the amount of a pollutant that may be emitted. Emissions permits are sold to firms which allow them the right to emit a specific volume of the specified pollutant. The total number of permits cannot exceed the cap. Although how the funds will be allocated has not been determined, it is reasonable to assume that low-carbon transportation improvements should receive a substantial share of the proceeds from the cap-and-trade program.

**Capital Improvement Program (CIP):** A document which sets forth the cost, funding and year of construction for projects over a specified number of years (typically five to seven years).

**Capital Improvements:** Physical infrastructure improvements such as pavement, sidewalks, bridges, signals and purchases of equipment, vehicles.

**CARB:** see California Air Resources Board

**Carpool:** An arrangement in which two or more people share the use of a privately-owned automobile to travel together to and from pre-arranged destinations — typically between home and work or home and school.

**Carsharing:** Organized short-term auto rental, often located in downtowns, near public transit stations, residential communities and employment centers. Carsharing organizations operate fleets of rental vehicles that are available for short trips by members who pay a subscription fee, plus a per trip charge.

**Categorical Exemption (CE):** Classes of projects that are usually exempt from CEQA, provided that no exceptions apply.

**CE:** see Categorical Exemption

**CEQA:** see California Environmental Quality Act

**Changeable Message Signs (CMS):** Large overhead signs providing advisory information to travelers.

**CHP:** California Highway Patrol

**CIP:** see Capital Improvement Program

**Climate Adaptation:** Refers to efforts by society or ecosystems to prepare for or adjust to climate change and its impacts.

**CMA:** See Congestion Management Agency

**CMAQ:** see Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

**CMIA:** see Corridor Mobility Improvement Account

**CMS:** see Changeable Message Signs

**CNG:** see Compressed Natural Gas

**COG:** see Council of Governments

**Collector Streets:** Streets that collect traffic from local streets, channeling it to arterials, freeways, or local destinations such as schools or shops.

**COMMISSION:** see Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

**Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC):** A coalition of agencies and individuals that promotes bicycle and pedestrian safety, particularly for school children. Operated by the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency and partially funded by the RTC.

**Commute Solutions:** Santa Cruz County's rideshare program which provides information about transportation alternatives to the single occupant vehicle and carpool match lists.

**Commute:** The trip to/from a regular location, usually work or school.

**Commuter Rail:** Conventional rail passenger service within a metropolitan area. Service primarily is in the morning (home-to-work) and afternoon (work-to-home) travel periods.

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

**Complete Streets:** Streets designed and operated to

enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and bus riders of all ages and abilities can safely move along and across a complete street.

**Compressed Natural Gas (CNG):** A clean-burning alternative fuel for vehicles.

**Conformity:** A demonstration of whether a federally supported activity is consistent with the Clean Air Act. Transportation conformity applies to plans, programs, and projects approved or funded by the Federal Highway Administration or the Federal Transit Administration.

**Congestion Management Agency (CMA):** State designated county-level policy body responsible for monitoring and developing a Congestion Management Plan (CMP) to measure levels of service on highways, roadways, and intersections. Santa Cruz County has opted out of the congestion management program.

**Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ):** Federal funding program established specifically for projects and programs that contribute to the attainment of a national ambient air quality standard. Funds distributed to regions based on population, Air Quality maintenance/attainment category and air pollution severity. Due to changes in federal air quality measurements, the Monterey Bay region is no longer eligible for these funds, but may be eligible in the future if federal standards are tightened.

**Congestion:** Congestion is usually defined as travel time or delay in excess of what is normally experienced under free-flow traffic conditions. Congestion is typically accompanied by lower speeds, stop-and-go travel

conditions, or queuing, such as behind ramp meters or heavily-used intersections.

**Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA):** Agency responsible for coordinating specialized transportation services. In Santa Cruz County, the CTSA is Lift Line, a division of Community Bridges.

**Constrained (Fiscal Constraint/Financially Constrained):** Denotes a funding scenario under which projects, programs, expenditures in a plan or programming document that can be implemented within the constraints of committed, available or reasonably available revenue sources. This document also identifies constrained projects as “Within Projected Funds.”

**Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (CPTP):** A federally required plan to serve as a unified, comprehensive strategy for the delivery of transportation services for people with disabilities, older adults, and low-income individuals. A three-county plan is approved by AMBAG.

**Coronavirus Response and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act:** Federal-aid funding category established under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA) which appropriated funds by geographic regions.

**Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA):** Authorized by voters in 2006 as part of Proposition 1B bond to fund state highway projects that provide demonstrable congestion relief, enhanced mobility,

improved safety, and stronger connectivity.

**Corridor:** A major transportation route which can consist of one or more highways, arterial streets, transit lines, rail lines and/or bikeways.

**Council of Governments (COG):** A voluntary organization of local governments that strives for comprehensive regional planning. AMBAG is the COG for Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

**County Shares:** A formula in state law that requires a minimum return of STIP revenues to counties based on population and state highway miles.

**CPTP:** see Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

**CSAC:** see California State Association of Counties

**CRRSAA:** see Coronavirus Response and Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act

**CT:** see California Department of Transportation

**CTC:** see California Transportation Commission

**CTP:** see California Transportation Plan

**CTSA:** see Consolidated Transportation Services Agency

**CTSC:** see Community Traffic Safety Coalition

## D

**DAC:** see Disadvantaged Community

**Dedicated Funds:** Federal, state or local funds which can be used only for specific purposes or by specific agencies.

**Demand Responsive:** Individualized transportation services requested by passengers, and/or where routes are developed around a group of requests, which may change daily. Oftentimes provided to people unable to use fixed-route buses by taxis or by advance reservation on paratransit vehicles.

**Department of Transportation (DOT):** At the federal level, the cabinet agency headed by the Secretary of Transportation is responsible for highways, transit, aviation, and ports. The DOT includes the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and other agencies. The state DOT is Caltrans.

**Development Impact Fee:** A fee charged to private developers, usually on a per-dwelling-unit or per-square-foot basis, used to pay for infrastructure improvements necessitated because of the development.

**Disadvantaged Community (DAC):** For Santa Cruz County, transportation disadvantaged communities are defined as census tracts where greater than 65% of the total population is non-white (minority areas) and/or greater than 33% of residing families earn less

than 200% of the 2015 federal poverty level (low-income areas). Poverty areas are defined as census tracts where greater than 25% of households earned less than the 2015 federal poverty level.

In 2022/23 the RTC will be working with the community to reevaluate this definition as part of its Equity Action Plan.

**Discretionary Funds:** Federal, state and local funds which can be used for a variety of purposes. Sometimes also referred to as “flexible funds.”

**DMV:** CA Department of Motor Vehicles

**DOT:** see Department of Transportation

## E

**EA:** see Environmental Assessment

**EB:** Eastbound

**ED:** see Environmental Document

**EJ:** see Environmental Justice

**EIR:** see Environmental Impact Report

**EIS:** see Environmental Impact Statement

**EMFAC – Emission Factor:** Model that estimates on-road motor vehicle emission rates for current year as well as backcasted and forecasted inventories.

**EMS:** see Extinguishable Message Sign

**Environmental Assessment (EA):** A document that serves to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or FONSI for federal-aid projects. It is the federal equivalent of the CEQA term “initial study.”

**Environmental Document (ED):** The draft or final Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Impact Report, Finding of No Significant Impact, Environmental Assessment or Negative Declaration.

**Environmental Impact Report (EIR):** An assessment of the environmental effects and mitigations for a proposal or decision which, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has been determined may significantly impact the environment.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** Document that details any adverse economic, social and environmental effects of a proposed transportation project prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy ACT (NEPA), roughly analogous to an EIR under CEQA.

**Environmental Justice (EJ):** 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. EJ principles include ensuring that planned transportation improvements do not have a disproportionate adverse impact on low income or other under-represented groups, and that minority and low-income populations

receive equal benefits, on an equally timely basis, as other populations.

**EPA – Environmental Protection Agency:** Federal agency established to develop and enforce regulations that implement environmental laws enacted by Congress to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment.

**Equity:** Fairness in process, distribution of resources, opportunity and provision of varying levels of support, based upon need to achieve greater fairness of outcomes. Includes just and fair inclusion in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

**Equity Priority Communities in Santa Cruz County:** Geographic areas where more than 40% of residents are low income or 50% or more are Latino or people of color, and areas serving higher concentrations of seniors, youth, and people with disabilities (see map in 2050 RTP).

**Excise Tax:** Excise taxes are taxes paid when purchases are made on a specific good, such as fuel. Excise taxes are often included in the price of the product.

**Expenditure:** In transportation terms, this is any allowable expense associated with a project or program.

**Expressway:** A divided highway for high-speed traffic with at least partial control of access. In some areas, expressways are divided arterial roads with limits on the frequency of driveways and intersecting cross-streets. In other area, access to expressways is limited only to grade-separated interchanges, making them the full

equivalent of freeways.

**Extinguishable Message Sign (EMS):** Signs along roadways that provide advisory messages or direct motorists to Highway Advisory Radio broadcasting current information about traffic conditions.

## F

**FAA:** see Federal Aviation Administration

**Farebox Recovery Ratio:** The proportion of public transit operating expenses covered by passenger fares. The ratio divides the farebox revenue (cash, tickets, and passes) by the total operating expenses.

**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):** The federal agency that regulates the use of airspace and is responsible for evaluating and disseminating information about hazards and obstructions to aviation.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** The federal agency responsible for the approval of transportation projects related to the roadway system.

**Federal Railroad Administration (FRA):** 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.

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA):** The federal agency responsible for administering federal transit funds and assisting in the planning and establishment of mass transportation systems.

**Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP):** Federally required multi-year capital improvement program listing projects using federal funds and major highway, transit, and active transportation projects including project costs, funding sources, and development schedules. AMBAG prepares the FTIP in the Monterey Bay area and refers to this document as the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

**FHWA:** see Federal Highway Administration

**Financial Element:** A required component of the RTP, the financial element identifies the current and anticipated revenue sources available to fund the constrained transportation investments described in the Action Element. The intent of the Financial Element is to define realistic financing constraints and opportunities.

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):** Federal environmental document (NEPA) term roughly analogous to Negative Declaration under CEQA.

**Fiscal Year (FY):** The 12-month period established for budgeting purposes. The fiscal year for state and most local governments in California begins July 1 and ends June 30. The federal fiscal year begins October 1 and ends September 30.

**Fixed Guideway:** A term for transportation modes that

feature guidance along a fixed structure, such as a track, a concrete channel, or a cable. Examples include diesel powered railroad trains, electrified light rail trolleys, monorails, funiculars, gondolas, and people movers.

**Fixed Route Service:** Service provided on a regular, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route.

**Fixed Route:** A fixed route is a bus transit route in which a vehicle operates on a regular, fixed-schedule along a specific route, with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers at specific locations.

**Flex Hours:** Work hours which allow an employee to work a non-standard work schedule and commute during non-peak hours. Common examples include the 4/10 where an individual works four 10-hour days per week or the 9/80 where an individual works longer hours each day with one day off every other week.

**FONSI:** see Finding of No Significant Impact

**Freeway Service Patrol (FSP):** Roving tow truck service that clear incidents on roadways during peak travel periods.

**Freeway:** A divided arterial highway designed for the unimpeded flow of large traffic volumes. Access to a freeway is controlled and intersection grade separations are required.

**FSP:** see Freeway Service Patrol

**FTA:** see Federal Transit Administration

**FTA Section 5307:** Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urbanized Area Formula Program for public transit.

**FTA Section 5310:** Competitive funding to increase the mobility of seniors and persons with disabilities. The former New Freedom Program (SECT 5317) was folded into this program.

**FTA Section 5311:** Federal funding provided for rural public transportation programs.

**FTIP:** see Federal Transportation Improvement Program

**FY:** see Fiscal Year.

## G

**Gas Tax:** The tax applied to each gallon of fuel sold. In California this is also called the Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax or Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA).

**General Plan:** A policy document required of California cities and counties by state law that describes a jurisdiction's future development in general terms and includes policy statements and maps. Land use decisions must be derived from the document, which includes seven mandatory elements: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety.

**GHG:** see Greenhouse Gas

**GIS – Geographic Information System:** 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.

**Grade Crossing:** A crossing or intersection of highways, railroad tracks, other guideways, or pedestrian walks, or combinations of these at the same level or grade.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG):** Any of the atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation produced by solar warming of the Earth's surface. Include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

## H

**HAR:** see Highway Advisory Radio

**HBR:** see Highway Bridge Program

**HCM:** see Highway Capacity Manual

**Headquarters (HQ):** The main offices in Sacramento of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), a government agency in California charged with improving mobility across the state.

**Headways:** Time interval between transit vehicles traveling the same direction on the same route; i.e.,

15-minute or 2-hour headways indicates service every 15 minutes or every 2 hours.

**High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes:** A lane on a multi-lane highway designated for use, primarily in the peak periods, free of charge by vehicles with two or more occupants or for single-occupant vehicles paying a toll.

**High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes (or Diamond Lanes):** A lane on a multi-lane highway designated for use, primarily in the peak periods, only by vehicles with more than one (or sometimes two) occupants – such as carpools, vanpools, shuttles, and buses. In California, motorcycles, emergency vehicles, and certain low/zero emissions vehicles may also use HOV lanes.

**Highway Advisory Radio (HAR):** Radio station providing updated information on traffic conditions.

**Highway Bridge Program (HBR):** Federal funding program administered by Caltrans for bridge replacement or rehabilitation on public roads.

**Highway Capacity Manual (HCM):** Provides information for many transportation facilities and modes, including techniques for estimating the number of vehicles that can fit in a roadway (capacity), Level of Service, and design characteristics.

**Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP):** Formerly the Hazard Elimination and Safety Program (HES). Federal funding program administered by Caltrans for improving safety.

**Highway:** A general term which includes roads, streets,

and parkways and all their appurtenances. In this document “highway” typically refers only to roads on the State Route System however (e.g. Highway 17).

**HIP:** Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) federal funding program.

**HOT:** see High Occupancy Toll Lanes

**HOV:** see High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

**HPMS - Highway Performance Monitoring System:** A federally mandated program designed by FHWA to assess the performance of the nation’s highway system. Includes data on public roadways.

**HQ:** Headquarters

**HSIP:** see Highway Safety Improvement Program

**HSR - High Speed Rail:** Railroad passenger service that, as defined by California state law, operates at maximum speeds of more than 200 miles per hour. Because of the speed, high speed rail normally operates on intercity (longer) routes.

**HUTA:** Highway Users Tax Account. See Gas Tax

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**IJA:** see Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

**Infill Development:** Development of land within an

established urbanized area.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:** The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA, P.L. 117-58) is a federal bill that includes the federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act and Surface Transportation Investment Act. Sometimes also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), it includes provisions related to federal-aid highway, transit, highway safety, motor carrier, research, hazardous materials, and rail programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT). Overall the bill includes \$1.2 trillion in investments over five years, from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 through FY 2026, including \$550 billion in new spending on transportation, water and power infrastructure, and pollution cleanup, in addition to regular annual spending on infrastructure projects.

**Initial Study:** Under CEQA, a systematic review of a proposed project undertaken to determine whether there is substantial evidence that it may result in one or more significant impacts.

**In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Mitigation:** A permittee pays a fee to the operator of the ILF program instead of conducting project-specific mitigation. An ILF program typically combines fees collected from a number of permittee’s projects to finance a mitigation project.

**Intelligent Transportation System (ITS):** A general classification of transportation technologies, management tools, and services made possible through advances in computer and communication technologies. Examples include real-time information about traffic incidents, dynamic curve warning signs,

and the guidance of vehicles through remotely controlled equipment.

**Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC):**

An RTC committee consisting of representatives from planning and public works departments, transit, UCSC and Cabrillo College, transportation management associations, the Air District, and other entities who review and make recommendations about regional plans, projects, and funding.

**Intercity Rail:** Railroad passenger service that primarily serves longer trips, such as those between major cities or regions.

**Inter-modal:** Using or addressing inter-connections between various transportation facilities or modes.

**Interregional Transportation Improvement Program**

**(ITIP):** A state funding program designated to receive 25% of funds programmed in the STIP (the other 75% are RTIP funds). Available for major state highway and passenger rail routes which link regions. Projects are proposed by Caltrans and subject to CTC approval.

**IS:** see Initial Study

**ISTEA:** Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. Federal funding and authorization bill that governed federal surface transportation spending 1991-1997.

**ITAC:** see Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

**ITIP:** see Interregional Transportation Improvement Program

**ITS:** see Intelligent Transportation Systems

## J

**Jobs/Housing Balance:** The interrelationship between the location and type of housing versus the location and type of jobs in a region. This interrelationship has implications for transportation demand.

**JPA - Joint Powers Authority:** 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.

## K

**Key Destinations:** Eleven locations of employment and commercial centers identified throughout Santa Cruz County for use in target analysis.

## L

**LCP:** see Local Coastal Program

**Level of Service (LOS):** A qualitative assessment of a facility's operating conditions. The extent or degree of service provided by, or proposed to be provided by, a facility based on and related to the operational

characteristics of the facility. Level of Service indicates the capacity per unit of demand for each public facility. For automobiles, LOS ratings typically range from LOS A, which represents free-flow conditions, to LOS F, which is characterized by heavy congestion, stop-and-go traffic, and long queues forming behind breakdown points.

**Light Rail:** A passenger transportation system of self-propelled vehicles that operate over steel rails located in the street, on an aerial structure, or on a separated right of way.

**Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):** A cleaner burning liquid fuel derived from a natural gas that is cooled to below its boiling point, so it becomes a liquid. Santa Cruz METRO converts LNG to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to operate most of its buses.

**LNG:** see Liquefied Natural Gas

**Local Coastal Program (LCP):** Local Coastal Programs are basic planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone, in partnership with the Coastal Commission.

**Local Jurisdictions:** The four cities (Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville) and the (unincorporated) County of Santa Cruz, each of which has its own elected decision-makers, planning and public works departments, and control over land-use decisions within its boundaries.

**Local Streets:** Streets that provide direct access to adjacent residential areas, on which through traffic is generally discouraged.

**Local Transportation Commission (LTC):** Established under SB 325 to allocate Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues and designated under AB 69 as the regional transportation planning agency (RTPA). The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is the LTC for Santa Cruz County.

**LOS:** see Level of Service/Level of Service Standard

**Low Emission Vehicles:** Vehicles using alternative fuel sources which emit little or no tailpipe exhaust, e.g., electric, hybrid electric, and fuel cell.

**LTC:** see Local Transportation Commission

**LTF:** Local Transportation Funds. See Transportation Development Act

## M

**Maintenance Area:** Area which, at one time did not, but now does meet current state or federal air quality standards.

**Major Transportation Investment Study (MTIS):** An analysis of project alternatives formerly required to receive federal and state funds. An MTIS was completed in 1999 for the Watsonville-Santa Cruz-UCSC corridor.

**MAP-21 - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century:** Federal transportation act signed into law on July 6, 2012. Successor bill to SAFTEA-LU (2005), MAP-21 consolidated

several funding programs and establishes requirements for transportation planning and project implementation.

**Mass Transit:** A common carrier service provided for transporting passengers on established routes, with fixed schedules, published rates of fares. Includes buses and rail.

**MBSST Network:** see Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network

**MBUAPCD:** see Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District

**Measure D:** The 2016 transportation ballot measure approved by over two-thirds of Santa Cruz County voters in November 2016 which generates revenues from a half-percent transaction and use tax (sales tax).

**METRO:** see Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO):** A federally-designated agency responsible for monitoring and planning associated with regional employment, residential and transportation. AMBAG is the MPO for Santa Cruz County as part of the three-county Monterey Bay region.

**Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):** The federally-mandated transportation plan for the tri-county Monterey Bay region, composed of transportation projects from the transportation plans from Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties prepared by AMBAG. With SB375, also includes the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

**Mitigation:** Project or program intended to offset impacts of a transportation project on an existing natural resource such as a stream, wetland, and/or endangered species.

**Mitigation Banking:** The preservation, enhancement, restoration or creation of a wetland, stream, or habitat conservation area which offsets, or compensates for, expected adverse impacts to similar nearby ecosystems.

**Mixed Flow Lane:** Travel lanes shared by autos, trucks, buses, and motorcycles (as compared to restricted lanes, such as HOV lanes).

**Mixed Use:** Combining of commercial, office, and/or residential land uses to reduce travel distances and facilitate walking. Examples include multi-story buildings containing businesses and retail stores on the lower floors, and homes on the upper floors.

**MMLOS:** see Multimodal Level of Service

**Mode Split or Mode Share:** The proportion of total travel in each travel mode.

**Mode:** Method of travel, e.g., private automobile, walking, bicycle, transit, airplane, bus, train.

**Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network:** A planned recreation, transportation and interpretive pathway that links existing and new trail segments into a continuous coastal trail around the Monterey Bay, from Lover's Point in Monterey County to the San Mateo County line in Santa Cruz County.

**Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD or Air District):** Agency responsible for implementing and enforcing state and federal air quality regulation in Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties.

**MPO:** see Metropolitan Planning Organization

**MTD:** see Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

**MTIP:** Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. See Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

**MTIS:** see Major Transportation Investment Study

**Multimodal Level of Service (MMLOS):** A way to measure the degree to which street design and operations meets the traveling needs of each user type – automobile, bus, pedestrian, bicycle, etc.

**Multi-modal:** Using or addressing more than one transportation mode.

## N

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** Federal law identifying environmental disclosure requirements. Required to be followed on projects using federal funds.

**National Highway System (NHS):** A federally established national road system. In Santa Cruz County, the NHS includes sections of Highway 1, Highway 17, Highway

129, Highway 152, 41st Avenue, Capitola Road, Freedom Boulevard, Graham Hill Road, Mt. Hermon Road, Ocean Street, Soquel Avenue and other major arterials.

**Nature-Based Solutions (NBS):** Projects or project elements that leverage natural processes and features to address transportation challenges, such as mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, managing stormwater runoff, reducing erosion, and alleviating urban heat island effects.

**NB:** Northbound

**ND:** see Negative Declaration

**Negative Declaration (ND):** A determination based upon an initial study that there is no substantial evidence that a proposed project may result in a significant effect.

**NEPA:** see National Environmental Policy Act

**NHS:** see National Highway System

**Non-Attainment Area:** An air basin which does not meet existing state or federal air quality standards.

## O

**O&M:** Operations and Maintenance. The range of activities and services provided by the transportation system and for the upkeep and preservation of the existing system.

**Obligate:** The act of securing a commitment from Federal or State government (e.g. FHWA or Caltrans) to pay or reimburse entities for a project's eligible costs. Many funding programs require a project sponsor to obligate funds in a timely manner or lose the funds.

**Off-Peak Period:** The time of day when the lowest concentration of travels are using a transportation facility. These times are generally before 6 a.m., mid-day, and after evening commute hours.

**Open Space:** Generally understood as any area of land or water which is not developed for urbanized uses. In General Plans areas may be designated as Open Space for the purposes of the preservation or managed production of natural resources, outdoor recreation, or the promotion of public health and safety.

**Operations:** On-going activities necessary to manage and perform services for a system, such as labor costs. For transit, costs include fuel, salaries and replacement parts.

**Overall Work Program (OWP):** Budgetary document describing proposed activities for the upcoming fiscal year, including those required by federal and state law.

**OWP:** see Overall Work Program

## P

**PA&ED:** see Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED)

**Paratransit:** Term used to describe transportation services which operate on flexible routes and/or provide demand-responsive service and is most frequently used by elderly and disabled passengers unable to take fixed route transit. Generally, vans, small buses, or taxis are used to provide this service. The ADA-mandated service in our region is ParaCruz and is provided by METRO. Another main provider is Community Bridges Lift Line.

**Park-and-Ride Lot:** A facility where individuals can meet to utilize carpools, vanpools, and transit to continue traveling to their destinations.

**Parking Management:** Strategies which use parking supply or pricing as an incentive or disincentive to affect the demand for parking. Preferred parking for carpools is an example of a parking management incentive, and charging parking fees is an example of a disincentive.

**Passenger Miles:** The total number of passengers carried by a transit system, multiplied by the number of miles each passenger travels. Passenger miles are normally measured on a daily or annual basis.

**Pavement Condition Index (PCI):** A numerical index between 0 and 100 used to indicate the general condition of a pavement with 0 representing the worst possible condition and 100 representing the best possible condition.

**Pay as You Drive (PAYD) Insurance:** A type of automobile insurance whereby the costs are dependent upon type of vehicle used, and measured against time, distance and location.

**Peak Periods:** The hours during which the greatest traffic volumes or highest transit use occur.

**PeMS – Performance Monitoring System:** The PeMS program uses urban freeway data collected through freeway loop detectors to provide current, ongoing data on freeway volumes and speeds that can be displayed graphically and exported to other monitoring applications.

**Performance Based Planning:** An approach that uses performance measures to support investment decisions to help achieve desired outcomes.

**Performance Measures (or Evaluation Measures or Targets):** Objective, quantifiable measures used to evaluate the performance of the transportation system, and to determine how well planned improvements to the system are achieving established objectives.

**Person Trip:** Any person’s one-way travel to any destination for any purpose. More specifically, a trip is the one-way movement from an origin to a destination, whereby each trip has two trip ends.

**PID:** see Project Initiation Document

**Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E):** A phase or milestone in the life cycle of a project following PA&ED and preceding construction; includes the preparation of construction contract documents, the acquisition of right of way, and the securing of permits.

**Planned Projects:** Projects on the Constrained/within

projected funds RTP list which have not previously been approved for funding by the RTC. Projects are expected to be funded through 2035.

**PM:** see Post Mile

**Policy Element:** A required component of the RTP, the policy element clearly conveys the region’s transportation goals and policies.

**Post Mile:** The mileage measured in statute miles from a county line or the beginning of a route to another county line or the ending of the route. Each post mile along a route in a county is a unique location on the State Highway System.

**Primary Transportation Network:** Includes state highways, principal arterials and rail line in Santa Cruz County.

**Program:** verb- to assign funds to a project.

**Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR):** Environmental review process used to evaluate the potential environmental effects of large-scale plans or programs.

**Programmed Projects:** Projects on the Constrained/within projected funds list for which funding has already been approved by the RTC. These projects will be initiated and/or completed by 2019.

**Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED):** A major phase in the life cycle of a project following the Project Initiation Document and

Programming but preceding PS&E.

**Project Initiation Document (PID):** an engineering document or technical report that documents the scope, cost, and schedule of a project.

**Project Study Report (PSR):** A preliminary engineering report that documents agreements on the scope, a set of reasonable and feasible alternatives, the schedule, and the estimated cost of a project so that the project can be included in a future State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

**Proposition 1A:** Bond measure passed by voters in November 2008 authorizing \$9.95 billion to the California High-Speed Rail Authority to construct the core segments of the rail line from San Francisco to the Los Angeles area.

**Proposition 1B:** Bond measure passed by voters in November 2006 authorizing \$27 billion in bonds distributed to highway, local road, and transit projects through a combination of competitive and formula programs.

**Proposition 116:** Bond measure passed by voters in June 1990 providing \$1.9 billion in funds primarily for rail projects, but also included funds for paratransit vehicles, bicycle facilities, and ferries. \$11 million was earmarked for Santa Cruz County rail projects.

**PS&E:** see Plans, Specifications and Estimates

**PSR:** see Project Study Report

## R

**Rail Transit:** Public transportation services provided on a fixed rail line, e.g., light rail.

**Ramp Metering:** Electronic traffic control devices located at freeway access points to meter the entry of vehicles onto the freeway. The goal is to help optimize the movement of persons and vehicles.

**RDA:** see Redevelopment Agency

**Redevelopment Agency (RDA):** Originally established by local ordinances to assist a specifically designated area with capital improvement projects intended to revitalize the area, RDAs were dissolved in 2012 as part of the California State Budget Act (2011).

**Regional Blueprint:** Collaborative planning processes that engage residents of a region in articulating a vision for the long term future of their region. The goal of the process is to develop a preferred growth scenario that can guide regional and local land use and transportation.

**Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA):** Quantifies the need for housing within each jurisdiction of the AMBAG region based on population growth projections. Communities then address this need through the process of completing the housing elements of their General Plans.

**Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP):** See Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG).

**Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange**

**(RSTPX):** Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)/Regional Surface Transportation Program funds (federal) exchanged for state funding.

**Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP):**

The state required multi-year capital improvement program for transportation projects using state and federal funds. The RTIP for Santa Cruz County is adopted by the SCCRTC and is submitted to the California Transportation Commission for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and to AMBAG for inclusion in the FTIP.

**Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):**

The state-mandated long-range plan that acts as a blueprint to guide transportation development. Developed by regional transportation planning agencies, it includes a policy, action, and financial elements. The SCCRTC prepares and adopts the RTP for Santa Cruz County. The RTP must be consistent with other local plans.

**Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA):**

Agencies designated by the State of California to provide regional transportation planning and make funding decisions, including preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is the designated RTPA for Santa Cruz County.

**Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM):**

A computer software program using demographic data to estimate the transportation impacts of population growth and

land use decisions on the transportation system, and to assess the utility of transportation projects.

**Reverse Commute:** Travel in the direction opposite to the main flow of peak period commute traffic.

**RHNA:** see Regional Housing Needs Assessment

**Ridership:** The number of transit users, usually reported as a yearly total or as the average for a normal workday.

**Rideshare:** Alternatives to driving alone, including carpooling, vanpooling, taking the bus, bicycling, walking and telecommuting.

**Right-of-Way (ROW):** The area of property owned by a public or private entity used for transportation purposes.

**ROE:** Right of Entry

**ROW:** see Right-of-Way

**RPA:** see Rural Planning Assistance

**RSTP:** see Regional Surface Transportation Program

**RSTPX:** see Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange

**RTC:** see Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

**RTDM:** see Regional Travel Demand Model

**RTIP:** see Regional Transportation Improvement Program

**RTP:** see Regional Transportation Plan

**RTPA:** see Regional Transportation Planning Agency

**Rural Planning Assistance (RPA):** Funds awarded by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) annually for use by the Regional Transportation Planning Agency.

## S

**Safe Routes to Schools:** Initiatives, such as education, encouragement campaigns, and infrastructure improvements, that make it easier and safer for children to walk and bicycle to school.

**Safe Routes to Transit:** Strategies to address the challenges of getting to and from a transit stop or station. These include sidewalks and curb cuts to bus stops, pedestrian crosswalks near transit stations, bicycle lanes that connect to transit and bike parking at transit stations, feeder-distributor bus/shuttle routes, car sharing/station cars, and ridesharing.

**Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU):** Funding and authorization bill from 2005–2012 that governed federal surface transportation spending.

**SAFE:** see Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

**SAFETEA-LU:** see Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient

**Transportation Equity Act:** A Legacy for Users

**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC or RTC):** Transportation policy, planning and funding body designated as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), Local Transportation Commission (LTC), Rail/Trail Authority and Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) for Santa Cruz County.

**Santa Cruz METRO:** see Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

**Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD or METRO):** The public transit operator for Santa Cruz County. Also known as Santa Cruz Metro.

**SB:** Southbound

**SB 45:** California Senate Bill (Chapter 622, Statutes of 1997, Kopp) that mandated major transportation reforms impacting transportation planning, funding and development. Transferred from the state to the regions more authority in deciding how to invest transportation funds. Established current STIP process.

**SB 375 (2008):** 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. Requires California’s Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regional reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and requires MPO’s to develop “Sustainable Community Strategies” (SCS) to reduce emissions from vehicle use through integrated land use and transportation planning.

**SCCRTC:** see Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

**Scenario Planning:** A decision making tool to help identify the projects that are prioritized in a transportation plan. Scenario planning allows a community to evaluate the likely outcomes of a number of scenarios to explore possible benefits and costs of alternative futures.

**SCMTD:** see Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

**SCS:** see Sustainable Communities Strategy

**Self-Help Counties:** A term used to describe counties that have enacting local voter-approved funding mechanisms -- such as half-cent sales taxes -- to pay for transportation improvements.

**Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE):** As the designated SAFE for Santa Cruz County, the SCCRTC contributes towards increased CHP patrols on Highway 17 and, until 2026, managed the call box system on local state highways. Funded by \$1-per-year vehicle registration fee.

**SHOPP:** see State Highway Operations and Protection Program

**Signal Preemption:** A system used for emergency and public transit vehicles to change signal phasing from red to green allowing for more rapid crosstown access.

**SIP – Strategic Implementation Plan for Measure D:**

The SIP serves as the guiding policy and programming document for the implementation of Regional Measure D projects.

**SOV – Single Occupant Vehicle:** Privately operated vehicle that contains only one driver or occupant.

**Specialized Transportation:** Often used synonymously with “paratransit,” refers to vehicle and programs operated primarily for the elderly and persons living with disabilities. Service is generally provided door-to-door in vans or automobiles on a semi-fixed route or demand-responsive basis.

**SRTP:** see Short Range Transit Plan

**STA:** see State Transit Assistance

**STARS:** see Sustainable Transportation Analysis & Rating System (STARS)

**State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP):** State plan and funding program to maintain the operational integrity and safety of the state highway system. It includes primarily rehabilitation, safety, and operational improvement projects.

**State Transit Assistance (STA):** State funding program for mass transit operations and capital projects. As of March 2010, funds derived from statewide sales tax on diesel fuel, distributed based on population.

**State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):** A multi-year program of transportation projects to be funded with various state and federal revenues. Adopted

biennially by the California Transportation Commission (CTC), based on projects proposed in RTIPs and from Caltrans (ITIP). Funds distributed to regions based 75% on population and 25% on highway miles.

**Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS):**

Database of collisions managed by the California Highway Patrol.

**STIP:** see State Transportation Improvement Program

**STP:** see Surface Transportation Program

**Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG):**

A flexible federal funding program initially established by ISTEA and distributed to regions based on population formula to fund local streets and roads, bicycle, pedestrian, highway, and transit projects. Previously known as the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP).

**Sustainability:** Sustainability is defined as balancing economic, environmental and equity interests. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.

**Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS):** An element of the MTP, as required by SB 375, that demonstrates how development patterns and the transportation network, policies, and programs can work together to achieve the state's targets for reducing regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cars and light trucks in a region.

**Sustainable Transportation Analysis & Rating System**

**(STARS):** An integrated planning framework for transportation plans and projects. Used by planners, communities and decision-makers to evaluate the impacts of transportation plans and projects, identify innovative strategies and improve decision-making.

**System Preservation:** The maintenance of the existing transportation system.

**T**

**Targets:** For this RTP, targets are measurable objectives for achieving goals. Targets are a decision support tool linking policies and projects to goals, assessing performance trends, and provide the opportunity to make adjustments in priorities. Consistent with backcasting, establishing targets involves setting desirable future objectives first then determining the degree to which investments will meet objectives, rather than relying on demand based forecasts to direct the planning and investments.

**TAZ:** see Traffic Analysis Zone

**TCM:** see Transportation Control Measure

**TCRP:** Transportation Congestion Relief Program

**TDA:** see Transportation Development Act

**TDM:** see Transportation Demand Management

**TEA:** see Transportation Enhancement Activities

**TEA-21:** see Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

**Telecommute (or Telework):** Conducting some or all of daily work activities from a location other than the normal worksite, usually from home or remote site, and often with the assistance of telecommunications equipment. Employees sometimes referred to as teleworkers or e-workers.

**TIA:** see Transportation Improvement Area

**TIP:** Transportation Improvement Program

**TCAA:** Transportation Corridor Alternatives Analysis

**TMA:** see Transportation Management Association

**TMC:** Traffic Management Center. Monitors roadways using closed circuit cameras, loop detectors and information from the CHP and field staff. Posts and updates messages on traffic conditions on various systems, including the 511 telephone number, road signs, and websites.

**TOD:** see Transit-Oriented Development

**TOS:** see Traffic Operations System

**TPP:** see Transit Priority Project

**Traffic Analysis Zone:** A geographic unit used for transportation modeling. A TAZ is smaller than a census tract and a Trip Distribution Zone (TDZ).

**Traffic Operations System (TOS):** A system of highway communications equipment to monitor traffic conditions and relay traveler information in real time.

**Transit:** Travel by bus, rail, or other vehicle, either publicly or privately owned, that provides general or specialized service on a regular or continuing basis.

**Transit Dependent:** An individual who because of age, income, physical/mental condition, geographic location, or personal choice, does not have a private vehicle available and relies on transit for his/her transportation needs.

**Transit-Oriented Development (TOD):** Residential and employment growth that occurs near existing and planned public transit facilities.

**Transit Priority Project (TPP):** Under SB 375, a project that (1) contains at least 50 percent residential use (commercial use, if any, must have floor area ratio of not less than 0.75); (2) have a minimum net density of 20 units per acre; and (3) be located within one-half mile of a major transit stop or high-quality transit corridor included in the MTP. TPP may be exempt from CEQA.

**Transit Signal Priority (TSP):** Transit Signal Priority (TSP) is a general term for a set of operational improvements that use technology to reduce dwell time at traffic signals for transit vehicles by holding green lights longer or shortening red lights. TSP may be implemented at individual intersections or across corridors or entire street systems.

**Transportation Control Measure (TCM):** A project or program intended to reduce air pollution generated by automobiles.

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM):** Strategies to reduce demand by automobiles on the transportation system, by promoting telecommuting, flex-time, bicycling, walking, transit use, staggered work hours, and ridesharing.

**Transportation Development Act (TDA):** State law enacted in 1971. Local TDA funds (or Local Transportation Funds – LTF) are generated from a one-quarter of one percent state sales tax. Revenues are allocated annually to support transportation planning and administration, transit, transportation for the elderly/disabled, bikeway and pedestrian projects, based on state law and RTC rules and regulations.

**Transportation Disabled:** People who cannot use public transportation easily or at all because of physical, emotional, or mental limitations.

**Transportation Disadvantaged:** People who have significant unmet transportation needs. May include people experiencing poverty, people experiencing language barriers, people of color, older adults, youth and people with disabilities who experience a disproportionately small share of benefits from transportation investments, particularly because traditional transportation investments prioritize vehicles.

**Transportation Enhancements (TE):** Former federal funding program for pedestrians and bicycles facilities, scenic beautification, historic preservation, preservation

of abandoned railway corridors, archaeological planning and research, and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff. Eliminated in 2012 and replaced by the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

**Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21):** Federal funding and authorization bill from 1998–2005 that governed federal surface transportation spending.

**Transportation Improvement Area (TIA):** Area designated by a local jurisdiction where new development is required to pay fees based on the amount of traffic it is expected to generate.

**Transportation Management Association (TMA):** An organized group that provides transportation services in a particular area, with a focus on TDM programs to facilitate the movement of people and goods within an area. TMAs are frequently led by the private sector in partnership with the public sector to solve transportation problems.

**Transportation System Management (TSM):** Strategies that improve the efficiency of the existing transportation network such as signal synchronization, HOV queue jumps and signal priority, incident management and auxiliary lanes.

**Travel Time Index (TTI):** A travel time index (TTI) is a way to normalize congestion levels across facilities with different free-flow speeds. A travel time index is determined by taking average travel time divided by the free flow travel time. The free flow speed assumed here is the posted speed limit (65 mph for highways). Similarly, the 95% travel time index is the 95% travel time

divided by the free flow time.

**Travel Time Reliability:** The consistency or dependability in travel times, as measured from day-to-day and/or across different times of the day.

**Trip:** A one-way journey that proceeds from an origin to a destination by a single type of vehicular transportation.

**TSP:** see Transit Signal Priority

**TSM:** see Transportation System Management

**TTI:** see Travel Time Index

## U

**U.S. DOT:** United States Department of Transportation. The federal agency responsible for highways, mass transit, aviation and ports and headed by the Secretary of Transportation. Includes the FHWA, FTA and FAA, among others.

**UCS/UCIS:** Unified Corridors Investment Study

**UCSC:** University of California, Santa Cruz

**Unconstrained:** Denotes a funding scenario not constrained by existing funding assumptions. New funds, above and beyond existing or anticipated revenues, would be needed to fund “unconstrained” projects in this RTP.

**Unmet Transit Needs Findings:** TDA funds can be used for local streets and roads in smaller counties only

if the RTPA in their jurisdiction makes a finding that public transit service and operations in the county have no unmet needs that are reasonable to meet. RTPAs must hold public hearings prior to making such a determination.

**Urbanized Area:** An area with a population of 50,000 or more as designated by the U.S. Census.

## V

**V/C Ratio - Volume to Capacity Ratio:** The volume of traffic divided by the capacity of a transportation facility. Traffic volume is defined as the number of vehicles passing (or projected to pass) a point or section of roadway in a given time interval. Capacity is defined as the maximum number of vehicles that reasonably can be expected to traverse that point or section of roadway during the same time period under prevailing roadway, traffic, and control conditions.

**Vanpool:** A group of seven to fifteen people traveling together to work or school in a van at set times. Many vans are leased from companies which include insurance, emergency services and maintenance in the monthly rental fees.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT):** The term used for the total number of miles traveled by motor vehicles within a specified region during a particular time period.

**Vehicle Occupancy Rate:** Also known as Average Vehicle Occupancy or Ridership; the number of persons

per vehicle on a given road at a given time without distinguishing trip purpose.

**Vehicle Trip:** A single vehicle movement from the beginning of travel to its destination, in a vehicle that is motor-driven (e.g., automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, buses, and vans).

**VMT:** see Vehicle Miles Traveled

**VTA:** Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

## W

**Walkability:** A measure of how friendly an area is to walking. Walkability has many health, environmental, and economic benefits. Factors influencing walkability include the presence or absence and quality of footpaths, sidewalks or other pedestrian rights-of-way, traffic and road conditions, land use patterns, building accessibility, and safety, among others.

**WB:** Westbound

## Y

**Year of Expenditure (YOE):** Revenue and cost estimates for a project or program based on reasonable financial principles/information about the timeframe in which the expenditure is expected to occur.