

Transportation Glossary

You might encounter the following terms and acronyms while participating in the transportation planning process of the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CORE MPO).

3C	Refers to the Continuing, Comprehensive, and Cooperative aspects of the transportation planning process.
AADT	The Average Annual Daily Traffic, which is a measure of the number of vehicles passing a roadway during a 24 hour period adjusted to represent an average day in the year the count was taken.
ACAT	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation, which advises Chatham Area Transit on accessibility issues with the mainline and paratransit transit systems.
Access Management	The process of providing and managing access to land development while preserving the regional flow of traffic in terms of safety, capacity and speed.
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act, Federal legislation of 1990, which mandates changes in building codes, transportation and hiring practices to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities. ADA requires transit operators to provide paratransit services in areas that are within 0.75 miles of the fixed route system.
Arterials	One of the functional classifications of streets, arterials are those which are primarily for through traffic and where access is carefully controlled.
Bikeway	A general term that captures many different types of bicycle facilities: paths, bike lanes, wide curb lanes, shared lanes, and others.
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
Capacity	A transportation facility's ability to accommodate a moving stream of people or vehicles in a given time period.
CAT	Chatham Area Transit Authority, the agency which provides fixed route public transportation services in Chatham County. Formerly called the Savannah Transit Authority.
CE	Categorical Exclusion, which is a type of action that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the human environment. A Categorical Exclusion does not require an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.
Charrette	A meeting in which citizens are invited to participate in a full discussion of issues, interrelationships and impacts. Time limits challenge people to openly examine problems and produce tangible results.
Collectors	One of the functional classifications of streets, collectors are those which distribute trips from arterials and channel trips to arterials.

	Additionally, these roadways provide access and circulation within residential neighborhoods.
CMP	Congestion Management Process, which provides for effective management of new and existing transportation facilities through the use of travel demand reduction and operational management strategies. A CMP is required of all Transportation Management Areas (TMAs).
Complete Streets	Describes streets that are designed to accommodate not only drivers of automobiles and trucks, but also bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users. By accommodating many modes, the streets also accommodates users of a wider range of ages and physical abilities (e.g. youth, elderly, wheelchair users). The term is frequently used to describe the policy for accommodation, adoption of which is often necessary to achieve the change in practice of roadway design.
CORE MPO	Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, which conducts the transportation planning process for the area currently covering all of Chatham County and small portions of Effingham County and Bryan County, including Richmond Hill.
CSD	Context Sensitive Design, a method of design for transportation projects that includes consideration of multiple modes, land uses, and community values.
CSS	Context Sensitive Solutions, a method similar to Context Sensitive Design, but intended to also describe the participatory process of defining context and identifying appropriate design solutions.
CUTS	Chatham Urban Transportation Study, which was the name of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Savannah urbanized area up until 2009.
Demand Response	A type of transit service in which passenger cars, vans or buses with fewer than 25 seats operate in response to calls from passengers or their agents to the transit operator, who then dispatches a vehicle to pick up the passengers and transport them to their destinations. Typically, the vehicles do not operate over a fixed route or on a fixed schedule and typically the vehicle may be dispatched to pick up several passengers at different pick-up points before taking them to their respective destinations. Also called paratransit.
Design Speed	The maximum safe speed that can be maintained over a specific section of roadway when conditions are so favorable that the design features of the roadway govern.
EA	Environmental Assessment, which is an interim decision document prepared for an action where the significance of social, economic or environmental impact is not clearly established. If the action is determined to have significant impact, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is then prepared. If no significant impact is determined, a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is prepared.

EIS	Environmental Impact Statement, a document, required under the National Environmental Policy Act, prepared for an action that is likely to have significant impact. This document summarizes the major environmental impacts, outlines issues, examines reasonable alternatives and arrives at a record of decision, identifying the selected alternative for the project.
EJ	Environmental Justice, which is a term referring to the Federal government's commitment to avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations; to ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process; and to prevent the denial of, reduction in or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration, an agency of the U.S. DOT with jurisdiction over highways and bridges.
Fiscally Constrained	Federal regulations require that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan be financially balanced. All projects must have an identified source of funding that is reasonably expected to be available.
Fixed Route	A type of transit service provided on a repetitive, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers to specific locations; each trip on a given route serves the same origins and destinations, unlike demand response service.
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact. A statement that follows an Environmental Assessment in which a project was found to have no significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which an Environmental Impact Statement will therefore not be prepared.
FTA	Federal Transit Authority, an agency of the U.S. DOT with jurisdiction over public transportation. Formerly called the Urban Mass Transit Administration.
Functional Classification	A system used to group public roadways into classes according to their purpose in moving vehicles and providing access. The main classes are typically Arterial, Collector, and Local.
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System uses satellite technology for accuracy in computer mapping.
GDOT	Georgia Department of Transportation, which administers the state-wide transportation planning processes in the State of Georgia.
GPA	Georgia Ports Authority, an agency that governs and directs the activities of the Port of Savannah.

HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle, which is a vehicle carrying a specified minimum number of persons, usually two or more. Freeways may have lanes designated for HOV use by carpoolers, vanpools and buses.
Intermodal	Relating to transportation by more than one means of conveyance during a single journey.
ISTEA	The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, a congressional transportation authorization that introduced a comprehensive approach to transportation problems by emphasizing innovation, intermodalism and flexibility. It also expanded the responsibilities of local governments, giving them a greater role to play. Subsequent reauthorizations (see TEA-21, SAFETEA-LU, MAP-21) have in turn replaced ISTEA but have continued much of the process.
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems describe technology that is designed to improve traffic flow, safety, toll collection, travel information, parking, accident/debris detection, and transit.
Land Use	The manner in which land or the structures on the land are used, i.e., commercial, residential, industrial, etc.
Local Streets	One of the functional classifications of streets, a local street is one whose primary purpose is to provide direct access to abutting properties and to roads of a higher functional classification. They provide the lowest level of mobility with through traffic movement being discouraged.
LOS	Level of Service, which is a qualitative measure describing the experience of the traveler by a given mode. (LOS A describes very good travel environment while LOS F describes a very poor one). It was first applied to motor vehicle travel, but now is applied to transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel, with methods and measures appropriate to the mode.
LRTP	Long Range Transportation Plan. This may also be called a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The plan identifies the transportation problems expected in a horizon period of at least 25 years and the financially constrained solutions to address those problems.
M230 funds	The funding code, used within Georgia, to indicate Urban Area Attributable funds, which is a type of funding in the Surface Transportation Program, and for which the MPO has the discretion to allocate to transportation projects in the planning area.
MAP-21	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 st Century, signed into law on July 6, 2012, replaced SAFETEA-LU as the congressional surface transportation authorization.
Mitigation	To avoid, minimize, rectify or reduce an impact, and in some cases, to compensate for an impact.

Mode	A particular form of travel, e.g., walking or traveling by bicycle, automobile or bus.
Mode Share	Each modes portion of a total number of trips.
Mode Split	The process by which the number of trips that will be made by two or more modes of transportation is surveyed or estimated.
MPC	Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, an agency which staffs the MPO, as well as other boards, and administers the MPO transportation planning process.
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization, designated by the governor, to serve a metropolitan area of 50,000 population.
MTP	Metropolitan Transportation Plan. This may also be called a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The plan identifies the transportation problems expected in a horizon period of at least 25 years and the financially constrained solutions to address those problems.
Multimodal	Planning or infrastructure that reflects consideration of more than one mode to serve transportation needs in an area.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act, which is a law enacted in 1969 that established a national environmental policy requiring that any project using Federal funding or approval, including transportation projects, examine the effects the proposal and alternative choices have on the environment before a Federal decision is made.
NHS	National Highway System, which is composed of approximately 160,000 miles of rural and urban roads. It includes the Interstate System, other routes identified as having strategic defense characteristics, routes providing access to major ports, airports, public transportation, intermodal transportation facilities, and routes of particular importance to local governments. The federal government allocates a certain amount of transportation funding to these routes, which is not to be used on "off-system" roadways.
Non-Motorized	In transportation planning, this term typically describes bicycling and walking used as a means of travel.
Paratransit	A type of transit service in which passenger cars, vans or buses with fewer than 25 seats operate in response to calls from passengers or their agents to the transit operator, who then dispatches a vehicle to pick up the passengers and transport them to their destinations. Typically, the vehicles do not operate over a fixed route or on a fixed schedule and typically the vehicle may be dispatched to pick up several passengers at different pick-up points before taking them to their respective destinations. Also called demand response service.
Park-and-Ride Lot	A parking area to which passengers drive their cars, leave them for the day and board transit vehicles or carpool for the rest of their trip.
Participation Plan	Provides an overview of the goals and objectives of the MPO participation process and the participation techniques the MPO is

	committed to conducting for specific transportation planning programs and products.
PE	Preliminary Engineering, which is an early phase in a project's development process.
PL funds	Planning funds apportioned from Federal Highway Administration through state DOTs to MPOs, for the purpose of carrying out activities in Section 134, Metropolitan Planning, of US Code Title 23.
Public Hearing	A formal event held prior to a decision that gathers community comments and positions from all interested parties for public record and input into decisions.
Public Meeting	A formal or informal even designed for a specific issue or community group where information is presented and input from community residents is received.
ROD	Record of Decision, which is a concise decision document for an environmental impact statement that states the decision (selected alternative or choice), other alternatives considered and mitigation adopted for the selected alternative or choice.
ROW	Right-of-way, which is the land needed for the construction and operation of a transportation facility. ROW acquisition is a middle phase of a project's development process.
SAFETEA-LU	The Safe, Accountable, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users. Signed into law in August 2005, this was the federal re-authorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century (TEA-21).
SAGIS	Savannah Area Geographical Information System, a regional Geographic Information System created by the MPC, City of Savannah, and Savannah Electric.
Sec. 5303 funds	Funds apportioned by the Federal Transit Administration, through the state DOT, to the MPO, for the purpose of carrying out activities in Section 5303, Metropolitan Transportation Planning, of US Code Title 49.
SMSA	Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area, encompasses the Savannah Urbanized Area and all of Chatham County.
SOV	Single-occupancy vehicle, in contrast to ridesharing methods such as carpooling, vanpooling, and mass transit.
SPLOST	The Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax, which is a one percent sales tax to fund a variety of projects including drainage improvements, open space acquisition, greenways/bikeways, roadway improvements and other capital outlay projects.
SRTA	State Road and Tollway Authority, the transportation infrastructure financing arm of the State of Georgia.

STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program, prepared by GDOT, is a staged, multiyear listing of projects proposed for Federal, State and local funding encompassing the entire State of Georgia. It is a compilation of the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) prepared for the metropolitan areas, as well as project information for the non-metropolitan areas of the State and for transportation between cities.
STP	Surface Transportation Program, which is described in US Code Title 23, Section 133. It is typically amended somewhat in each congressional surface transportation authorization act, along with other sections of Title 23 and of other Titles.
TAP	Transportation Alternatives Program, which is the name of a program within the MAP-21 authorization act, and which also describes projects similar to the former Transportation Enhancement projects in previous authorizations (bicycle, pedestrian, and certain other types of projects).
TAZ	Transportation Analysis Zone, which is a census-based geographical unit used to spatially organize socio-economic and land use data within traditional transportation planning models.
TCC	Technical Coordinating Committee, which provides the technical guidance and direction to CORE MPO.
TDM	Transportation Demand Management, which includes various strategies to reduce demands for roadway supply, such as encouraging transit and other ride-sharing, encouraging shifts to non-motorized modes, shifts in time of travel through staggered work hours, or trip elimination through telecommuting
TE	Transportation Enhancements, a program begun under TEA-21 that provides funding for a broad range of activities that enhance natural and cultural resources related to transportation, including bicycle and pedestrian projects. TEA-21 required that ten percent of STP funds be set aside for TE projects. MAP-21 replaced Transportation Enhancements with Transportation Alternatives, which was no longer a ten percent set-aside.
TEA-21	The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, signed into law in June 1998, was the congressional reauthorization of ISTEA.
Teleride	The local paratransit services operated by a third party under contract with CAT
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program – the short-range transportation planning document. Projects or studies in the Long Range Transportation Plan appear in the TIP when they have been designated by the MPO to receive funding for preliminary engineering (PE), right-of-way acquisition (ROW), utilities, or construction within the next four fiscal years (four-year range required by SAFETEA-LU legislation).
TMA	Transportation Management Area, which is an urbanized area with a population of over 200,000 individuals.

Traffic Calming	Measures to slow traffic speeds, which include speed bumps, narrowing streets by putting striping on each side for bikes and pedestrians, traffic islands, roundabouts and curving streets. Their purpose is to make streets safer.
Travel Demand Forecasting	A process using statistical planning models/analyses to evaluate the demand for proposed transportation facilities, the impact of development on transportation facilities and consequences of transportation policies and actions.
TSM	Transportation System Management, which includes various tactics to improve operations of the existing transportation system, such as signal synchronization and intersection improvements. TSM is an alternative way to increase capacity without constructing additional through lanes or new roads.
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program, which outlines the MPC staff's budget and work in carrying out the transportation planning activities in a fiscal year.
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation, a federal agency created to assist state and local governments in the planning of all modes of transportation.
Vanpool	A formal travel arrangement in which a specific group of people regularly ride together in a van, usually for work commute. The riders share costs through seat "subscriptions." The driver is a commuter like the riders, and takes the van home. Often the driver is allowed limited personal use of the van and/or free or reduced seat subscription price. In some cases, employers help cover the costs of the seat subscriptions, as an employee benefit.
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled, which is a measure of roadway travel that totals the miles traveled by each vehicle in the region. It provides planners and decision-makers with an indication of current and future driving conditions for roadway segments.