

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

The following is a list of common acronyms used in transportation planning. Each acronym is accompanied by a brief definition.

AB	Assembly Bill <i>Legislation that originates in the California assembly.</i>
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act <i>Federal act that requires equal accessibility for persons with disabilities. It mostly comes into play with transit issues.</i>
ADT	Average Daily Traffic <i>Unit of measurement for the average amount of traffic that travels daily on a specific roadway(s).</i>
ALUC	Airport Land Use Commission <i>The designated body that deals with the compatibility of land use around airports to ensure the safety of the public while maintaining the integrity of the airport. PCTPA is the ALUC for Placer County.</i>
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan <i>The plan that governs how jurisdictions will deal with land use around airports.</i>
APCD	Air Pollution Control District <i>The designated agency that deals with air quality requirements for both stationary source and mobile source (transportation-based) pollution. The Placer County Air Pollution Control District is the APCD for our area.</i>
ARB	Air Resources Board (California) <i>California agency responsible for protecting the State's air.</i>
BTA	Bicycle Transportation Account <i>A competitive annual state funding program for bicycle and pedestrian projects.</i>
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments <i>The federal law that sets air quality standards for the nation, including procedures for meeting these standards and penalties for non compliance.</i>
CALTRANS	California Department of Transportation <i>The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is primarily responsible for the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of the State's transportation system.</i>

CASP	California Aviation System Plan <i>The California Aviation System Plan (CASP) is prepared by Caltrans every five years as required by the Public Utilities Code. The CASP integrates regional aviation system planning on a statewide basis.</i>
CCAA	California Clean Air Act <i>The State law that sets air quality standards for California, including procedures for meeting these standards and penalties for non compliance.</i>
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act <i>The law that requires an assessment of the environmental impact of specified governmental actions, including procedures for making determinations.</i>
CIP	Capital Improvement Program <i>Jurisdictions and agencies prepare a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) which forecasts capital improvement needs, revenues and expenditures over a period of time varying from two to up to ten years.</i>
CMA	Congestion Management Agency <i>Under Proposition 111, passed in 1990, each county with an urbanized population of 50,000 or more was required to designate a CMA to perform specified duties to better integrate transportation, land use, and air quality. These duties were subsequently made voluntary, although PCTPA continues to administer a Transportation Demand Management program. PCTPA retains the designation as the CMA for Placer County.</i>
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality <i>A funding program provided under Federal transportation legislation that targets a certain portion of Federal transportation dollars to projects that reduce congestion and/or improve air quality. PCTPA programs these funds through SACOG.</i>
CMP	Congestion Management Program <i>Under Proposition 111, passed in 1990, each county with an urbanized population of 50,000 or more was required to designate a CMA and adopt a program for integrating transportation, land use, and air quality decisions made by local jurisdictions. The CMP requirement was later made voluntary, although PCTPA continues to assist with transportation control measures.</i>
CO	Carbon Monoxide <i>A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas emitted by vehicle combustion.</i>
CTC	California Transportation Commission <i>A nine-member board, appointed by the Governor, that governs the State Transportation Improvement Program and other specified transportation funding programs.</i>

CTSA	Consolidated Transportation Service Agency <i>A designation conferred by the Regional Transportation Planning Agency on a transit provider to coordinate and consolidate the efforts of the county's paratransit providers. The CTSA is eligible to receive Transportation Development Act funding.</i>
DOT	Department of Transportation <i>The federal department responsible for transportation programs established by Congress.</i>
EIR	Environmental Impact Report <i>An environmental document prepared to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act that provides an assessment of the environmental impacts of a proposed governmental action, as well as mitigation measures and findings.</i>
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement <i>An environmental report that documents the actions and processes implemented to comply with the National Environmental Protection Act. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for any project involving federal funding.</i>
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency <i>The federal agency responsible for environmental protection and environmental programs established by Congress.</i>
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration <i>The federal agency charged with overseeing compliance with federal requirements for highway projects. The FHWA also acts as a conduit to other federal agencies, such as US Fish & Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers, and US Environmental Protection Agency, on transportation related permits, air quality conformity, and environmental documents.</i>
FSP	Freeway Service Patrol <i>A Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) is an umbrella term for a variety of programs implemented by government agencies, typically state Highway Patrols or Departments of Transportation, to reduce traffic congestion and improve highway safety by having specially marked and equipped vehicles patrol designated sections of roadway and provide incident management and motorist assistance.</i>
FTA	Federal Transit Administration <i>The federal agency charged with overseeing compliance with requirements for federally funded transit projects.</i>
FY	Fiscal Year <i>Begins July 1 of each year and ends June 30 the following year.</i>

HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan <i>Regional planning mechanism designed to protect an area's unique ecological assets, while clearing regulatory obstacles toward continued economic growth and development.</i>
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle <i>A passenger vehicle with 2 or more occupants sometimes referred to as a carpool.</i>
IIP	Interregional Improvement Program <i>A programming document prepared by the Caltrans District that designates the projects and amounts to be funded by the county's share of Interregional Choice funding. Every two years, the Caltrans ITIP, along with the RTIPs from California's 58 counties, are adopted into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).</i>
ITIP	Interregional Transportation Improvement Program <i>The portion of the State Transportation Improvement Program that is controlled by Caltrans. ITIP funds are used by Caltrans to fund and construct projects of statewide importance on the state highway system.</i>
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems <i>Refers to techniques that use technology to improve transportation safety and mobility. Techniques may include changeable message signs to alert drivers of upcoming problems, sensors to detect ice on pavement, traffic monitoring cameras, and so on.</i>
LOS	Level of Service <i>A letter designation indicating the level of traffic congestion on a particular roadway or intersection, with "A" being free-flowing and "F" being gridlock.</i>
LTF	Local Transportation Fund <i>A funding source provided under the Transportation Development Act and administered by the regional transportation planning agency, for jurisdictions to operate local transit systems. The LTF is funded by 1/4% of the statewide sales tax, returned to the county of origin.</i>
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization <i>A federally designated agency that provides transportation planning and programming and other duties as specified for federal programs for a metropolitan area, as designated in the federal census. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments is the MPO for the six county Sacramento area.</i>
MTP	Metropolitan Transportation Plan <i>A federally required transportation planning document which inventories existing transportation systems, forecasts needs, and designates a funding-constrained list of projects for a 20 year horizon. This document is prepared by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments.</i>

MTIP	Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program <i>A federally required document which lists federally funded and "regionally significant" transportation projects over a four year horizon. This document is then used to demonstrate air quality conformity, which is required for a transportation project to proceed.</i>
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act <i>The federal law which outlines the processes required to determine the environmental impact of federal projects.</i>
NHS	National Highway System <i>The National Highway System consists of 163,000 miles of interstate highways and major primary roads.</i>
OWP	Overall Work Program <i>The document PCTPA prepares each year to outline the work the agency will be undertaking, including the specific activities, products, time lines, and budgets.</i>
PA & ED	Project Approval and Environmental Document <i>Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) include commitments between partners that apply to the PA&ED phase of the project covered by an agreement.</i>
PDT	Project Development Team <i>A Project Development Team (PDT) is an interdisciplinary team composed of key members of the project team and selected external stakeholders.</i>
PMP	Pavement Management Program <i>A Pavement Management Program (PMP) is a maintenance plan for streets.</i>
PS&E	Plans, Specifications and Estimate <i>This component includes all work to develop contract plans, specifications engineer's estimate, and contract bid documents, allocation of funds, contract award, and contract approval. In addition, environmental commitments must be resolved.</i>
PSR	Project Study Report <i>Project Study Reports (PSRs) are engineering reports whose purpose is to document agreement on the scope, schedule, and estimated cost of a project so that it can be considered for inclusion in a future programming document such as the STIP. PSRs are prepared for State highway projects. PSRs are also used by Caltrans for certain projects funded under the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and for certain locally funded projects on the State highway system.</i>
RCRC	Regional Council of Rural Counties <i>An organization of rural counties that share information, and advocate for rural issues at the state level.</i>

RCTF	Rural Counties Task Force <i>A group of regional transportation planning agencies from rural counties that share information on rural transportation issues, and represent the rural perspective on policy issues with Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission.</i>
RFP	Request for Proposal <i>A Request for Proposal (RFP) is an early stage in a procurement process, issuing an invitation for suppliers, often through a bidding process, to submit a proposal on a specific commodity or service.</i>
RIP	Regional Improvement Program <i>Regional Improvement Program, funded through 75% of new STIP funding and subdivided by formula into county shares.</i>
R-O-W	Right-of-Way <i>Right-of-way is a strip of land granted for a transportation facility. It can also refer to legally granted access for a public throughway.</i>
RSTP	Regional Surface Transportation Program <i>One of the funding programs included in the federal transportation legislation. RSTP funds are the most flexible funding pot, and can be used for most transportation purposes.</i>
RTIP	Regional Transportation Improvement Program <i>A programming document adopted by the regional transportation planning agency (RTPA) that designates the projects and amounts to be funded by the county's share of Regional Choice funding. Every two years, the RTIPs from California's 58 counties, along with Caltrans ITIP, are adopted into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).</i>
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan <i>A state required transportation planning document that inventories existing transportation systems, forecasts needs, and designates a funding-constrained list of projects for a 20 year horizon. This document is prepared by PCTPA.</i>
RTPA	Regional Transportation Planning Agency <i>A state designation for the countywide agency charged with certain tasks under California law, including administration of the Transportation Development Act, adoption of the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, and adoption of the Regional Transportation Plan.</i>
SACOG	Sacramento Area Council of Governments <i>The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Sacramento region, SACOG also acts as the RTPA for Sacramento, Yolo, Sutter, and Yuba Counties.</i>

SAFE	Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies <i>A Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies administers a freeway callbox program.</i>
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users <i>The successor legislation to TEA-21, SAFETEA-LU covers the years 2004 - 2009. While funding levels increased, programs from TEA-21 remained essentially unchanged.</i>
SECAT	Sacramento Emergency Clean Air and Transportation Program <i>A \$70 million program that combines \$20 million of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds with \$50 million from the Traffic Congestion Relief Program to fund projects to repower older diesel engines with low polluting ones.</i>
SHOPP	State Highway Operation Protection Program <i>A program created by state legislature, which includes projects needed to maintain the integrity of the state highway system, primarily associated with safety and rehabilitation without increasing roadway capacity. The SHOPP is a four -year program of projects, approved by the CTC separately from the STIP cycle.</i>
SIP	State Implementation Plan <i>A State Implementation Plan (SIP) is the framework for the state's program to protect the air. It is not a single plan, but an accumulated record of a number of air pollution documents showing what the state has done, is doing, or plans to do to assure compliance with federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for "criteria" pollutants.</i>
SOV	Single Occupancy Vehicle <i>A vehicle with a driver only, and no additional passengers.</i>
SRTTP	Short Range Transit Plan <i>A document that assesses the existing conditions for a transit system, projects short term (usually five year) demand, and outlines a plan for meeting those needs. While PCTPA usually develops these plans, they are adopted by the jurisdiction's governing board.</i>
SSTAC	Social Service Transportation Advisory Council <i>An appointed committee which advises the PCTPA Board on the Unmet Transit Needs process, as required under the Transportation Development Act.</i>
STA	State Transit Assistance <i>A funding source provided under the Transportation Development Act. Revenues come through the state budget process.</i>

STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program <i>The programming document that is adopted every two years by the California Transportation Commission to designate the projects, schedule, and funding amount for the state's portion of the federal gas tax funds. Placer projects are included in the STIP via PCTPA's adopted Regional Transportation Improvement Program.</i>
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee <i>Public works and planning staff from each of the jurisdictions, Caltrans, and the Placer County Air Pollution Control District staff make up PCTPA's Technical Advisory Committee, which reviews and advises staff on issues before the Board.</i>
TART	Tahoe Area Regional Transit <i>The transit provider for the Tahoe area, including Truckee.</i>
TCM	Transportation Control Measure <i>Essentially interchangeable with Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and Transportation Systems Management (TSM), these describe techniques to reduce congestion and air quality problems by encouraging people to use alternative transportation or carpool. Some techniques include increased transit frequency, carpool match listing programs, or providing bike maps to employers.</i>
TDA	Transportation Development Act <i>Passed in 1971, the TDA requires every county to provide transit service to its residents, based on criteria of unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. The required transit service is funded by 1/4% of the state's sales tax, returned to the Regional Transportation Planning Agency in the county of origin.</i>
TDM	Transportation Demand Management <i>Strategies designed to reduce vehicular demand upon the existing transportation system.</i>
TEA	Transportation Enhancement Activities <i>One of the funding programs included in the federal transportation legislation (see ISTEA and TEA-21). TEA funds are targeted to provide enhancements over and above those normally provided for transportation projects, such as streetscape improvements, additional landscaping, or transportation museums.</i>
TMA	Transportation Management Association <i>A private non-profit association, usually made up of large employers, to develop and encourage use of TCMs. The Truckee/North Tahoe Transportation Management Association is the only TMA currently operating in Placer County.</i>
TRO	Trip Reduction Ordinance <i>An ordinance specifying requirements for employers to encourage their employees to use alternative transportation. Local jurisdictions were required to adopt these ordinances as part of Proposition 111, which passed in 1990, but compliance was later made voluntary.</i>

- TRPA** **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency**
Amongst its many functions, TRPA is also the Regional Transportation Planning Agency and Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Tahoe Basin, including a portion of Placer County.
- TSM** **Transportation System Management**
Strategies designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the existing transportation system.
- VMT** **Vehicle Miles Traveled**
Unit of measurement of how far a vehicle or vehicles have traveled in a day, month or year.
- YTD** **Year-to-Date**
Year-To-Date (YTD) represents the period starting January 1 of the current year and ending today.
- ZEV** **Zero Emission Vehicle**
A vehicle that produces no tailpipe pollutants. Electric vehicles and fuel cell vehicles are considered ZEVs.