

APPENDIX H

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS/ACRONYMS

AB 32

Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires that the State reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020.

ACE

Altamont Corridor Express

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act

ADT

Average Daily Traffic

Air Cargo

Revenue producing items in domestic or international commerce, composed of freight, express, and mail, but excluding passenger baggage.

Air Carrier

An aviation operator who provides regular round-trips per week between two or more points and publishes flight schedules that specify the times, days of the week, and places between which such flights are performed. The air carrier at the Modesto City- County Airport is United Express.

Alternative Fuels

Low-polluting fuels that are used to propel a vehicle instead of high-sulfur diesel or gasoline. Examples include methanol, ethanol, propane, compressed natural gas, liquid natural gas, low-sulfur or “clean” diesel, and electricity.

Amtrak

A federal governmental agency that provides intercity railroad passenger service Amtrak also provides commuter rail passenger service by contract.

Annual Service Miles

The number of miles that all transit vehicles travel each year in scheduled transit service operations, or when carrying passengers in door-to-door (or demand responsive) transit service.

SJVAPCD

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is the governmental agency that regulates sources of air pollution within Stanislaus County.

Bikeway Classifications

As defined by the Caltrans Highway Design Manual:

- Class I Bike Path: A paved path within an exclusive right-of-way.
- Class II Bike Lane: Signed and striped lanes within a street right-of-way.
- Class III Bike Route: Preferred routes on existing streets identified by signs only.

BLST

Bus Line Service of Turlock

BRT

Bus Rapid Transit - typically a travel corridor that allows buses to operate at higher speeds in their own right-of-way minimizing conflicts with automobiles

BTA

Bicycle Transportation Account

CAA

Clean Air Act. Federal legislation which establishes criteria for attaining and maintaining the federal air quality standards for allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various air pollutants. The legislation also provides emission standards for specific vehicles and fuels.

CAC

Citizen's Advisory Committee. A standing StanCOG advisory committee to the Policy Board

CAT

Ceres Area Transit

Caltrans

California Department of Transportation

CARB

California Air Resources Board

Carpool

Two or more people sharing the use and cost of privately owned automobiles.

CCAA

California Clean Air Act passed in 1988 that provides the basis for air quality planning and regulation independent of federal regulations.

CCI

Construction Cost Index measures the inflation rate in the cost of major construction projects.

CHP

California Highway Patrol

CHSRA

California High-Speed Rail Authority

CMIA

Corridor Mobility Improvement Account. A \$4.5 billion congestion relief component of the nearly \$19.9 billion Proposition 1B Infrastructure Bonds approved by voters in November 2006.

CMA

Congestion Management Agency. A countywide agency responsible for preparing and implementing a Congestion Management Program (CMP). StanCOG is the CMA for the Stanislaus region.

CMAQ

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program. A category of funds contained in TEA-21 for projects and activities that reduce congestion and improve air quality in regions not yet attaining federal air quality standards.

CMP

Congestion Management Process. Required of every county in California with a population of 50,000 or more to qualify for certain state and federal funds. CMPs set performance standards for roads and public transit, and show how local agencies will attempt to meet those standards. The CMP is required to be adopted by the CMA and must be consistent with the adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Community Plan

More specific versions of the General Plans, generally dealing with smaller geographical areas, but having the same force of law. See General Plan.

Commuter Rail

Conventional rail passenger service within a metropolitan area, usually operating over existing, inter-city railroad tracks.

Complete Streets

Complete Streets is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

Conformity

A demonstration of whether a federally-supported activity is consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) — per Section 176 (c) of the Clean Air Act.

Congestion

Congestion is usually defined as travel time or delay in excess of that normally experienced under free-flow traffic conditions.

Corridor

A broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow connecting major trip origins and destinations. A corridor may contain a number of streets, highways and transit route alignments.

COG

Council of Governments

CPI

Consumer Price Index developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor to provide a measurement of the inflation rate in the general economy of a given metropolitan area.

CTC

California Transportation Commission

CTSA

Consolidated Transportation Services Agency

CVO

Commercial Vehicle Operations

DAR

Dial-a-ride. A transit service that is pre-arranged by phone or by application

Deficient Segment

As used in the RTP, a portion of freeway experiencing a Level of Service where demand exceeds capacity.

Demand-Responsive Service

Transit service that is provided in response to a pre-ordered or telephone reservation.

Development Impact Fee

A fee charged to private developers, usually on a per dwelling unit or per square foot basis, to help pay for infrastructure improvements necessitated as a result of the development.

DOF

Department of Finance

DOT

Department of Transportation

EIR

Environmental Impact Report. A detailed statement prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) describing and analyzing the significant environmental effects of a project and discussing ways to mitigate or avoid the effects.

EMP

Environmental Mitigation Program. Provides funding for the mitigation of local and regional transportation projects and additional funding for activities that help implement the region's habitat preservation plans

Environmental Justice (EJ)

The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.

Expressway

Similar to a freeway but with signal-controlled intersections.

FAA

Federal Aviation Administration:

Farebox Recovery Ratio

Measure of the proportion of operating expenses covered by passenger fares. The ratio divides the farebox revenue by the total operating expenses.

Farebox Revenue

Value of cash, tickets, and pass receipts given by passengers for payment for rides on public transit.

Fare Structure

The various fees charged to use transit typically delineated by age, type of service, trip length and/or time of day.

FHWA

Federal Highway Administration:

Fixed-Route Service

Service provided on a regular, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers to specific locations.

Freeway

Multilane divided roadway, grade separated from other roadways, with fully controlled access and egress.

FTA

Federal Transit Administration:

FY

Fiscal Year. For local public agencies, this is typically July 1 through June 30 of each year

FFY

Federal Fiscal Year. Typically October 1 through September 30 of each year

Gas Tax

The tax applied on each gallon of fuel sold. Currently, the federal tax is 18.3 cents per gallon and the state tax is 18 cents per gallon tax.

General Plan

A policy document required of cities and counties by state law which describes a jurisdiction's future development in text and map form. All land use decisions must derive from the GP. The General Plan must contain seven mandatory elements: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety.

GHG

Greenhouse gas. Gases that effect global climate change. They include: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

GIS

Geographic Information System.

Grade Separation

A vertical separation between intersecting roads and or railway tracks.

GRH

Guaranteed Ride Home Program which provides a free taxicab ride or 24-hour car rental to those who carpool, vanpool, use premium bus service or bike to work

HCD

The California State Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department

HCM

Highway Capacity Manual

Heavy Rail

Railroad services that operate in a mixed-user environment on conventional railroad tracks.

Household

All people living in a housing unit, regardless of whether they are related to each other. Housing units include houses, apartments, and mobile homes.

HOV

High Occupancy Vehicle that carries more than one passenger. Examples include carpools, vanpools, shuttles, and buses.

HOV Lane

Exclusive road or traffic lane limited to HOVs that typically has a higher operating speed and lower traffic volumes than a general purpose or mixed flow lane.

HSR

High-Speed Rail is railroad passenger service that, as defined by California state law, operates at maximum speeds of over 200 miles per hour.

HTF

Highway Trust Fund. A federal program for transportation funding

Inter-city Rail

Railroad passenger service which primarily serves longer trips such as those between major cities or regions

Intermodal

Passenger or freight transportation services which involve or use more than one type of transportation facility (or mode).

ITS

Intelligent Transportation Systems use transportation technologies, management tools, and electronic services to improve operational efficiencies.

JARC

Jobs Access Reverse Commute. The SAFETEA-LU formula fund program which provides support for capital or operating costs for transportation services and facilities designed to facilitate reverse commute employment related travel for persons of limited means.

LOS

Level of Service. A qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream and motorists' perception of those conditions. LOS ratings typically range from LOS A, which represents free flow conditions, to LOS F, which is characterized by forced flow, heavy congestion, stop and go traffic, and long queues.

MAP-21

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141), was signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012. Funding surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014, MAP-21 is the first long-term highway authorization enacted since 2005. By transforming the policy and programmatic framework for investments to guide the system's growth and development, MAP-21 creates a streamlined and performance-based surface transportation program and builds on many of the highway, transit, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies established in 1991.

MAX

Modesto Area Express. The City of Modesto's fixed-route transit service

Mixed-Use

The combining of commercial, office, and residential land uses to provide easy pedestrian access and reduce the public's dependence on the automobile.

Mode

One of various forms of transportation, including automobile, transit, bicycle, and walking.

Mode Split

The percent of trips that use each of the various travel modes.

MPO

Metropolitan Planning Organization is the federally-designated agency that is responsible for regional transportation planning in each metropolitan area. StanCOG is the MPO for the Stanislaus region.

Non-attainment Area

A geographic area identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or the California Air Resources Board (CARB) as not meeting either the national or California Ambient Air Quality Standards for a given pollutant.

NMTP

Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. A document, prepared by StanCOG that addresses all non-motorized modes of transportation.

Paratransit

The range of demand-responsive (or on-request) transit providing service from a trip origin to trip destination.

Park and Ride

A travel option where commuters park their personal vehicles in a publicly provided lot or other location, and continue their trip via carpool, vanpool, or transit.

PSR

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

Public Transportation

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

Reverse Commute

Travel in the direction opposite to the main flow of peak period commute traffic.

RHNA

Regional Housing Needs Assessment

RHNP

Regional Housing Needs Plan

ROW

Right-of-Way. The land required for the construction and operation of a transportation facility.

RTIP

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). A listing of major highway and transit projects including project costs, funding sources, and development schedules.

RTP

Regional Transportation Plan. A minimum 20-year plan that is required by state and federal law to guide the development of the region's transportation system.

RTPA

Regional Transportation Planning Agency. A state-designated agency responsible for preparing the RTP and the RTIP and administering state transportation funds. StanCOG is the RTPA in the Stanislaus region.

Safe Routes to School

A state and federal program which funds education, encouragement campaigns, and infrastructure improvements to help reduce the amount of traffic congestion around schools.

SAFETEA-LU

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. Federal legislation signed into law on August 10, 2005 authorizing \$244.1 billion for Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009.

SB 45

Senate Bill 45. Commonly referred to as the STIP Reform Bill. This bill created the procedures for administering local grant projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and responsibilities of Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs)

SB 375

Senate Bill 375. California senate legislation that helps implement the requirements of Assembly Bill 32, by addressing the greenhouse gas emissions produced by cars and light trucks—which account for nearly 40% of the state's total emissions.

SCS

Sustainable Communities Strategy. A SCS is an enhanced land use element, developed as part of each Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, that sets forth a growth strategy for the region which combined with the transportation plan strives towards achieving GHG emissions reductions.

SIP

State Implementation Plan. A document that shows the steps planned to meet federal air quality standards.

SJV

San Joaquin Valley

SJVAPCD

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

SHOPP

State Highway Operation and Protection Program. Caltrans' three-year program to address traffic safety, roadway rehabilitation, roadside rehabilitation, or operations needs on the state highway system.

Smart Growth

A compact, efficient, and environmentally-sensitive pattern of development that provides people with additional travel, housing, and employment choices by focusing future growth away from rural areas and closer to existing and planned job centers and public facilities, while preserving open space and natural resources.

SOV

Single occupant vehicle

SR

State Route, as in State Route 99 (SR-99)

SSTAC

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. A standing StanCOG advisory committee to the Policy Board

StanCOG

Stanislaus Council of Governments

StaRT

Stanislaus Regional Transit. Stanislaus County's fixed-route transit service.

STIP

State Transportation Improvement Program. A multi-year program of major transportation projects to be funded by the state. The CTC adopts the STIP every two years based on projects proposed in RTIPs and from Caltrans.

STP

Surface Transportation Program. A federal program originally established in the federal ISTEA legislation which provides flexible funding allocated by regional agencies like StanCOG for a range of projects including highways, transit, local streets and roads, and bicycles.

Sustainability 3Es

Environmental Quality, Economic Vitality, Social Equity

TAC

Technical Advisory Committee. An informal StanCOG advisory committee.

TAZ

Traffic Analysis Zone

TCM

Transportation Control Measure. A transportation strategy intended both to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and to make VMT more efficient. TCMs include transportation system management (TSM) and transportation demand management (TDM) elements. Examples include carpooling, transit, and computer-optimized traffic signals.

TDA

Transportation Development Act. TDA funds are generated from a tax of one-quarter of one percent on all retail sales in each county and are used for transit, specialized transit for disabled persons, and bicycle and pedestrian purposes.

TCRP

Transportation Congestion Relief Program

TDM

Transportation Demand Management. Programs to reduce demand by automobiles on the transportation system, such as telecommuting, flextime, bicycling, walking, transit use, staggered work hours, and ridesharing.

Tier I

Transportation improvements and programs that are fully fundable by 2040 based on revenue projections

Tier II

Transportation improvements and programs that are desired, but are not fully fundable by 2040 based on revenue projections

TSM

Transportation System Management. Strategies that maximize the number of persons traveling in a corridor or facility. These strategies include traffic flow improvements, ramp metering, and park-and-ride lots.

U.S. DOT

United States Department of Transportation

U.S. EPA

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Vanpool

A vehicle operating as a ridesharing arrangement, providing transportation to a group of individuals traveling directly between their homes and a regular destination within the same geographic area.

V/C Ratio

Volume to Capacity Ratio. The volume of traffic divided by the capacity of a transportation facility.

VMT

Vehicle Miles Traveled. The total number of miles traveled on all roadways by all vehicles.