

**To:** StanCOG  
**From:** Jim Damkowitz and Makinzie Clark  
**Re:** StanCOG 2018 RTP/SCS Glossary of Terms  
**Date:** May 7, 2018

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This memorandum provides definitions for key words and acronyms referenced within the 2018 StanCOG RTP/SCS document.

**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

**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.

## **SVAPCD**

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.

## **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. The CMAQ program was reauthorized under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century in 1998, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users in 2005, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act in 2012, and most recently, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act in 2015 (FAST Act).

## **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.

## **Measure L**

Measure L (Local Roads First) is a half-cent sales tax referendum passed in November 2017 by the voters of Stanislaus County to increase funding for needed transportation improvements in Stanislaus County. Measure L Funds are provided for the following categories: Local Streets and Roads, Traffic Management, Bike and Pedestrian Improvements, Regional Projects, and Transit Providers.

## **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. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act converts the long-standing Surface Transportation Program (STP) into the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) acknowledging that this program has the most flexible eligibilities among all Federal-aid highway programs and aligning the program's name with how the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has historically administered it. The STBG promotes flexibility in State and local transportation decisions and provides flexible funding to best address State and local transportation needs. (FAST Act § 1109(a)). 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 2042 based on revenue projections.

## **Tier II**

Transportation improvements and programs that are desired, but are not fully fundable by 2042 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.