

## Glossary of Transportation Terms and Acronyms

ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
ACE	Alameda Corridor-East. (see below) <i>Also:</i> Altamont Commuter Express. A commuter train service providing trips between Stockton and San Jose.
Alameda Corridor East	A 35-mile rail corridor between East Los Angeles and Pomona which connects the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the transcontinental rail network.
Arterial Road System	Major roads in urban areas, typically four or more lanes; many feed into the highway network.
Auxiliary Lane	An auxiliary lane is a traffic lane dedicated to traffic entering and/or exiting the freeway, reducing interference with through traffic.
BART	Bay Area Rapid Transit District. A commuter rail system serving the San Francisco Bay Area.
Budget Act	The annual statute, enacted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, which makes appropriations for the support of California's government and for other public purposes. The Legislature normally amends, increases, and decreases the Budget Bill. The Budget Bill becomes a Budget Act after the bill is passed by both houses of the Legislature and signed by the Governor. The Governor can veto items in the Budget Bill or decrease the revenue, but not increase, prior to his signature. The Budget Act in conjunction with documents identifying all approved changes becomes the Final Budget.
Budget, Governor's	The Governor's proposed plan of expenditures and projected revenues, presented to the Legislature by January 10. This is revised in May, and then taken up by the Legislature.
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation. The state agency responsible for building, maintaining, and operating the state highway system and intercity rail.
Capital Improvements	Physical improvements such as pavement, sidewalks, bridges, signals; also one-time purchases of equipment, vehicles, and real estate.
CARB	California Air Resources Board. Established in 1967 to attain and maintain healthy air quality, conduct research into the causes of and solutions to air pollution, and systematically attack the serious problem caused by motor vehicles, which are the major causes of air pollution in the State.
CBI	Coordinated Border Infrastructure is a new federal formula program which funds highway mobility improvement projects within 100 miles of an international border.
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act. State law providing certain environmental protections that apply to all transportation projects funded with state funds.
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Improvement is a federal

	formula program, established under TEA-21, which funds projects and programs offering transportation related emissions reductions.
Collector Street	Streets that collect traffic from local streets, channeling it to arterials, freeways, or local destinations.
Corridor	A major transportation route which can consist of one or more highways, arterial streets, transit lines, rail lines and/or bikeways.
CMA	Congestion Management Agency. The countywide agency (in urbanized areas with 50,000 or larger) responsible for preparing and implementing a county's Congestion Management Program.
CMO	Congestion Management Program. Prepared by Congestion Management Agencies to meet eligibility requirements for certain state and federal funds. CMPs set performance standards for roads and public transit, and show how local jurisdictions will attempt to meet those standards.
CTC	California Transportation Commission. A nine-member board appointed by the Governor to oversee and administer state and federal transportation funds and provide oversight on project delivery.
Earmarked Funds	A subset of discretionary funds which are designated to specific projects.
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration. The federal agency responsible for administering federal highway funds.
FTA	Federal Transit Administration. The federal agency responsible for administering federal transit funds. As opposed to FHWA funding, most FTA funds are allocated directly to local agencies rather than Caltrans.
Fixed Guideway	A system of vehicles that can operate only on its own guideway constructed for that purpose (i.e., rapid rail, light rail). Federal usage in funding legislation also includes exclusive "right-of-way" bus operations, trolley buses and ferryboats as "fixed guideway" transit.
FTIP	Federal Transportation Improvement Program. A three-year list of all transportation projects proposed for federal transportation funding within the planning area of an MPO.
Freeway	A divided arterial highway with full control of access and with grade separations at intersections.
GARVEE	Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) Program. The CTC can select and designate projects proposed by local jurisdictions to be funded for accelerated construction, and the State Treasurer is authorized to issue Federal Highway Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles (GARVEE Bonds) to fund them. The intent is to accelerate the funding and construction of critical transportation infrastructure projects in order to provide congestion relief benefits to the public significantly sooner than traditional funding mechanisms.
Grade Separation	A crossing of two highways or a highway and a railroad at different

	levels.
High Speed Rail	The proposed system stretches from San Francisco, Oakland and Sacramento in the north -- with service to the Central Valley -- to Los Angeles and San Diego in the south. With bullet trains operating at speeds up to 220 mph, the express travel time from downtown San Francisco to Los Angeles is just under 2 _ hours. Intercity travelers (trips between metropolitan regions) along with longer-distance commuters would enjoy the benefits of a system designed to connect with existing rail, air and highway systems.
HOT Lane	High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane. A lane on a multi-lane highway designated for use, primarily in the peak periods, free of charge to vehicles with two or more occupants for a fee to single-occupant vehicles.
HOV Lane	High Occupancy Vehicle lane. A lane restricted to vehicles with two (and in some cases three) or more occupants to encourage carpooling.
Interchange	A system of ramps and grade separations at the junction of two or more roadways which eliminates traffic conflicts, improves safety, or increases capacity.
Intermodal	More than one “mode” of transportation (car, rail, ferry, bus) and usually used in reference to connections between modes. Also known as "multimodal."
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. This bill reauthorized federal surface transportation programs through 1997.
HPP	High Priority Projects is a federal discretionary program, established before TEA-21, which provides designated funds to specified projects identified by Congress.
HSIP	Highway Safety Improvement Program is a new formula program which provides funding to reduce traffic fatalities and other travel related hazards.
HRSA	California High-Speed Rail Authority. California High-Speed Rail Authority is charged with the planning, designing, constructing and operating a state-of-the-art high-speed train system which would feature “bullet trains” capable of traveling 220 mph.
HTF	The Highway Trust Fund is the federal account which collects federal fuel excise taxes and funds most of the highway and safety programs in SAFETEA-LU.
ITIP	Interregional Transportation Improvement Program. The portion of the STIP that includes projects selected by Caltrans (25 percent of STIP funds go to the ITIP).
KCOG	Kern County Council of Governments – MPO comprised of 11 city and county governments.
LACTMA	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. RTPA for the Los Angeles region.
Lane miles, center	The length of a road or highway is measured in center-lane miles.

lane miles	The total number of miles on that route is measured in “lane miles,” obtained by multiplying the center-lane miles by the number of lanes.
Local-Option Sales Tax	A _ or _-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation, passed originally by a 50% vote, but which now requires a 2/3 vote to establish a new tax or renew a measure that is sunsetting.
LOS	Level of Service, roadway capacity. Generally ranked from “A,” which is unimpeded travel, to “F” which is heavily congested, stop-and-go traffic conditions.
LTF	Local Transportation Fund. Fund which receives TDA revenues.
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization. A federally required planning body responsible for transportation planning and project selection in the region. In many cases, is the same as the RTPA.
MTA/LACMTA	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. (aka Metro). The major operator of bus and rail service for one third of California residents.
MTC	Metropolitan Transportation Commission. San Francisco Bay Area MPO – nine-county region.
NCIIP	National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement Program is a new discretionary program which provides funding for construction of highway projects in corridors of national significance to promote economic growth and international or interregional trade.
National Highway System	About 160,000-miles of highways (the 42,500-mile Interstate system plus other key roads and arterials), designated by Congress in 1995.
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act. Federal environmental law that applies to all projects funded with federal funds or requiring review by a federal agency.
Non-attainment area	Any geographic region that fails to meet air quality standards (for transportation-related pollutants) established for the region by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
OCTA	Orange County Transportation Authority. Regional MPO.
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.
P3	Public-Private Partnership. Partnership between state or local government and a private entity to design, construct, maintain, and operate a transportation facility for a period of time.
PAB	Private Activity Bonds are tax-exempt bonds issued by private entities when partnering with a public agency to construct transportation facilities. These bonds encourage private investment in transportation infrastructure by making borrowing less expensive (through paying a lower interest rate).
Pavement Structure	The combination of subbase, base course, and surface course placed on a subgrade to support the traffic load and distribute it to the roadbed.
PNRS	Projects of National and Regional Significance is a new

	discretionary program which provides funding for high-cost projects of national or regional significance.
Programmed Projects	Projects on a list for which funding has been secured.
Proposition 42	A constitutional amendment passed by 69% of California voters in 2002, Proposition 42 dedicates the sales tax on gasoline to transportation purposes. The money is deposited in the TIF and funds transportation improvements at the state and local level.
Proposition 108/116	Initiatives, passed in 1990, that provided for bonding for passenger rail projects – a \$1.0 billion bond and a \$1.99 billion bond, respectively.
Proposition 111	In 1990, California voters approved this initiative which triggered a 9-cent increase in the gas tax, from 9-cents a gallon to 18-cents per gallon.
Proposition 192	Seismic Retrofit Bond Act of 1996 which provided \$2 billion in state general obligations bonds to finance earthquake-safety improvements to state highways and toll bridges.
PTA	Public Transportation Account. The major state transportation account for mass transportation purposes. Revenues include a portion of the sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuels.
Public Transportation	Transportation by bus, rail, ferry, or other conveyance that provides to the public general or special services on a regular and continuing basis. Also known as "mass transportation", "mass transit" and "transit".
Public Works	All road, bridge, street lighting, or installation of signal work performed under an encroachment permit issued and for acceptance into the State highway system, except work performed solely to allow private encroachments onto the State highway or for utility and/or drainage encroachments within the State highway.
RCTC	Riverside County Transportation Commission
ROW	Right of Way
RTIP	Regional Transportation Improvement Program. Share of capital outlay improvement funds controlled by regional agencies (75 percent of STIP funds)
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan. Federally required 20-year plan prepared by metropolitan planning organizations, updated every three years. Includes projections of population growth and travel demand, along with a specific list of proposed projects to be funded.
RTPA	Regional Transportation Planning Agency. State-designated agency responsible for preparing the RTP, RTIP, and administering certain state and federal funds.
SACOG	Sacramento Area Council of Governments. MPO.
SAFETEA-LU	SAFETEA-LU: The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, the federal transportation funding program spanning 2004 through 2009.

SANBAG	San Bernardino Area Governments, transportation planning agency.
SANDAG	San Diego Area Governments. MPO comprising 18 city and county governments.
SB 45	Senate bill which established the current STIP process and shifted control of decision-making from the state to the regional level.
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments. MPO for Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, and Imperial counties.
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
Self-Help Counties	California counties that have passed local-option sales tax measures for transportation. Eighteen counties now have such measures.
SHA	State Highway Account. The major state transportation account for highway purposes. Revenues include the state excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel and truck weight fees.
SHOPP	State Highway Operation and Protection Program. A four-year capital improvement program for rehabilitation, safety, and operational improvements on state highways. The SHOPP is based on a 10-year plan which is updated every two years. Projects are selected by Caltrans.
SIP	State Implementation Plan. State air quality plan to ensure compliance with state and federal air quality standards. In order to be eligible for federal funding, projects must demonstrate conformity with the SIP.
Spillover	In years where revenue from the state's sales tax on gasoline is high, some of those dollars (which would normally go into the General Fund) are transferred to the Public Transportation Account (PTA) for rail and transit.
STA	State Transit Assistance. State funding program for mass transit operations and capital projects. Current law requires that STA receive 50 percent of PTA revenues.
STP	Surface Transportation Program is a (federal) formula program, established prior to TEA-21, which provides flexible funding that may be used by states on almost any highway, local road, or transit project. TEA-21: The Transportation Equity Act for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century, the federal transportation funding program that spanned 1998 through 2003.
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program. A five-year capital outlay plan. The STIP is approved and adopted by the CTC and is the combined result of the ITIP and the RTIP.
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TCRF	Traffic Congestion Relief Fund. A state account specified in the Traffic Congestion Relief Act of 2000. Funded largely through transfers from gasoline sales tax revenues.
TCRP	Traffic Congestion Relief Program: Includes 141 projects to be funded by the TCRF between 2000-01 and 2007-08.
TI	Transportation Improvements is a new (federal) discretionary

	program which provides designated funds to 466 projects identified by Congress.
TIF	Transportation Improvement Fund. A state account which funds projects in the STIP and improvements to local streets and roads. It also transfers funds based on formula to the TCRF and the PTA. Revenues include state portion of sales tax on gasoline.
TDA	Transportation Development Act. State law enacted in 1971 that provided a 0.25 percent sales tax on all retail sales in each county for transit, bicycle, and pedestrian purposes. In nonurban areas, funds may be used for streets and roads under certain conditions.
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century. Federal transportation act covering the period from 1998 through 2004. Provided about 40 percent more funding than previous federal act.
TIFIA	Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program provides federal credit assistance to nationally or regionally significant surface transportation projects, including highway, transit, and rail. Both public and private entities are eligible to receive TIFIA funds.
Tribal Gaming Bonds	New compacts with several tribes included provisions that allowed bonding against future revenues. This would have raised \$1 billion or more for transportation. The compacts are in litigation and bonds cannot be issued until the lawsuits are settled.
Trust Fund	These are accounts, established by law, that hold funds collected by the government and designated for specific purposes and programs, <i>e.g.</i> , the Federal Highway Trust Fund.
U.S. DOT	United States Department of Transportation. The federal agency that oversees transportation.
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled. Common measurement used for tracking travel trends.
	Sources: "California Travels," Legislative Analyst's Office, May 2000 and Jan. 2007, FHWA's <a href="http://www.lao.ca.gov/2006/trans_SAFETEA/trans_SAFETEA_011906.htm">http://www.lao.ca.gov/2006/trans_SAFETEA/trans_SAFETEA_011906.htm</a> , Caltrans, Santa Cruz Transportation Commission, and other sources.