

# **Glossary of Acronyms and Transportation Planning Terms**

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MARCH 29, 2008

#

**3C Process** - A Continuing, Comprehensive transportation planning process carried out Cooperatively by states and local communities.

# A

**Above Grade** — The location of a structure or transit guideway above the surface of the ground (also known as elevated or aerial).

**Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA (AACT)** - Consumer group that meets with MBTA staff to discuss the transportation concerns of people with disabilities and to ensure ADA compliance.

**Accessibility** — (1) The extent to which facilities are barrier free and useable by disabled persons, including wheelchair users. (2) A measure of the ability or ease of all people to travel among various origins and destinations.

**Accessible Service** — Buses operating in regular service with wheelchair lifts, kneeling functions or other devices that permit disabled passengers to use the service.

**Activity Center** — An area with high population and concentrated activities which generate a large number of trips (e.g., CBD, shopping centers, business or industrial parks, recreational facilities (also known as trip generator).

**Alight** — To get off a transit vehicle. Plural: “*alightings*”.

**Alignment** — The horizontal and vertical ground plan of a roadway, railroad, transit route or other facility.

**Allocation** — An administrative distribution of funds, for example, federal funds among the states; used for funds that do not have legislatively mandated distribution formula.

**Alternative Fuel** — A liquid or gaseous nonpetroleum fuel, used to power transit vehicles. Usually refers to alcohol fuels, mineral fuels, natural gas, and hydrogen.

**AM Peak Period** — The morning commute period, about three hours, in which the greatest movement of passengers occurs, generally from home to work; the portion of the morning service period where the greatest level of ridership is experienced and service provided.

Synonyms: *AM Rush, Early Peak, Morning Peak, and Morning Rush*

**AMTRAK** (National Railroad Passenger Corporation) — A quasi-public corporation created by the federal Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 to improve and develop intercity passenger rail service throughout the United States. Operates a depot in downtown Sacramento.

# A

**Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)** — The law passed by Congress in 1990 which makes it illegal to discriminate against people with disabilities in employment, services provided by state and local governments, public and private transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications.

**Appropriation** — An act of Congress that permits federal agencies to incur obligations and make payments for specific purposes.

**Arterial Street** — A major thoroughfare, used primarily for through traffic rather than for access to adjacent land, that is characterized by high vehicular capacity and continuity of movement.

**At Grade** — The location of a structure or transit guideway at the same level as the ground surface.

**Authorization** — Basic, substantive federal legislation that established or continues the legal operation of federal program agencies, either indefinitely or for a specific period of time.

**Automatic Passenger Counts (APC)** (predates "smart technology") — A technology installed on transit vehicles that counts the number of boarding and alighting passengers at each stop while also noting the time. Passengers are counted using either pulse beams or step treadles located at each door. Stop location is generally identified through use of either global positioning systems (GPS) or signpost transmitters in combination with vehicle odometers.

Synonyms: *Smart Counters*

**Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)** — A system that senses, at intervals, the monitors the real-time location of transit vehicles carrying special electronic equipment that communicates a signal back to a central control facility, locating the vehicle and providing other information about its operations or about its mechanical condition.

# B

**Board** — To go onto or into a transit vehicle. Plural: “*Boardings*”.

**Boston Transportation Planning Review (BTPR)** - A comprehensive review of the region's transportation infrastructure needs, tempered by a concern for the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of various transportation projects and modes. The review was undertaken during the 1970s and resulted in a moratorium on expressway construction within Route 128 and a reorienting of transportation investments to address public transportation needs.

**Branch** — One of multiple route segments served by a single route.

**Bridge Management System (BMS)** - A method for evaluating, and establishing priorities for, bridge rehabilitation and replacement needs.

**Bus** — A rubber-tired road vehicle designed to carry a substantial number of passengers (i.e., 10 or more), commonly operated on streets and highways for public transportation service.

**Bus Bay** — Bus berthing area in a facility such as a transit center or rail station.

**Bus Hours** — The total hours of travel by bus, including both revenue service and deadhead travel.

Synonyms: *Vehicle Hours*

**Bus Lane** — A lane of roadway intended primarily for use by buses, either all day or during specified periods.

Synonyms: *Transit Priority Lane*

**Bus Stop** — A curbside place where passengers board or alight transit.

**Bus Miles** — The total miles of travel by bus, including both revenue and deadhead travel.

Synonyms: *Vehicle Miles*

**Bus Shelter** — A structure constructed near a bus stop to provide seating and protection from the weather for the convenience of waiting passengers.

**Bus Turnout** — Cutout in the roadside to permit a transit vehicle to dwell at a curb.

**Busway** — A special roadway designed for exclusive use by buses. It may be constructed at, above, or below grade and may be located in separate rights-of-way or within highway corridors.

# C

**Capital** — Long-term assets, such as property, buildings, roads, rail lines, and vehicles.

**Capital Costs** — Costs of long-term assets of a public transit system such as property, buildings, vehicles, etc.

**Capital Improvement Program** — The list of capital projects for a five to seven year programming period.

**Capital Project** — Construction and/or procurement of district assets, such as transit centers, transit vehicles and track.

**Car Pool** — An arrangement where people share the use and cost of a privately owned automobile in traveling to and from pre-arranged destinations.

**Carbon Monoxide (CO)** - A colorless, tasteless gas produced primarily by the combustion of organic fuels in transportation and industrial activities. Overly high levels of CO reduce oxygen in the bloodstream, preventing normal respiration. CO emissions are regulated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

**Central Artery North Area (CANNA)** - That portion of the Central Artery project that extends from the temporary loop ramps north of the Charles River to the approach of the Tobin Bridge.

**Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS)** - The staff of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. CTPS provides technical and policy analysis support for transportation planning in the Boston MPO Region.

**Central Business District (CBD)** — An area of a city that contains the greatest concentration of commercial activity, the “Downtown”. The traditional downtown retail, trade, and commercial area of a city or an area of very high land valuation, traffic flow, and concentration of retail business offices, theaters, hotels and services.

**Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA)** - Federal legislation that establishes allowable levels for various air pollutants. Where these standards are not attained, officials must take specified actions within a set time frame or face sanctions, such as loss of federal highway funds.

**Commuter Rail** - Multicar rail transportation utilizing exclusive rights-of-way with service between urban areas or between outlying suburbs and the urban core. Usually involves greater distances and fewer stops than those normally found with light rail or heavy rail.

# C

**Conformity** - The requirement that state or metropolitan transportation plans, programs, and projects be consistent with the State Implementation Plan. A conformity finding by the Environmental Protection Agency is required as part of the federal review of Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.

**Congestion Management System (CMS)** - A method for evaluating the level of congestion on the region's transportation system, and for identifying strategies which will reduce this congestion.

**Corridor** — A broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow or connects major sources of trips. It may contain a number of streets and highways and many transit lines and routes.

**Crosstown Route** — A non-radial bus service that normally does not enter the Central Business District (CBD).

**Crush Load** — The maximum passenger capacity of a vehicle, in which there is little or no space between passengers (i.e., the passengers are touching one another) and one more passenger cannot enter without causing serious discomfort to the others.

# D

**Deadhead** — There are two types of deadhead or non-revenue bus travel time:

(1) Bus travel to or from the garage and a terminus point where revenue service begins or ends;

(2) A bus' travel between the end of service on one route to the beginning of another.

Synonyms: *Non-Revenue Time*

**Deboard** — To get on or into a transit vehicle.

**The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)** - Agency that maintains 15,000 acres of parkland, numerous public beaches, and 650 miles of parkways within the Boston region.

**Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** - The state regulatory agency charged with protecting the natural environment of the Commonwealth.

**Discretionary Funds** - Federal funds that are distributed based upon agency action or congressional action, rather than upon an established formula. The federal Section 5309 New Starts Program is an example of a discretionary program.

# E

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** - Document that studies all likely impacts that will result from major transportation projects. Impacts include those on the natural environment, as well as impacts on the economy and society, and those on the built environment of historical and aesthetic significance.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** - The federal agency charged with protecting the nation's environmental quality. The agency reviews all Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

**Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA)** - The cabinet agency that oversees environmental issues for the state and is responsible for SIP adoption. Established under M.G.L. Chapter 6A, &#167; 2.

**Executive Office of Transportation (EOT)** - The cabinet agency that sets state policies and plans for all modes of transportation and that oversees public transit services, general aviation programs, and the state and local highway network. A member of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. Established under M.G.L. Chapters 6A and 161A.

**Express Service** — Express service is deployed in one of two general configurations:

(1) A service generally connecting residential areas and activity centers via a high speed, non-stop connection, e.g., a freeway, or exclusive right-of-way such as a dedicated busway with limited stops at each end for collection and distribution. Residential collection can be exclusively or partially undertaken using park-and-ride facilities.

(2) Service operated non-stop over a portion of an arterial in conjunction with other local services. The need for such service arises where passenger demand between points on a corridor is high enough to separate demand and support dedicated express trips.

Synonyms: *Rapids (1 or 2), Commuter Express (1), Flyers (1)*

**Exclusive Right-of-Way** — A right-of-way that is fully grade separated or access controlled and is used exclusively by transit.

# F

**Fare** — Payment in the form of coins, bills, tickets and tokens collected for transit rides.

**Fare Box** — A device that accepts the coins, bills, tickets and tokens given by passengers as payment for rides.

**Farebox Recovery Ratio** — A measure of the proportion of transit operating expenses covered by passenger fares. It is calculated by dividing a transit operator's fare box revenue by its total operating expenses.

Synonyms: *Fare Recovery Ratio*

**Farebox Revenue** — The value of cash, tickets and pass receipts given by passengers as payment for public transit rides.

**Fare Box Revenue** — Total revenue derived from the payment of passenger fares.

Synonyms: *Passenger Revenue*

**Fare Collection System** — The method by which fares are collected and accounted for in a public transportation system.

**Fare Elasticity** — The extent to which ridership responds to fare increases or decreases.

**Fare Structure** — The system set up to determine how much is to be paid by various passengers using the system at any given time.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** - The federal agency that administers federal highway programs. The agency reviews all Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs to ensure compliance with federal planning and funding requirements.

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA)** - The federal agency that administers federal transit programs. The agency reviews all Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs to ensure compliance with federal planning and funding requirements.

**Feeder Service** - Local public transportation service that provides passengers with connections to a longer, line-haul service.

**Fixed Cost** — An indirect cost that remains relatively constant irrespective of the level of operational activity.

# F

**Fixed-Guideway System** — A system of vehicles that can operate only on its own guideway constructed for that purpose (e.g., 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.

**Fixed Route** — Transit service provided on a repetitive, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route, with vehicles stopping to pick up passengers at and deliver passengers to specific locations.

**Flexible Funds** - Transportation funding categories that may be used for highway or transit programs. Within the Boston Region, highway funds have been flexed to the MBTA to fund commuter rail extensions, transit station improvements, and park-and-ride facilities.

**Freeway** - A multilane divided highway without traffic signals and with limited opportunities for access and egress.

**Frequency** — The amount of time scheduled between consecutive buses or trains on a given route segment; in other words, how often the bus or train comes (also known as Headway).

**Formula Funds** - Funds distributed on a quantified basis according to legislative or administrative criteria.

**Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA)** — An agreement executed by the federal government with a public transit operator that assures the operator of the federal government’s intention to fully fund the federal share of a New Starts project.

# G

**Garage** — The place where revenue vehicles are stored and maintained and from where they are dispatched and recovered for the delivery of scheduled service.

Synonyms: *Barn, Base, Depot, District, Division, O/M Facility (ops/maint), Yard*

**Grade Separated** — A crossing of two forms of transportation paths (e.g., light rail tracks and a highway) at different levels to permit unconstrained operation.

# H

**Headway** — The scheduled time interval between any two revenue vehicles operating in the same direction on a route. Headways may be LOAD driven, that is, developed on the basis of demand and loading standards or, POLICY based, i.e., dictated by policy decisions such as service every 30 minutes during the peak periods and every 60 minutes during the base period.

Synonyms: *Frequency, Schedule, Vehicle Spacing*

**Heavy Rail (Transit)** — Generally applies to higher-speed, multicar rail transportation utilizing exclusive, grade-separated rights-of-way in subway tunnels, on the surface, or elevated structures. The Red Line is an example of heavy rail.

**High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane** — A lane designated for the exclusive use of high-occupancy vehicles, such as carpools, vanpools, other ridesharing modes, and buses.

**Highway Safety Management Program (HSMP)** - A method for evaluating highway safety needs and making recommendations to address deficiencies.

**HOV Lane** — A traffic lane in a street or highway reserved for high occupancy vehicles, which may include two person vehicles in some applications.

## I

**Incident** — Traffic or passenger accident that include collisions with other vehicles, pedestrians or fixed object, and passenger accidents while boarding, on-board, or disembarking the transit vehicle.

**Inner Core** — The traditional center of the Boston metropolitan area, comprising Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea, Everett, Revere, and Winthrop.

**Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)** - Computer and communications technology that provides real-time information to operators of vehicles about transportation system conditions. Also includes technologies that identify, monitor, or control vehicles.

**Interlining** — Interlining is used in two ways: Interlining allows the use of the same revenue vehicle and/or operator on more than one route without going back to the garage. Interlining is often considered as a means to minimize vehicle requirements as well as a method to provide transfer enhancement for passengers. For interlining to be feasible, two (or more) routes must share a common terminus or be reasonably proximate to each other (see DEADHEAD).

Synonyms: *Through Routes, Interlock Routes, Interlocking*

**Intermodal** — Switching from one form of transportation to another.

**Intermodal Facility** — A building or site specifically designed to accommodate the meeting of two or more transit modes of travel.

**Intermodal Planning** — Planning that reflects a focus on connectivity between modes as a means of facilitating linked trip-making.

**Intermodal Facilities and Systems Management System (IMS)** - A method for evaluating intermodal connections and making recommendations to address deficiencies. Freight planning in Massachusetts is handled as part of the IMS.

**Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA)** - Federal legislation that restructured federal transit and highway programs and mandated an increased decision-making role for MPOs in transportation planning and project selection. The act expired September 30, 1997.

# K

**Key Station Plan** — A document designating critical transit facilities needed to expand accessibility for individuals with disabilities and to meet ADA requirements.

**Kiss and Ride** — A place where commuters are driven and left at a station to board a public transportation vehicle.

# L

**Land Use** - The purpose for which land or the structures on the land are being utilized; for example: commercial, residential, retail.

**Layover** — Layover time serves two major functions: recovery time for the schedule to ensure on-time departure for the next trip and, in some systems, operator rest or break time between trips. Layover time is often determined by labor agreement, requiring "off-duty" time after a certain amount of driving time.

**Level of Service (LOS)** - A qualitative measure used to characterize the operating conditions of a transportation service as perceived by its users. Most commonly applied to traffic operations, where designations go from A (best) to F (worst).

**Light Rail (Transit)** - Generally applies to electric rail transportation capable of operating short train sets and that uses exclusive, but not usually grade-separated, rights-of-way. The Green Line is an example of light rail.

**Light Rail Vehicle (LRV)** — Modern-day term for a streetcar type of transit vehicle, e.g., tram or trolley car.

**Limited Service** — Higher speed train or bus service where designated vehicles stop only at transfer points or major activity centers, usually about every 1/2 mile. Limited stop service is usually provided on major trunk lines operating during a certain part of the day or in a specified area in addition to local service that makes all stops. As opposed to express service, there is not usually a significant stretch of non-stop operation.

**Line-Haul Service** - Transportation along a single corridor without branches.

**Linked Trip** - A trip from the point of origin to the final destination, regardless of the number of modes or vehicles used.

**Load Factor** — The ratio of passengers actually carried versus the total passenger seating capacity of a vehicle. A load factor of greater than 1.0 indicates that there are standees on that vehicle.

**Local Service** - Transit service involving many stops and low operating speeds with the purpose of picking up or delivering passengers as closely as possible to origins and destinations.

# M

**Major Investment Study (MIS)** - An alternatives analysis required to support decisions on significant transportation investments. The purpose of an MIS is to examine the possible impacts and consequences of various alternatives to address an identified transportation need at the subarea or corridor level.

**Management System** - A system intended to provide information needed to make effective decisions on the use of limited resources to improve the efficiency of, and protect the investment in, the nation's existing and future infrastructure at all levels of jurisdictional control. ISTEA originally required the implementation of six management systems: congestion, intermodal, public transportation, pavement, bridges, and safety. These systems are no longer federally mandated, except that the congestion management system is required as part of the conformity determinations in Transportation Management Areas.

**Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)** - Authority that provides public transportation service in eastern Massachusetts. A member of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. Established under M.G.L. Chapter 161B.

**Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Advisory Board** - Legislatively created group representing the 78 cities and towns within the MBTA service district. Powers include: approval or reduction of the MBTA budget; approval of the Program for Mass Transportation; approval of changes to the fare structure; approval of the appointment of general manager and three MBTA board members. A member of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. Established under M.G.L. Chapter 161A.

**Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Unit** - Section of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs responsible for administration of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act requiring agencies to use all feasible means and measures to avoid or minimize damage to the environment when taking action on a public or private infrastructure project. MEPA permits are required for most large transportation projects.

**Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway)** - Agency responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance of state highways and bridges. A member of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. Established under M.G.L. Chapter 16, § 2.

**Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport)** - Agency charged to operate and develop major commercial maritime and aviation facilities in the Boston Region. Owns and operates Logan Airport, Hanscom Field, maritime terminals located in the Port of Boston, and the Tobin Bridge. A member of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. Created as an independent authority in Chapter 465 of the Acts of 1956, as amended.

# M

**Massachusetts Turnpike Authority (MassPike)** - Agency responsible for the operation of the Massachusetts Turnpike and the three harbor tunnels (Sumner, Callahan and Ted Williams). A member of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. Established under M.G.L. Chapter S75, &#167; 3.

**Maximum Load Point** — The location(s) along a route where the vehicle passenger load is the greatest. The maximum load point(s) generally differ by direction and may also be unique to each of the daily operating periods. Long or complex routes may have multiple maximum load points.

**Measures of Effectiveness (MOE)** - Parameters describing the quality of service provided to drivers, passengers, and pedestrians. Speed, delay, passenger loadings, and transit vehicle travel time could be examples. Qualitative rankings such as Level of Service and On-Time Performance would be based on these measures.

**Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)** - Regional comprehensive planning agency for the Boston metropolitan area, comprising 101 communities. Comprised of officials from cities, towns, and state agencies, and independent gubernatorial appointees. A member of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. Established under M.G.L. Chapter 40B, &#167; 24.

**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** - The regional organization responsible for comprehensive transportation planning and programming in urbanized areas. Work products include the Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and the Unifies Planning Work Program.

**Midday** – The midday time period, between the AM and PM peak period.

**Mode** - A particular means of transportation (e.g., transit, automobile, bicycle, walking).

**Mode Split** — The proportion of people that use each of the various modes of transportation. Also describes the process of allocating the proportion of people using modes. Frequently used to describe the percentage of people using private automobiles as opposed to the percentage using public transportation.

**Model** — An analytical tool (often mathematical) used by transportation planners to assist in making forecasts of land use, economic activity, and travel activity.

**Multimodal Planning** - Planning that reflects consideration of more than one mode to serve transportation needs in a given area.

# N

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** - Federal standards that set allowable concentrations and exposure limits for ozone, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** - Federal legislation which requires that agencies give full consideration to environmental effects in planning and implementing federal programs. NEPA permits are required for most large transportation projects.

**Network** — The configuration of streets or transit routes and stops that constitutes the total system.

**New Starts** — Federal funding granted under Section 5309 (B) of the United States Code. These discretionary funds are made available for the construction of new fixed guideway systems or extensions of existing fixed guideway systems.

**Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)** - Precursor emission that forms from high-temperature combustion processes. Reacts with volatile organic compounds in the presence of heat and sunlight to form ozone.

**Non-attainment Area** - A geographic region that the Environmental Protection Agency has designated as failing to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Boston area has been designated as being in serious nonattainment for ozone.

## O

**Off-Peak** — Non-rush periods of the day when travel activity is generally lower and less transit service is scheduled.

**Operating** — Maintaining the ongoing functions of an agency or service. “Operating expenses” include wages, benefits, supplies, and services. “Operating assistance” is used to pay for the costs of providing public transit service.

**Operating Cost** — The total costs to operate and maintain a transit system including labor, fuel, maintenance, wages and salaries, employee benefits, taxes, etc.

**Operating Expense** — Monies paid in salaries and wages; settlement of claims, maintenance of equipment and buildings, and rentals of equipment and facilities.

**Operating Ratio** — A measure of transit system expense recovery obtained by dividing total operating revenues by total operating expenses.

**Operating Revenue** — Revenue derived from passenger fares. See also Farebox Revenue.

**Operating Speed** — The rate of speed at which a vehicle is safely operated under prevailing traffic and environmental conditions.

**Operator** — An employee of a transit system who spends his or her working day in the operation of a vehicle, e.g., bus driver, streetcar motorman, trolley coach operator, cablecar gripman, rapid transit train motorman, conductor, etc.

**Origin** — The location of the beginning of a trip or the zone in which a trip begins. Also known as a “Trip End”.

**Origin-Destination Study** — A study of the origins and destinations of trips made by vehicles or passengers.

**Ozone** - A colorless gas with a sweet odor that is not a direct emission from transportation sources, but is formed when VOCs and NOx from car exhausts and from certain industrial emissions combine in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone is associated with smog conditions and initiates damage to lungs, trees, crops, and materials. Regulated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

# P

**Paratransit** - A demand-responsive system that applies to a variety of smaller, flexibly scheduled and routed transportation services using low-capacity vehicles. Primarily used by persons for whom use of standard mass transit services is difficult or impossible.

**Park-and-Ride** — A parking area for automobile drivers who then board vehicles, shuttles or carpools from these locations.

**Pass** — A means of transit prepayment, usually a card that carries some identification that is displayed to the driver or conductor in place of paying a cash fare.

**Passenger** — A person who rides a transportation vehicle, excluding the driver.

**Passenger Check** — A check (count) made of passengers arriving at, boarding and alighting, leaving from, or passing through one or more points on a route. Checks are conducted by riding (ridecheck) or at specific locations (point check). Passenger checks are conducted in order to obtain information on passenger riding that will assist in determining both appropriate directional headways on a route and the effectiveness of the route alignment. They are also undertaken to meet FTA Section 15 reporting requirements and to calibrate revenue-based ridership models.

Synonyms: *Tally*

**Passenger Miles** — A measure of service utilization which represents the cumulative sum of the distances ridden by each passenger. It is normally calculated by summation of the passenger load times the distance between individual bus stops. For example, ten passengers riding in a transit vehicle for two miles equals 20 passenger miles.

**Passenger Revenue** — Fares paid by passenger traveling aboard transit vehicles.

Synonyms: *Farebox Revenue*

**Peak Hour/Peak Period** — The period with the highest ridership during the entire service day, generally referring to either the peak hour or peak several hours (peak period).

**Pavement Management System (PMS)** - A method for evaluating, and establishing priorities for, pavement rehabilitation and resurfacing needs.

# P

**PM Peak Period** — The evening commute period, about three hours, in which the greatest movement of passengers occurs, generally from home to work; the portion of the morning service period where the greatest level of ridership is experienced and service provided.

Synonyms: *PM Rush, Evening Peak, and Evening Rush*

**Program for Mass Transportation (PMT)** - A long-range plan prepared by EOT and approved by the MBTA Advisory Board describing scheduled MBTA capital projects.

# R

**Radial Service** — Local or express service designed primarily to connect the Central Business District with outlying areas.

**Regional Transportation Advisory Council (RTAC)** - Citizen group that advises the MPO and its six signatory agencies on transportation issues and reviews the Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and the Unifies Planning Work Program. Composed of state agencies, local communities, and civic and private associations with an interest in transportation planning.

**Revenue** — Receipts derived from or for the operation of transit service including farebox revenue, revenue from other commercial sources, and operating assistance from governments. Farebox revenue includes all fare, transfer charges, and zone charges paid by transit passengers.

**Recovery Time** — Recovery time is distinct from layover, although they are usually combined together. Recovery time is a planned time allowance between the arrival time of a just completed trip and the departure time of the next trip in order to allow the route to return to schedule if traffic, loading, or other conditions have made the trip arrive late. Recovery time is considered as reserve running time and typically, the operator will remain on duty during the recovery period.

Synonyms: *Layover Time*

**Revenue Vehicle Hour** — The measure of scheduled hours of service available to passengers for transport on the routes, equivalent to one transit vehicle traveling in one hour in revenue service, excluding deadhead hours but including recovery/layover time. Calculated for each route.

**Revenue Service** — When a revenue vehicle is in operation over a route and is available to the public for transport.

**Revenue Miles** — Miles operated by vehicles available for passenger service.

**Revenue Passenger** — A passenger from whom a fare is collected.

**Reverse Commute** — Movement in a direction opposite to the main flow of travel, such as from the Central City to a suburb during the morning commute hour.

**Ridesharing** — A form of transportation, other than public transit, in which more than one person shares in the use of the vehicle, such as a van or car, to make a trip.

**Ridership** — The number of rides taken by people using a public transportation system in a given time period.

# R

**Right-of-Way (ROW, R/W)** — The land over which a public road or rail line is built. An exclusive right-of-way is a road, lane, or other right-of-way designated exclusively for a specific purpose or for a particular group of users, such as light rail vehicles or buses.

**Route** — A specified path taken by a transit vehicle usually designated by a number or a name, along which passengers are picked up or discharged.

Synonyms: *Line*

**Route Miles** — The total number of miles included in a fixed route transit system network.

**Running Time** — The time assigned for the movement of a revenue vehicle over a route, usually done on a [route] segment basis by various time of day.

Synonyms: *Travel Time*

## S

**Schedule** — From the transit agency (not the public timetable), a document that, at a minimum, shows the time of each revenue trip through the designated time points. Many properties include additional information such as route descriptions, deadhead times and amounts, interline information, run numbers, block numbers, etc.

Synonyms: *Headway, Master Schedule, Timetable, Operating Schedule*

**Scheduling** — The planning of vehicle arrivals and departures and the operators for these vehicles to meet consumer demand along specified routes.

**Service Area** — A geographic area which is provided with transit services. Service area is now defined consistent with ADA requirements.

**Service Span** — The span of hours over which service is operated, e.g., 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. or 24 hr (owl). Service span often varies by weekday, Saturday, or Sunday.

Synonyms: *Span of Service, Service Day*

**Service Standards** — A benchmark by which service operations performance is evaluated. These standards are provided in the Short Range Transit Plan.

**Single-Occupant Vehicle (SOV)** - A vehicle containing only the driver and no other passengers.

**State Implementation Plan (SIP)** - A document that contains procedures detailing how a state will attain or maintain compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Prepared by the state and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

**State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)** - A short-range transportation planning document detailing the federally assisted projects planned to be undertaken in a given three-year period. By federal law, the STIP consists of a compilation of regional MPO transportation improvement programs and a list of projects to be undertaken outside of MPO boundaries.

**Strategic Assessment Report (SAR)** - A report initiated by the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission to reassess the long-term needs for high-speed intercity transport to and from the Boston region.

**Subsidy** — Funds granted by federal, state or local government.

# T

**Total Miles** — The total miles includes revenue, deadhead, and yard (maintenance and servicing) miles.

**Transfer** — A slip of paper issued to a passenger that gives him or her the right to change from one transit vehicle to another according to specified limitations.

**Transit** - Generally refers to urban passenger transportation service, local in scope, provided to the public along established routes with fixed or variable schedules at published fares.

**Transit Center** — A fixed location where passengers transfer from one route to another.

**Transit Corridor** — A broad geographic band that follows a general route alignment such as a roadway or rail right-of-way and includes a service area within that band that would be accessible to the transit system.

**Transfer Passenger** — A passenger who transfers to a line after paying a fare on another line.

**Transit Dependent** — Someone who must use public transportation for his/her travel.

**Transit Priority** — A means by which transit vehicles are given an advantage over other traffic, e.g., preemption of traffic signals or transit priority lanes.

**Transit Priority Lane** — See Bus Lane

**Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ)** - Actions, which are usually found in a SIP, that improve traffic flow, or reduce vehicle use or congestion, with the objective of reducing air pollutant emissions.

**Transportation Control Measure (TCM)** - Actions, which are usually found in a SIP, that improve traffic flow, or reduce vehicle use or congestion, with the objective of reducing air pollutant emissions.

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM)** - In its most general form, any action or actions that attempt to control or alter existing travel patterns or choices. Included in this group are a wide range of strategies, such as promoting ridesharing, requiring alternative work hours or flextime, or increasing travel costs for single-occupant vehicles, through parking controls or fees, or through fuel taxes.

# T

**Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)** — The 1998 law that reauthorizes federal surface transportation programs for six years (FY 1998 to FY 2003). TEA-21 preserves much of the basic programmatic structure of its predecessor, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

**Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** - A program of transportation projects consistent with the Transportation Plan. Shows projects to be funded within the MPO Region for a given three year period.

**Transportation Management Area (TMA)** - Defined by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) as any urban area over 200,000 in population. Within a TMA, all transportation plans and programs must be based on the 3C process. The TMA boundary affects the responsibility for the selection of transportation projects that receive federal funds.

**Transportation Management Association (TMA)** - A voluntary association of public and private agencies and firms which develop, fund, or implement transportation programs or services in a given area.

**Transportation Plan** - A long-range document that identifies facilities and programs that should function as an integrated metropolitan transportation system and includes a financial plan that demonstrates how the long-range plan can be implemented. The plan must show that the current system can be operated and maintained over the long-term, as well as recommend capital expansion projects to be constructed.

**Transportation Planning & Programming Committee (TPPC)** - A committee comprising a designated representative of each MPO agency. The TPPC reviews and approves the distribution of reports and other documents related to the Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and Unified Planning Work Program.

**Travel Time** — The time allows for an operator to travel between the garage and a remote relief point.

Synonyms: *Relief Time, Travel Allowance*

**Trip** — The one-way operation of a revenue vehicle between two terminal points on a route. Trips are generally noted as inbound, outbound, eastbound, westbound, etc. to identify directionality when being discussed or printed.

Synonyms: *Journey, One-Way Trip*

# U

**Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** - Document required by the ISTEA that contains a description of all proposed transportation-related planning activities and air quality planning activities undertaken in a metropolitan region in a given year.

**Unlinked Trip** - A trip on a particular mode or vehicle; any segment of a linked trip.

# V

**Vehicle Miles** — The number of miles traveled by a vehicle, and are usually calculated by mode.

**Vehicle Hours** — The number of hours traveled by a vehicle, and are usually calculated by mode.

**Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)** - A group of chemicals that reacts in the atmosphere with NO<sub>x</sub> in the presence of heat and sunlight to form ozone. Examples include gasoline fumes and oil-based paints.

# Y

**Yard** — An area in a system used for maintenance, storing or holding trains.