



GLOSSARY

■ A

Abatement – A reduction in degree of intensity of a substance or quantity.

Acid Mine Drainage – Acid drainage from bituminous coal mines containing a high concentration of acidic sulfates, especially ferrous sulfate.

Act 43 – Pennsylvania Act 1981-43 - Known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, Act 43 enables landowners to propose the creation of agricultural areas to local units of government. Voluntary agricultural areas would consist of 500 or more acres of viable farmland. Incentives to encourage farming in these agricultural areas are provided. It also authorizes county governments to establish programs for the purchase of development easements.

Act 100 – Creates an independent administrative body known as the Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board (ALCAB), which must approve any condemnation, by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or its agencies, of productive agricultural land for certain purposes, including the construction of highways on new alignment.

Act 319 – Commonly known as the "Clean and Green Act", it was passed as a Constitutional Amendment permitting preferential assessment of farmland and forest land. The Act is designed to preserve farmland, forest land, and open space by taxing land according to its use value rather than the prevailing market value.

Act 515 – Enables counties to covenant with land owners for preservation of land in farm, forest, water supply, or open space uses. In return, the land is assessed for tax purposes at its value as farmland and not at its market value for urban uses such as housing.

Adaptive Reuse – The development of a new use for an older building or for a building originally designed for a special or specific purpose.

Aerial Mapping – Aerial photographs are taken and used in the data collection process and to produce topographic maps of a project corridor. Shown on the mapping are all buildings, roads, rivers and other topographical features as well as contour elevations for use in developing project

alternatives. Project mapping at the preliminary stage is usually at a scale of 1" = 200'.

Affordable Housing – Housing that has a sales price or rent within the means of a low- or moderate-income household as defined by local, state or federal legislation.

Agricultural Security Area (ASA) – Defined as a unity of 250 or more acres of land, not necessary connected, which are used for agricultural production.

Air Emissions – Physical, chemical or biological substance emitted into the ambient air which contains air pollutants as defined in Section 302 of the Clear Air Act.

Alignment – The line which represents the proposed location of a new highway or transit line.

Alternative Fuel – A liquid or gaseous non-petroleum fuel. The term usually refers to alcohol fuels, mineral fuels, natural gas and hydrogen.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Passed in 1992, this federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the services, programs or activities of all state and local governments. Under the provisions of ADA, the Department must take steps to make all public involvement activities related to the Transportation Project Development Process accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes providing services and/or auxiliary aids to those with special needs.

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) – The estimate of typical daily traffic on a road segment for all seven days of the week over the period of one year.

Appropriation – Legislation that allocates budgeted funds to programs that have been previously authorized by other legislation. The amount of money appropriated may be less than the amount authorized (this has been the case with ISTEAs).

Aquatic – Living or growing in, on, or near water; having a water habitat.

At-grade Intersection – An intersection where all roadways join or cross at the same level.



Authorization – Federal legislation that creates programs including formulas and guidelines for awarding funds. Authorizing legislation may set an upper limit on program spending or may be open ended, as in “such sums as may be necessary”. General revenue funds to be spent under an authorization must be appropriated by separate legislation.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) – The average 24-hour volume, being the total volume during a stated period divided by the number of days in that period. Unless otherwise stated, the period is a year.

■ B

Best Management Practices – The methods, measures, or practices to prevent or reduce the amount of pollution from point or non-point sources, including structural controls, non-structural controls, and operation and maintenance procedures.

Biological Diversity or Biodiversity – The variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur.

Brownfield – Abandoned industrialized land left unused or underused, often because of the presence of environmental contaminants. These abandoned properties, once remediated (cleaned up), can provide viable spaces for sustainable industries, commercial uses and even parkland or open spaces.

Build-out Analysis – Illustrates the form and pattern that development can be expected to take under a continuation of current trends and the manner and degree to which this form and pattern are contrary to planning goals. A description and illustrations of the consequences of a continuation of current trends help to identify the kinds of action that are needed and to build public support for these measures.

■ C

Capacity – The maximum rate of traffic flow which can be expected to pass a certain point; usually expressed in vehicles per hour.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) – A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that is formed as a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon and is emitted directly by automobiles and trucks.

Central Business District (CBD) – The downtown retail trade area of the 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 (CAAA) of 1990 – Requires assessment of the project's impacts on ambient air quality standards established for mobile source pollutants.

Combined Sewer Overflow – A pipe that discharges untreated wastewater during storms from a sewer system that carries both sanitary wastewater and storm water. The overflow occurs because the system does not have the capacity to transport, store, or treat the increased flow caused by storm water runoff.

Combined Sewer System – Sewer collection systems that carry both stormwater and wastewater.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – Federal grants, administered by the County, designed to lower the overall cost of a project; projects must demonstrate the ability to improve the economic conditions of an area.

Comprehensive Plan – The general, inclusive, long-range statement of the future development of a community. The plan is typically a map accompanied by description and supplemented by policy statements that direct future capital improvements in an area.

Conceptual Plan – The early, generalized identification of design, operation or construction measures that would minimize or avoid anticipated environmental consequences. Typically, conceptual mitigation ideas are discussed prior to the concluding stages of an environmental study, well before many of the ideas are further worked upon, refined or committed.

Congestion – The level at which transportation system performance is no longer acceptable to the traveling public due to traffic interference. The level of acceptable system performance may vary by type of transportation facility, geographic location, public tolerance, and/or time of day.

Congestion Management System (CMS) – Requires states and large metropolitan areas (with population of 200,000 or more) to develop management plans which make new and

existing transportation facilities more effective through the use of travel demand management and operational management strategies. The CMS requirements strengthen the link between the Clean Air Act Amendments and ISTEA.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) – A \$6 billion funding program contained in Title I of ISTEA which provides funds for projects and activities which reduce congestion and improve air quality. To be eligible for CMAQ, projects and activities must contribute to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and must be included in a transportation improvement program (TIP).

Conservation Easement – A legal document that provides specific land-use rights to a secondary party. A perpetual conservation easement usually grants conservation and management rights to a party in perpetuity.

Controlled Access – Partial access restriction that gives preference to through traffic. Also provides for connections to selected public routes and to certain other adjacent locations where vehicles can enter or leave a roadway safely without interfering with through traffic.

Control of Access – A condition in which public authority fully or partially controls the right of abutting property owners to have access in connection with a highway. Common terms defining types of access control are free access and limited access.

Corridor – Any major transportation route that includes parallel limited access highways, major arterials or transit lines. With regard to traffic incident management, a corridor may include more distant transportation routes that can serve as viable alternatives to each other in the event of accidents.

Cropfall (or Subsidence) – Occurs when the support of old underground mines gives way causing the surface to collapse.

Cultural Resource – See Historic Resource.

■ D

Deep Mine – Open or exposed abandoned surface mine pits following outcropping coal seams usually associated with the formation of a highwall.

Development Right – The nature and the extent to which land, including the air space above, may be improved under a development regulation.

Disability – In the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) the term disability is defined to include any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. Persons with cognitive disabilities and those with contagious or non-contagious disease (including tuberculosis and HIV disease) are specifically included in this definition.

■ E

Earth Disturbance – Any construction or other activity which disturbs the surface of the land including, but not limited to, excavations; embankments; depositing or storing soil; rock; or earth.

Ecosystem – A functional system which includes the organisms of a natural community together with their environment.

Eminent Domain – The power of government to acquire private property for public use without the owner's consent, when the proposed use of the property promotes a public purpose. Fair market value (also called Just Compensation) must be paid to the property owner. It is usually determined by appraisals which establish the market value of the lands.

Enabling Act – Legislation passed by the state legislature granting specific powers to cities and boroughs and authorizing the powers and duties they can perform.

Environmental – 1. In a scientific context, a combination of external or extrinsic conditions present in nature. 2. In a planning context, a category of analytical studies of aesthetic values, ecological resources, cultural (historical) resources, sociological and economic conditions, etc.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – The government agency responsible for enforcing environmental regulations such as RCRA, CERCLA, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act.



Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan – A detailed series of plans developed to minimize accelerated erosion and prevent sedimentation damage. In accordance with Design Manual, Part 2, Chapter 13, and PADER's Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program Manual, these plans are prepared in conjunction with construction staging plans, detailing what erosion control measures must be in place at all times during various construction stages and phases.

Exaction – Contributions or payments required as an authorized precondition for receiving a development permit.

■ F

Fauna – The animal life characteristic of a particular region or environment.

Feasibility Study – Evaluation of potential remedial alternatives for their ability to meet technical, public health, environmental and cost effective programs.

Federal Aid Highways – Those highways eligible for assistance under Title 23 of the United States Code (aka ISTEA), except those functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors.

Federal Aid Project – An activity, study, survey, project, or other work related to transportation authorized in advance by the Federal Highway Administration, and which is paid for either partially or fully by public funds.

Feeder Service – Local transit service to pick up or deliver passengers in connection with a transfer at a transit station or express or arterial bus stop terminal.

Fill – Material, usually soil, used to raise or change the surface contour of an area, to construct an embankment, or to be placed within a stone or concrete arch bridge.

Floodplain – Any flat or nearly flat lowland that borders a stream and is covered by its waters at flood stage.

Flora – The plant life characterizing a specific geographic region or environment.

Free Access – The lowest condition of access control on state highways which allows an unlimited number of private driveway connections, intersections at grade, field

entrances, or other land service linkages that give vehicles or pedestrians access to the highway.

Functional Classification – The grouping of streets and highways to classes, or systems, according to the character of service that they provide. Facilities are divided according to the degree to which they provide access to places. The recognition that individual roads do not serve travel independently, and that most travel involves movement through a network of roads, is basic to functional classification. Three general classifications are Arterial, Collector, and Local.

■ G

Geographic Information System (GIS) – A computerized system of compiling, presenting and analyzing geographic based data. Map images of the road network can be overlaid with land use zoning information, environmental concerns, census data, and other useful information.

Grade-separation – A crossing of two highways or other transportation facilities, at different levels.

Greenway – A linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a river front, stream valley, or ridge line, or over land along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road, or other route;

- Any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage;
- An open space connector linking parks, natural reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas; and
- Locally, certain strip or linear parks designated as a parkway or greenbelt.

Groundwater – Naturally occurring water that moves through the earth's crust, usually at a depth of several feet to several hundred feet below the earth's surface.

■ H

Habitat – The place where an organism lives, composed of both physical and biological elements.

Hazardous Waste – Waste identified by characteristics, source or specific substance as found in 25 PA Code Chapter

75, Subchapter D and Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Chapter 261. A hazardous waste may: 1) cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or morbidity in either an individual or the total population; and 2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed or otherwise managed.

Heritage Tourism – Marketing and promotion of cultural and historical elements of interest to visitors of an area.

Highwall – The unexcavated face of exposed overburden and coal in a surface mine.

Historic Integrity – The unimpaired ability of a property to convey its historical significance.

Historic Property – See Historic Resource.

Historic Resource – Building, site, district, object, or structure evaluated as historically significant.

Hydric Soil – Soil that is saturated, flooded or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.

■ I

Impacts – Positive or negative effects upon the natural or human environment resulting from transportation projects.

Improvement District – Both an organizing and financing technique for area revitalization. The District provides a stable stream of income for activities and projects considered special to an area or in addition to general municipal services. Improvement Districts are a vehicle for providing additional services for a fee and not a substitute for services funded through traditional tax revenues.

Infill – Development of new homes, commercial and/or retail buildings, and public facilities on unused or underused lands in existing communities.

Inner-Ring Suburbs – Communities adjacent to the City of Pittsburgh.

Intensity – Refers to the amount of development on a piece of land. The lower the intensity, the higher the amount of

land associated with a development (i.e. low density residential = one house on a large lot).

Interchange – A system of interconnecting roadways in conjunction with one or more grade separations, providing for the movement of traffic between two or more roadways on different levels.

Intermodal Facility – A transportation element or facility that connects different modes for transportation. Intermodal transportation facilities serve intrastate, interstate and international movement of goods and people. The Harrisburg Transportation Center is a good example of an intermodal facility.

■ L

Land Trust – Private, non-profit conservation organization whose principal purpose is to protect land under its stewardship and intended to exist indefinitely.

Level of Service (LOS) – A qualitative rating of the effectiveness of a highway in serving, measured in terms of operating conditions. Note: The Highway Capacity Manual identifies operating conditions ranging from "A" for the best operation (low volume, high speed) to "F" for poor operation where volumes are below capacity.

Limited Access – A term to describe either partial or full access-controlled highway abutting property.

Local Government – A city, county, parish, township, municipality, borough, or other general purpose political subdivision of a state.

Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – A 20-year forecast plan, required at both the metropolitan and state levels, which must consider a wide range of social, environmental, energy and economic factors in determining overall regional goals and how transportation can best meet these goals.

■ M

Management of Companies and Enterprises – A term of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), this subsector includes three main types of establishments:



(1) those that hold the securities of (or other equity interests in) companies and enterprises; (2) those (except government establishments) that administer, oversee, and manage other establishments of the company or enterprise but do not hold the securities of these establishments; and (3) those that both administer, oversee, and manage other establishments of the company or enterprise and hold the securities of (or other equity interests in) these establishments. Those establishments that administer, oversee, and manage normally undertake the strategic or organizational planning and decision-making role of the company or enterprise.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – The agency designated by the Governor (or Governors in multi-state areas) to administer the federally required transportation planning process in a metropolitan area. An MPO must be in place in an urbanized area with a population over 50,000. The MPO is responsible for the 20-year long range plan and the transportation improvement program.

Metropolitan Statistical Area – The Census classifications for areas having a population over 50,000. The MSA may contain several urbanized areas, but contains one or more central city or cities.

Mitigation – The replacement of natural features which have been lost or reduced in value.

Mixed-Use Development – Comprehensively planned and designed development that contains at least three different but interdependent uses, including residential use unless otherwise specified. Mixed-use development integrates its physical and functional components, is pedestrian oriented within its development, is connected to its surroundings by pedestrian or public transportation access, and is compatible in density, layout, and character with adjacent development.

Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) – A Pennsylvania State act that empowers the municipalities to plan their development and to govern the same by zoning, subdivision and land development ordinances, by official maps, to promote conservation of energy; to establish planning commissions, planning departments and zoning hearing boards.

■ N

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) – The standards set by EPA for various Pollutants known to cause health related problems, including ozone and its precursors (nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons), established by the Environmental Protection Agency to measure the health impacts of pollution on air. EPA set up NAAQS measures for six pollutants; carbon monoxide, ozone, particulate matter, lead, sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide.

National Historic Landmark – A historic property that the Secretary of the Interior has designated a National Historic Landmark.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit – Mandated by Section 402 of the Clean Water Act for projects that involve the discharge of pollutants from a point source into surface waters (including wetlands) for disposal purposes; intended to regulate the amount of chemicals, heavy metals and biological waste discharged in wastewater. The EPA has granted Pennsylvania the authority to administer NPDES permits under the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law.

National Register of Historic Places – A list maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior of historic and prehistoric sites that have local, state, or national significance.

Natural Population Change – The difference between the number of births and the number of deaths over a period of time.

Natural Resources – Land, fish, wildlife, drinking water supplies and other assets belonging to, maintained by, or otherwise controlled by the federal, state, or local government.

Niche – A site or habitat supplying factors necessary for the successful existence of an organism or species in a given habitat; the role of an organism in an ecological community.

Non-attainment Areas – Counties that do not meet national ambient air quality standards for ozone pollution; ranked by the severity of their problem as marginal, moderate, serious, severe, or extreme. In accordance with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, these areas must take specific emission reduction measures.

Normal Farming Operations or Practices – The customary and generally accepted activities, practices, and procedures that farmers adopt, use, or engage in year after year in the production and preparation for market of crops, livestock, and livestock products and in the production and harvesting of agricultural, agronomic, horticultural, silvicultural, and aquacultural crops and commodities. The term includes the storage and utilization of agricultural and food processing wastes for animal feed and the disposal of manure, other agricultural waste and food processing waste on land where the materials will improve the condition of the soil or the growth of crops or will aid in the restoration of the land for the same purposes.

■ ○

Open Space – Any parcel or area of land or water essentially unimproved and set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved for public or private use or enjoyment, or for the use and enjoyment of owners, occupants, and their guests, of land adjoining or neighboring such open space.

Ordinance – A municipal ordinance regulates building setbacks, lot and building coverage, parking, and storm water management.

Outer-Ring Suburbs – Communities along the perimeter of the county.

Overlay Zone – A special purpose zoning district that is superimposed over existing zoning jurisdictions. It is designated to provide additional standards and regulations for specific areas based on special conditions such as environmental factors, historical features or neighborhood preservation.

Ozone – Unstable blue gas with a pungent odor formed principally in secondary reaction involving volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides and sunlight.

■ P

Paratransit – Forms of transportation services that are more flexible and personalized than conventional fixed-route, fixed-schedule service, but not including such exclusionary services as charter bus trips. The vehicles are usually low or medium-capacity highway vehicles, and their services offered are adjustable in various degrees to individual users' desires.

Its categories are public, and available only to people of a certain group such as the elderly, employees of a company or residents of a neighborhood.

Park and Ride – A procedure that permits a patron to drive a private automobile to a transit station, park in the area provided for that purpose and ride the transit system to his or her destination.

Peak Hour – The one hour period of a typical day during which traffic volumes are the greatest.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) – State regulatory agency responsible for enforcing environmental regulations.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) – The agency of the Pennsylvania State Government responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of state highways and bridges in Pennsylvania, not including toll highways that are under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. PennDOT is funded by state and federal tax dollars.

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) – The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission was created in 1937 by Act 211. The Turnpike Commission has the authority to construct, finance, operate and maintain toll highways. Presently, the Turnpike Commission has over 500 miles of limited access highway. The operation of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is supported by tolls and bond revenue, not tax dollars.

pH – Measure of hydrogen ion activity in an aquatic ecosystem which affects many chemical and physical processes, as well as the toxicity of many compounds, used to express relative acidity and alkalinity.

Pittsburgh MSA – Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Beaver, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland Counties.

Planned Unit Development (PUD) – A PUD is a development, usually residential, that is planned in its entirety rather than lot-by-lot. A PUD will typically have a clustering of structures to preserve open space and unique natural features. It may contain a mix of housing types (single-family) as well as non-residential uses. PUDs have an advantage over conventional lot-by-lot development, in that the best use of land can be made through a comprehensive, unified site plan.



Privatization – The contracting of public services or selling public assets to private industry.

Public Facilities – Streets, utility and service corridors, utility lines, sites for schools, parks, parking garage, sidewalks, pedestrian ways, community facilities, public highways, storm drainage systems, water systems, street lighting systems, off-street parking facilities and sanitary sewerage systems.

Public Involvement – Coordination events and informational materials geared at encouraging the public to participate in project development. A successful Public Involvement Program facilitates the exchange of information among project sponsors and outside groups and the general public, and includes meetings, surveys, committees, presentations, etc.

■ R

Refuse – Waste material generated as a result of the washing process of raw coal.

Regionally Significant – A project that is on a facility which serves regional transportation needs (such as access to and from the area outside of the region, major activity centers in the region, major planned developments such as new retail malls, sports complexes, etc. or transportation terminals as well as most terminal themselves) and would normally be included in the modeling of a metropolitan area's transportation network, including, as a minimum, all principal arterial highways and all fixed guideway transit facilities that offer a significant alternative to regional highway travel.

Remediation – Involves clean-up of environmentally sensitive material as well as cost for studies relocation, management, overhead and other expenses.

Riparian – Pertaining to anything connected with or immediately adjacent to the banks of a stream.

Roadway Deficiencies – Problems with the existing roadway system or lack of a roadway system that cause safety concerns, motorist inconvenience or traffic congestion.

■ S

Safety Improvements – Roadway maintenance activities and smaller construction projects that correct conditions occurring on or alongside an existing highway. Typically involves minor widening, resurfacing, regrading roadside, hazard or obstacle elimination, guiderail installation, and miscellaneous maintenance.

Section 401 Water Quality Certification – Required as per Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act for projects involving the discharge of materials into surface waters, including wetlands. The applicant must demonstrate that activities will comply with Pennsylvania water quality standards and other provisions of federal and state law and regulations regarding conventional and nonconventional pollutants, new source performance standards, and toxic pollutants.

Section 404 – Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires approval by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE) prior to the placement of any fill materials into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

Seeps – Location where fluids contained in the ground slowly release to the surface and often form small pools.

Shared-ride – Public transportation services which include demand responsive transportation that is available to the general public, operates on a non-fixed route basis and charges a fee to riders. The first fare-paying passenger to enter the public transportation vehicle may not refuse to share the vehicle with other passengers during a given trip.

Signalization – Intersections that carry large vehicular volumes cannot be safely and satisfactorily controlled without traffic signals. The installation of traffic signals at an intersection can effectively separate all or most conflicting flows, bringing about a degree of orderliness and safety that would otherwise be impossible at higher traffic volumes.

Sinkhole – A hollow place or depression where drainage or waste collects or is deposited.

Spoil – Overburden or non-coal material removed in gaining access to the material extracted through surface mining methods.

Sprawl – Uncontrolled growth, usually of a low-density nature, in previously rural areas and some distance from existing development and infrastructure.

State Implementation Plan – A document prepared by state government officials, specifying measures to be used in the attainment and maintenance of national Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Statewide Transportation Plan – The official statewide, intermodal transportation plan that is developed through the statewide transportation planning process.

Stationary Source – Stationary sources of air pollutants are relatively large, fixed sources of emissions (i.e. chemical process industries, petroleum refining and petrochemical operations, or wood processing).

Stormwater Runoff – Rainwater or snow melt that runs off surfaces (such as pavement) into water bodies.

Stream Corridor – Any river, stream, pond, lake, or wetland, together with adjacent upland areas, that support protective bands of vegetation that line the waters' edge.

Streetscape – A design term referring to all the elements that constitute the physical makeup of a street and that, as a group, define its character, including building frontage, street paving, street furniture, landscaping, including trees and other plantings, awnings and marquees, signs, and lighting.

Strip Development – A mixed commercial/retail zone, usually only one store deep, that occurs along both sides of a main street or road.

Subdivision – The division or re-division of lots, tracts or parcels. A municipal ordinance that regulates how this may occur, including, but not limited to, public streets, parks, utilities and storm water management.

Subsidence – Downward movement of strata over mined-out voids.

Sufficiency Rating – A numerical rating of a section of roadway or of a bridge. This rating is obtained by comparing that section with an ideal section, looking at such factors as structure, safety and service. This rating is one of the tools used in developing maintenance priorities.

System Linkage – Improving access to various points throughout the region by connecting or "linking" two or more transportation routes.

■ T

Taking – A government action that results in the public acquisition of property, or a severe decline in the value of the property. A taking typically results when land use regulations are so severe that they substantially or entirely eliminate a property owner's profit, use and enjoyment of his or her land.

Tax Abatement – The taxing entity abates or reduces a portion of the tax burden; this can happen in the form of an adjustment on an individual property basis or in an abatement zone, such as a Keystone Opportunity Zone.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – A public financing method which uses the additional taxes generated by a completed development to pay for development costs such as land acquisition and site improvements. The difference between the taxes before the development occurs and after its completion is referred to as the 'increment'.

Topography – The natural surface features of a region, including its relief; may be land or water-bottom surface.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) – Ability to transfer property entitlements from one property to another when one of the parcels is located in a designated development area.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) – The concept of using mass transit as the focal point of new development, particularly housing, because if residents can be bought close to mass transit, people would be more inclined to use it rather than their own automobiles.

Transit Revitalization Investment District (TRID) Act of 2004 – Authorizes state public transportation agencies to work cooperatively with counties, local governments, transportation authorities, the private sector, and AMTRAK to:

- create and designate Transit Revitalization Investment Districts;
- facilitate and implement TODs; and
- promote economic development, community revitalization and increased transit ridership.



Transit-Supportive Land Use – Land uses and land use forms supportive of alternative forms of transportation and typically including high-density mixed uses.

Transportation Demand Management – Actions which are designated to change travel behavior in order to improve performance of transportation facilities and to reduce need for additional highway capacity. Methods may include ride-sharing and vanpool programs, trip-reduction incentives and congestion mitigation pricing. These methods will generally be evaluated on a regional basis rather than a project by project basis.

Twelve-Year Program – The official prioritized listing, as adopted by the PA Department of Transportation and the State Transportation Commission, of those transportation improvements identified for development and implementation in Pennsylvania during the upcoming 12 years. The plan, together with any additions or changes, is subject to review and re-adoption biannually.

■ U

Urban Area – An area having a Center City population of 50,000 or more as defined by the 1990 US Census; may also include other major population concentrations where a systems planning study is deemed necessary.

■ V

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) – The sum of distances traveled by all motor vehicles in a specified region in a given period of time. Travel demand forecasting (modeling) is used to generate the average trip lengths for a region. The average trip length measure can then be used in estimating vehicle miles of travel, which in turn is used in estimating gasoline usage or mobile source emissions of air pollutants.

Velocity – The time rate of motion; the distance traveled divided by the time required to travel that distance.

Visitability – A term used to describe housing that does not have the kinds of physical barriers that prevent or make visits by people with mobility impairments difficult.

■ W

Watershed – A region or area bounded by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water.

Wetland – Lands frequently inundated or saturated with water. An important natural resource that provides flood control, pollution control and habitat for fish, birds and mammals and aquatic life. Wetlands are more commonly known as marshes, bogs, swamps, wet meadows and shallow ponds.

■ Z

Zoning Ordinance – Municipal regulations that may permit, prohibit, regulate, restrict and determine:

- Size, height, bulk, location, construction, repair, maintenance, alteration, razing, removal and use of structures.
- Areas and dimensions of land and bodies of water to be occupied by uses and structures, as well as areas, courts, yards and other open spaces and distances to be left unoccupied by uses and structures.
- Density of population and intensity of fundamental rights provided for citizens in the Constitution and should be protected at all costs.





Allegheny County
Pennsylvania