



• Statewide Multimodal Transportation

Appendix B

GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Americans with Disabilities Act – The Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, is federal legislation passed in 1990 that protects against discrimination based on disability. A portion of the law imposes accessibility requirements on public accommodations, which includes transportation infrastructure.

Area Transportation Partnership – Unique to Minnesota, Area Transportation Partnerships, or ATPs, are regional partnerships made up of technical and political representatives from the state, tribes, counties, cities, townships and other local partners. There are eight ATPs that closely follow MnDOT district boundaries. Each ATP in the state functions differently. Generally speaking, the ATPs are programming entities. They have some level of involvement in selecting projects for most state and federal funding programs. However, their role varies depending on the funding program and ranges from reviewing and commenting to project selection.

Asset – In terms of transportation, an asset refers to infrastructure, equipment or information under the responsibility of a transportation entity, such as roadway pavement, transit vehicles, performance data, etc.

Asset management – Asset management is a systematic process of maintaining, upgrading and operating physical assets cost-effectively throughout their life-cycle. Asset Management provides a decision-making framework for both short- and long-range planning.

Autonomous vehicle – An autonomous vehicle refers to a vehicle that is capable of sensing its surroundings and navigating without a human driver. Autonomous vehicles are sometimes called driverless cars, self-driving cars or robotic cars.

C

Climate change – Climate change refers to a change in global or regional climate patterns. This includes natural variation and the influence of human activity.

Complete streets - Complete streets is an approach to road planning and design that considers and balances the needs of all users. The goal is to provide a system that is accessible and equitable to all, regardless of how they choose to travel.

E

Environmental stewardship – Environmental stewardship is the protection and preservation of environmental quality, support for healthy communities and conservation of natural resources.

Equity – Equity is fairness. It applies to people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, and abilities. It is not the same as equality, which means equal.

F

The FAST Act – The FAST Act is the federal surface transportation legislation passed in 2015. It provides federal funding and direction for transportation in Minnesota. The name FAST Act stands for the “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act.”

G

Greater Minnesota – Greater Minnesota is the portion of the state excluding the Twin Cities region.

Greenhouse gas emissions – Greenhouse gasses are atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect through their absorption of solar radiation. Commonly-known greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane and ozone.

H

Human capital – Human capital refers to the skills, knowledge and experience of an individual or population. It is viewed in terms of their value or cost to an organization or country.

I

Infrastructure – Infrastructure refers to the basic underlying structures and facilities that are required by society, such as buildings, roads and power supplies.

L

Land use – Land use refers to the physical characteristics and activity that define an area. Different types of land uses exist, such as residential, commercial and agricultural.

M

MAP-21 – MAP-21 is the federal surface transportation legislation passed in 2012. It provided federal funding and direction for transportation in Minnesota. It was superseded by the FAST ACT in 2015. The name MAP-21 stands for the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act.”

Metropolitan Planning Organization – A Metropolitan Planning Organization, or MPO, is an entity created by federal law. The role of MPOs is to provide local elected officials input into transportation planning, programming and implementation. MPOs are designated in metropolitan areas with populations over 50,000. State department of transportations are required by federal law to cooperate with MPOs related to transportation planning and implementation that impacts a MPO region.

MnPASS – MnPASS is the name of the system of high-occupancy toll lanes in the Twin Cities. The lanes are free for vehicles carrying two or more people and buses. Solo drivers may pay to use the lanes.

Mode – Mode refers to the different ways that goods and people move, such as by foot, bicycle, car, truck, train, ship and airplane.

Multimodal – Multimodal refers to anything that includes more than one type of transportation. For example, the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan is a plan for all the ways people and goods move throughout Minnesota.

N

National Highway System – The National Highway System, or NHS, is a network of strategic highways throughout the country. It includes Interstates as well as other roads that serve major freight or passenger facilities and destinations. The NHS is designated by the United States Department of Transportation, but MnDOT periodically reviews and submits changes to the system.

Next Generation Energy Act – Minnesota’s Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 set targets for energy conservation, renewable energy use and greenhouse gas emission reductions in the state.

O

Objective – In the SMTP, an Objective is a few key phrases that describe the goal that MnDOT and transportation partners are working toward. This plan’s objectives can be found in Chapter 5.

P

Performance Measure – In the SMTP, a performance measure is a metric that measures progress toward a goal, outcome or objective. This plan's existing performance measures can be found in Chapter 5. Potential future measures are identified in Chapter 6.

Programming – In transportation, programming refers to the process of identifying which projects will receive funding. Different funding sources have different processes to select projects. Most projects use funding from more than one source.

Q

Qualitative – Qualitative refers to something measured by its characteristics rather than number.

Quantitative – Quantitative refers to something measured by its number rather than characteristics.

R

Regional Development Organization – Regional Development Organizations, or RDOs, are regional entities that primarily work with, and on behalf of, local units of government in order to develop plans and implement programs that focus on the economic, social, physical and governmental concerns in each region of the state. This includes working with MnDOT related to rural regional transportation planning and programming. There are 12 regions that cover Greater Minnesota. Many of the RDOs are formally-designated Regional Development Commissions, or RDCs, as established by Minnesota state statute. However, not every region has a formal RDC. In these regions, other organizations serve a similar role.

Return on investment – Return on investment, or ROI, is a measure comparing costs and benefits of a particular project, action, or strategy. In transportation, ROI is most commonly used to determine the net present value of a project and typically includes financial as well as societal costs and benefits.

S

Socioeconomic – Socioeconomic refers to a combination of social and economic factors such as a person's job, income and education. A person's socioeconomic status can impact their transportation needs, preferences and choices.

Strategy – In the SMTP, a strategy is an action to help MnDOT and transportation partners achieve an objective. This plan’s strategies can be found in Chapter 5.

System resiliency – System resiliency refers to the transportation system’s ability to handle stresses, such as extreme weather or other emergencies.

T

Target – In the SMTP, a target is a specific performance level representing the achievement of a goal, outcome or objective. This plan’s performance targets can be found in Chapter 5, as applicable.

Technical memoranda – Technical memoranda, or tech memos, refer to a document that is specifically targeted to a technical audience, such as practicing engineers or engineering managers, who are interested in the technical details of a project or task. Tech memos usually are brief and cover only a single topic.

Toward Zero Deaths – Toward Zero Deaths, or TZD, is Minnesota’s cornerstone roadway safety initiative. It is led through a partnership between MnDOT, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Minnesota Department of Health. It is a collaborative program aimed at eliminating fatal and life-changing injury crashes on Minnesota roadways by strategically addressing education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency response issues.

Transportation user – Transportation user refers to a person using any mode of transportation, whether walking, bicycling, driving, riding as a passenger, etc.

Twin Cities – Twin Cities refer to the portion of the state including and surrounding Minneapolis and St. Paul. Most commonly, this includes the seven-county area of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties. Other similar, though different, “Twin Cities” boundaries also exist.

U

Unmanned aerial systems – Unmanned aerial systems, or UAS (also known as drones), are aircraft that fly without a human pilot aboard. They can operate with various levels of autonomy, from a remote control human operator to fully-autonomous led by on-board computers.