

Appendix K

Glossary of Transportation Terms, Abbreviations, and Acronyms

Appendix Contents

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ABM

Activity Based Model: SANDAG transitioned from an enhanced four-step transportation model to an ABM. The ABM simulates individual and household transportation decisions that compose their daily travel itinerary. People travel outside their home for activities such as work, school, shopping, healthcare, and recreation, and the ABM attempts to predict whether, where, when, and how this travel occurs.

Active Transportation

Active Transportation includes any method of travel that is human-powered, but most commonly refers to walking and biking.

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act: The federal civil rights legislation for disabled people that was passed in 1990; it requires public transportation systems to be more fully accessible; includes the provision of paratransit service.

Advanced Clean Cars Program

The Advanced Clean Cars Program is a state program to increase vehicle efficiency by combining the control of smog, soot, greenhouse gases, and other air pollution requirements into a single package of standards.

Affordable Housing

Housing developed and subsidized for low-income residents and communities of concern.

Air Cargo

Revenue-producing items in domestic or international air commerce, composed of freight, express, and mail, but excluding passenger baggage.

Air Carrier

An aviation operator that provides regular round-trips per week between two or more points, and publishes flight schedules that specify the times, days of the week, and places between which such flights are performed; or that transports mail by air pursuant to a contract with the United States Postal Service.

Alternative Transportation Fuels

Low polluting fuels that are used to propel a vehicle, in place of petroleum-based gasoline or diesel fuels. Examples include biodiesel, electricity, ethanol, propane, compressed natural gas, and liquid natural gas.

Amtrak

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation, or Amtrak, is the nation's intercity passenger rail provider. Amtrak operates trains in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies.

APCD

Air Pollution Control District: The APCD is a government agency that regulates sources of air pollution within San Diego County. The County Board of Supervisors sits as the Air Pollution Control Board.

Apportionment

A federal budgetary term that refers to a statutorily prescribed division of assigned funds. It is based on formulas prescribed by law.

APS

Alternative Planning Strategy: Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) provides that if the Sustainable Communities Strategy falls short of meeting the regional greenhouse gas reduction targets from passenger vehicles, the region must prepare an “alternative planning strategy” that, if implemented, would meet the targets.

ARB

Air Resources Board: The state agency responsible for adopting state air quality standards, establishing emission standards for new cars sold in the state, overseeing activities of regional and local air pollution control agencies, and setting regional targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles.

Arterial

Streets with traffic lights that serve primarily to carry traffic through an area as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Autonomous Vehicle

A vehicle that operates independently from other vehicles and utilizes internal sensors to survey and respond to one’s surroundings.

Auxiliary Lane

An additional freeway lane between adjacent interchanges that reduces the weaving conflicts between exiting and entering vehicles.

AVL

Automated Vehicle Location: A transportation device that uses the coordinates from earth-orbit satellites to determine the precise location of a vehicle on the earth’s surface. AVL is used to manage taxi, bus, and commercial vehicle fleet operations.

Bikesharing

Bikesharing is a public bike sharing service that allows individuals to rent bikes on a short-term basis.

CAA

Clean Air Act: Federal legislation that sets national air quality standards and requires each state with areas that have not met federal air quality standards to prepare a State Implementation Plan (SIP). The 1990 amendments to the CAA (often referred to as the CAAA), established new air quality requirements for the development of metropolitan transportation plans and programs. The California Clean Air Act (CCAA) sets more stringent standards for state air quality.

Call Box Program

The [Call Box Program](#)¹ is a free motorist aid service designed to help travelers who experience vehicle problems while on the highway. Call boxes are self-contained, solar-powered cellular telephones with voice communication to a call center. The Call Box Program is operated by SANDAG in cooperation with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol.

Caltrans

California Department of Transportation: The state agency responsible for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the state highway system. Caltrans’ mission is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California’s economy and livability. The State system includes interstate freeways and state highways.

Cap-and-Trade Program

A market-based program that limits greenhouse gas emissions from outputters and creates an exchange market in which to trade credits.

Carpool

An arrangement in which two or more people share the use of a privately-owned automobile to travel together to and from pre-arranged destinations.

Carsharing

Organized short-term auto rental, often located in downtown areas near public transit stops, as well as near residential communities, and employment centers. Carsharing organizations operate fleets of rental vehicles that are available for short trips by members who pay a subscription fee, plus a per trip charge.

CCAA

California Clean Air Act: A California law passed in 1988 that provides the basis for air quality planning and regulation, independent of federal regulations.

CHP

California Highway Patrol: The state law enforcement agency responsible for highway safety.

Chronic Diseases

Chronic diseases include heart disease, stroke, asthma, diabetes, and cancer, which cause long-term health problems. Poor nutrition and a lack of physical activity are cited as the primary causes for chronic diseases, among other factors.

CHSRA

California High-Speed Rail Authority: CHSRA was created by the California Legislature in 1996 to develop a plan for the construction, operation, and financing of a statewide, intercity high-speed passenger rail system.

Climate Action Strategy

The Climate Action Strategy is a guide for SANDAG on climate change policy and identifies a range of potential policy measures for consideration as SANDAG updates long-term planning documents.

The Climate Action Strategy helps SANDAG identify land use, transportation, and related policy measures and investments that could reduce greenhouse gases from passenger cars and light-duty trucks as part of the development of a Sustainable Communities Strategy in compliance with Senate Bill 375.

CMAQ

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program: A category of funds contained in MAP-21 for projects and activities that reduce congestion and improve air quality in regions not yet attaining federal air quality standards.

CMP

Congestion Management Program: Required of every county in California with a population of 50,000 or more to qualify for certain state and federal funds. CMPs set performance standards for roads and public transit, and show how local agencies will attempt to meet those standards. The CMP is required to be adopted by the Congestion Management Agency, and it must be consistent with the adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The San Diego region elected to be exempt from the California State CMP in October 2009.

CNG

Compressed Natural Gas: A clean-burning alternative fuel for vehicles.

COG

Council of Governments: A voluntary organization of local governments that strives for comprehensive regional planning. SANDAG is the Council of Governments in the San Diego region.

COI

Childhood Obesity Initiative: A public/private partnership whose mission is to reduce and prevent childhood obesity in San Diego County by creating healthy environments for all children and families through advocacy, education, policy development, and environmental change.

Community Plan

More specific versions of General Plans, generally dealing with smaller geographical areas, but having the same force of law. See General Plan.

Commuter

A person who travels regularly between home and work or school.

Commuter Rail

Conventional rail passenger service within a metropolitan area. Service is primarily in the morning (home-to-work) and afternoon (work-to-home) travel periods.

Compass Card

An electronic fare medium based on contactless smart card technology. The Compass Card may hold either transit products or cash for use on regional transit services, such as bus, Trolley, COASTER, and SPRINTER. Transit products may include, but are not limited to, monthly passes, post-secondary passes, single-day and multi-day passes, and stored value. Passengers must tap their Compass Card on a validator equipped with wireless technology in order to utilize transportation services.

Complete Neighborhoods

A Complete Neighborhood is a neighborhood that promotes the ability of residents to walk easily and access all of the goods and services needed in daily life.

Conformity

A demonstration of whether a federally-supported activity is consistent with the State Implementation Plan — per Section 176 (c) of the Clean Air Act. Transportation conformity applies to plans, programs, and projects approved or funded by the Federal Highway Administration or the Federal Transit Administration.

Congestion

Congestion is usually defined as travel time or delay in excess of what is normally experienced under free-flow traffic conditions. Congestion is typically accompanied by lower speeds, stop-and-go travel conditions, or queuing, such as behind ramp meters or heavily-used intersections.

Conventional Highway

A highway with no control of access, which may be divided or have grade separations at intersections.

Corridor

A broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow connecting major trip origins and destinations. A corridor may contain a number of streets, highways, as well as bike routes, and transit route alignments.

CTC

California Transportation Commission: A state agency that sets state spending priorities for many state and federally funded highway and transit projects, and allocates funds to those projects. CTC members are appointed by the governor.

DEFM

Demographic and Economic Forecasting Model: DEFM is an econometric forecasting model with a demographic module. It produces annual forecasts of the size and structure of the region's economy, and a demographic forecast consistent with that future economy. Outputs include data such as the size and composition of the region's population, employment by industrial sector, household and personal income, and housing units by structure type, vacancy status and persons per household, labor force, and school enrollment.

Demand Responsive Service

Transit service that is provided in response to a pre-ordered or telephone reservation.

Development Impact Fee

A fee charged to private developers, usually on a per-dwelling-unit or per-square-foot basis, to help pay for infrastructure improvements necessitated as a result of the development.

Diamond Awards

A program sponsored by SANDAG that honors employers who have developed, maintained, and marketed superior transportation benefit programs for their employees.

Disadvantaged Communities

For San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan, disadvantaged communities are identified as minority, low-income, and senior populations. The term "minority" is described by the Federal Highway Administration as: Black (having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa); Hispanic (of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race); Asian American (having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or American Indian and Alaskan Native (having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition). Low-income populations are those with income levels below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Rate and senior populations include anyone 75 years old and older.

DOT

Department of Transportation: At the federal level, the cabinet agency headed by the Secretary of Transportation that is responsible for highways, transit, aviation, and ports. The DOT includes the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and other agencies. The state DOT is Caltrans.

Drive Alone

See SOV

Dynamic Ridesharing

Technology that matches drivers and riders in real time, right before their trips, thereby reducing congestion, pollution, and travel costs to the individual.

EAP

Early Action Program: A variety of high-priority *TransNet* transportation projects that have been accelerated into construction. Projects include highway, transit, active transportation, and goods movement.

EDC

Economic Development Corporation: Enhances regional economic competitiveness and supports key industries with policy priorities to improve the region's emerging industries, workforce, infrastructure, transportation, housing, and access to capital.

EIR

Environmental Impact Report: A detailed statement prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that describes and analyzes the significant environmental effects of a project, and discusses ways to mitigate or avoid the effects.

Emerging Technologies

Technological advances that can be applied to the transportation system and to personal vehicles to reduce congestion, increase efficiency, and improve safety. Emerging transportation technologies include, but are not limited to, zero emissions vehicles, transit vehicle technologies, smart parking, mobility hubs, universal transportation account, etc.

EMP

Environmental Mitigation Program: Provides *TransNet* funding for the mitigation of local and regional transportation projects, and additional funding for activities that help implement the region's habitat preservation plans.

Energy Roadmap Program

A joint program between SANDAG and SDG&E that provides a framework to member agencies to reduce energy use and result in economic and environmental benefits.

Environmental Justice

The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes during the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

E-work

See Telework

Expressway

Similar to a freeway, but with some signal-controlled intersections.

FAA

Federal Aviation Administration: The federal agency that regulates the use of airspace and is responsible for evaluating and disseminating information about hazards and obstructions to aviation. FAA is a component of the federal DOT.

Farebox Recovery Ratio

The proportion of operating expenses covered by passenger fares. The ratio divides the farebox revenue by the total operating expenses.

Fare Structure

The varying fees charged to use transit, normally differing by the age of the transit rider, single versus multiple transit trips, the type of service (Trolley, bus, etc.), and, for some types of services, the length of the trip.

FasTrak®

The FasTrak® Program uses electronic toll collection technology to employ dynamic pricing that allows solo drivers to use the lanes for a fee. The net revenues generated by the program are used to improve transit and carpool services along the I-15 and SR 125 corridor.

Ferry

A regular service provided via ship for persons that transports passengers over a relatively short distance.

FHWA

Federal Highway Administration: The federal agency responsible for the administration of federal highway funds, and issuing policy and procedures for implementing federal legislative directives. FHWA is a component of the federal DOT.

Fiscal Year

The 12-month period established for budgeting purposes. In California, the commonly accepted fiscal year for governmental purposes begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

Fixed Route Service

Service provided on a regular, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route, with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers to specific locations.

FMCSA

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration: The federal agency responsible with preventing commercial motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries. FMCSA is a component of the federal DOT.

Food Hubs

Integrated food distribution systems that address agricultural production and the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of the local or regionally-produced food products.

FRA

Federal Railroad Administration: The FRA is a component of the federal DOT, and is concerned with intermodal transportation to enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods.

Freeway

A divided highway with limited access and grade-separated junctions, and without traffic lights or stop signs.

FSP

Freeway Service Patrol: An ongoing program to provide a roving tow and motorist aid service with technicians who assist or remove stranded and disabled vehicles on designated urban freeways and state roadways during weekday morning, midday, and afternoon rush hours and on weekends. FSP is operated by SANDAG in cooperation with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol.

FTA

Federal Transit Administration: The federal agency responsible for administering federal transit funds. FTA is part of the federal DOT.

Gas Tax

The tax applied to each gallon of fuel sold. Currently, the federal government has imposed a per-gallon tax of 18.4 cents, and the state has imposed a per-gallon excise tax of 35.3 cents per gallon.

General Plan

A policy document required of California cities and counties by state law that describes a jurisdiction's future development in general terms. All land use decisions must be derived from this document. The General Plan contains a set of broad policy statements about the goals for the jurisdiction, and it also must contain seven mandatory elements: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety.

GHG Emissions

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Gases that influence global climate change. They include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

GIS

Geographic Information System

Grade Separation

A physical and/or structural separation between intersecting roads and/or railway tracks. One road or railway track typically travels over or under the other via an overpass, tunnel, or other structure.

GRH

Guaranteed Ride Home: A program that provides a free taxicab ride or 24-hour car rental up to three times per year to those commuters who carpool, vanpool, take an Express Bus, ride the COASTER, or bike/walk to work three or more times a week in the event of an unscheduled incident, overtime, or illness.

Heavy Rail

Railroad services that operate in a mixed-use environment on conventional railroad tracks. Heavy rail services include freight trains, Amtrak, Commuter Rail, and most conventional rail transit systems.

High Speed Rail

Designed for very high-speed long-distance intercity trips with long station spacing and dedicated grade-separated lines. Vehicles are steel wheel on steel track electrically-powered bidirectional train sets.

Highway

A general term usually referring to a state or federally designated urban or rural route designed to accommodate longer trips in the region.

Household

All people living in a housing unit, regardless of whether they are related to one another. Housing units include houses, condominiums, apartments, and mobile homes.

HOV

High Occupancy Vehicle: A vehicle that carries more than one occupant. Examples include carpools, vanpools, shuttles, and buses.

HOV Lane

High Occupancy Vehicle Lane: An exclusive road or traffic lane that typically has a higher operating speed and lower traffic volumes than a general purpose or mixed-flow lane. In California, vehicles that typically can use HOV lanes include carpools, vanpools, buses, other multi-passenger vehicles, motorcycles, and emergency vehicles, as well as decaled low-emission vehicles.

ICM

Integrated Corridor Management: This concept includes the connection and integration of the region's local and regional transportation management systems and centers to enable agencies to cooperatively manage the overall performance and operations of the local and regional transportation systems as unified multimodal network. This concept is a key element under the Multimodal Integration and Performance-Based Management TSM investment area.

iCommute

iCommute is a program managed by SANDAG that provides information to commuters and employers on commute choices, such as carpooling, vanpooling, Schoolpool carpooling programs for parents, public transportation, bicycling, Guaranteed Ride Home program (see GRH), and teleworking. iCommute operates a carpool ridematching service, the San Diego Regional Vanpool Program, the San Diego Regional Bike Locker Program, and the Guaranteed Ride Home Program.

I-15 IRP

I-15 Interregional Partnership: The I-15 IRP is a voluntary partnership of local officials representing SANDAG and the Western Riverside Council of Governments. The I-15 IRP works to identify and prioritize issues as well as implement recommended short- and long-term solutions related to the jobs/housing imbalance along the north I-15 corridor.

Incident

An incident may be a traffic collision, stalled vehicle, load spillage, or other event that affects one or more lanes of traffic.

Intercity Rail

Railroad passenger service that primarily serves longer trips, such as those between major cities or regions.

Intermodal

Passenger or freight transportation services which involve or use more than one type of transportation facility (or mode). Aviation, maritime, automobile and truck, rail, and transit are travel modes.

ITS

Intelligent Transportation Systems: A general classification of transportation technologies, management tools, and services made possible through advances in computer and communication technologies. ITS is used to make transportation systems safer and more efficient.

LEP

Limited English Proficiency

LIM

Low Income and Minority communities

LNG

Liquefied Natural Gas: An alternative liquid fuel derived from a natural gas that is cooled to below its boiling point so it becomes a liquid.

LOSSAN

Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo: The LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency coordinates planning and programming on the coastal rail line. SANDAG, Metropolitan Transit System, and North County Transit District are voting members of LOSSAN, along with regional transportation planning agencies in Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. LOSSAN sets priorities for improvements in the corridor that will increase the capacity of the rail line and the reliability of service.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard

State performance-based program to allow fuel providers and parties to choose from a mix of strategies to reduce transportation carbon emissions by 2020.

LRT

Light Rail Transit: A type of transit vehicle and service that uses steel wheels and operates on a dedicated guideway within a separate right-of-way or on the public street. LRT systems generally serve stations averaging one mile apart, and are not remotely controlled. The San Diego Trolley and the SPRINTER are LRT systems.

Managed Lanes (or Express Lanes)

These lanes provide access for carpools, vanpools, bus, and solo drivers who pay a fee to use the lanes. The lanes can be barrier-separated and some lanes can be reversed to go with the flow of traffic.

MAP-21

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century: Signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012. MAP-21 transforms the policy and programmatic framework for transportation investments by creating a streamlined and performance-based surface transportation program, and builds on many of the transit, highway, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies established in years prior.

Megaregion

Megaregions are interdependent groups of metropolitan areas in a single geographic area bound by interdependent relationships on several levels: environmental, economic, shared border infrastructure, a linked transportation system, related land use policies, history, and culture.

Mixed-Use

The combining of commercial, office, and residential land uses to provide easy pedestrian access and reduce the public's dependence on driving. It can be implemented in multi-story buildings containing businesses and retail stores on the lower floors, and homes on the upper floors.

Mobility Hubs

Transportation centers located at major transit stations that can provide an integrated suite of mobility options, amenities, and urban design enhancements that bridge the distance between transit and an individual's origin or destination.

Mode

One of the various forms of transportation, including automobile, transit, bike, and walking. Intermodal refers to the connection between modes; multimodal refers to the availability and/or use of multiple transportation modes.

Mode Split or Mode Share

The percentage of trips that use each of the various travel modes.

MPO

Metropolitan Planning Organization: A federally designated agency that is responsible for regional transportation planning in each metropolitan area. SANDAG is the MPO for the San Diego region.

MTS

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System: The agency created by the California legislature to operate in 570 square miles of the urbanized areas of San Diego County, as well as in the rural parts of East County. The system covers 3,240 total square miles, providing service to more than 2 million San Diego residents.

NAFTA

North American Free Trade Agreement: A formal agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States to promote ways to improve and increase free trade among the three countries.

NCTD

North County Transit District: The agency created by the California legislature to operate transit facilities in North San Diego County. Its geographical boundary encompasses 1,020 square miles of North San Diego County extending from Del Mar in the south, northeasterly to Escondido, north to the Riverside County line, and west to the Orange County line.

Non-Attainment Area

A geographic area identified by the United States EPA and/or the ARB as not meeting either the national or California Ambient Air Quality Standards for a given pollutant.

Off-Peak Period

The time of day when the lowest concentration of vehicles or transit riders is on the road or on another transit facility. These times are generally before 6 a.m., between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and after 6 p.m.

Paratransit

A specialized, door-to-door transport service for people with disabilities who are unable to use standard bus or commuter rail services.

Park-and-Ride

A travel option in which commuters park their personal vehicles in a public lot or other location, and continue their trip via carpool, vanpool, or transit.

Parking Management Toolbox

A range of parking management strategies for addressing specific challenges in varied community types and special uses.

Passenger Miles

The total number of passengers carried by a transit system, multiplied by the number of miles each passenger travels. Passenger miles are normally measured on a daily or annual basis.

Passenger Revenue

The value of cash, tickets, and pass receipts given by passengers for payment for rides on public transit.

Peak Period

The time of day when the highest concentrations of vehicles or transit riders are on the road or on another transit facility. The morning peak period is generally considered to be from 6 to 9 a.m.; the afternoon peak period is from 3 to 6 p.m.

PeMS

Performance Measuring System: The PeMS program uses urban freeway data collected through freeway loop detectors to provide current, ongoing data on freeway volumes and speeds that can be displayed graphically and exported to other monitoring applications.

Performance Measures

Objective, quantifiable measures used to evaluate the performance of the transportation system and to determine how improvements to the system are achieving established objectives.

Person Trip

Any person's one-way travel to any destination for any purpose. More specifically, a trip is the one-way movement from an origin to a destination. A chain of trips made up of a tour.

POE

Port of Entry: Trans-border facilities that process conveyances, passengers, and goods entering and exiting the United States.

Proactive Parking Programs

A proactive parking program relies on local data collection and analysis to identify current parking issues and evaluate parking management solutions. Proactive parking management seeks to continuously balance parking supply and demand to create a parking system that serves the needs of businesses, residents, and visitors alike.

PSR

Project Study Report: A preliminary engineering report that documents agreements on the scope, a set of reasonable and feasible alternatives, the schedule, and the estimated cost of a project so that the project can be included in a future State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

PTC

Positive Train Control: PTC is a state-of-the-art train signaling and communication system that improves the efficiency of operations and enhances safety.

Public Transit

See Public Transportation

Public Transportation

Travel by bus, rail, or other vehicle, either publicly or privately owned, that provides general or specialized service on a regular or continuing basis.

Ramp Metering

Electronic traffic control devices located at freeway access points to meter the entry of vehicles onto the freeway. The goal is to help optimize the movement of persons and vehicles.

Rapid

Provides rapid and frequent transit service along arterials and express lanes. Arterial *Rapid* bus services use signal priority and queue jumper lanes at major intersections, while freeway *Rapid* services utilize express lanes to maintain high-speed, reliable service. Examples include the Mid-City *Rapid* transit service. All day, all-stop trunk *Rapid* services can be complemented with peak-period commuter express services designed to provide very limited stop connections to major employment centers. Examples include San Diego Interstate 15 *Rapid* transit.

RAQS

Regional Air Quality Strategy: The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District developed the Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) pursuant to California Clean Air Act requirements. It identifies emission control measures to provide expeditious progress toward attaining the state ozone standard.

RCP

Regional Comprehensive Plan: A plan that serves as the foundation for integrating land uses, transportation systems, infrastructure needs, and public investment strategies within a regional smart growth framework. The RCP was adopted by SANDAG in 2004.

Regional Growth Forecast

The Regional Growth Forecast is long-range forecast of population, jobs, and housing units for the San Diego region and its neighborhoods. It extends to the year 2050 and is based on the general plans of each of the region's 19 jurisdictions

Reverse Commute

Travel in the direction opposite to the main flow of peak period commute traffic.

Ridership

The number of transit users, usually reported as a yearly total or as the average for a normal workday.

Ridesharing

A mode of travel in which at least two individuals share the same vehicle to get to their destination. Rideshare vehicles include private automobiles, privately owned and operated vans and buses, as well as public transportation.

Route Miles

The length of a transit route or service multiplied by the number of trips made by transit vehicles or trains each day.

ROW

Right-of-Way: The land required for the construction and/or operation of transportation infrastructure.

RTIP

Regional Transportation Improvement Program: A five-year listing of major highway, transit, and active transportation projects including project costs, funding sources, and development schedules. Compiled from priority lists submitted by local jurisdictions and transportation agencies.

RTMS

Regional Transit Management System: A management tool used to monitor and report on the performance of the transit system in real time, used for more than 50 percent of the region's fixed route services.

RTP

Regional Transportation Plan: A minimum 20-year plan that is required by state and federal law to guide the development of the region's transportation system. San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan includes all required elements of a RTP.

RTPA

Regional Transportation Planning Agency: A state-designated agency responsible for preparing the RTP and the RTIP, and for administering state transportation funds. SANDAG is the San Diego region's Regional Transportation Planning Agency.

Safe Routes to School

A state and federal program that funds education, encouragement campaigns, and infrastructure improvements to help decrease traffic congestion around schools, and to make the journey to school on foot or bike safer and more feasible for children.

Safe Routes to Transit

A program that funds strategies to address the challenges of getting to and from a transit stop or station. These strategies include first-mile/last-mile solutions such as enhanced pedestrian crosswalks near transit stations, bike lanes that connect to transit and bike parking at transit stations, feeder-distributor bus/shuttle routes, carsharing/station cars, mobility hubs, and ridesharing.

SAFETEA-LU

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users: Federal legislation signed into law on August 10, 2005, authorizing \$244.1 billion for Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway

safety, and transit for the five-year period between 2005 and 2009. Congress approved a series of extensions, known as Continuing Resolutions, to keep federal funds flowing until the passage of MAP-21 in 2012.

SANDAG

San Diego Association of Governments: SANDAG is responsible for long-range transportation planning and programming under both federal and state laws.

SCS

Sustainable Communities Strategy: A new element of the RTP, as required by [SB 375](#),² that demonstrates how development patterns and the transportation network, policies, and programs can work together to achieve the targets set by ARB for reducing regional [greenhouse gas emissions](#)³ from cars and light trucks in a region.

SD&AE

San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway: The SD&AE Railway straddles the United States – Mexico border, connecting San Diego, Tijuana, Tecate, and the Imperial Valley.

Shared-Use Mobility

Shared ownership of a service or program to provide commuters who use alternative transportation with a reliable option to make other trips (carsharing, bikesharing, Transportation Network Companies, etc.).

SHOPP

State Highway Operation and Protection Program: Caltrans' three-year program to address traffic safety, roadway rehabilitation, roadside rehabilitation, or operations needs on the state highway system.

SIDUE

Secretaría de Infraestructura y Desarrollo Urbano: State of Baja California Secretariat of Infrastructure and Urban Development.

SIP

State Implementation Plan: A document that shows the steps planned to meet federal air quality standards (outlined in the Clean Air Act). Each non-attainment area prepares an air quality improvement plan; those are combined to make up the statewide SIP.

Skyway

A cable and tower system used to transport people and goods in suspended cabins through diverse terrain. Often referred to as "aerial trams" or "aerial gondolas."

Smart Growth

A compact, efficient, and environmentally-sensitive pattern of development that provides people with additional travel, housing, and employment choices by focusing future growth away from rural areas and closer to existing and planned job centers and public facilities, while preserving open space and natural resources.

Smart Parking

Parking inventory-management system that provides the ability to disseminate real-time parking information and maximize the use of parking facilities.

Social Equity

Social Equity means ensuring that all people are treated fairly and are given equal opportunity to participate in the planning and decision-making process, with an emphasis on ensuring that traditionally disadvantaged groups are not left behind.

SOV

Single Occupant Vehicle: A vehicle with one occupant – the driver. Also referred to as a "drive alone."

SPRINTER

The SPRINTER light rail train system provides service between Oceanside and Escondido. It is operated by NCTD.

State Highway

A state-designated roadway. It may be urban or rural.

STIP

State Transportation Improvement Program: A multi-year program of major transportation projects to be funded by the state. The CTC adopts the STIP every two years, based on projects proposed in RTIPs and from Caltrans.

STP

Surface Transportation Program: A federal program that provides flexible funding allocated by regional agencies such as SANDAG for a wide range of projects including highways, transit, local streets and roads, and bicycles.

Streetcar

Designed for short-distance trips with station spacing every few blocks or every quarter-mile on average. Streetcars are designed for dense urban areas, such as downtown areas and operates either in mixed traffic with automobiles or on a dedicated right-of-way.

Sustainability

Sustainability means simultaneously meeting current economic, environmental, and community needs while also not jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

TAZ

Traffic Analysis Zone: a geographic unit used for transportation modeling. A TAZ is smaller than a census tract and a Trip Distribution Zone (TDZ).

TCM

Transportation Control Measure: A transportation strategy intended to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and to make VMT more efficient. TCMs include transportation system management (TSM) and transportation demand management (TDM) elements. Examples include carpooling, transit, and computer-optimized traffic signals.

TCRP

Transportation Congestion Relief Program

TDA

Transportation Development Act: TDA funds are generated from a tax of one-quarter of 1 percent on all retail sales in each county. Funds are used for transit, specialized transit for disabled people, and bike and pedestrian purposes.

TDM

Transportation Demand Management: Programs to reduce demand by automobiles on the transportation system, by promoting telecommuting, flex-time, bicycling, walking, transit use, staggered work hours, and ridesharing.

Telework

Teleworkers or e-workers are employees who conduct some or all of their daily work activities from their home or from a remote site other than the normal work site, in order to avoid commuting during peak periods.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act states that “no person in the United States, shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

TOD

Transit-Oriented Development: Residential and employment growth that occurs near existing and planned public transit facilities.

Tour

A basic modeling unit in an activity based model. It is a journey that begins and ends at home. A tour includes a chain of trips.

TPP

Transit Priority Project: Under SB 375, a project is exempt from CEQA if it: (1) qualifies as a “transit priority project” and (2) meets the “sustainable communities project” requirements as declared by the legislative body of the local jurisdiction.

TransCAD

A commercial software that specializes in transportation modeling such as highway and transit assignment, highway and transit path skim to create zone-to-zone distance and travel time impedances.

Transit

See Public Transportation

Transit Management System

A field operations management system that enables improved transit route planning, scheduling, and performance monitoring.

TransNet

A half-cent local sales tax that San Diego region voters approved in 1987. Administered by SANDAG, this 20-year program generated nearly \$3 billion in funding, which was divided equally among three major transportation categories: highways, public transit, and local streets.

TransNet Extension

The *TransNet* sales tax, approved in 1987, expired in 2008. In November 2004, more than 67 percent of voters countywide approved an extension of the *TransNet* program to 2048. This 40-year extension will generate more than \$14 billion for transportation improvements, and it includes an innovative \$850 million environmental mitigation program (EMP).

Transportation Network Companies

Transportation Network Companies provide prearranged, on-demand transportation services using an online, and oftentimes, mobile application.

Transportation Performance Monitoring

Programs that monitor and provide current information about the multimodal transportation system, identify opportunities for improvements, and assess future impacts.

Trip

See Person Trip and/or Vehicle Trip

Trolley

The San Diego Trolley is the urban light rail transit service currently provided in the San Diego region. MTS operates three primary lines named the [Blue Line](#), the [Orange Line](#), and the [Green Line](#).

TSM

Transportation Systems Management: Strategies that allow transportation systems to operate in a way that maximizes the number of people traveling in a corridor or facility. These strategies include traffic flow improvements, ramp metering, tracking public transit vehicles, and keeping travelers informed.

TSP

Transit Signal Priority: Emerging technology that uses GPS along with bus route schedules and real-time performance data to request priority treatment at particular intersections, as necessary.

UATS

Urban Area Transit Strategy: A strategy developed by SANDAG in 2010 to create a robust transit network that maximizes transit ridership in the greater urbanized areas of the San Diego region.

Universal Transportation Account

An access account that combines all forms of public transportation payment into a single user-friendly interface.

Urban Agriculture

Refers to neighborhood and community gardens and growing locally sourced produce to support families on a neighborhood scale.

U.S. DOT

United States Department of Transportation: The federal cabinet-level agency with responsibility for highways, mass transit, aviation, and ports, and headed by the Secretary of Transportation. The DOT includes the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, among other agencies.

U.S. EPA

United States Environmental Protection Agency: The federal agency charged with setting policy and guidelines, and carrying out legal mandates, for the protection of national interests in environmental resources.

Vanpool

A vehicle operating as a ridesharing arrangement, providing transportation to a group of individuals typically traveling directly between their homes and employment locations within the same geographic area.

Vehicle Trip

A single vehicle movement from the beginning of travel to its destination, in a vehicle that is motor-driven (e.g., automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, buses, and vans).

VMT

Vehicle Miles Traveled: The total number of miles traveled on all roadways by all vehicles. Reducing VMT can help ease traffic congestion and improve air quality.

Work Trip

Any "person" or "vehicle" trip whose purpose (on at least one trip end) involves work or work-related business.

Endnotes

- ¹ <http://511sd.com/motoristaid/callboxprogram>
- ² <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/sb375.htm>
- ³ <http://www.sandag.org/index.asp?projectid=376&fuseaction=projects.detail>