



Glossary

Additional terms related to the transportation industry and technology can be referenced through the Transportation Research Thesaurus, of the Transportation Research Board. This tool can be accessed through trt.trb.org.



Access	Ability to make convenient use of the transportation system.
Access point	Any point that allows entrance to or exit from the traveled way of a freeway. (This includes “locked gate” access.)
Accessible Transportation	Ability to make convenient use of the transportation system.
Active Warning Device	Flashing lights and/or gates used at grade crossings.
Advance Warning Signals	A sign used along a roadway to warn that a roadway-rail grade crossing is ahead.
Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT)	Seeking to improve transportation for people with special needs, ACCT proposes mix of immediate actions, stakeholder discussions, and demonstration projects.
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	This 1990 federal legislation mandates changes in building codes, transportation, and hiring practices to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities involving federal dollars, including federally and non-federally funded transportation projects
Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)	Daily traffic that is averaged over a calendar year.
Arterial	A major street carrying the traffic of local and collector streets to and from freeways and other major streets. Arterials generally have traffic signals at intersections and may have limits on driveway spacing and street intersection spacing. Arterials are most likely to be designated as X roadways of regional significance.”
Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI)	The use of AVI includes applications such as weigh station bypass, travel time and speed measurements and for electronic toll collection (ETC). It has become widely deployed over the last twenty (20) years.
Average Daily Traffic (ADT)	The average number of vehicles that pass a specified point during a period. Unless otherwise stated, the period is a year.
Average Vehicle Occupancy (AVO):	The average number of persons traveling in a vehicle on a facility.


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Basic Access	Defined by each community, it is a term that describes the ability of people to live independently - in terms of transportation.
Bottleneck	Places where roadways physically narrow, causing congestion (examples: lane drops; narrowing shoulders).
Bridge Deficiencies	Seismically vulnerable, weight restricted, narrow width
Bridge Types	There are four main types of bridges: beam bridges, cantilever bridges, arch bridges and suspension bridges


C

Capacity	The maximum amount of traffic or people that can be accommodated on a transportation facility at any point in time.
Centennial Accord	The Centennial Accord was created in 1989 to commemorate one hundred years of statehood, with a promise to improve tribal/state relations. It is an agreement between the State of Washington and the federally recognized Indian Tribes to work together to improve services to all of Washington's citizens.
Chokepoint	Places where delay occurs because of traffic interference and/or the roadway configuration (examples: freeway interchanges; lack of left turn lanes at intersections; seasonal road closures).
Clean Air Act (CAA)	Originally passed in 1963, the 1970 version of the federal law, together with amendments in 1990, form the basis for the national air pollution control program. Basic elements of the act include national ambient air quality standards for major air pollutants, hazardous air pollutants standards, state attainment plans, motor vehicle emissions standards, stationary source emissions standards and permits, acid rain control measures, stratospheric ozone protection, and enforcement provisions.
Clearance (vertical)	Vertical clearance is the critical height under a structure that will safely accommodate vehicular and rail traffic based on its design characteristics. This height is the least available from the lower surface (including usable shoulders), or the plane of the top of the rails, to the bottom of the encroaching structure.
Collision	When a vehicle impacts a person or object.
Collision Type	Fatal, disabling injury, serious injury, evident injury, possible injury, property damage only.

Commercial Service Airport	Any airport that provides scheduled passenger service
Commercial Vehicle Information System Network (CVISN)	CVISN provides the ability to weigh vehicles in motion, automatically clear those that meet state transportation standards, and check vehicle licenses and permits against state records. It also provides private sector commercial vehicle owners with the ability to electronically purchase licenses and permits. This is accomplished through electronic interfaces with legacy systems at DOL, WSP, and DOT.
Commuter Trip Reduction (CTR)	The Washington State Legislature passed the Commuter Trip Reduction (CTR) Law in 1991, incorporating it into the Washington Clean Air Act. The goals of the program are to reduce traffic congestion, reduce air pollution, and petroleum consumption through employer-based programs that decrease the number of commute trips made by people driving alone. wwwi.wsdot.wa.gov/pubtran/ctrdefault.htm
Commuter Rail	Operates between a central city and its suburbs, and runs on a railroad right-of-way. The Sound Transit's commuter rail system in Puget Sound is a commuter rail.
Concurrent	A term used in the Growth Management Act that describes the requirement that supporting infrastructure must be in place or “concurrent with the development” to accommodate transportation impacts, or a financial commitment is in place to provide the improvements or strategies within six years.
Congestion	It occurs when the demand is greater than the transportation system's capacity. Recurrent congestion is caused by constant excess volume compared with capacity. Nonrecurring congestion is caused by actions such as special events and/or traffic incidents.
Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvement	Provides federal funding for surface transportation and other related projects that contribute to air quality improvements and congestion mitigation in areas that do not meet ambient air quality standards or may have trouble meeting those standards (non-attainment or maintenance areas).
Context Sensitive Solutions	A collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. www.wsdot.wa.gov/eesc/design/Urban/Default.htm
Corridor	A path or guided way. In planning, a broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow or connects major sources of trips. It may contain a number of streets and highways and transit lines and routes.
Critical Areas	As a key part in managing growth in Washington, the Growth Management Program requires that every county and city classify and designate critical areas: wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and rare/endangered plant habitat.
Culvert	The culvert is the conduit through which flow passes. Culverts can be made of many different materials. Steel and Concrete are the two most common. It may be used to allow water to pass underneath a road, railway, or embankment for example.



Daily Vehicle Delay (DVD)	The sum of hourly delay values (for 24 hours) for all vehicles traveling on a typical day for both directions in one mile of roadway.
Deficiency	The condition when a facility does not meet adopted level of service standards.
Delay	An indicator of transportation level of service at intersection measured as the length of time at which a vehicle is stopped.
Demand Management	Changing or reducing demand for car use by encouraging the behavioral change of household choices of travel. Transportation Demand Management is used increasingly by urban planners to affect the rate at which new development attracts cars and increases the need for new or expanded roadways.
Demand-Response Service	Curb-to-curb transportation for individuals who are not able to utilize a regular fixed route bus service. See also, On Demand Service.
Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)	The written decision by the responsible official of the SEPA lead agency that a proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and therefore an EIS is not required. WAC 197-11-734.
Determination of Significance (DS)	The written decision by the responsible official of the SEPA lead agency that a proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact and therefore an EIS is required. The DS form is in WAC 197-11-980 and must be used substantially in that form. WAC 197-11-736.
Direct Access Ramp	An on-ramp to a limited access highway intended for HOV use.
DOE	Washington State Department of Ecology is Washington's principal environmental management agency. Our mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's environment, and promote the wise management of our air, land, and water for the benefit of current and future generations. Our goals are to prevent pollution, clean up pollution, and support sustainable communities and natural resources.
DOL	Washington State Department of Licensing. The Department of Licensing (DOL) is comprised of five divisions: Driver Services, Vehicle Services, Business & Professions, Information Services, and Management Services.
Driving Under the Influence (DUI)	The act of operating a motor vehicle (and sometimes a bicycle or similar human-powered vehicle) after having consumed alcohol (ethanol) or other drugs, to the degree that mental and motor skills are impaired.



Easement	A right to use or control the property of another for designated purposes.
Economic Clusters	Conglomerations of related businesses.
Economic Sectors	Major economic sectors are: Construction, Mining, Manufacturing , Retail, Wholesale Trade, Transportation, and Service
Economic Vitality	Defined locally, this economic term is typically inclusive of quality of life issues.
Ecosystem	An ecosystem is an abbreviation of the term, ecological system. Ecosystems can be as big as the Sahara Desert or as small as a pond.
Eighteenth Amendment	Amendment to the State Constitution passed in 1944, stating that motor vehicle license fees, gas tax, and other state revenue intended for highway purposes may only be used for highway purposes. www1.leg.wa.gov/LawsAndAgencyRules/constitution.htm (Article 2, section 40)
Emergency Management System	Minimizes the impacts of emergencies and disasters on the people, property, environment, and economy of Washington State. Establishes emergency management functions and the responsibilities of the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD), state agencies, commissions, boards, and councils. emd.wa.gov/3-pet/pal/cemp/01-cemp-idx.htm
Endangered Species Act	The purposes of this Act are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve this conservation.
Environmental Assessment	A document prepared for federally funded, permitted, or licensed projects that are not categorical exclusions (CE) but do not appear to be of sufficient magnitude to require an EIS. The EA provides sufficient analysis and documentation to determine if an EIS or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) should be prepared.
Environmental Checklist	A state SEPA document used by the authorized agency to determine if an action will significantly impact the environment. The checklist form contained in WAC 197-11-960 is used for all actions not categorically exempt or not clearly requiring an EIS.
Environmental Document	A collective term used for any document that identifies the social, economic, and environmental effects of a proposed action.
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	A detailed written statement of project environmental effects required by state and/or federal law. This term refers to either a draft or final environmental impact statement, or both, depending on context.

Environmental Justice (EJ)

EJ provides for the protection of low income and minority populations from disproportionately high and adverse social, economic, and environmental impacts as it relates to federal programs and activities.

The EPA defines EJ as the “fair treatment for people of all races, cultures, and incomes, regarding the development of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Over the last decade, attention to the impact of environmental pollution on particular segments of our society has been steadily growing. Concern that minority populations and/or low-income populations bear a disproportionate amount of adverse health and environmental effects, led President Clinton to issue Executive Order 12898 in 1994, focusing Federal agency attention on these issues.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 set a standard, which authoritatively outlaws discrimination in the conduct of all federal activities. This is the driving force behind Environmental Justice.

Essential Public Facilities

Under GMA: Defined in RCW 36.70A.200 to include airports, state or regional transportation facilities as defined in RCW 47.06.140, including improvements to facilities and services of statewide significance identified in the statewide multi-modal plan, and other public facilities that are difficult to site.

Events of Statewide Significance

Events of statewide significance create challenges for completing transportation assets. The World’s Fair, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, and being a neighbor to the 2010 Winter Olympics in British Columbia are examples of events of statewide significance. Prior to these events taking place there is a need for coordinated planning, partnership development, fundraising and collaboration among many local, tribal, state, and federal entities and organizations.



Financing

A series of actions to be taken which will result in a system of projects and services being provided based on the identification of needs, cost estimates, assessment of the ability to pay, the development of financial policies and financing schedule, the establishment of forecasted cash flow, and priorities to govern management of the system.

Freeway

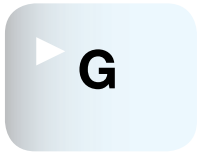
A divided arterial highway designed for the safe non-impeded movement of large volumes of traffic, with full control of access and grade separations at intersections.

Freight

Denotes goods or produce being transported generally for commercial gain, usually on a ship, plane, train or truck.

Freight and Goods Transportation System (FGTS)

A statewide network and classification system of state highways, county roads, and city streets that carry freight. Routes are classified by total tonnages of freight carried per year. General costs associated with administering, planning, and operating the transportation system.



General Aviation	The term general aviation describes any flight other than a military or scheduled airline flight, ranging from gliders and powered parachutes to large, non-scheduled cargo jet flights. As a result, the majority of the world's air traffic falls into this category, and the vast majority of the world's airports serve general aviation exclusively.
General Purpose Lane (GP)	Lane opened to all vehicular traffic.
Geographical Information System (GIS)	A system of hardware, software, and data for collecting, storing, analyzing, and disseminating information about areas of the Earth. For Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) purposes, Geographical Information System (GIS) is defined as a highway network (spatial data which graphically represents the geometry of the highways, an electronic map) and its geographically referenced component attributes (HPMS section data, bridge data, and other data including socioeconomic data) that are integrated through GIS technology to perform analyses. From this, GIS can display attributes and analyze results electronically in map form.
Global Gateways	Public and private infrastructure that facilitates international and national trade flows through Washington State.
Globalization	Globalization refers to the worldwide phenomenon of technological, economic, political and cultural exchanges, brought about by modern communication, transportation and legal infrastructure as well as the political choice to consciously open cross-border links in international trade and finance. It is a term used to describe how human beings are becoming more intertwined with each other around the world economically, politically, and culturally. Although these links are not new, they are more pervasive than ever before.
Grade Crossing	The area along the track where a roadway or pathway crosses.
Grade Separation	A vertical separation of intersecting facilities (road, rail, etc.) by the provision of crossing structures. For example, a rail/highway intersection where there is a tunnel or a bridge.
Grade-Separated	Crossing lines of traffic that are vertically separated from each other (i.e., a roadway that goes over or under a railroad track).
Gray Notebook	A periodic report prepared by WSDOT staff to track a variety of performance and accountability measures for routine review. www.wsdot.wa.gov/accountability/GrayNotebook.pdf
Groundwater	Supply of fresh water found beneath the earth's surface, usually in aquifers, that supply wells and springs.
Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers	The 2006 legislative changes to the Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program make the program more efficient and effective by focusing on congested state highways. One new tool provided is the GTEC. These are higher density

(GTEC) centers where CTR can be applied more intensively to support local economic development, achievement of the regional transportation plan goals and increased person throughput on the highway system. The statutory changes encourage state, regional transportation planning organizations and local governments to prioritize road, transit, non-motorized, and transportation demand management (TDM) funds for these growth and transportation efficiency centers.

Growth Management Act (GMA—RCW 36.70a and RCW 47.80)

Adopted in 1990 and all associated amendments since that time. Passed by the state legislature in 1990, and amended in 1991, GMA addresses the negative consequences of unprecedented population growth and suburban sprawl in Washington. The GMA requires all cities and counties in the state to do some planning and has more extensive requirements for the largest and fastest-growing counties and cities in the state. Its requirements include guaranteeing the consistency of transportation and capital facilities plans with land use plans.



Habitat The place where a population (human, animal or plant) lives and its surroundings.

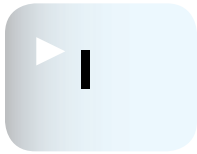
High Capacity Transit A public transit system, such as rail, that can accommodate large volumes of riders.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) A vehicle with enough people to travel in the HOV lane. In Washington, all HOV lanes require vehicles with two or more persons, and Eastbound SR 520 where three or more people are required. All motorcycles are also allowed, even with only one person. www.wsdot.wa.gov/HOV/default.htm

High Volume Locations Places that approach or exceed designed volume capabilities.

Highway Runoff Manual Directs the planning and design of stormwater management facilities for existing and new Washington State highways, rest areas, park and ride lots, ferry terminals, and highway maintenance facilities throughout the state. www.wsdot.wa.gov/fasc/EngineeringPublications/Manuals/HighwayRunoff2004.pdf


Highways of Statewide Significance (HSS) Highways of statewide significance (HSS) include, at a minimum, interstate highways and other principal arterials that are needed to connect major communities in the state. The designation helps assist with the allocation and direction of funding. The HSS was mandated by the 1998 legislature through enactment of Substitute House Bill SHB 1487 and codified into RCW 47.06.140. The HSS was designated by the Transportation Commission through Resolution #584 on December 17, 1998. The Legislature concurred and adopted the HSS, including a map and route list through House Joint Memorial 4006 on April 14, 1999. For more information on HSS go to the WSDOT HSS website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/ppsc/hsp/hss.htm



Impact Area	The geographic area within which the traffic impacts of a development must be evaluated.
Incident Response	Program to help clear roads, help drivers of disabled vehicles, and help restore the normal flow of traffic as safely and quickly as possible. www.wsdot.wa.gov/incidentresponse/default.htm
Infrastructure	The set of interconnected transportation elements that provide the framework for moving people and goods.
Innovative Financing	Innovative finance for surface transportation infrastructure is a broadly defined term that encompasses a combination of techniques and specially designed mechanisms to supplement traditional financing sources and methods. Innovative finance for surface transportation includes such measures such as: new or non-traditional sources of revenue; new financing mechanisms designed to leverage resources; new funds management techniques; and new institutional arrangements.
Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)	Generally refers to the application of advanced electronics and computer technology to automate highway and vehicle systems to enable more efficient and safer use of existing highways. www.wsdot.wa.gov/biz/atb/default.htm
Intercity Rail	Connects central city to central city on a railroad right-of-way in densely traveled corridors. Locally, the Amtrak Cascades train from Seattle to Portland is an example of intercity rail.
Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act (ISTEA)	The 1991 law that reauthorized the \$155 billion federal surface transportation program for six years. ISTEA emphasizes diversity and balance of modes, as well as the preservation of existing systems before construction of new facilities. The federal legislation also increased reliance on regional planning agencies to weigh transportation options and make decisions utilizing public participation. The program has been reauthorized twice: TEA-21 in 1998 and SAFETEA-LU in 2005.



Land Use Element	The land use element of the comprehensive plan designates the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of the land. Land uses include, but not limited to the following, where appropriate: agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, public utilities, and public facilities. The land use element includes population densities, building intensities, and estimates of future population growth.
Larger Cities	Cities with a population of 22,500 or more.

Level of Service	<p>A qualitative assessment of a transportation system’s operating conditions. For local government comprehensive planning purposes, level of service means an indicator of the extent or degree of service provided by, or proposed to be provided by, a facility based on and related to the operational characteristics of the facility. Level of Service indicates the capacity per unit of demand for each public facility.</p> <p>(1) A qualitative rating of the effectiveness of a highway in serving traffic, measured in terms of operating conditions. Note: The Highway Capacity Manual identifies operating conditions ranging from “A” for free flow operations to “F” for forced or breakdown flow. (2) The quality and quantity of transportation service provided, including characteristics that are quantifiable (safety, travel time, frequency, travel cost, number of transfers) and those that are difficult to quantify (conform, availability, convenience, modal image).</p>
Level of Service Standards (LOS)	<p>A gauge for evaluating the quality of service on the transportation system. Described by travel times, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort, convenience, and safety.</p>
Life Cycle Cost	<p>The cost of a system or product over its entire life span.</p>
Light Rail	<p>A range of electric-powered rail systems, from street cars operated as single units on streets with mixed traffic to trains of vehicles operating in exclusive, grade separated rights-of-way. The distinction between light rail transit and heavy rail is primarily based on carrying capacity; the latter carries more passengers. Another difference is that light rail transit draws its power from overhead catenaries, while heavy rail’s power comes from an electric power source along the track.</p>
Local Needs	<p>The needs (deficiencies & solutions) for those city streets and county roads that are supported by state and local tax revenues and state grant programs.</p>
Lowest Life Cycle	<p>Cost In terms of highway pavement preservation, this is the point in a pavement’s lifecycle where optimum pavement life has been achieved and the least cost to resurface is obtained. Pavements that have gone beyond this optimum point typically incur more costs to rehabilitate.</p>
	
Main line Rail	<p>A Class I railroad’s primary track that usually extends great distances.</p>
Maintenance	<p>Those activities that ensure that the right-of-way and each type of roadway, roadway structure and facility remain, as nearly as practical in its original, as constructed condition or its subsequently improved condition, and the operation of roadway facilities and services to provide satisfactory and safe motor vehicle transportation.</p>
Maintenance Shed	<p>WSDOT specific term for buildings and grounds containing the necessities for maintenance operations including storage for equipment and materials.</p>
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	<p>An agency designated by a governor (or governors in multi-state areas) to administer the federally required transportation planning process for a metropolitan area. An MPO must be in place in every urbanized area with a population in excess of 50,000.</p> <p>www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/Metro/Default.htm</p>

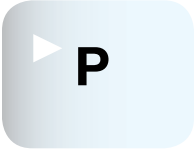
Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)	A detailed long-range transportation plan that guides future regional investments and responds to legal mandates contained in ISTEA, the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, and the State of Washington’s Growth Management Act.
Mitigation	Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.
Mobility	A measure of transportation service performance that takes into consideration the ability of a traveler to move from origin to destination at the time and with the travel mode desired.
Mode	A means of transportation for people and goods. Automobile travel, rail, air, ferries, etc., are different modes of travel.
Multimodal Transportation Systems	Buses, ferries, cars, bicycles, and aviation are all examples of modes of travel. In a multimodal transportation system, each of these components is factored in so that service can be delivered efficiently. For example, the waterfront trolley that conveys ferry passengers to a bus terminal might be considered an interdependent multimodal transportation system.



Nickel Package	The 2003 Washington State Legislature enacted the Nickel funding package (ESHB 1163). The revenue package funded 158 projects over a 10-year period. The package includes: 5 cents per gallon gas tax increase, 15 percent increase in gross weight fees on heavy trucks, 0.3 percent increase in the sales tax on motor vehicles.
Nonpoint Source	Pollution sources without a single point of origin. The pollutants are generally carried off the land by stormwater.
Non-Recurring Delay	About half of all congestion is “non-recurring,” or temporary disruptions in traffic flow. About one-quarter of congestion is due to traffic incidents ranging from disabled vehicles (due to flat tires, overheated engines, etc.) to fender-bender’s, to overturned tanker trucks. Other non-recurring disruptions include weather (15 percent), work zones (10 percent), and things such as special events (five percent).



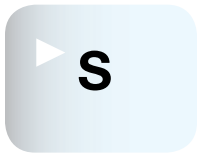
On Demand Service (Dial-a-Ride)	Dial-a-Ride services are specifically designed for passengers who are unable to access local bus services. Typically these services provide curb to curb transportation. See also, Demand Responsive Service.
Open space	Any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use such as preservation of natural resources, outdoor recreation not requiring development of play fields or structures, or public health and safety (flood control). Landscape settings having attributes that are predominantly natural in character.

Outfall	A structured drainage of stormwater runoff from highways or intersecting streams.
	
Pacific Rim	The Pacific Rim is a political and economic term used to designate the countries on the edges of the Pacific Ocean as well as the various island nations within the region.
Paratransit	Transit service that is publicly or privately operated, scheduled, or dispatched upon demand, providing “point-to-point” transit service. Normally used in specialized applications with user eligibility limitations (e.g., elderly and/or disabled) or where demand is not sufficient to support fixed-route service.
Park and Ride Lot	A parking facility for individuals to rendezvous for carpools, vanpools, or public transportation as a transfer of mode with their private automobile.
Pavement Condition	The elements of pavement condition rating are type of, severity of, and extent to which the roadway is affected by defects. www.wsdot.wa.gov/fasc/EngineeringPublications/Manuals/PSCRMan.pdf
Peak Period	The time period during which the maximum amount of travel occurs. Generally, there is a morning peak and an afternoon peak period, and less frequently, a midday peak period. The peak period usually extends for at least two hours, which encompasses the peak hour. Also see definition of Peak Spreading on next page.
Per Capita	A Latin phrase meaning for each head. Usually used to indicate the average per person of any given statistic, commonly income.
Plan	A method or scheme for achieving or doing something.
Point Source	Pollution source with a single point of origin.
Policy	A principle or course of action chosen to guide decision making.
Preservation	Those specialized maintenance activities that serve to extend the originally estimated useful life of each type of roadway, roadway structure and facility but do not increase its capacity or efficiency
Public Sector	That part of economic and administrative life that deals with the delivery of goods and services by and for the government, whether national, regional or local/municipal.
Public-Private Partnership	A system in which a government service or private business venture is funded and operated through a partnership of government and one or more private sector companies.
Public-Use Airport	Identified on the Federal Aviation Administration’s Airport Master Record as open for use by the general public. Public-use airports may be publicly- or privately-owned.

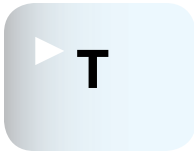



Real-Time Travel Information	Services such as weather and traffic reports on media like radio, web, and pager services as well as variable message signs. www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)	The Regional Transportation Plan is a product of the regional transportation planning process. It guides the improvement of the regional transportation system. The plan shall identify and address regional transportation issues. The Regional Transportation Planning Organization proposes it.
Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)	Authorized by the Legislature in 1990 as part of the Growth Management Act. They are voluntarily created by local governments to coordinate transportation planning among jurisdictions and to develop a regional transportation plan. Washington provides funding and a formal mechanism that is available to all local governments (and not only those required to plan under GMA) and the state to coordinate transportation planning for regional transportation facilities. www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/Metro/Default.htm
Reliability	In transit planning, if a train or bus arrives within 10 minutes of its schedule time, it is considered reliable. Reliability can be dictated by congestion on the tracks, delays at stations, and equipment malfunction.
Reservations	American Indian Reservation A federal American Indian reservation is an area that has been set aside by the United States for the use of one or more federally recognized American Indian tribes. Together with off-reservation trust land, a reservation covers territory over which one or more tribes have primary governmental authority. The boundary of a federal reservation is defined by tribal treaty, agreement, executive or secretarial order, federal statute, or judicial determination. A state American Indian reservation is an area that a state government has allocated to a tribe recognized by that state, but not by the federal government. American Indian reservations are known as colonies, communities, Indian communities, Indian villages, pueblos, rancherias, ranches, reservations, reserves, and villages. See American Indian off-reservation trust land, American Indian tribal subdivision, American Indian trust land, joint use area.
Return on Investment (ROI)	Benefits from investments, typically judged against time.
Revised Code of Washington (RCW)	Code enacted by the State of Washington and intended to embrace in a revised, consolidated, and codified form and arrangement all the laws of the state of a general and permanent nature. apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx
Right-of-Way (ROW)	The horizontal and vertical space occupied by the rail service. In the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor, the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) owns the right-of-way. Amtrak, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and Sound Transit run their trains on the BNSF's right-of-way through operating agreements. Technical Definition: A general term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.

Risk Factor	A variable associated with an increased risk but not necessarily causal.
Risk Taking Behavior	Human behavior involving the choice to incur some amount of risk.
Run off the Road	Term used when a vehicle unintentionally departs from the traveled way or a portion of the roadway intended for vehicular travel.
Rural	Sparsely settled places away from the influence of large cities and towns. Such areas are distinct from more intensively settled urban and suburban areas, and also from unsettled lands such as outback or wilderness. Rural areas can have an agricultural character, though many rural areas are characterized by an economy based on logging, mining, petroleum and natural gas exploration, or tourism.



Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)	SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009. www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/
Safety Rest Area	Safety Rest Areas contribute to highway safety by providing fatigued drivers safe and convenient facilities to stop and rest themselves before continuing with their journey. The department owns and operates forty-two Safety Rest Areas within our state. Twenty-seven of which are located on the Interstate System.
Scenic Byway	Any roadway designated as a Scenic Byway by state or federal agencies or authorities, comprised of outstanding local or regional scenic character.
Scour	Scour is the natural process of sediment being transported downstream during high flow events.
Seismic-Risk Zones	Measured against gravity (1.0g), effective peak ground acceleration, attenuation, and duration are considered when mapping seismic—risk zones. Zone 1 locations have a one in ten chance that an earthquake with an active peak acceleration level of 0.1g (1/10 the acceleration of gravity) will occur within the next fifty years.
Short Line Freight Rail	A Class II or III railroad’s track. A Class I railroad’s secondary track that serves intrastate or regional movement.
Short Span Bridges	Bridges ranging from 12 to 70 feet in length.
Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV)	A passenger car or truck carrying only one person (a driver).
Smaller Cities	Cities with a population of less than 22,500.

Societal Cost	These costs include medical costs, lost wages, property damage, lost productivity, etc..
Special Needs Population	Persons with Special Transportation Needs: those persons, including their personal attendants, who because of physical or mental disability, income status or age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation.
State Environmental Policy Act SEPA	Adopted in 1971. Provided Washington State’s basic environmental charter. The Rules that implemented the act directed agencies to consider environmental information (impacts, alternatives, and mitigation) before committing to a particular course of action. Chapter 43.21C RCW (State Law) and Chapter 197-11 WAC (SEPA Rules) .
State Interest	The portion of the state transportation system that is owned and/or operated by local jurisdictions, agencies, and private corporations and is of importance to the entire transportation system. The State-Interest systems’ needs were identified through Regional Transportation Planning Organizations in collaboration with local jurisdictions and agencies, and private corporations. These modes include Public Transportation, Freight and Intercity Passenger Rail, Marine Ports, Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, and Aviation.
State Owned	The portion of the state transportation system that is owned and/or operated by the state. The State-Owned systems include state highways, Washington State Ferries (WSF), and state airports. The state also owns eight daily trains of the Amtrak <i>Cascades</i> passenger rail system. Amtrak is contracted to operate all twelve of the Amtrak Cascades trains. The needs for state-owned systems were identified by the systems in coordination with the Regional Transportation Planning Organizations.
Stormwater Outfall	See Outfall
System Management	Improves traffic flow through signal synchronization, freeway on-ramp signals, the construction of high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes, left turn restrictions, and other measures.
	
Target	The Transportation Commission identified and grouped over 80 program needs into high, medium, and low priorities. These identified investment needs are not a comprehensive accounting of all needs but rather a subset of statewide gaps in funding that represent only the most strategic and critical program needs.
Through-put	An accounting of people or vehicles passing a certain point in a given amount of time.
Traffic Records Strategic Plan	Focused on replacing paper with electronic records; developing an Emergency Management System registry; improving feature and location accuracy, improving statewide collision data; designing new police traffic collision and citizen reports; enhancing traffic records and forming an oversight committee.

- Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)** The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century was enacted June 9, 1998 as Public Law 105-178. TEA-21 authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 6-year period 1998-2003. The TEA 21 Restoration Act, enacted July 22, 1998, provided technical corrections to the original law. www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/
- Transportation Partnership Act (TPA)** The 2005 Washington State Legislature provided a 16-year expenditure plan to take care of some of Washington State's most critical transportation needs. Over 270 projects will be funded by this package that will make roads and bridges safer as well as ease choke points on the system. www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Funding/2005/
- Transportation System** Public and private infrastructure involved in moving people or goods.
- Tribal Nations / Tribal Lands** The [Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act \(25 U.S.C. 450b\(e\)\)](#) defines the term "Indian tribe" as any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the [Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act \(85 Stat. 688\) \(43 U.S.C. 1601 et. seq.\)](#), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.
- TriCities** The TriCities in the state of Washington are Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick. They are located at the confluence of the Yakima, Snake, and Columbia Rivers in southeastern Washington. Pasco is on the north side of the Columbia, Kennewick and Richland are south of it (Kennewick is directly east of Richland). According to the 2000 census, the combined population of the TriCities is 125,467, though 2005 census estimates put the population at closer to 160,000.
- Trip Reduction Performance Plan (TRPP)** The Washington State Legislature created a trip reduction performance program in 2003 to encourage entrepreneurs, private companies, transit systems, cities, non-profit organizations, developers, and property managers to provide services to employees that result in fewer vehicle trips arriving at work sites.
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- Unemployment Rate** The percentage of people available in the labor force who are deemed unemployed when compared to the total labor force.
- Urban Growth Areas** Areas where urban growth will be encouraged. Counties and cities must cooperatively establish the urban growth areas and cities must be located inside urban growth areas. Once established, cities cannot annex land outside the urban growth area. Growth outside of urban growth areas must be rural in character.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)**

A measure of highway system use reflecting the number of miles traveled over a highway section, route or system. VMT is calculated by multiplying the total highway section length by the total number of vehicles that have traveled over that section within a given time.

**Wait Time**

Transportation systems and services such as a Ferry or Safety Rest Area may require users to queue and wait. This wait time is measured to help manage service delivery.

Weigh In Motion (WIM)

These devices are designed to capture and record truck axle weights and gross vehicle weights as they drive over a sensor. Unlike older static weigh stations, current WIM systems do not require the subject trucks to stop, making our transportation system much more efficient.

Wetlands

Areas saturated by surface or groundwater with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions. Examples of wetlands are swamps, bogs, and estuaries.

Work Trip

One way person-trip between home and work.

