

GLOSSARY

Term	Meaning
access	The ability to enter a freeway or roadway via an on-ramp or other entry point.
acquisition	The purchasing of property, residences, or businesses for right-of-way necessary to construct or support a project.
block group	A subdivision of a census tract, a block group is the smallest geographic unit for which the U.S. Census Bureau tabulates sample data. In urban areas, a Block Group typically encompasses two to four city blocks.
census	The U.S. Census Bureau takes the census of population and housing in years ending in zero. The census form includes both a short form (100 percent survey) and a long form (sample survey of one in six households).
census tract	Census tracts are small, fairly permanent subdivisions of a county. Their delineations are determined by a local committee of users of census data in order to present such data. They are designed to contain somewhat homogeneous population and economic characteristics as well as living conditions. Census tracts average 4,000 inhabitants.
community/neighborhood cohesion	The ability of people to communicate and interact with each other in ways that lead to a sense of community, as reflected in the neighborhood's ability to function and be recognized as a singular unit.
congestion	A condition characterized by unstable traffic flows that constrain movement on a transportation facility to less than legal speeds. Recurring congestion is caused by constant excess volume compared with capacity. Nonrecurring congestion is caused by unusual or unpredictable events such as traffic accidents.
cumulative effect	The effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively noticeable actions taking place over a period of time.

Term	Meaning
displacement	Removal of a business, residence, or public facility from its existing location. In the context of transportation improvements, displacement is generally the result of (1) property acquisition for right-of-way expansion or (2) elimination of access to a property due to traffic revisions.
disproportionately high and adverse effect	An adverse effect that: (a) is predominantly borne by a minority population and/or a low-income population; or (b) is suffered by the minority population and/or low-income population and is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect that will be suffered by the non-minority population and/or non-low-income population.
effect	Something brought about by a cause or agent; a result. This may include ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, health, or other effects, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative. Actions may have both beneficial and detrimental effects.
environmental justice	The provisions of Executive Order 12898 that require each federal agency to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse health and/or environmental effects on minority and/or low-income populations.
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	One of several agencies in the U.S. Department of Transportation, the FHWA provides federal financial assistance to the states through the Federal Aid Highway Program, the purpose of which is to construct and improve the National Highway System, urban and rural roads, and bridges.
gathering places	Locations where people congregate and spend time together, such as parks, community centers, churches, pubs, and stores.
geographic information system (GIS)	A digital computer mapping system that can overlay a wide variety of data such as land use, utilities, and vegetative cover, and provide a spatial analysis.
hazardous materials	Any material that may pose a threat to human health or the environment because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics.

Term	Meaning
high-occupancy vehicle (HOV)	High-occupancy vehicle is a special designation for a bus, carpool, or vanpool provided as an encouragement to increase ride-sharing. Specially designated HOV lanes and parking are among the incentives for persons to pool trips, use fewer vehicles, and make the transportation system more efficient. HOV lanes are generally inside (left-side) lanes, and are identified by signs and a diamond on the pavement. Currently, two or more (2+) occupants are required to use the I-405 HOV lanes. Motorcycles are allowed to use freeway HOV lanes as well.
Hispanic/Latino	A self-designated classification for people whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, the Caribbean, or those identifying themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, etc. Origin can be viewed as ancestry, nationality, or country of birth of the person or person's parents or ancestors.
indirect effect	An effect that occurs later in time or is removed in distance from the proposed action, but is still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems.
land use	The type of activity (i.e., residential, commercial, or industrial) that occurs on property.
low-income	A household income that is at or below the federally designated poverty level for a given household size.
Metro Transit	The King County public transit agency.
minority	Individuals listed in the census as Black (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa); Hispanic (a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race); Asian American (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); American Indian/Alaskan Native (a person having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition); or some other race.

Term	Meaning
mitigation	An effort to: (1) avoid the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimize the impact by limiting the magnitude of the action and its implementation, by using technology, or by taking affirmative steps; (3) rectify the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reduce or eliminate the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations; (5) compensate for the impact by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and/or (6) monitor the impact and take appropriate corrective measures.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	Federal legislation adopted in 1969 that established a national environmental policy intentionally focused on federal activities and the desire for a sustainable environment balanced with other essential needs of present and future generations. NEPA also established federal agency responsibility and created the basic framework for integrating environmental considerations into federal decision-making. The fundamentals of the NEPA decision-making process include an interdisciplinary approach in planning and decision-making for actions that affect the human environment, interagency coordination, consideration of alternatives, examination of potential environmental consequences and mitigation, documentation of the analysis, and making the information available to the public for comment prior to implementation.
noise abatement criteria	The FHWA noise abatement criteria specify exterior and interior noise levels for various land activity categories such as residential and commercial. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) considers a noise impact to occur if predicted equivalent hourly noise levels (Leq (h)) approach within 1 dBA of the noise abatement criteria.
noise barrier	A designed wall that provides a noise buffer between a noise source and adjacent residences or other sensitive noise receptors.
outreach	Efforts to contact members of the general public or specific targeted groups or individuals to provide project information and to obtain input.
poverty	Having a money income that falls below the federally designated threshold for a given household size and composition. If the total income for a household or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the household or individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Term	Meaning
race	A characteristic of population. In the 2000 census, race included White and Non-White (Persons of Color). Non-White includes Black or African-American alone, American Indian or Alaskan Native alone, Asian alone, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander alone, some other race alone, or a mixture of two or more races. Non-White can include persons of Hispanic/Latino heritage; some Hispanic/Latinos, however, are White.
scoping	The process implemented early in project development by the lead agency to involve the public, agencies, local jurisdictions, tribes, and other concerned groups in identifying the range of proposed actions, alternatives, environmental issues, impacts, and mitigation measures to be evaluated in an environmental document. For specific projects where an Environmental Assessment is being prepared, scoping may focus on environmental issues, effects, and mitigation.
Section 8 Housing Assistance	Section 8, or the Housing Choice Voucher Program, is a federal housing program that provides housing assistance to low-income renters and homeowners. This assistance comes in the form of rental subsidies, limiting the rent payment of the assistance recipient. The program is administered nationally by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Locally it is administered by public housing authorities or other designated agencies and organizations.
social resources	Elements of the community or social environment, including population, housing, community facilities, religious institutions, social and employment services, cultural and social institutions, and government institutions.
study area	The area specifically evaluated for environmental effects.
vehicle	Any car, truck, van, motorcycle, or bus designed to carry passengers or goods. Bicycles and other pedestrian-oriented vehicles are not included in this definition.
view	That which can be seen either from or toward the transportation facility.
visual effect	The degree of change in visual resources and the viewer response to those changes caused by facility development and operations.

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