

Talking Transportation | Glossary and Acronyms Used in this Report

Word/Acronym	Meaning
ADAAG PROW:	The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Public Right-of-Way. These guidelines are issued by the U.S. Access Board and include standards for curb ramps, sidewalks, and traffic signals, among several other elements of the public realm.
Access	Ability to make convenient use of the transportation system.
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.
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.
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.
Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)	An express or limited stop, rubber-tired transit system operating predominately in roadway managed lanes (e.g. HOV 3+, HOT lanes, etc.)
Capacity	The maximum amount of traffic or people that can be accommodated on a transportation facility at any point in time.
Capacity-related Projects	Projects that increase the number of vehicles or people that can be served by a transportation facility.
Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	City list of capital improvement projects for streets and utilities.
Commute	Regular travel between home and a fixed location (e.g., work, school).
Commute Trip Reduction (CTR)	A state law mandating that affected jurisdictions enact ordinances requiring major employers to implement programs reducing commuting vehicle miles traveled and rates of their employees driving alone. (RCW 70.94.521-551).
Complete Street	Designed and operated to ensure safe travel for all users – pedestrians, cyclists, transit-riders, and motorists. Typically, complete streets include sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, and other features and amenities.
Concurrency	A state planning requirement to ensure that needed services and facilities are in place by the time development is completed and to be occupied or that funding has been committed to provide such services within six years.
Congestion	A condition characterized by unstable traffic flows that creates stop-and-go movement on a transportation facility. Nonrecurring congestion is caused by actions such as special events, weather, and/or traffic accidents. Recurring congestion is caused by problematic facility design at a key location or constant excess volume compared with capacity.
Context Sensitive Design	A concept in transportation planning that addresses the physical setting of the project and the preservation of scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources.
Corridor	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.
Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)	The is required by the Growth Management Act to prepare a comprehensive transportation plan to accommodate the growth expected by providing the transportation facilities needed to maintain the community's quality of life.

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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.
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.
Forecast	Projection of employment or population for a given future year.
Facility	A general term that refers to any transportation item such as a road, sidewalk, bus stop or bike lane.
Growth Management Act (GMA)	Washington State legislation passed in 1990 and subsequently amended that requires long-range comprehensive plans prepared by cities and counties to be balanced with supporting transportation infrastructure (RCW 36.70A).
GIS (Geographical Information System)	GIS technology provides a powerful way to see things in context. Spatially explicit models study relationships between population, land use, and the environment. GIS is a way of analyzing data through the relationship of spatial data and physical attributes.
Goal	In the planning process, a goal identifies a purpose towards which an endeavor is directed and that guides the actions of the City staff and Council.
Grade-separated	Crossing lines of traffic that are vertically separated from each other (i.e., a pedestrian bridge that crosses over a rail track).
Highline Community College (HCC)	A community college chartered by the State that serves nearly 17,000 students.
High Capacity Transit (HCT)	A public transit system, such as rail, that can accommodate large volumes of riders.
Highway of Statewide Significance (HSS)	A roadway, route, or interstate highway designated by the State Transportation Commission, the Washington State Department of Transportation, or the Legislature.
High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)	A motor vehicle with two or more people traveling in it. Includes carpools, vanpools, and transit. A high-occupancy vehicle lane refers to a highway and arterial lane restricted to vehicles carrying multiple occupants or passengers (with the exception of motorcycles).
Impact Fee	Costs imposed on new development to fund public facility improvements required by new development and ease fiscal burdens of providing services on localities.
Infrastructure	The set of interconnected transportation elements that provide the framework for moving people and goods.
Intermodal	Accommodation or interconnection of various transportation modes for the movement of both people and goods. (See also Multimodal)
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 roads.
Jurisdiction	A municipal government agency such as a city or county.
Land Use	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 are not limited to the following: housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, public facilities and public utilities. The land use element includes population densities, building intensities, and estimates of future population growth.



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Larger City	Puget Sound Regional Council VISION 2040 Plan identifies a city without a regionally designated center that has a combined total population and employment of 22,500 or greater.
Level of Service (LOS)	Innovations in level-of-service for transportation now take into account overall people-moving performance, rather than focusing on traditional assessments of vehicular volume and capacity.
Maintenance	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.
Functional Classification	See Street Functional Classification.
Mitigation	Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.
Mixed Use	Projects or districts that include residential, commercial, and business accommodations. Vertical mixed-use development refers to buildings that have multiple uses in a single structure, such as ground-floor retail, offices, and residences. Horizontal mixed-use development refers to districts where zoning allows for different uses to be in adjacent buildings and complexes.
Mobility	The ability of people to move about the region from one location to another.
Mode	A particular form of travel (e.g., walking, bicycling, driving alone, carpool or vanpool, bus, train, ferry, or airplane).
Mode Split	A term that describes the relative number of people using various forms – or modes – of transportation. Frequently used to describe the percentage of people using private automobiles as opposed to the percentage using transit.
Multimodal	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.
MUTCD	The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices is the standard for signs, signals, and pavement markings for the United States by the Federal Highway Administration.
Non-motorized	Generally refers to bicycle, pedestrian, and other modes of transportation not involving a motor vehicle.
Performance Measure	An indicator used in determining how adopted provisions are performing (also see monitoring).
Passenger-Only Ferry (POF)	Passenger-Only Ferry. A ferry boat that only takes passengers is called to a passenger only ferry.
Paratransit	Transit service that is scheduled or dispatched upon demand, providing “point-to-point” travel. Normally used in specialized applications with user eligibility limitations (e.g., elderly and/or handicapped) or where demand is not sufficient to support fixed-route service.
Peak Period	The period of day during which the maximum amount of travel occurs. It may be specified as the morning (AM) or afternoon or evening (PM) peak, depending on the facility.
Pedestrian-Oriented Development	The development and siting of housing, commercial space, services, and job opportunities in a manner that accommodates walking. Such development is intended to create more vibrant urban areas and to reduce dependency on automobile travel.
Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)	Puget Sound Regional Council serves at the regional planning organization for the 4-county region of Snohomish, King, Pierce and Kitsap counties. As such it develops a plan that identifies and addresses regional transportation issues.

Word/Acronym	Meaning
Revised Code of Washington (RCW)	Revised Code of Washington. 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.
Right-of-Way	A general term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip of land, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.
Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV)	A vehicle occupied only by the driver.
Street Functional Classification	The City classifies streets according to a hierarchy of functions according to their role in the street network. The functional classification of each roadway determines its roadway design and ultimate cross section.
Traffic Calming Program (NTCP)	The City's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program responds to neighborhood issues such as cut-through traffic and speeding by offering controls designed to slow down traffic and reduce vehicle volumes.
Transportation Facility	Refers to any facility related to transportation including streets, bus stops, sidewalks, walkways, shared-use paths, trails, overpasses, light rail, passenger-only ferries, and pedestrian crosswalks.
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	The City prepares a list of transportation projects needed for the next 6 years and provides cost estimates.
Transit Dependent	Individual(s) dependent on public transit to meet personal mobility needs (e.g., unable to drive, not a car owner, not licensed to drive).
Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)	The development of housing, commercial space, services, and job opportunities in close proximity to public transportation. Such development is intended to reduce dependency on automobiles, as well as to improve mobility and access between residences, jobs, and services.
Transportation Demand Management (TDM)	A concept designed to reduce or eliminate vehicle trips, including a variety of programs and strategies, such as carpool/vanpool, flextime, working from home, and ride matching.
Transportation System Management (TSM)	Improvements to existing transportation facilities that increase the flow of travel, such as ramp metering and signal synchronization. Such improvements typically have a lower capital cost than major construction and can be implemented in a relatively short time.
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)	A measurement of the total miles traveled by all vehicles for a specified time period. For transit, the number of vehicle miles operated on a given route, line, or network during a specified time period.
Walkability	Walkability is a relative measure of the overall walking conditions in an area and encompasses both land use mix as well as roadway conditions that influence pedestrian comfort.
Work Trip	One-way person-trip between home and work.
Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	The Washington State Department of Transportation is a state agency charged with planning, constructing and maintaining the state highway system.

