

# BayArea Plan

July 2013

Strategy for a  
Sustainable  
Region



Association of  
Bay Area  
Governments



Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Commission

Glossary

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*Regional Water Quality Control Board*



# Plan Bay Area — Glossary

## A

### **AB 32** Assembly Bill 32

The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

### **ABAG** Association of Bay Area Governments

The council of governments and designated regional planning agency, ABAG represents the San Francisco Bay Area's nine counties and 101 cities and towns. ABAG initiates programs, projects and partnerships to help resolve the region's economic, social and environmental challenges, providing research, analysis and local government-service programs.

### **Active Transportation**

Active Transportation includes any method of travel that is human-powered, but most commonly refers to walking and bicycling. See also **Complete Streets**.

### **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. The APS would show how the greenhouse gas targets would be achieved through alternative development patterns, infrastructure investments, or additional transportation measures or policies. The APS is a separate document from the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), but may be adopted at the same time as the RTP. See also **SCS/Sustainable Communities Strategy**.

## B

### **BAAQMD** Bay Area Air Quality Management District

BAAQMD regulates industry and employers to keep air pollution in check and sponsors programs to clean the air. BAAQMD also works with ABAG, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) on issues that affect land use, transportation and air quality.

### **BCDC** Bay Conservation and Development Commission

A state-established agency with jurisdiction over dredging and filling of San Francisco Bay and limited jurisdiction over development within 100 feet of the Bay.

## **Bikeway Classifications**

As defined by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices:

- Class I Bike Path: A paved shared-use path within an exclusive right of way
- Class II Bike Lane: Signed and striped lanes within a street right of way
- Class III Bike Route: Preferred routes on existing streets identified by signs only
- Shared Lane Marking or “Sharrow:” Provides positional guidance to bicyclists on roadways that are too narrow to be striped with bicycle lanes and to alert motorists of the location a cyclist may occupy in the roadway.

See also **Complete Streets**.

## **BRT Bus Rapid Transit**

Corridor-level services providing fast and frequent transit services that are designed to take advantage of freeway improvements such as High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) and Managed Lanes in order to serve longer-distance regional trip-making.

# **C**

## **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, or 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.

## **CAAA Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990**

Federal legislation that established criteria for attaining and maintaining federal air quality standards for allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various air pollutants. The legislation also provides emissions standards for specific vehicles and fuels.

## **Caltrans California Department of Transportation**

The state agency responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the state highway system. The state system includes interstate freeways and state highways.

## **CAP Clean Air Plan**

The BAAQMD Board of Directors adopted the final Bay Area 2010 Clean Air Plan on September 15, 2010 and certified the Final Environmental Impact Report on the CAP. The 2010 CAP serves to update the Bay Area ozone plan in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 10 of the California Health & Safety Code. In addition, the 2010 CAP provides an integrated, multi-pollutant strategy to improve air quality, protect public health, and protect the climate.

## **CARB California 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. SB 375 requires that CARB set GHG-reduction targets for cars and light trucks in each California region for the years 2020 and 2035.

## **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 — typically between home and work or home and school. See also **Express Lanes**.

## **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. Some organizations also allow for individuals to rent cars directly from one another.

## **CAA California Clean Air Act**

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

## **CEQA California Environmental Quality Act**

This California law passed in 1970 requires that documentation of potential environmental impacts of development projects must be submitted prior to development. Under SB 375, housing development projects can qualify for a full CEQA exemption if:

- They do not exceed 8 acres or 200 units
- They can be served by existing utilities
- They will not have a significant effect on historic resources
- Their buildings exceed energy efficiency standards
- They provide any of the following:
  - 5 acres of open space
  - 20 percent moderate-income housing
  - 10 percent low-income housing
  - 5 percent very-low-income housing

## **CEQA Streamlining**

SB 375 provides several CEQA reform provisions. These include streamlined review and analysis of residential or mixed-use projects consistent with the SCS; modified review

and analysis, through an expedited Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessment (SCEA), for Transit Priority Projects (TPPs) that are consistent with the SCS; and a complete CEQA exemption for TPPs that are consistent with the SCS and meet a specific list of other requirements.

### **CHSRA California High Speed Rail Authority**

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.

### **CHP California Highway Patrol**

The state law enforcement agency responsible for highway safety.

### **Climate Change**

Climate change refers to changes in the Earth's weather patterns, including the rise in the Earth's average temperature due to an increase in heat-trapping or greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Climate scientists agree that climate change is a man-made problem caused by the burning of fossil fuels like petroleum and coal. Transportation accounts for about 40 percent of the Bay Area's GHG emissions. Climate change is expected to significantly affect the Bay Area's public health, air quality and transportation infrastructure through sea level rise and extreme weather events.

### **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).

### **CMAQ Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program**

A category of funds contained in federal transportation legislation for projects and activities that reduce congestion and improve air quality in regions not yet attaining federal air quality standards.

### **CO<sub>2</sub> Carbon Dioxide**

CO<sub>2</sub> is a colorless, odorless, non-poisonous gas that is a normal part of the ambient air. CO<sub>2</sub> contributes the most to human-induced global warming. Human activities such as fossil fuel combustion and deforestation have increased atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> by approximately 30 percent since the industrial revolution.

### **Committed Funds**

Funds designated by law for a specific purpose or reserved by action of a governing board (such as MTC, a transit agency, a congestion management agency, etc.). Along with Discretionary Funds, one of two revenue categories for Plan Bay Area.

## **Communities of Concern**

Neighborhoods with notably high concentrations of four or more of the following: minority persons; low-income individuals; persons who are Limited English Proficient; seniors age 75 and over; persons with disabilities; households without cars; single-parent households; and renters paying more than 50 percent of household income on rent. Under this definition, about one-fifth of today's total Bay Area population lives in areas defined as communities of concern.

## **Community Plan**

More specific versions of General Plans, generally dealing with smaller geographical areas within a city or county, but having the same force of law. Also referred to as specific or station area plans.

## **Complete Communities**

Complete communities are those which provide the opportunity for people to live a complete day, including their work, school, services and recreation, within the boundaries of their own neighborhoods. Complete communities offer these amenities in a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere where public transit is at least as convenient as the automobile.

## **Complete Streets**

Streets designed and operated to enable safe, attractive, comfortable access and travel for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transport users of all ages and abilities.

## **Conformity**

A demonstration of whether a federally supported activity is consistent with the SIP — 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.

## **Congestion Pricing**

Charging drivers a fee to drive in congested areas and using the revenue generated to fund transportation improvements — such as better transit service, signal coordination and bicycle and pedestrian projects — that improve travel options and traffic flow.

## **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 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.

## **D**

### **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.

### **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.

### **Discretionary Funds**

Funds available for assignment to projects or programs through Plan Bay Area. Along with Committed Funds, one of two revenue categories for the plan.

### **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), and other agencies. The state DOT is Caltrans.

## **E**

### **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.



### **Employment Intensity**

See **Floor Area Ratio/FAR**.

### **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.

### **EPA 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.

### **Equitable Development**

Equitable development ensures that individuals and families in all communities and from all incomes can participate in and benefit from economic growth and activity.

### **Express Lanes**

Limited-access highway lanes in which carpools, vanpools and buses travel for free, while other vehicles gain access by paying a fee.

## **F**

### **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.

### **FAR Floor Area Ratio**

The total square feet of a building divided by the total square feet of the lot the building is located on. FAR is used by local governments in zoning codes. Higher FARs tend to indicate more urban (dense) construction.

### **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.

## FOCUS

A regional planning initiative spearheaded by ABAG in cooperation with MTC, and in coordination with BAAQMD and BCDC. FOCUS seeks to protect open space and natural resources while encouraging infill development (see also **PCA/Priority Conservation Area** and **PDA/Priority Development Area**). The FOCUS initiative encourages future growth in areas near transit and within the communities that surround the San Francisco Bay.

## Focused Growth

Development that reflects higher densities, mixed use and a higher proportion of housing and employment growth in urban areas, particularly near transit stations and along transit corridors, as well as in town centers. See also **Infill Development**.

## FPI Freeway Performance Initiative

A program administered by MTC to maximize performance of Bay Area freeways through the use of technology. See also **Intelligent Transportation Systems**.

## 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 peak-period commuting hours. In the San Francisco Bay Area, it is operated by MTC 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.

# G

## Gas Tax

The tax applied to each gallon of fuel sold. Currently, the federal government collects a per-gallon tax of 18.4 cents (last raised in 1997), and the state collects a per-gallon excise tax of 36 cents per gallon (set to rise to 39.5 cents on July 1, 2013).

## General Plan

A policy document required of California cities and counties by state law that describes a jurisdiction's future development in general terms. 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 Greenhouse Gas

A greenhouse gas is a gas in an atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. This process is the fundamental cause of the greenhouse effect, which causes warming of the atmosphere of the earth. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons and other gases.

## Global Warming

The progressive, gradual rise of Earth's average surface temperature; thought to be caused in part by increased concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere.

# H

## Highway

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

## HOT Lane High-Occupancy Toll Lane

See **Express Lanes**.

## 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, and motorcycles and emergency vehicles. Also known as carpool lane.

## **HSR High-Speed Rail**

Railroad passenger service that, as defined by California state law, operates at maximum speeds of more than 200 miles per hour. High-speed rail typically operates on intercity (longer) routes.

## **I**

### **Infill Development**

Includes development, redevelopment and re-use of existing sites and buildings in existing neighborhoods and commercial corridors.

### **Intercity Rail**

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

### **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.

## **J**

### **JARC Jobs Access Reverse Commute**

The federal formula fund program that provides support for capital or operating costs for transportation services and facilities designed to facilitate reverse commute employment-related travel for people with limited means.

### **JPC Joint Policy Committee**

The JPC coordinates the regional planning efforts of ABAG, BAAQMD, BCDC and MTC. Among the JPC's current initiatives are focused growth, climate protection and development of a sustainable communities strategy pursuant to SB 375.

## **L**

### **LCFS Low-Carbon Fuel Standard**

California's LCFS requires fuel providers to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels sold in the state, dramatically expanding the market for alternative fuels. By 2020, the LCFS will reduce carbon content in all passenger vehicle fuels sold in California by 10 percent.



## **LOS** Level of Service

A qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream and motorists' perceptions of those conditions. LOS ratings typically range from LOS A, which represents free-flow conditions, to LOS F, which is characterized by heavy congestion, stop-and-go traffic, and long queues forming behind breakdown points.

## **LRT** Light Rail Transit

A passenger transportation system of self-propelled vehicles that operate over steel rails located in the street, on an aerial structure, or on a separated right of way. LRT systems generally serve stations averaging one-mile apart, are not remotely controlled, and can operate in a separated right of way or on public streets.

# M

## **Managed Lanes**

These lanes provide access for carpools, vanpools and buses, and to 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. See also **Express Lanes**.

## **MAP-21**

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) is a funding and authorization bill to govern United States federal surface transportation spending. The bill reauthorizes surface transportation programs through fiscal year 2014.

## **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 Management**

As defined in MTC's Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Transportation Plan, mobility management is a strategic, cost-effective approach to encourage the development of services and best practices in the coordination of transportation services connecting people needing transportation to available transportation resources within a community. Its focus is the individual with specific needs rather than a particular transportation mode.

## **Mode**

One of the various forms of transportation, including automobile, transit, bicycle 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. MTC is the MPO for the San Francisco Bay Area region.

### **MTC Metropolitan Transportation Commission**

The transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. MTC is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Bay Area.

## **N**

### **Non-Attainment Area**

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

## **O**

### **OBAG One Bay Area Grant**

The OneBayArea Grant Program is a new funding approach that better integrates the region's federal transportation program with California's climate law (Senate Bill 375, Steinberg, 2008) and Plan Bay Area. It is an incentive-based program designed to stimulate the production of housing in areas well-served by transportation, particularly public transit.

### **Off-Peak Period**

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

## **P**

### **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.

### **Park-and-Ride Lot**

A facility where individuals can meet to utilize carpools, vanpools and public transit to continue traveling to their destinations.

### **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.

### **PCA Priority Conservation Area**

Regionally significant open spaces in the Bay Area for which there exists a broad consensus for long-term protection and for which public funds may be invested to promote their protection. Local jurisdictions and open space agencies identified these locations voluntarily through the FOCUS initiative.

### **PDA Priority Development Area**

Locations within existing Bay Area communities that present infill development opportunities, and are easily accessible to transit, jobs, shopping and services. Local jurisdictions identified these locations voluntarily through the FOCUS initiative.

### **Peak Period**

The time of day when the highest concentrations of vehicles or transit riders are on the road or on transit facilities. 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.

### **Performance Measures**

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

### **PeMS Performance Monitoring 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.

### **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, whereby each trip has two trip ends.

## Place Types

A way of describing neighborhoods or centers with similar sustainability characteristics and physical and social qualities, such as the scale of housing buildings, frequency and type of transit, quality of the streets, concentration of jobs, and range of services. Place types are a tool to identify places and policies for sustainable development. Bay Area jurisdictions can select a place type to indicate their desired level of growth in the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

## Plan Bay Area

One of our region's most comprehensive planning efforts to date. It is a joint effort led by ABAG and MTC in partnership with BAAQMD and BCDC. All four agencies are collaborating at an unprecedented level to produce a more integrated land use and transportation plan.

### **PM<sub>2.5</sub>** Particulate Matter 2.5

Fine particles are 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller. The regional target is to reduce fine particulate matter, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, by 10 percent below today's levels.

### **PM<sub>10</sub>** Particulate Matter 10

Particulate matter of 10 micrometers or less in size. The regional target is to reduce coarse particulate matter, PM<sub>10</sub>, by 45 percent over today's levels.

## Proposition 1B

A measure approved by California voters in 2006 that provides nearly \$20 billion in infrastructure bonds, including \$11.25 billion for Congestion Reduction, Highway and Local Road Improvements.

## 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.

# R

## 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 Bus (also known as Arterial Rapid Transit)

Provides rapid and frequent transit service along arterials that use signal priority and in some cases queue-jumper lanes at major intersections.

## RAWG Regional Advisory Working Group

An advisory group set up to advise staff of ABAG, MTC, BAAQMD and BCDC on development



of Plan Bay Area. Its membership includes staff representatives of local jurisdictions (CMAs, planning directors, transit operators, public works agencies) as well as representatives from the business, housing, environmental and social-justice communities.

### **Reduction Target**

A goal set by California Air Resources Board for a region to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks within a specific timeframe.

### **RHNA Regional Housing Needs Assessment**

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment process is a state mandated planning process for housing in California. ABAG is responsible for allocating this state-determined regional housing need among all of the Bay Area's nine counties and 101 cities with assistance of a recently established SCS Housing Methodology Committee.

### **RHNA Integration Regional Housing Needs Assessment Integration**

RHNA must be consistent with the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which requires that the RHNA/housing element cycle will be synchronized and coordinated with the preparation of every other RTP update, starting with the first update after 2010 (i.e., 2013). RTP updates occur every four years, and housing elements must be adopted by local governments eighteen months after the adoption of the RTP. In addition to synchronizing with the preparation of the RTP and the SCS, the RHNA allocation must be consistent with the development pattern included in the SCS.

### **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.

### **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.

### **RTP Regional Transportation Plan**

A long-range transportation plan which is developed every four or five years that, among other things, outlines a region's transportation investments.

## **RTPA Regional Transportation Planning Agency**

A state-designated agency responsible for preparing the RTP and the RTIP, and for administering state transportation funds. MTC is the San Francisco Bay Area region's RTPA.

# **S**

## **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 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; bicycle lanes that connect to transit and bike parking at transit stations; feeder-distributor bus/shuttle routes; car sharing/station cars; and ridesharing.

## **SB 375 Transportation and Land Use Planning Act of 2008**

The act mandates an integrated regional land-use-and-transportation-planning approach to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from automobiles and light trucks, principally by reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT). SB 375 requires that the California Air Resources Board (CARB) set GHG-reduction targets for cars and light trucks in each California region for the years 2020 and 2035. SB 375 also links state Housing Element law to regional planning efforts for transportation and housing.

## **SCS Sustainable Communities Strategy**

A new element of the RTP, as required by SB 375 (see above), that demonstrates how development patterns and the transportation network, policies and programs can work together to achieve the state's targets for reducing regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cars and light trucks in a region. It does incorporate the RHNA requirement to provide housing to accommodate all income groups while meeting reduction targets.

## **SCEA Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessment**

The Sustainable Communities Environmental Assessment (SCEA) is the CEQA document that will be prepared to review "transit priority projects" that are consistent with the adopted Sustainable Communities Strategy. The SCEA is not required to reference, describe or discuss growth-inducing impacts or any project-specific or cumulative impacts from cars and light-duty truck trips generated by the project on global warming or the regional transportation network.

**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.

**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.

**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 existing low-density neighborhoods and closer to existing and planned job centers and public facilities, while preserving open space and natural resources.

**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 have the same access to opportunities provided to other groups.

**SOV Single Occupant Vehicle**

A vehicle with one occupant — the driver.

**State Highway**

A state-designated roadway. 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 those proposed by Caltrans.

**STP Surface Transportation Program**

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

## T

**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.

### **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.

### **TDA Transportation Development Act**

TDA funds are generated from a tax of one-quarter of one percent on all retail sales in each county, and they are used for transit, specialized transit for disabled people, and bicycle and pedestrian purposes.

### **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**

A type of development that links land use and transportation facilities to support public transit systems and help reduce sprawl, traffic congestion and air pollution. Transit-oriented developments include housing, jobs, retail and services at a strategic point along a regional transit system, such as a rail hub. See also **Infill Development**.

### **TPP Transit Priority Projects**

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. TPPs are projects that contain at least 50 percent residential use; have a minimum net density of 20 units per acre; have a floor-area ratio for the commercial portion of the project at 0.75; and are located within ½ mile of either a rail stop, a ferry terminal, or a bus line with 15-minute headways.

### **TSM Transportation System 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.



## U

### **USDOT 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.

## V

### **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.

## W

### **Walking School Bus**

A Walking School Bus consists of two adults walking to pick up children at pre-designated stops on the route to school. This program has been adopted by elementary, middle and high schools alike, both public and private.

### **Work Trip**

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



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