

## Transportation Glossary

You might encounter the following terms and acronyms while serving on one of the committees for the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization.

AADT	The Average Annual Daily Traffic, which is a measure of the number of vehicles passing a roadway during a 24 hour period adjusted to represent an average day in the year the count was taken
ACAT	Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation, which advises Chatham Area Transit on accessibility issues with the mainline and paratransit transit systems
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act, Federal legislation of 1990, which mandates changes in building codes, transportation and hiring practices to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities. ADA requires transit operators to provide paratransit services in areas that are within 0.75 miles of the fixed route system.
Bikeway	A general term that captures many different types of bicycle facilities: paths, bike lanes, wide curb lanes, shared lanes, and others.
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
CAT	Chatham Area Transit Authority, the agency which provides fixed route public transportation services in Chatham County. Formerly called the Savannah Transit Authority.
CE	Categorical Exclusion, which is a type of action that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the human environment. A Categorical Exclusion does not require an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.
Charrette	A meeting in which citizens are invited to participate in a full discussion of issues, interrelationships and impacts. Time limits challenge people to openly examine problems and produce tangible results.
CMP	Congestion Management Process, which provides for effective management of new and existing transportation facilities through the use of travel demand reduction and operational management strategies. A CMP is required of all Transportation Management Areas (TMAs).
Complete Streets	Describes streets that are designed to accommodate not only drivers of automobiles and trucks, but also bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users. By accommodating many modes, the streets also accommodates users of a wider range of ages and physical abilities (e.g. youth, elderly, wheelchair users). The term is frequently used to describe the policy for accommodation, adoption of which is often necessary to achieve the change in practice of roadway design.
CORE MPO	Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, which conducts the transportation planning process for the area currently covering all of Chatham County.

CSD	Context Sensitive Design, a method of design for transportation projects that includes consideration of multiple modes, land uses, and community values.
CSS	Context Sensitive Solutions, a method similar to Context Sensitive Design, but intended to also describe the participatory process of defining context and identifying appropriate design solutions.
CUTS	Chatham Urban Transportation Study, which was the name of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Savannah urbanized area up until 2009.
EA	Environmental Assessment, which is an interim decision document prepared for an action where the significance of social, economic or environmental impact is not clearly established. If the action is determined to have significant impact, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is then prepared. If no significant impact is determined, a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is prepared.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement, a document, required under the National Environmental Policy Act, prepared for an action that is likely to have significant impact. This document summarizes the major environmental impacts, outlines issues, examines reasonable alternatives and arrives at a record of decision, identifying the selected alternative for the project.
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration, an agency of the U.S. DOT with jurisdiction over highways and bridges.
Fiscally Constrained	Federal regulations require that the LRTP be financially balanced. All projects must have an identified source of funding that is reasonably expected to be available.
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact. A statement that follows an Environmental Assessment in which a project was found to have no significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and for which an Environmental Impact Statement will therefore not be prepared.
FTA	Federal Transit Authority, an agency of the U.S. DOT with jurisdiction over public transportation. Formerly called the Urban Mass Transit Administration.
Functional Classification	A system used to group public roadways into classes according to their purpose in moving vehicles and providing access. The main classes are typically Arterial, Collector, and Local.
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System uses satellite technology for accuracy in computer mapping.
GDOT	Georgia Department of Transportation, which administers the state-wide and metropolitan transportation planning processes in the State of Georgia.

GPA	Georgia Ports Authority, an agency that governs and directs the activities of the Port of Savannah.
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle, which is a vehicle carrying a specified minimum number of persons, usually two or more. Freeways may have lanes designated for HOV use by carpoolers, vanpools and buses.
ISTEA	The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, which forms the basis of the transportation planning process.
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems describe technology that is designed to improve traffic flow, safety, toll collection, travel information, parking, accident/debris detection, and transit.
LOS	Level of Service, which is a qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream; generally described in terms of such factors as speed and travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort, convenience and safety (LOS A corresponds to free-flow conditions while LOS F corresponds to stop-and-go, unacceptable conditions).
LRTP	Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan identifies the transportation problems expected in a horizon period of at least 25 years and the financially constrained solutions to address those problems.
MPC	Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, an agency which staffs the MPO, as well as other boards, and administers the MPO transportation planning process.
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization, designated by the governor, to serve a metropolitan area of 50,000 population.
NHS	National Highway System, which is composed of approximately 160,000 miles of rural and urban roads. It includes the Interstate System, other routes identified as having strategic defense characteristics, routes providing access to major ports, airports, public transportation, intermodal transportation facilities, and routes of particular importance to local governments. The federal government allocates a certain amount of transportation funding to these routes, which is not to be used on “off-system” roadways.
PE	Preliminary Engineering, which an early phase in a project’s development process.
ROD	Record of Decision, which is a concise decision document for an environmental impact statement that states the decision (selected alternative or choice), other alternatives considered and mitigation adopted for the selected alternative or choice.
ROW	Right-of-way, which is the land needed for the construction and operation of a transportation facility. ROW acquisition is a middle phase of a project’s development process.

SAFETEA-LU	The Safe, Accountable, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users. Signed into law in August 2005, this is the federal re-authorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century.
SAGIS	Savannah Area Geographical Information System, a regional Geographic Information System created by the MPC, City of Savannah, and Savannah Electric.
SMSA	Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area, encompasses the Savannah Urbanized Area and all of Chatham County.
SOV	Single-occupancy vehicle, in contrast to ridesharing methods such as carpooling, vanpooling, and mass transit.
SPLOST	The Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax, which is a one percent sales tax to fund a variety of projects including drainage improvements, open space acquisition, greenways/bikeways, roadway improvements and other capital outlay projects.
SRTA	State Road and Tollway Authority, the transportation infrastructure financing arm of the State of Georgia.
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program, prepared by GDOT, is a staged, multiyear listing of projects proposed for Federal, State and local funding encompassing the entire State of Georgia. It is a compilation of the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) prepared for the metropolitan areas, as well as project information for the non-metropolitan areas of the State and for transportation between cities.
TAZ	Chatham County is divided into 610 Traffic Analysis Zones or TAZs. The TAZ is used as the basic unit for data collection for the computer generated socio-economic and land use data.
TCC	Technical Coordinating Committee, which provides the technical guidance and direction to CORE MPO.
TDM	Transportation Demand Management, which includes various strategies to reduce demands for roadway supply, such as encouraging transit and other ride-sharing, encouraging shifts to non-motorized modes, shifts in time of travel through staggered work hours, or trip elimination through telecommuting
TE	Transportation Enhancements, a program begun under TEA-21 that provides funding for a broad range of activities that enhance natural and cultural resources related to transportation. TEA-21 requires that ten percent of STP funds be set aside for TE projects. The following are activities eligible for TE funds: design and construction of bicycle, pedestrian or non-motorized facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors; acquisition, preservation and rehabilitation of historic sites and structures; and aesthetic improvements, such as landscaping and other scenic beautification efforts. GDOT administers the program within Georgia.

TEA-21	The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, which was the ISTEA reauthorization bill, signed into law in June 1998.
Teleride	The local paratransit services operated by a third party under contract with CAT
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program – the short-range transportation planning document. Projects or studies in the Long Range Transportation Plan appear in the TIP when they have been designated by the MPO to receive funding for preliminary engineering (PE), right-of-way acquisition (ROW), utilities, or construction within the next four fiscal years (four-year range required by SAFETEA-LU legislation).
TMA	Transportation Management Area, which is an urbanized area with a population of over 200,000 individuals.
TRANPLAN	A type of software used to project traffic flow and volumes
TSM	Transportation System Management, which includes various tactics to improve operations of the existing transportation system, such as signal synchronization and intersection improvements. TSM is an alternative way to increase capacity without constructing additional through lanes or new roads.
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program, which outlines the MPC staff’s budget and work in carrying out the transportation planning activities in a fiscal year.
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation, a federal agency created to assist state and local governments in the planning of all modes of transportation.
Vanpool	A formal travel arrangement in which a specific group of people regularly ride together in a van, usually for work commute. The riders share costs through seat “subscriptions.” The driver is a commuter like the riders, and takes the van home. Often the driver is allowed limited personal use of the van and/or free or reduced seat subscription price. In some cases, employers help cover the costs of the seat subscriptions, as an employee benefit.
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled, which is a measure of roadway travel that totals the miles traveled by each vehicle in the region. It provides planners and decision-makers with an indication of current and future driving conditions for roadway segments.
“3C”	Refers to the Continuing, Comprehensive, and Cooperative aspects of the transportation planning process