

9.0 Glossary

Source: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/glossary/glossary_listing.cfm¹ or as noted.

Keyword	Definition
Air Quality Conformity	The link between air quality planning and transportation planning
Americans With Disabilities Act	The legislation defining the responsibilities of and requirements for transportation providers to make transportation accessible to individuals with disabilities.
Amtrak	Operated by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, this rail system was created by the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-518, 84 Stat. 1327) and given the responsibility for the operation of intercity, as distinct from suburban, passenger trains between points designated by the Secretary of Transportation.
Analysis of Alternatives	Understanding how the transportation system and its components work such as information on the costs, benefits and impacts of potential changes to the system.
Arterial	A class of roads serving major traffic movements (high-speed, high volume) for travel between major points.
Arterial Highway	A major highway used primarily for through traffic.
Arterial Street	A class of street serving major traffic movements (high-speed, high volume) for travel between major points.
Asphalt	A dark brown to black cement-like material containing bitumen as the predominant constituent. The definition includes crude asphalt and finished products such as cements, fluxes, the asphalt content of emulsions, and petroleum distillates blended with asphalt to make cutback asphalt. Asphalt is obtained by petroleum processing.
Attainment Area	An area considered to have air quality that meets or exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health standards used in the Clean Air Act. Nonattainment areas are areas considered not to have met these standards for designated pollutants. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a nonattainment area for others.

¹ Applicable keywords and definitions from the sourced list, together with a review of additional terms used throughout the document, were utilized to create this glossary.

Keyword	Definition
Authorization	Basic substantive legislation or that which empowers an agency to implement a particular program and also establishes an upper limit on the amount of funds that can be appropriated for that program
Automobile	A privately owned and/or operated licensed motorized vehicle including cars, jeeps and station wagons. Leased and rented cars are included if they are privately operated and not used for picking up passengers in return for fare.
Auxiliary Lane	The portion of the roadway adjoining the traveled way for speed change, turning, weaving, truck climbing, maneuvering of entering and leaving traffic, and other purposes supplementary to through-traffic movement.
Average Annual Daily Traffic	The total volume of traffic on a highway segment for one year, divided by the number of days in the year.
Average Annual Daily Truck Traffic	The total volume of truck traffic on a highway segment for one year, divided by the number of days in the year.
A-Weighting (dBA)	A standardized filter used to alter the sensitivity of a sound level meter with respect to frequency so that the instrument is less sensitive at low and high frequencies where the human ear is less sensitive. Abbreviated as dBA.
Bicycle	A vehicle having two tandem wheels, propelled solely by human power, upon which any person or persons may ride.
Bikeway	1) Any road, path, or way which in some manner is specifically designated as being open to bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicycles or are to be shared with other transportation modes. 2) A facility designed to accommodate bicycle travel for recreational or commuting purposes. Bikeways are not necessarily separated facilities; they may be designed and operated to be shared with other travel modes.
Budget Authority	Empowerment by Congress that allows Federal agencies to incur obligations that will result in the outlay of funds. This empowerment is generally in the form of appropriations. However, for most of the highway programs, it is in the form of contract authority.
Budget Resolution	A concurrent resolution passed by Congress presenting the Congressional Budget for each of the succeeding 5 years. A concurrent resolution does not require the signature of the President.

Keyword	Definition
Build or Action Alternative	<p>This term refers to the bureau activity under consideration. It includes the bureau's exercise of discretion over a non-Federal entity's planned activity that falls under a Federal agency's authority to issue permits, licenses, grants, rights-of-way, or other common Federal approvals, funding, or regulatory instruments (see https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/46.30). The proposed action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is not necessarily, but may become, during the NEPA process, the bureau preferred alternative or (in a record of decision for an environmental impact statement, in accordance with 40 CFR 1505.2) an environmentally preferable alternative; and 2) Must be clearly described in order to proceed with NEPA analysis.
Bureau Of Economic Analysis	<p>The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce</p>
Bureau Of Labor Statistics	<p>The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is the principal fact-finding agency for the Federal Government in the broad field of labor economics and statistics. The BLS is an independent national statistical agency that collects, processes, analyzes, and disseminates essential statistical data to the American public, the U.S. Congress, other Federal agencies, State and local governments, business, and labor. The BLS also serves as a statistical resource to the Department of Labor. BLS data must satisfy a number of criteria, including relevance to current social and economic issues, timeliness in reflecting today's rapidly changing economic conditions, accuracy and consistently high statistical quality, and impartiality in both subject matter and presentation.</p>
Bureau of Transportation Statistics	<p>The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) was organized pursuant to section 6006 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 (49 U.S.C. 111), and was formally established by the Secretary of Transportation on December 16, 1992. BTS has an intermodal transportation focus whose missions are to compile, analyze and make accessible information on the Nation's transportation systems; to collect information on intermodal transportation and other areas; and to enhance the quality and effectiveness of DOT's statistical programs through research, the development of guidelines, and the promotion of improvements in data acquisition and use. The programs of BTS are organized in six functional areas and are mandated by ISTEA to 1) Compile, analyze, and publish statistics 2) Develop a long-term data collection program 3) Develop guidelines to improve the credibility and effectiveness of the Department's statistics 4) Represent transportation interests in the statistical community 5) Make statistics accessible and understandable and 6) Identify data needs.</p>
Bus	<p>Large motor vehicle used to carry more than 10 passengers, including school buses, intercity buses, and transit buses.</p>

Keyword	Definition
Bus Lane	1) A street or highway lane intended primarily for buses, either all day or during specified periods, but sometimes also used by carpools meeting requirements set out in traffic laws. 2) A lane reserved for bus use only. Sometimes also known as a "diamond lane."
Calendar Year	The period of time between January 1 and December 31 of any given year.
Capacity	A transportation facility's ability to accommodate a moving stream of people or vehicles in a given time period.
Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)	1) A fluid consisting of more than 90 percent carbon dioxide molecules compressed to a supercritical state. 2) A colorless, odorless gas. It is not a liquid under standard temperature and pressure.
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	A colorless, odorless, highly toxic gas that is a normal by-product of incomplete fossil fuel combustion. Carbon monoxide, one of the major air pollutants, can be harmful in small amounts if breathed over a certain period of time.
Categorical Exclusion	A categorical exclusion (CE) is a class of actions that a Federal agency has determined, after review by CEQ, do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is normally required. The use of categorical exclusions can reduce paperwork and save time and resources (see https://ceq.doe.gov/nepa-practice/categorical-exclusions.html).
Census	The complete enumeration of a population or groups at a point in time with respect to well-defined characteristics for example, population, production, traffic on particular roads. In some connection the term is associated with the data collected rather than the extent of the collection so that the term sample census has a distinct meaning. The partial enumeration resulting from a failure to cover the whole population, as distinct from a designed sample enquiry, may be referred to as an "incomplete census."
Charter Bus	A bus transporting a group of persons who pursuant to a common purpose, and under a single contract at a fixed price, have acquired the exclusive use of a bus to travel together under an itinerary.
Clean Air Act	The original Clean Air Act (CAA) was passed in 1963, but the national air pollution control program is actually based on the 1970 version of the law. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments are the most far-reaching revisions of the 1970 law. The 1990 Clean Air Act is the most recent version of the 1970 version of the law. The 1990 amendments made major changes in the Clean Air Act.

Keyword	Definition
Clean Water Act	The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. The basis of the CWA was enacted in 1948 and was called the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the Act was significantly reorganized and expanded in 1972. "Clean Water Act" became the Act's common name with amendments in 1972.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act	The Coastal Barrier Improvement Act (CBIA) of 1990 reauthorized the CBRA ; expanded the CBRS to include undeveloped coastal barriers along the Florida Keys, Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands; and added a new category of coastal barriers to the CBRS called "otherwise protected areas" (OPAs). OPAs are predominantly comprised of conservation and/or recreation areas such as national wildlife refuges, state and national parks, local conservation areas, and private conservation areas, though they may also contain private areas that are not held for conservation and/or recreation. The law encourages the conservation of hurricane prone, biologically rich coastal barriers by restricting Federal expenditures that encourage development, such as Federal flood insurance. Areas within the CBRS can be developed provided that private developers or other non-Federal parties bear the full cost.
Code of Federal Regulations	A compilation of the general and permanent rules of the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government as published in the Federal Register. The code is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation.
Collector (Highway)	In rural areas, routes that serve intracounty rather than statewide travel. In urban areas, streets that provide direct access to neighborhoods and arterials.
Commercial Bus	Any bus used to carry passengers at rates specified in tariffs; charges may be computed per passenger (as in regular route service) or per vehicle (as in charter service).
Commute	Regular travel between home and a fixed location (e.g., work, school).
Commuter	A person who travels regularly between home and work or school.
Commuter Rail	Long-haul passenger service operating between metropolitan and suburban areas, whether within or across the geographical boundaries of a state, usually characterized by reduced fares for multiple rides, and commutation tickets for regular, recurring riders.
Commuter Rail (Transit)	Urban passenger train service for short-distance travel between a central city and adjacent suburb. Does not include rapid rail transit or light rail service.
Conformity	Process to assess the compliance of any transportation plan, program, or project with air quality implementation plans. The conformity process is defined by the Clean Air Act.

Keyword	Definition
Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)	A categorical Federal-aid funding program created with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. Directs funding to projects that contribute to meeting National air quality standards. Funds from this program generally may not be used for projects that result in the construction of new capacity available to single-occupant vehicles.
Contributing / Not Contributing Resource	Standards for evaluating significance within registered historic districts. (a) Properties located within registered historic districts are reviewed by the Secretary to determine if they contribute to the historic significance of the district by applying the following Standards for Evaluating Significance within Registered Historic Districts. (1) A building contributing to the historic significance of a district is one which by location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association adds to the district's sense of time and place and historical development. (2) A building not contributing to the historic significance of a district is one which does not add to the district's sense of time and place and historical development; or one where the location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association have been so altered or have so deteriorated that the overall integrity of the building has been irretrievably lost. (see https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2012-title36-vol1/pdf/CFR-2012-title36-vol1-sec67-5.pdf).
Council on Environmental Quality	Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was created in 1969 by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), advises the President and develops policies on climate change, environmental justice, federal sustainability, public lands, oceans, and wildlife conservation, among other areas. As the agency responsible for implementing NEPA, CEQ also works to ensure that environmental reviews for infrastructure projects and federal actions are thorough, efficient, and reflect the input of the public and local communities (see https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/).
Chesapeake Bay Field Office	Part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Chesapeake Bay Field Office works with landowners, private and community organizations, government agencies and others to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay area (Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia) (see https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/).
Decibel	The standard unit of measurement for sound pressure level and vibration level. Technically, a decibel is the unit of level which denotes the ratio between two quantities that are proportional to power; the number of decibels is 10 times the logarithm of this ratio. Abbreviated as dB.
Department of Energy	The Department of Energy's (DOE) overarching mission is to advance the national, economic and energy security of the United States; to promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that mission; and to ensure the environmental

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	cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex. The Department has four strategic goals toward achieving the mission: Defense Strategic Goal: To protect our national security by applying advanced science and nuclear technology to the Nation's defense; Energy Strategic Goal: To protect our national and economic security by promoting a diverse supply and delivery of reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy; Science Strategic Goal: To protect our national and economic security by providing world-class scientific research capacity and advancing scientific knowledge; and Environment Strategic Goal: To protect the environment by providing a responsible resolution to the environmental legacy of the Cold War and by providing for the permanent disposal of the Nation's high-level radioactive waste.
Department of Health and Human Services	The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	HUD's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. To fulfill this mission, HUD will embrace high standards of ethics, management and accountability and forge new partnerships--particularly with faith-based and community organizations--that leverage resources and improve HUD's ability to be effective on the community level.
Department of Transportation	Establishes the nation's overall transportation policy. Under its umbrella there are ten administrations whose jurisdictions include highway planning, development and construction; urban mass transit; railroads; aviation; and the safety of waterways, ports, highways, and oil and gas pipelines. The Department of Transportation (DOT) was established by act of October 15, 1966, as amended (49 U.S.C. 102 and 102 note), "to assure the coordinated, effective administration of the transportation programs of the Federal Government" and to develop "national transportation policies and programs conducive to the provision of fast, safe, efficient, and convenient transportation at the lowest cost consistent therewith."
Depot Area	A facility where buses are stored and maintained.
District of Columbia Municipal Regulations	The District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR), https://www.dcregs.dc.gov/ .
Driver	1) A person who operates a motorized vehicle. If more than one person drives on a single trip, the person who drives the most miles is classified as the principal driver. 2) An occupant of a vehicle who is in physical control of a motor vehicle in transport or, for an out-of-control vehicle, an occupant who was in control until control was lost.

Keyword	Definition
Easement	A right to cross or otherwise use someone else's land for a specified purpose.
Endangered Species Act	The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, is intended to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. It is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Service has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms, while the responsibilities of NMFS are mainly marine wildlife such as whales and anadromous fish such as salmon.
Environmental Consequence	Specific environmental impacts or effects of each of the alternatives including the proposed action. (See also 40 CFR § 1502.16)
Environmental Justice	Environmental Justice (EJ) assures that services and benefits allow for meaningful participation and are fairly distributed to avoid discrimination.
Environmental Protection Agency	The federal regulatory agency responsible for administering and enforcing federal environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and others.
Equivalent Sound Level	The metric for cumulative noise exposure over a specific time interval is the equivalent sound level. For a period of one hour it would be shown as $L_{eq(1hr)}$.
Expenditures	1) Actual cash (or electronic transfer) payments made to the States or other entities. Outlays are provided as reimbursement for the Federal share for approved highway program activities. 2) A term signifying disbursement of funds for repayment of obligations incurred. An electronic transfer of funds, or a check sent to a State highway or transportation agency for voucher payment, is an expenditure or outlay.
Federal Highway Administration	A branch of the US Department of Transportation that administers the federal-aid Highway Program, providing financial assistance to states to construct and improve highways, urban and rural roads, and bridges. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) also administers the Federal Lands Highway Program, including survey, design, and construction of forest highway system roads, parkways and park roads, Indian reservation roads, defense access roads, and other Federal lands roads. The Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation responsible for administering the Federal-Aid Highway Program. Became a component of the Department of Transportation in 1967 pursuant to the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1651 note). It administers the highway transportation programs of the Department of Transportation under pertinent legislation
Federal Railroad Administration	The purpose of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is to promulgate and enforce rail safety regulations, administer railroad financial assistance programs, conduct research and development in support of improved railroad safety and national rail

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	transportation policy, provide for the rehabilitation of Northeast corridor rail passenger service, and consolidate government support of rail transportation activities. The FRA was created pursuant to section 3(e)(1) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. app. 1652).
Federal Register	Daily publication which provides a uniform system for making regulations and legal notices issued by the Executive Branch and various departments of the Federal government available to the public.
Federal Transit Administration	A branch of the US Department of Transportation that is the principal source of federal financial assistance to America's communities for planning, development, and improvement of public or mass transportation systems. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides leadership, technical assistance, and financial resources for safe, technologically advanced public transportation to enhance mobility and accessibility, to improve the Nation's communities and natural environment, and to strengthen the national economy. (Formerly the Urban Mass Transportation Administration) operates under the authority of the Federal Transit Act, as amended (49 U.S.C. app. 1601 et seq.). The Federal Transit Act was repealed on July 5, 1994, and the Federal transit laws were codified and re-enacted as chapter 53 of Title 49, United States Code. The Federal Transit Administration was established as a component of the Department of Transportation by section 3 of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968 (5 U.S.C. app.), effective July 1, 1968. The missions of the Administration are 1) to assist in the development of improved mass transportation facilities, equipment, techniques, and methods, with the cooperation of mass transportation companies both public and private. 2) to encourage the planning and establishment of areawide urban mass transportation systems needed for economical and desirable urban development, with the cooperation of mass transportation companies both public and private. and 3) to provide assistance to State and local governments and their instrumentalities in financing such systems, to be operated by public or private mass transportation companies as determined by local needs; and 4) to provide financial assistance to State and local governments to help implement national goals relating to mobility for elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged persons.
Federal-Aid Highways	Those highways eligible for assistance under Title 23 U.S.C. except those functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors.
Financial Planning	The process of defining and evaluating funding sources, sharing the information, and deciding how to allocate the funds.
Financial Programming	A short-term commitment of funds to specific projects identified in the regional Transportation Improvement Program.

Keyword	Definition
Fiscal Year (FY)	The yearly accounting period beginning October 1 and ending September 30 of the subsequent calendar year. Fiscal years are denoted by the calendar year in which they end (e.g. FY 1991 began October 1, 1990, and ended September 30, 1991).
For Hire Carrier	Carrier that provides transportation service to the public on a fee basis.
Fracture Critical Member	The National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) defines a fracture critical member as a steel member in tension, or with a tension element, whose failure would probably cause a portion of or the entire bridge to collapse.
Freedom of Information Act	Allows all U.S. citizens and residents to request any records in possession of the executive branch of the federal government. The term "records" includes documents, papers, reports, letters, films, photographs, sound recordings, computer tapes and disks
Geographic Information System	1) Computerized data management system designed to capture, store, retrieve, analyze, and display geographically referenced information. 2) 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.
Goals	Generalized statements which broadly relate to the physical environment to values
Gross Domestic Product	1) The total value of goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States. As long as the labor and property are located in the United States, the supplier (that is, the workers and, for property, the owners) may be either U.S. residents or residents of foreign countries. 2) The total output of goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States, valued at market prices. As long as the labor and property are located in the United States, the suppliers (workers and owners) may be either U.S. residents or residents of foreign countries.
Gross Vehicle Weight	The combined total weight of a vehicle and its freight.
Hazardous Material	Any toxic substance or explosive, corrosive, combustible, poisonous, or radioactive material that poses a risk to the public's health, safety, or property, particularly when transported in commerce.

Keyword	Definition
Heavy Rail (Transit)	An electric railway with the capacity to transport a heavy volume of passenger traffic and characterized by exclusive rights-of-way, multicar trains, high speed, rapid acceleration, sophisticated signaling, and high-platform loading. Also known as: Subway, Elevated (railway), or Metropolitan railway (metro).
High Occupancy Vehicle	Vehicles carrying two or more people. The number that constitutes a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) for the purposes of HOV highway lanes may be designated differently by different transportation agencies.
High Occupancy Vehicle Lane	Exclusive road or traffic lane limited to buses, vanpools, carpools, and emergency vehicles.
Highway	Is any road, street, parkway, or freeway/expressway that includes rights-of-way, bridges, railroad-highway crossings, tunnels, drainage structures, signs, guardrail, and protective structures in connection with highways. The highway further includes that portion of any interstate or international bridge or tunnel and the approaches thereto (23 U.S.C. 101a).
Historic Preservation	Protection and treatment of the nation's significant historic buildings, landmarks, landscapes, battlefields, tribal communities, and archeological sites; prominent federally owned buildings; and State and privately-owned properties. [National Park Service, Historic Preservation Services]
Imports	Receipts of goods into the 50 States and the District of Columbia from foreign countries and from Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and other U.S. possessions and territories.
Infrastructure	1) In transit systems, all the fixed components of the transit system, such as rights-of-way, tracks, signal equipment, stations, park-and-ride lots, but stops, maintenance facilities. 2) In transportation planning, all the relevant elements of the environment in which a transportation system operates. 3) A term connoting the physical underpinnings of society at large, including, but not limited to, roads, bridges, transit, waste systems, public housing, sidewalks, utility installations, parks, public buildings, and communications networks.
Intermodal	The ability to connect, and the connections between, modes of transportation.
Intersection	1) A point defined by any combination of courses, radials, or bearings of two or more navigational aids. 2). Used to describe the point where two runways, a runway and a taxiway, or two taxiways cross or meet.
Interstate	Limited access divided facility of at least four lanes designated by the Federal Highway Administration as part of the Interstate System.

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Interstate Highway System	The system of highways that connects the principal metropolitan areas, cities, and industrial centers of the United States. Also connects the US to internationally significant routes in Canada and Mexico.
Land Use	Refers to the manner in which portions of land or the structures on them are used, i.e. commercial, residential, retail, industrial, etc.
Land Use Plan	A plan which establishes strategies for the use of land to meet identified community needs.
Level of Service	1) A qualitative assessment of a road's operating conditions. For local government comprehensive planning purposes, level of service (LOS) 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. 2) This term refers to a standard measurement used by transportation officials which reflects the relative ease of traffic flow on a scale of A to F, with free-flow being rated LOS-A and congested conditions rated as LOS-F.
Light Rail	A streetcar-type vehicle operated on city streets, semi-exclusive rights-of-way, or exclusive rights-of-way. Service may be provided by step-entry vehicles or by level boarding.
Local Street	A street intended solely for access to adjacent properties.
Maintenance Area	Maintenance area is any geographic region of the United States previously designated nonattainment pursuant to the CAA Amendments of 1990 and subsequently redesignated to attainment subject to the requirement to develop a maintenance plan under section 175A of the CAA, as amended.
Maryland Area Regional Commuter	The MARC (Maryland Area Regional Commuter) Train Service is a commuter rail system whose service areas include Harford County, Maryland; Baltimore City; Washington, D.C.; Brunswick, Maryland; Frederick, Maryland and Martinsburg, West Virginia.
Maximum Sound Level	The highest exponential-time-average sound level, in decibels, that occurs during a stated time period. Abbreviated as L_{max} . The standardized time periods are 1 second for $L_{max, slow}$, and 0.125 second for $L_{max, fast}$.
Memorandum of Understanding/ Memorandum	A document providing a general description of the responsibilities that are to be assumed by two or more parties in their pursuit of some goal(s). More specific information may be provided in an associated SOW.

Keyword	Definition
of Agreement (MOU/MOA)	
Mile	A statute mile (5,280 feet). All mileage computations are based on statute miles.
Minor Arterials (Highway)	Roads linking cities and larger towns in rural areas. In urban areas, roads that link but do not penetrate neighborhoods within a community.
Mitigation	The CEQ regulations define mitigation as (40 CFR 1508.20): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action. 2) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation. 3) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment. 4) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action. 5) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.
Mobile Source	1) The mobile source-related pollutants are carbon monoxide (CO), hydrocarbons (HC), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate matter (PM-10 and PM 2.5). 2) Mobile sources include motor vehicles, aircraft, seagoing vessels, and other transportation modes.
Mobile Source Air Toxics	Identified by the EPA, Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSATs) are the 21 hazardous air pollutants generated in large part by transportation sources.
Mobility	The ability to move or be moved from place to place.
Motorbus (Transit)	A rubber-tired, self-propelled, manually steered bus with a fuel supply onboard the vehicle. Motorbus types include intercity, school, and transit.
Motorcycle	A two- or three-wheeled motor vehicle designed to transport one or two people, including motor scooters, minibikes, and mopeds.
Motorized Vehicle	Includes all vehicles that are licensed for highway driving. Specifically excluded are snow mobiles and minibikes.
Multimodal	The availability of transportation options using different modes within a system or corridor.
National Ambient Air	Federal standards that set allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various pollutants. The EPA developed the standards in response to a requirement of the CAA. Air quality standards have been established for the following six criteria pollutants:

Keyword	Definition
Quality Standards	ozone (or smog), carbon monoxide, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and sulfur dioxide.
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board	The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for metropolitan Washington. Working with local, state, regional, and federal partners, the TPB coordinates future plans, provides data and analysis to decision makers, and coordinates regional programs to advance safety, land-use coordination, and more. The TPB is housed at and staffed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).
National Cooperative Highway Research Program	The cooperative research, development, and technology transfer (RD&T) program directed toward solving problems of national or regional significance identified by States and the FHWA, and administered by the Transportation Research Board, National Academy of Sciences.
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969	Established a national environmental policy requiring that any project using federal funding or requiring federal approval, including transportation projects, examine the effects of proposed and alternative choices on the environment before a federal decision is made.
National Highway System	This system of highways designated and approved in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 103b).
National Marine Fisheries Service	The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is the United States federal agency responsible for the stewardship of national marine resources.
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	The NPDES permit program addresses water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants to waters of the United States. Created in 1972 by the Clean Water Act, the NPDES permit program is authorized to state governments by EPA to perform many permitting, administrative, and enforcement aspects of the program.
National Register of Historic Places	The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture,

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	archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.
National Wild and Scenic Rivers System	The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.
Natural Gas	A naturally occurring mixture of hydrocarbon and nonhydrocarbon gases found in porous geologic formations beneath the Earth's surface, often in association with petroleum. The principal constituent is methane.
Nitrogen Oxide Emissions	Nitrogen oxides (NO _x), the term used to describe the sum of nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) and other oxides of nitrogen, play a major role in the formation of ozone. The major sources of man-made NO _x emissions are high-temperature combustion processes, such as those occurring in automobiles and power plants.
Nitrogen Oxides	A product of combustion of fossil fuels whose production increases with the temperature of the process. It can become an air pollutant if concentrations are excessive.
No Build or No Action Alternative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) This term has two interpretations. First “no action” may mean “no change” from a current management direction or level of management intensity (e.g., if no ground-disturbance is currently underway, no action means no ground-disturbance). Second “no action” may mean “no project” in cases where a new project is proposed for implementation. 2) The Responsible Official must determine the “no action” alternative consistent with one of the definitions in paragraph (1) of this definition and appropriate to the proposed action to be analyzed in an environmental impact statement. The no action alternative looks at effects of not approving the action under consideration. <p>(see https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/43/46.30)</p>
Noise	Any disagreeable or undesired sound or other audible disturbance.
Noise Zones	Defined according to the following categories: (a) Residential, (b) Commercial; and (c) Industrial in accordance with DCMR Title 20, Section 2799.
Nonattainment Area	Any geographic area that has not met the requirements for clean air as set out in the Clean Air Act of 1990.

Keyword	Definition
Occupancy	The number of persons, including driver and passenger(s) in a vehicle. Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey occupancy rates are generally calculated as person miles divided by vehicle miles.
Off-Peak/Peak Hour	Peak hour is the part of the day during which traffic volumes on the road are at their highest. Peak hours at the H Street Bridge NE were determined to be weekdays from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM (see Transportation Analysis Technical Report Appendix C). Off-Peak hours are all other hours during the day.
Other Freeways And Expressways (Highway)	All urban principal arterials with limited access but not part of the Interstate system.
Other Principal Arterials (Highway)	Major streets or highways, many of multi-lane or freeway design, serving high-volume traffic corridor movements that connect major generators of travel.
Ozone	Ozone (O ₃) is a colorless gas with a sweet odor. Ozone is not a direct emission from transportation sources. It is a secondary pollutant formed when volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides combine in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is associated with smog or haze conditions. Although the ozone in the upper atmosphere protects us from harmful ultraviolet rays, ground-level ozone produces an unhealthy environment in which to live. Ozone is created by human and natural sources.
Park	A place or area set aside for recreation or preservation of a cultural or natural resource.
Parking Area	An area set aside for the parking of motor vehicles.
Participating Agency	A federal department or agency which transferred (consolidated) vehicles to the Interagency Fleet Management System.
Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5})	Particulate matter consists of airborne solid particles and liquid droplets. Particulate matter may be in the form of fly ash, soot, dust, fog, fumes, etc. These particles are classified as "coarse" if they are smaller than 10 microns, or "fine" if they are smaller than 2.5 microns. Coarse airborne particles are produced during grinding operations, or from the physical disturbance of dust by natural air turbulence processes, such as wind. Fine particles can be a by-product of fossil fuel combustion, such as diesel and bus engines. Fine particles can easily reach remote lung areas, and their presence in the lungs is linked to serious respiratory ailments such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and aggravated coughing. Exposure to these particles may aggravate other medical conditions such as heart disease and emphysema and may cause premature death. In

Keyword	Definition
	the environment, particulate matter contributes to diminished visibility and particle deposition (soiling).
Particulate Matter Emissions	Particulate matter is the general term used for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. They originate from many different stationary and mobile sources as well as from natural sources, including fuel combustion from motor vehicles, power generation, and industrial facilities, as well as from residential fireplaces and wood stoves. Fine particles are most closely associated with such health effects as increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits for heart and lung disease, increased respiratory symptoms and disease, decreased lung function, and even premature death.
Parts Per Million	A measure of air pollutant concentrations.
Passenger Car	A motor vehicle designed primarily for carrying passengers on ordinary roads, includes convertibles, sedans, and stations wagons.
Passenger Service	Both intercity rail passenger service and commuter rail passenger service.
Peak/Off-Peak Hour	Peak hour is the part of the day during which traffic volumes on the road are at their highest. Peak hours at the H Street Bridge NE were determined to be weekdays from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM (see Transportation Analysis Technical Report Appendix C). Off-Peak hours are all other hours during the day.
Peak Particle Velocity	Peak Particle Velocity (PPV) is the maximum instantaneous positive or negative peak of the vibration signal. PPV is often used in monitoring of construction vibration since it is related to the stresses that are experienced by buildings and is not used to evaluate human response.
Pedestrian	Any person not in or on a motor vehicle or other vehicle. Excludes people in buildings or sitting at a sidewalk cafe. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration also uses another pedestrian category to refer to pedestrians using conveyances and people in buildings. Examples of pedestrian conveyances include skateboards, nonmotorized wheelchairs, roller skates, sleds, and transport devices used as equipment.
Pedestrian Walkway (or Walkway)	A continuous way designated for pedestrians and separated from the through lanes for motor vehicles by space or barrier.
Programming	Prioritizing proposed projects and matching those projects with available funds to accomplish agreed upon, stated needs.

Keyword	Definition
Project	A locally sponsored, coordinated, and administered program, or any part thereof, to plan, finance, construct, maintain, or improve an intermodal passenger terminal, which may incorporate civic or cultural activities where feasible in an architecturally or historically distinctive railroad passenger terminal.
Public Entity	1) Any state or local government; 2) Any department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of one or more state or local governments; and 3) The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and any commuter authority.
Public Meeting or Hearing	A public gathering for the express purpose of informing and soliciting input from interested individuals regarding transportation issues.
Public Participation	The active and meaningful involvement of the public in the development of transportation plans and programs.
Public Transit	Passenger transportation services, usually local in scope, that is available to any person who pays a prescribed fare. It operates on established schedules along designated routes or lines with specific stops and is designed to move relatively large numbers of people at one time.
Public Transit Agencies	A public entity responsible for administering and managing transit activities and services. Public transit agencies can directly operate transit service or contract out for all or part of the total transit service provided.
Public Transit System	An organization that provides transportation services owned, operated, or subsidized by any municipality, county, regional authority, state, or other governmental agency, including those operated or managed by a private management firm under contract to the government agency owner.
Public Transportation	Transportation by bus, rail, or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, which provides to the public general or special service on a regular and continuing basis. Also known as "mass transportation", "mass transit" and "transit."
Public Road	Any road under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority (federal, state, county, town or township, local government, or instrumentality thereof) and open to public travel.
Rail	A rolled steel shape laid in two parallel lines to form a track for carrying vehicles with flanged steel wheels.
REA Building	Railway Express Agency Building at 900 Second Street NE, Washington DC. Owned by Amtrak.

Keyword	Definition
Receiver	A stationary far-field position at which noise or vibration levels are specified.
Right of Way	The land (usually a strip) acquired for or devoted to highway transportation purposes.
Road	An open way for the passage of vehicles, persons, or animals on land.
Root Mean Square	Because the net average of a vibration signal is zero, the Root Mean Square (RMS) amplitude is used to describe smoothed vibration amplitude. The rms of a signal is the square root of the average of the squared amplitude of the signal. The average is typically calculated over a one-second period. The rms amplitude is always less than the PPV and is always positive. The rms amplitude is used to convey the magnitude of the vibration signal felt by the human body, in inches/second.
Rural Highway	Any highway, road, or street that is not an urban highway.
Rural Mileage (Highway)	Roads outside city, municipal district, or urban boundaries.
Section 106	Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country. If a federal or federally-assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place (see https://www.achp.gov/protecting-historic-properties/section-106-process/introduction-section-106).
Section 4(f)	Section 4(f) refers to the original section within the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which provided for consideration of park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during transportation project development. The law, now codified in 49 U.S.C. §303 and 23 U.S.C. §138, applies only to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and is implemented by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration through the regulation 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 774 (see https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_topics/4f_tutorial/overview.aspx?h=e#h).
SimTraffic	SimTraffic is a computer model used to simulate a wide variety of traffic controls. Each vehicle in the traffic system is individually tracked through the model and comprehensive operational measures of effectiveness are collected on every vehicle during each 0.1-second of the simulation (https://www.trafficware.com/synchro-studio.html).
Small Particulate Matter (PM-10)	Particulate matter which is less than 10 microns in size. A micron is one millionth of a meter. Particulate matter this size is too small to be filtered by the nose and lungs.

Keyword	Definition
Sources	Refers to the origin of air contaminants. Can be point (coming from a defined site) or non-point (coming from many diffuse sources).[Stationary sources include relatively large, fixed facilities such as power plants, chemical process industries, and petroleum refineries. Area sources are small, stationary, non-transportation sources that collectively contribute to air pollution, and include such sources as dry cleaners and bakeries, surface coating operations, home furnaces, and crop burning. Mobile sources include on-road vehicles such as cars, trucks, and buses; and off-road sources such as trains, ships, airplanes, boats, lawnmowers, and construction equipment.
Stakeholder	Person or group affected by a transportation plan, program or project. Person or group believing that are affected by a transportation plan, program or project. Residents of affected geographical areas.
Stakeholders	Individuals and organizations involved in or affected by the transportation planning process. Include federal/state/local officials, MPOs, transit operators, freight companies, shippers, and the general public.
State	As defined in chapter 1 of Title 23 of the United States Code, any of the 50 States, comprising the United States, plus the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. However, for some purposes (e.g., highway safety programs under 23 U.S.C. 402), the term may also include the Territories (the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands) and the Secretary of the Interior (for Indian Reservations). For the purposes of apportioning funds under sections 104, 105, 144, and 206 of Title 23, United States Code, the term "State" is defined by section 1103(n) of the TEA-21 to mean any of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.
State Historic Preservation Office	The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the District of Columbia is responsible for administering national historic preservation programs within the District. These programs were established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and are supported by an annual grant from the National Park Service.
State Implementation Plan	Produced by the state environmental agency, not the MPO. A plan mandated by the CAA that contains procedures to monitor, control, maintain, and enforce compliance with the NAAQS. Must be taken into account in the transportation planning process.
State Transportation Improvement Program	A staged, multi-year, statewide, intermodal program of transportation projects, consistent with the statewide transportation plan and planning processes as well as metropolitan plans, Transportation Improvement Programs, and processes.
Streetcars	Relatively lightweight passenger railcars operating singly or in short trains, or on fixed rails in rights-of-way that are not always separated from other traffic. Streetcars do not necessarily have the right-of-way at grade crossings with other traffic.

Keyword	Definition
Structurally Redundant	The capability of a bridge structural system to carry loads after damage to or the failure of one or more of its members (The Manual for Bridge Evaluation [2018]).
Ten-Percentile Exceeded Sound Level	The sound level exceeded 10 percent of a specific time period. For example, from a 50-sample measurement period, the fifth (10% of 50 samples) highest sound level is the 10-percentile exceeded sound level. In notation form this is L ₁₀ .
Title VI	Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Prohibits discrimination in any program receiving federal assistance.
Transportation Conformity	Process to assess the compliance of any transportation plan, program, or project with air quality implementation plans. The conformity process is defined by the Clean Air Act.
Transportation Improvement Program	A document prepared by a metropolitan planning organization that lists projects to be funded with FHWA/FTA funds for the next one- to three-year period.
Undertaking	Undertaking means a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; and those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval (see 36 CFR § 800.16).
Union Station Redevelopment Corporation	Founded in 1983, Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) is a nonprofit organization charged with three main objectives: to preserve and restore Union Station's historic and architectural significance, maintain the station's long-term function as a multimodal transportation center, and enhance the retail and amenities within the station.
United States Code	Contains a consolidation and codification of all general and permanent laws of the U.S.
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is an agency of the United States Government within the United States Department of the Interior dedicated to the management of fish, wildlife, and natural habitats.
Urban Highway	Any road or street within the boundaries of an urban area. An urban area is an area including and adjacent to a municipality or urban place with a population of 5,000 or more. The boundaries of urban areas are fixed by state highway departments, subject to the approval of the Federal Highway Administration, for purposes of the Federal-Aid Highway Program.

Keyword	Definition
Vibration Decibels (VdB)	Vibration Velocity Level.
Vibration Velocity Level (Lv, VdB)	Ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of the square of the amplitude of the RMS vibration velocity to the square of the amplitude of the reference RMS vibration velocity. The reference velocity in the United States is one micro-inch per second (10 ⁻⁶ inches/second).
Volatile Organic Compounds	Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) come from vehicle exhaust, paint thinners, solvents, and other petroleum-based products. A number of exhaust VOCs are also toxic, with the potential to cause cancer.
Washington Union Station Expansion Project	The Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC) in coordination with Amtrak is proposing to expand and modernize Washington Union Station, the National Capital Region's principal intermodal transportation hub, in order to provide a positive customer experience; support current and future rail service and operational needs; facilitate intermodal transportation; preserve and maintain the historic station and its features; sustain the economic viability of Washington Union Station; and integrate with the adjacent neighborhoods, businesses, and planned development. (see https://railroads.dot.gov/environmental-reviews/washington-union-station-expansion-project/washington-union-station-0)
Zone	The smallest geographically designated area for analysis of transportation activity. A zone can be from one to ten square miles in area. Average zone size depends on the total size of study area.