

Activity Center – An activity center is an area that includes office, retail, service, residential or civic uses that create a central focus for a larger area. An activity center also has generally recognizable boundaries.

Alternative Mode – Loosely defined term generally used to identify any form of travel other than driving alone in a single occupant vehicle (SOV), including carpooling, transit, walking and bicycling.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Federal legislation passed in 1990 that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. In addition to other public and private facilities, the act requires all transportation facilities and services must be accessible to individuals with physical handicaps.

Arterial – A major thoroughfare that is vital for moving people and goods; feeds into the interstate and freeway systems.

Attainment Area – An urbanized area which meets federal air quality standards defined in the Clean Air Act.

Bicycle Lane – A designated portion of the roadway cross section reserved for the use of bicyclists, accompanied by appropriate signing and marking. Bicycle lanes are one-way facilities in the same direction as motor vehicle traffic and are generally located to the outside edge of the roadway.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – Innovative transit service that mimics rail service. BRT is generally thought of as a fixed guideway transit concept that operates in an exclusive right of way and loads passengers at stations that are similar to rail stations. The people mover between concourses at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport is an early example of the BRT concept.

Brownfield – An area that was previously used for industrial purposes. These usually pose environmental challenges to new developments and must be cleaned up before they can be redeveloped.

Central Business District (CBD) – A business, office and residential district providing a full range of services and a variety of uses in a downtown atmosphere.

Charrette – a meeting to resolve a problem or issue. Within a specified time limit, participants work together intensely to reach a resolution.

Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) – Federal legislation that establishes acceptable levels of certain criteria pollutants. Regional Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs must demonstrate conformity to the air quality attainment plans that serve as a blueprint outlining how a region will demonstrate attainment of the air quality standards by a particular year.

Collector – Intended to balance access and mobility considerations by serving through movement as well as access to land.

Community Improvement District (CID) – A self-taxing district, established by the appropriate local government but usually managed by a private Board, which generates revenue to implement a variety of projects and programs. Roadway improvements and shuttle services are generally the emphasis of CIDs.

Commuter Rail – Transit service that utilizes a multi-car system along an existing rail corridor. Commuter rail usually connects cities and does not have many stops.

Congestion Management System (CMS) – Systematic process for managing congestion by providing information on system performance and provides opportunities and strategies for alleviating congestion and maximizing the efficiency of the transportation system. The congestion monitoring network defined by the CMS provides the mechanism for continual monitoring and evaluation of congestion in the region. This network of

facilities includes all regionally significant roadways, functionally classified as arterial or higher, coupled with additional non-arterial roadways as appropriate.

Conformity – A process in which transportation plans and spending programs (i.e. the RTP or TIP) are reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with federal clean air requirements and contribute to attainment of air quality standards.

Department of Community Affairs (DCA) – The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was created in 1977 to serve as an advocate for local governments. DCA operates a host of state and federal grant programs; serves as the state's lead agency in housing finance and development; promulgates building codes to be adopted by local governments; provides comprehensive planning, technical and research assistance to local governments; and serves as the lead agency for the state's solid waste reduction efforts.

Density – The number of dwellings or principle buildings or uses per acre of land.

Development of Regional Impact (DRI) – A development project, regardless of the mix of land uses, which is likely to have impacts to the transportation network and environment beyond the limits of the jurisdiction in which it is being constructed.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 whenever federal funds are used on transportation project. The purposes of an EIS is to review and study all impacts the project will have on its surroundings. The EIS must also identify mitigation strategies for the generated impacts. For lower impact projects, an Environmental Assessment (a less detailed environmental document) may be required instead.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas – Natural resource areas that are susceptible to contamination or other negative impact from growth and development.

Exclusionary Zoning – Zoning that has the effect of keeping certain groups or additional population out of a community or neighborhood. Techniques such as large-lot zoning or high floor area or minimum residential floor area requirements, which increase housing costs, have been challenged for their potential exclusionary effects.

Exempt – A project which has been determined to have negligible impacts to emissions and air quality and, therefore, is not typically incorporated into travel demand modeling and emissions analyses. Typical exempt projects include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, facilities to support transit services (but not the services themselves), studies, minor intersection improvements and safety upgrades.

Facility – The means by which a transportation mode is provided. For example, sidewalks are a facility serving the walking mode, a roadway is a facility serving the driving mode and a heavy rail line is a facility serving the transit mode.

Fixed Guideway – A type of transit service that operates along a dedicated and unchangeable right of way other than the roadway network. For example, all forms of rail transit operate on a fixed guideway (the actual rails). A fixed guideway transit service is meant to transport people efficiently and quickly from one area of the region to another since it is separated from the roadway network and generally operates at a uniform, relatively high speed.

Freeway – A divided highway having two or more lanes for the exclusive use of traffic in each direction and full control of access. The freeway is the only type of highway intended to provide complete "uninterrupted" flow.

Functional Classification – Streets provide two distinct functions: mobility (through movement) and access to land. Functional classification is a hierarchical ranking based on the degree of mobility and access that a street provides. Streets are generally classified as arterials, collectors and local streets.

Georgia Planning Act – The Georgia Planning Act was adopted by the Georgia General Assembly in 1989 as a means to encourage better management of growth in the booming areas of the state while encouraging the less prosperous parts to avail themselves of opportunities for growth. DCA's Coordinated Planning Program has responsibility for the overall management of the planning process created by the Georgia Planning Act. The Act established a "bottom-up," comprehensive planning approach initially to be conducted at the local government level, then at the regional and state levels. DCA reviews all comprehensive plans submitted by local governments for compliance with the Minimum Standards and Procedures For Local Comprehensive Planning.

Grade – The slope (ratio of change in elevation to change in distance) or a roadway typically given in percent. For example, a 2% grade represents two feet of elevation change over a 100-foot distance.

Greenfield – Land area where there has been no prior construction or development activity on site. Typically used in context of "greenfield development," meaning new construction on vacant land, as opposed to infill or brownfield (industrial sites) development/redevelopment.

Greenspace – Permanently protected land and water, including agricultural and forest land whose development rights have been severed from the property that is in its undeveloped, natural state.

Greenway – A corridor of undeveloped land which features multi-use paths or trails and which is designated for the exclusive use of bicycles, pedestrians and other nonmotorized modes of transportation.

Grid Street Pattern – A street system based upon a standard grid pattern (i.e. checkerboard blocks). This pattern eliminates or minimizes offset intersections, loop roads and cul-de-sacs. The block pattern is characterized by regular (i.e. rectangular or trapezoidal) blocks.

Growth Management – The use by a community of a wide range of techniques in combination to determine the amount, type and rate of development desired by the community and to channel that growth into designated areas. Growth management policies can be implemented through growth rates, zoning, capital improvement programs, public facilities ordinances, urban limit lines, standards for levels of service and other programs.

Heavy Rail – Transit service which utilizes separate right of way rail lines either below or above ground, such as MARTA's rail system.

High Occupancy Toll Lanes (HOT) – Lanes generally used by multi-occupant vehicles such as buses, carpools and vanpools, but made available to SOVs for a fee.

High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes (HOV) – Lanes dedicated for exclusive use by multi-occupant vehicles such as buses, carpools and vanpools. In Georgia, it is legal for motorcycles and alternatively fueled vehicles (such as electric cars) to use HOV lanes.

Historic Preservation – A comprehensive and inclusive planning tool dedicated to recognizing, protecting, using and appreciating our nation's diverse cultural resources. The preservation of those resources helps maintain the character and sense of place that defines an area.

Infill Development – Refers to the reuse or change of use of a previously developed parcel or group of parcels, or the intensification of use or change of use by remodeling or renovating an entire structure.

Infrastructure – The basic facilities such as roads, water and sewer lines, schools, power plants and communication systems on which the continuance and growth of a community depends.

Intermodal – Interconnectivity between various types of transportation.

Job-Housing Match/Balance – The concept of achieving a roughly equal number of jobs and housing units or households in a jurisdiction or part of a jurisdiction. The notion of balancing jobs and housing goes well beyond trying to attain numerical equality. Ideally, the jobs available in a community need to match the labor force skills, and housing should be available at prices, sizes and locations for workers who wish to live in the area.

Light Rail – Transit service which generally operates at grade within roadway rights of way. Because of their design, light rail systems typically operate at lower speeds and feature closely spaced stops.

Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) – Investment policy studies for activity and town centers. The primary focus of these studies is to encourage increased development, mixed-uses and connectivity at the activity and town center level.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – A federally required planning body responsible for transportation planning and project selection in its region. The governor designates an MPO in every urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more people. The MPO is responsible for developing the RTP and TIP in its jurisdiction.

Mixed-Income Housing – The concept of intentionally providing housing for people with a broad range of incomes within the same development or immediate neighborhood.

Mixed-Use Development – A single building containing more than one type of land use or a single development of more than one building and use, where the different type of land uses are in proximity, planned as a unified complementary whole, and functionally integrated to the use of shared vehicular and pedestrian access and parking areas.

Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEB) – The amount of mobile source emissions within a non-attainment area which can be produced by the transportation system in order to permit the area to conform to federal air quality standards defined in the Clean Air Act. The MVEB is generally expressed in tons per day and is defined in the State Implementation Plan developed by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) – Federal standards defined in the Clean Air Act that define maximum allowable concentrations and exposure limits for a number of pollutants.

Nonattainment Area – An urbanized area which does not meet federal air quality standards defined in the Clean Air Act.

Ozone – The primary component of smog. A colorless gas formed when volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxide (Nox) combine in the presence of sunlight. There are two types of ozone. “Good” ozone protects the Earth from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays and is found in the upper atmosphere. “Bad” ozone usually lingers at ground level and can cause respiratory problems, especially with children and the elderly. The EPA sets standards for the maximum allowable concentration and associated exposure limit of ground level ozone.

Particulate Matter – Solid or liquid particles found in the air which can cause respiratory problems, especially with children and the elderly. The EPA sets standards for the maximum allowable concentration and associated exposure limit of particulate matter of 10 micrometers or less in diameter.

Pocket Parks – Small, undeveloped pockets of preserved greenspace found most often in compact urban areas where large recreational parks are not practical.

Regional Development Center (RDC) – Sixteen regional development centers were created by the state as public agencies on behalf of their members to facilitate coordinated and comprehensive planning in conformity with state standards and procedures.

Regional Development Plan (RDP) – A comprehensive planning document, policies and work program produced by ARC to provide regional guidance for growth

and public investment decisions. The first RDP was adopted by ARC in 1952. Current RDPs are produced to meet requirements under the Georgia Planning Act law. The RDP seeks to integrate analysis and policies from functional plans such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and plans adopted for the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District. RDP development policies have been adopted periodically since 1999 to provide guidance to local governments on techniques to more efficiently integrate new population, jobs and development in the region.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – A multimodal set of transportation projects and initiatives developed by an MPO for its urbanized area. It is required by the federal government and must cover a minimum of 20 years and be updated at least every third year in non-attainment areas (five years for attainment areas), be fiscally constrained and must also demonstrate conformity with applicable federal air quality standards.

Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) – A private vehicle, such as an automobile, SUV or light truck which contains only the driver.

Smart Growth – Economically viable and environmentally sustainable development that stresses balanced, inclusive community planning.

Stakeholder – An individual or organization involved in or affected by the transportation or land use planning processes. In a broad sense, everyone is a stakeholder in both transportation and land use planning.

Sustainable Development – Development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Town Center – A town center typically represents the historic center of a municipality. These areas were historically the center of the community and had a mix of commercial and civic uses. A town center should have a recognizable boundary.

Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) – An innovative development approach that fosters more compact, walkable communities. TND emphasizes a return to the way we used to build neighborhoods. TND neighborhoods typically include small-lot single family homes, multi-family residences and neighborhood commercial developments within easy walking distance of one another.

Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) – The unit of geographic area, generally of small size (several blocks in dense urban areas to a few square miles in semi-rural areas) and of similar development characteristics, used in travel demand modeling. Trip generation and distribution steps are accomplished at the TAZ level.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – The first three to five years of a Regional Transportation Plan. Must include specific funding for the projects as well as the project schedule from preliminary engineering to construction.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) – A strategy of planning land use and organizing development to allow people to easily use public transit or other alternative means of transportation (bicycles, etc.) to get to places where they live, work and play. This generally involves concentrating a higher density mix of residential and commercial development in areas near transit stops or routes.

Transit Circulator – A transit circulator is a bus or other vehicle on a route designed to move people within an activity center. A transit circulator can take any number of forms, such as a shuttle bus, van, monorail, trolley or other mode of transportation. The transit circulator is meant to eliminate the need for the use of a car within an activity center.

Transportation Management Association (TMA) – Organizations that

address the transportation needs of a particular service area. TMAs are often started as public-private partnerships in response to business concerns with mobility or accessibility. TMAs may provide vanpool or carpool formation, transit discounts, bicycle and pedestrian programs or shuttle services.

Travel Demand Management (TDM) – Low cost ways to reduce demand by automobiles on the transportation system, such as programs to promote telecommuting, flextime and ridesharing.

Travel Demand Model – A computer application which uses travel and land use data to determine how a transportation network will function in the future. It is a planning tool that is used to develop and test numerous scenarios. The modeling process used by ARC has four essential steps: 1) trip generation, 2) trip distribution, 3) mode split and 4) trip assignment.

Urbanized Area – Term used by the United State Census Bureau to define the limits of urban and suburban development around a core city and which, in total, has a population in excess of 50,000. The urbanized area boundary is used to define the jurisdiction of an MPO.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) – On highways, a measurement of the total miles traveled by all vehicles in the area for a specified time period.

Zoning Regulation – An ordinance enacted by the local government that sets forth regulations and standards relating to the nature and extent of uses of land and structures. It includes a zoning map which is consistent with local comprehensive plans.