

To: StanCOG
From: Michael Schmitt, AICP CTP, PTP, RSP₁
Re: StanCOG RTP/SCS Glossary of Terms
Date: June 8, 2022

This memorandum provides definitions for key words and acronyms referenced within the 2022 StanCOG RTP/SCS document.

AB 1779

Assembly Bill 1779. This bill was passed in August 2012, and authorized regional government agencies to form the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) to take over the administration and management of the existing Amtrak San Joaquins Rail Service from the state.

AB 32

Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires that the State reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020.

AB 90

Assembly Bill 90. This bill was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020. It prohibits the imposition of financial penalties associated with the TDA's requirements that transit agencies obtain specified fixed percentages of their operating budgets from passenger fares (TDA farebox recovery requirements) during 2019-20 and 2020-21 fiscal years (FYs).

ACE

Altamont Corridor Express

ACE Forward

Passenger Rail Service Extension

ACS

American Community Survey

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act

ADT

Average Daily Traffic

Air Cargo

Revenue producing items in domestic or international commerce, composed of freight, express, and mail, but excluding passenger baggage.

Air Carrier

An aviation operator who provides regular round-trips per week between two or more points and publishes flight schedules that specify the times, days of the week, and places between which such flights are performed. The air carrier at the Modesto City- County Airport is United Express.

Alternative Fuels

Low-polluting fuels that are used to propel a vehicle instead of high-sulfur diesel or gasoline. Examples include methanol, ethanol, propane, compressed natural gas, liquid natural gas, low-sulfur or “clean” diesel, and electricity.

Amtrak

A federal governmental agency that provides intercity railroad passenger service Amtrak also provides commuter rail passenger service by contract.

Annual Service Miles

The number of miles that all transit vehicles travel each year in scheduled transit service operations, or when carrying passengers in door-to-door (or demand responsive) transit service.

AOC

Auto Operating Costs

APS

Alternate Planning Strategy

APTA

American Public Transportation Association

ARC

Appalachian Regional Commission. It was created by Congress in 1965 in response to the persistent socioeconomic challenges in the Appalachian region.

ATP

Active Transportation Program

AVO

Average Vehicle Occupancy

AVs

Autonomous Vehicles

SJVAPCD

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is the governmental agency that regulates sources of air pollution within Stanislaus County.

BART

Bay Area Rapid Transit

BEA

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Bikeway Classifications

As defined by the Caltrans Highway Design Manual:

- Class I Bike Path: A paved 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.

BIL

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

BLS

Bureau of Labor Statistics

BLST

Bus Line Service of Turlock

BPAC

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. A standing StanCOG advisory committee to the Policy Board

BRT

Bus Rapid Transit - typically a travel corridor that allows buses to operate at higher speeds in their own right-of-way minimizing conflicts with automobiles

BTA

Bicycle Transportation Account

CAA

Clean Air Act. Federal legislation which establishes criteria for attaining and maintaining the federal air quality standards for allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various air pollutants. The legislation also provides emission standards for specific vehicles and fuels.

CAC

Citizen's Advisory Committee. A standing StanCOG advisory committee to the Policy Board.

Calvans

Van Pool Program sponsored by the California Vanpool Authority.

CASP

California Aviation System Plan

CAT

Ceres Area Transit

Caltrans

California Department of Transportation

CARB

California Air Resources Board

Carpool

Two or more people sharing the use and cost of privately owned automobiles.

CBO

Community Based Organizations

CCAA

California Clean Air Act passed in 1988 that provides the basis for air quality planning and regulation independent of federal regulations.

CCI

Construction Cost Index measures the inflation rate in the cost of major construction projects.

CEQA

California Environmental Quality Act

CFR

Code of Federal Regulations

CHP

California Highway Patrol

CHSRA

California High-Speed Rail Authority

CIP

Capital Improvement Program

CIRIS

California Interregional Intermodal System

CLIBP

Crows Landing Industrial Business Park

CLIBP

Crows Landing Industrial Business Park

CMIA

Corridor Mobility Improvement Account. A \$4.5 billion congestion relief component of the nearly \$19.9 billion Proposition 1B Infrastructure Bonds approved by voters in November 2006.

CMA

Congestion Management Agency. A countywide agency responsible for preparing and implementing a Congestion Management Program (CMP). StanCOG is the CMA for the Stanislaus region.

CMAQ

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program. A category of funds contained in TEA-21 for projects and activities that reduce congestion and improve air quality in regions not yet attaining federal air quality standards.

CMP

Congestion Management Process. 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 CMA and must be consistent with the adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Community Plan

More specific versions of the General Plans, generally dealing with smaller geographical areas, but having the same force of law. See General Plan.

Commuter Rail

Conventional rail passenger service within a metropolitan area, usually operating over existing, inter-city railroad tracks.

Complete Streets

Complete Streets is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

Conformity

A demonstration of whether a federally-supported activity is consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) — per Section 176 (c) of the Clean Air Act.

Congestion

Congestion is usually defined as travel time or delay in excess of that normally experienced under free-flow traffic conditions.

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.

COG

Council of Governments

CPI

Consumer Price Index developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor to provide a measurement of the inflation rate in the general economy of a given metropolitan area.

CRS

Congressional Research Service

CTA

California Transit Association

CTC

California Transportation Commission

CTSA

Consolidated Transportation Services Agency

CVO

Commercial Vehicle Operations

DAR

Dial-a-ride. A transit service that is pre-arranged by phone or by application

Deficient Segment

As used in the RTP, a portion of freeway experiencing a Level of Service where demand exceeds capacity.

Demand-Responsive Service

Transit service that is provided in response to a pre-ordered or telephone reservation.

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.

DOF

Department of Finance

DOT

Department of Transportation

DP-36

Director's Policy 36, a new Road Safety Policy released by Caltrans on February 15, 2022. It sets the goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries in California by 2050.

DPEIR

Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

DRMT

Division of Rail and Mass Transportation (DRMT)

EIR

Environmental Impact Report. A detailed statement prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) describing and analyzing the significant environmental effects of a project and discussing ways to mitigate or avoid the effects.

EMFAC

Emission Factor. CARB model used to calculate CO2 emissions.

EMP

Environmental Mitigation Program. Provides funding for the mitigation of local and regional transportation projects and additional funding for activities that help implement the region's habitat preservation plans

Environmental Justice (EJ)

The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.

ET

Envision Tomorrow. This is a suite of planning tools that can be used to model the development of buildings on a site-by-site basis, as well as create and evaluate multiple land use scenarios at a regional scale.

EV

Electric Vehicle

Expressway

Similar to a freeway but with signal-controlled intersections.

FAA

Federal Aviation Administration:

Farebox Recovery Ratio (FRR)

Measure of the proportion of operating expenses covered by passenger fares. The ratio divides the farebox revenue by the total operating expenses.

Farebox Revenue

Value of cash, tickets, and pass receipts given by passengers for payment for rides on public transit.

Fare Structure

The various fees charged to use transit typically delineated by age, type of service, trip length and/or time of day.

FAST Act

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act

FHWA

Federal Highway Administration:

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.

Freeway

Multilane divided roadway, grade separated from other roadways, with fully controlled access and egress.

FTA

Federal Transit Administration

FY

Fiscal Year. For local public agencies, this is typically July 1 through June 30 of each year

FFY

Federal Fiscal Year. Typically October 1 through September 30 of each year

Gas Tax

The tax applied on each gallon of fuel sold. Currently, the federal tax is 18.3 cents per gallon and the state tax is 18 cents per gallon tax.

General Plan

A policy document required of cities and counties by state law which describes a jurisdiction's future development in text and map form. All land use decisions must derive from the GP. The General Plan must contain seven mandatory elements: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety.

GHG

Greenhouse gas. Gases that effect global climate change. They include: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

GIS

Geographic Information System.

Grade Separation

A vertical separation between intersecting roads and or railway tracks.

GRH

Guaranteed Ride Home Program which provides a free taxicab ride or 24-hour car rental to those who carpool, vanpool, use premium bus service or bike to work

HBP

Highway Bridge Program. HBP provides for construction and maintenance of bridges that were not on the State Highway System, such as bridges on rural minor collectors and local roads.

HBW

Home Based Work

HCD

The California State Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department

HCM

Highway Capacity Manual

Heavy Rail

Railroad services that operate in a mixed-user environment on conventional railroad tracks.

HOT

High Occupancy Toll

Household (HH)

All people living in a housing unit, regardless of whether they are related to each other. Housing units include houses, apartments, and mobile homes.

HOV

High Occupancy Vehicle that carries more than one passenger. Examples include carpools, vanpools, shuttles, and buses.

HOV Lane

Exclusive road or traffic lane limited to HOVs that typically has a higher operating speed and lower traffic volumes than a general purpose or mixed flow lane.

HSIP

Highway Safety Improvement Program. This program allows states to target funds to their most critical safety needs.

HSR

High-Speed Rail is railroad passenger service that, as defined by California state law, operates at maximum speeds of over 200 miles per hour.

HSRA

High-Speed Rail Authority

HTF

Highway Trust Fund. A federal program for transportation funding

ICE

Internal Combustion Engine

Integrated Corridor Management (ICM)

An approach to managing a roadway corridor, generally major corridors within a jurisdiction, as a multimodal system and make operational decisions for the benefit of the corridor as a whole. Can include the implementation of infrastructure support technology such as managed lanes and ramp metering.

INFRA

Infrastructure for Rebuilding America. INFRA (known statutorily as the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects) awards competitive grants for multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas.

Inter-city Rail

Railroad passenger service which primarily serves longer trips such as those between major cities or regions

Intermodal

Passenger or freight transportation services which involve or use more than one type of transportation facility (or mode).

IOS

Initial Operating Section

IRI

International Roughness Index

ITS

Intelligent Transportation Systems use transportation technologies, management tools, and electronic services to improve operational efficiencies.

JARC

Jobs Access Reverse Commute. The SAFETEA-LU formula fund program which provides support for capital or operating costs for transportation services and facilities designed to facilitate reverse commute employment related travel for persons of limited means.

KARGO

Kern Area Regional Goods Movement Operations

LAFCO

Local Agency Formation Commission

LEHD

Longitudinal Employment and Housing Dynamic

LOS

Level of Service. A qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream and motorists' perception of those conditions. LOS ratings typically range from LOS A, which represents free flow conditions, to LOS F, which is characterized by forced flow, heavy congestion, stop and go traffic, and long queues.

LRSP

Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plans

LTF/Local

Local Transportation Fund

MAP-21

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141), was signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012. Funding surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014, MAP-21 is the first long-term highway authorization enacted since 2005. By transforming the policy and programmatic framework for investments to guide the system's growth and development, MAP-21 creates a streamlined and performance-based surface transportation program and builds on many of the highway, transit, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies established in 1991.

MAX

Modesto Area Express. The City of Modesto's fixed-route transit service

Measure L

Measure L (Local Roads First) is a half-cent sales tax referendum passed in November 2016 by the voters of Stanislaus County to increase funding for needed transportation improvements in Stanislaus County. Measure L Funds are provided for the following categories: Local Streets and Roads, Traffic Management, Bike and Pedestrian Improvements, Regional Projects, and Transit Providers.

MFC

Management and Finance Committee. A standing StanCOG advisory committee to the Policy Board

MITC

Merced Intermodal Track Connector

Mixed-Use

The combining of commercial, office, and residential land uses to provide easy pedestrian access and reduce the public's dependence on the automobile.

Mode

One of various forms of transportation, including automobile, transit, bicycle, and walking.

Mode Split

The percent of trips that use each of the various travel modes.

MPO

Metropolitan Planning Organization is the federally-designated agency that is responsible for regional transportation planning in each metropolitan area. StanCOG is the MPO for the Stanislaus region.

MPPP

Mid-Performance Period Progress

MSA

Metropolitan Statistical Area

MTCE

Maintenance

MTP

Metropolitan Transportation Plan

NAAQS

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

NAHC

Native American Heritage Commission

NCHRP

National Cooperative Highway Research Program

NHFP

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

NHPP

National Highway Performance Program

NHS

National Highway System

NHTSA

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration

Non-attainment Area

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

NMTP

Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. A document, prepared by StanCOG, that addresses all non-motorized modes of transportation.

NOP

Notice of Preparation

NRSS

National Roadway Safety Strategy released by USDOT on January 27, 2022 to support the reduction of fatalities and serious injuries along roadways.

OTS

Office of Traffic Safety

OWP

Overall Work Program

Paratransit

The range of demand-responsive (or on-request) transit providing service from a trip origin to trip destination.

Park and Ride

A travel option where commuters park their personal vehicles in a publicly provided lot or other location, and continue their trip via carpool, vanpool, or transit.

PPP

Public Participation Plan

PSR

Project Study Report. A preliminary engineering report which documents agreement on the scope, a set of reasonable and feasible alternatives, schedule, and estimated cost of a project so that the project can be included in a future State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Public Transportation

Travel by bus, rail, or other vehicle, either publicly or privately owned, which provides general or specialized service on a regular or continuing basis.

RAISE

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity. The RAISE Discretionary Grant program provides investments in road, rail, transit and port projects that have a significant local or regional impact and meet achieve national objectives.

REMI

Regional Economic Models Inc. Forecasting model used to develop UOP demographic forecasts.

Reverse Commute

Travel in the direction opposite to the main flow of peak period commute traffic.

RHNA

Regional Housing Needs Assessment

RHNP

Regional Housing Needs Plan

ROI

Return on Investment

ROW

Right-of-Way. The land required for the construction and operation of a transportation facility.

RPA

Regional Planning Agency

RTAC

Regional Targets Advisory Committee

RTIP

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). A listing of major highway and transit projects including project costs, funding sources, and development schedules.

RTP

Regional Transportation Plan. A minimum 20-year plan that is required by state and federal law to guide the development of the region's transportation system.

RTPA

Regional Transportation Planning Agency. A state-designated agency responsible for preparing the RTP and the RTIP and administering state transportation funds. StanCOG is the RTPA in the Stanislaus region.

Safe Routes to School

A state and federal program which funds education, encouragement campaigns, and infrastructure improvements to help reduce the amount of traffic congestion around schools.

SAFETEA-LU

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. Federal legislation signed into law on August 10, 2005 authorizing \$244.1 billion for Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009.

SB 1

Senate Bill 1. The State legislature passed this bill in 2017, increasing several transportation related taxes and fees while creating the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program to address deferred maintenance on the State highway system and the local street and road system.

SB 9

Senate Bill 9. This bill enables homeowners to more easily subdivide their current residential lot.

SB 10

Senate Bill 10. This bill allows local governments to zone any parcel for up to 10 residential units if located within a transit priority area enabling them to be exempted from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SB 45

Senate Bill 45. Commonly referred to as the STIP Reform Bill. This bill created the procedures for administering local grant projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and responsibilities of Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs).

SB 132

Senate Bill 132. This bill was adopted in April 2017, assigning \$400 million for the purpose of extending the Altamont Corridor Express into Ceres and Merced by the year 2027.

SB 375

Senate Bill 375. California senate legislation that helps implement the requirements of Assembly Bill 32, by addressing the greenhouse gas emissions produced by cars and light trucks—which account for nearly 40% of the state’s total emissions.

SB 743

Senate Bill 743. California state legislation that helps reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

SB 903

Senate Bill 903. This legislation was sponsored by StanCOG and became effective July 16, 2018. It provides Operators with relief and maintains existing transit service.

SCS

Sustainable Communities Strategy. A SCS is an enhanced land use element, developed as part of each Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update, that sets forth a growth strategy for the region which combined with the transportation plan strives towards achieving GHG emissions reductions.

SED

Socioeconomic Data

SIP

State Implementation Plan. A document that shows the steps planned to meet federal air quality standards.

SJPA

San Joaquin Valley Joint Powers Authority

SJV

San Joaquin Valley

SJVAPCD

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

SJVR

San Joaquin Valley Railroad

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.

SHSMP

State Highway System Management Plan

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 closer to existing and planned job centers and public facilities, while preserving open space and natural resources.

SOV

Single occupant vehicle

SR

State Route, as in State Route 99 (SR-99)

SSTAC

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council. A standing StanCOG advisory committee to the Policy Board

STA

State Transit Assistance. STA is a portion of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) dollars derived from the statewide general sales tax on diesel fuel. These funds are available only for transportation planning and mass transportation operating and capital purposes.

StanCOG

Stanislaus Council of Governments

StaRT

Stanislaus Regional Transit. Stanislaus County's fixed-route transit service.

StanRTA

Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority. It was formed in 2021 when StaRT and Modesto Area Express (MAX) were merged to reduce operating costs in future years.

STBGP

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. The STBG program provides flexible funding for projects on any Federal-Aid highway, bridges on public roads, transit capital projects, and intra-city and inter-city bus terminals and facilities on a formula basis.

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 from Caltrans.

STP

Surface Transportation Program. A federal program originally established in the federal ISTEA legislation which provides flexible funding allocated by regional agencies like StanCOG for a range of projects including highways, transit, local streets and roads, and bicycles.

Sustainability 3Es

Environmental Quality, Economic Vitality, Social Equity

TAC

Technical Advisory Committee. An informal StanCOG advisory committee.

TAZ

Traffic Analysis Zone

TCEP

Trade Corridor Enhancement Program. This program distributes \$300 million annually for projects related to transportation infrastructure vital to California's trade and freight economy.

TCM

Transportation Control Measure. A transportation strategy intended both 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.

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 are used for transit, specialized transit for disabled persons, and bicycle and pedestrian purposes.

TCRP

Transportation Congestion Relief Program

TDM

Transportation Demand Management. Programs to reduce demand by automobiles on the transportation system, such as telecommuting, flextime, bicycling, walking, transit use, staggered work hours, and ridesharing.

Tier I

Transportation improvements and programs that are fully fundable by 2040 based on revenue projections

Tier II

Transportation improvements and programs that are desired, but are not fully fundable by 2040 based on revenue projections

TIP

Transportation Improvement Program

TMA

Transportation Management Area

TMS

Transportation Management System

TRIMMS

Software for estimating the GHG emissions for Transportation Demand Measures

TSM

Transportation System Management. Strategies that maximize the number of persons traveling in a corridor or facility. These strategies include traffic flow improvements, ramp metering, and park-and-ride lots.

TTR

Truck Travel Time Reliability

UOP

University of the Pacific

UPRR

Union Pacific Railroad

USC 130

Railway-Highway Crossings. The focus of this program is to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries at public highway-rail grade crossings through the elimination of hazards and/or the installation and upgrade of protective devices crossings.

U.S. DOT

United States Department of Transportation

U.S. EPA

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Vanpool

A vehicle operating as a ridesharing arrangement, providing transportation to a group of individuals traveling directly between their homes and a regular destination within the same geographic area.

V/C Ratio

Volume to Capacity Ratio. The volume of traffic divided by the capacity of a transportation facility.

VHTS

San Joaquin Valley Household Travel Survey

VMT

Vehicle Miles Traveled. The total number of miles traveled on all roadways by all vehicles.

VVS

Valley Vision Stanislaus

ZERO

Zero Emissions Route Operations

ZEV

Zero Emission Vehicle