

APPENDIX H – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This memorandum provides definitions for key words and acronyms referenced within the 2018 StanCOG RTP/SCS document.

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.

ACE

Altamont Corridor Express

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

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.

AIP

The Airport Improvement Program (AIP) provides grants to public agencies — and, in some cases, to private owners and entities — for the planning and development of public-use airports that are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS)

ATP

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) consolidates existing federal and state transportation programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), and State Safe Routes to School (SR2S), into a single program with a focus to make California a national leader in active transportation. The ATP administered by the Division of Local Assistance, Office of State Programs.

SJVAPCD

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

CFF

Capital Facilities Fees (CFF) are impact fees established to mitigate the impacts of new development as outlined in §66000 of the California Government Code. These fees may be used for the purchase, construction, expansion, rehabilitation, or acquisition of public facilities.

CHP

California Highway Patrol

CHSRA

California High-Speed Rail Authority

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. The CMAQ program was reauthorized under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century in 1998, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users in 2005, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act in 2012, and most recently, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act in 2015 (FAST Act).

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.

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.

DIBS

Dibs was established by the San Joaquin Council of Governments in 1978 to enhance air quality and help reduce congestion through Transportation Demand Strategies such as carpooling, vanpooling, riding transit and biking and walking. Dibs partners with the Stanislaus Council of Governments and the Merced County Association of Governments to offer services to the three counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced.

DOF

Department of Finance

DOT

Department of Transportation

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.

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.

Expressway

Similar to a freeway but with signal-controlled intersections.

FAA

Federal Aviation Administration

Farebox Recovery Ratio

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.

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.

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

The Highway Bridge Program (HBP) is a safety program that provides federal-aid to local agencies to replace and rehabilitate deficient locally owned public highway bridges.

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.

Household

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

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is a core Federal-aid program with the purpose to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads, including non-State-owned roads and roads on tribal land.

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.

HTF

Highway Trust Fund. A federal program for transportation funding.

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).

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.

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.

LTF

Local Transportation Fund (LTF), is derived from a ¼ cent of the general sales tax collected statewide. The State Board of Equalization, based on sales tax collected in each county, returns the general sales tax revenues to each county's LTF. Each county then apportions the LTF funds within the country based on population.

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 2017 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.

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.

MOVE

MOVE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting the residents of Stanislaus County with transportation options to access the community.

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.

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.

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.

PFC

The Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) Program allows the collection of PFC fees up to \$4.50 for every enplaned passenger at commercial airports controlled by public agencies. Airports use these fees to fund FAA-approved projects that enhance safety, security, or capacity; reduce noise; or increase air carrier competition.

PFF

Public Facility Fees can be charged to new development based on density and traffic impacts. The funds must be used only to build public facilities, purchase vehicles and equipment required to service population growth.

PPM

Planning Programming, and Monitoring funds can be used either for planning activities or for project development.

Prop 1b

Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006.

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.

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

ROW

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

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 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)

SB1/Gas Tax

The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, increases transportation funding. This legislation invests \$5.4 billion annually to fix roads, freeways and bridges in communities across California and puts more dollars toward transit and safety. These funds will be split equally between state and local investments. The gas 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.

SB132

Senate Bill 132 provides \$500 million for projects. The measure includes \$400 million in transportation funds for the extension of the Altamont Corridor Express to Modesto, Ceres, and Merced; a commuter rail line between the Bay Area and Central Valley; and \$100 million for a parkway project at the UC Merced campus.

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.

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.

SIP

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

SJV

San Joaquin Valley

SJVAPCD

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

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.

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)

SRTS

The Safe Routes To School Program came into effect in August of 2005. This federal funding program emphasizes community collaboration in the development of projects, and projects that incorporate elements of the 5 E’s – education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation.

SSTAC

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

STA

The State Transit Assistance (STA) funds are appropriated by the legislature to the State Controller’s Office (SCO). The SCO then allocates the tax revenue, by formula, to planning agencies and other selected

agencies. Statue requires that 50% of STA funds be allocated according to population and 50% be allocated according to transit operator revenues from the prior fiscal year.

StanCOG

Stanislaus Council of Governments

StaRT

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

STBGP

The Surface Transportation Block Grant program (STBGP) provides flexible funding that may be used by States and localities for projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals.

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. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act converts the long-standing Surface Transportation Program (STP) into the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) acknowledging that this program has the most flexible eligibilities among all Federal-aid highway programs and aligning the program's name with how the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has historically administered it. The STBG promotes flexibility in State and local transportation decisions and provides flexible funding to best address State and local transportation needs. (FAST Act § 1109(a)). 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

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 2042 based on revenue projections.

Tier II

Transportation improvements and programs that are desired, but are not fully fundable by 2042 based on revenue projections.

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.

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.

VMT

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

5307

The Urbanized Area Formula Funding program (49 U.S.C. 5307) makes federal resources available to urbanized areas and to governors for transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation-related planning. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more that is designated as such by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

5311

The Formula Grants for Rural Areas program (49 U.S.C. 5311) provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000, where many residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations.

5339

The Bus & Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program (49 U.S.C. 5339) makes federal resources available to states and direct recipients to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities. Funding is provided through formula allocations and competitive grants.