

Appendix J. Key Terms and Acronyms

Key Terms and Acronyms

Additional acronyms and terms are defined online courtesy of the Federal Highway Administration online at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Planning/glossary/>

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990: Federal law that requires public facilities (including transportation services) to be accessible to persons with disabilities including those with mental disabilities, temporary disabilities, and the conditions related to substance abuse.

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations: The codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the departments and agencies of the Federal Government. It is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Federal transportation planning requirements pertaining to MPOs are generally provided in Titles 23 and 49.

CMP - Congestion Management Process (previously known as Congestion Management System): A systematic process to address congestion management through metropolitan planning. The CMP is required under 23 CFR 500.109 and shall include methods to monitor and evaluate the performance of the multi-modal transportation system, identify causes of congestion, identify and evaluate alternative actions, provide information supporting the implementation of actions, and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation actions.

Complete Streets – Streets that offer transportation choices that are safe and convenient for all ages and ability levels. These choices may include transit, walking, bicycling and automobile travel.

DOT - Department of Transportation: Agency responsible for transportation at the local, state, or federal level. For title 23 U.S.C. federal-aid highway actions, this would mean the Federal Highway Administration and for federal-aid transit actions under title 49 U.S.C, this would mean the Federal Transit Administration.

EA – Environmental Assessment: The process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that decision-makers consider environmental impacts before deciding whether to proceed with new projects.

EJ - Environmental Justice: Derived from Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and established by Executive Order 12898, EJ requires federally funded plans and programs to assess their impact, either positive or negative, on traditionally underserved (e.g., low-income, minority, etc.) communities or segments of the population. The goal of EJ is to ensure public involvement of low income and minority groups in decision making to prevent disproportionately high and adverse impacts on low income and minority groups, and to ensure that these groups receive equal benefits from transportation improvements.

EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: is an agency of the federal government of the United States charged with protecting human health and with safeguarding the natural environment: air, water, and land.

FHWA - Federal Highway Administration: Division of the U.S. Department of Transportation responsible for administrating federal highway transportation programs.

FRA – Federal Railroad Administration: The modal administration of the United States Department of Transportation responsible for the safety and effectiveness of the nation’s railroad infrastructure.

FTA - Federal Transit Administration: The modal administration of the United States Department of Transportation responsible for federal transit planning and programs.

FTA - Franklin Transit Authority: The local transit agency for Franklin, Tennessee, currently operated on behalf of the city by The TMA Group.

FY - Fiscal Year: A federal fiscal or budget year. The FY runs from October 1 through September 30 for the MPO and the federal government. State and local governments operate on a fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

GIS – Geographic Information System: a system for capturing, storing, analyzing and managing data which is spatially referenced to the earth. GIS is a tool that allows users to create interactive queries (user created searches), analyze the spatial information, edit data, maps, and present the results of all these operations.

GNRC – Greater Nashville Regional Council: a regional organization created by State law to serve as the development district for 13 counties in northern Middle Tennessee. GNRC serves as the Area Agency on Aging and Disability, the Middle Tennessee Tourism Council, and provides community planning and economic development assistance to its local government members. In 2017, the GNRC was designated to serve as the MPO sponsor agency, and as such provides staffing and administrative services to the MPO Transportation Policy Board.

HUD – United States Department of Housing and Urban Development: Federal agency charged with helping to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes.

ITS - Intelligent Transportation System: Use of computer and communications technology to facilitate the flow of information between travelers and system operators to improve mobility and transportation productivity, enhance safety, maximize the use of existing transportation facilities, conserve energy resources and reduce adverse environmental effects; includes concepts such as “freeway management systems,” “automated fare collection” and “transit information kiosks.”

LEP – Limited English Proficiency: A term used in the United States that refers to a person who is not fluent in the English language, often because it is not their native language.

L RTP – Long-Range Transportation Plan: A document resulting from regional or statewide collaboration and consensus on a region or state's transportation system, and serving as the defining vision for the region's or state's transportation systems and services. In metropolitan areas, the plan indicates all of the transportation improvements scheduled for funding over the next 20 years. It is fiscally constrained, i.e., a given program or project can reasonably expect to receive funding within the time allotted for its implementation.

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization: The forum for cooperative transportation decision-making; required for urbanized areas with populations over 50,000.

MTA – Metropolitan Transit Authority (recently rebranded as WeGo Public Transit): The public transit agency serving Nashville/Davidson County.

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act: Passed in 1970, NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.

NHS - National Highway System: Consists of roadways important to the nation’s economy, defense, and mobility. The NHS includes the Interstate System, principal arterial highways in rural and urban areas, the Strategic Highway Networks and connectors for national defense purposes, and intermodal connectors that tie together the surface, air, water, and rail transportation systems.

PPP – Public Participation Plan: a federally-required document that describes the MPO’s process for involving the public and interested stakeholders in the development and adoption of required plans and programs. The PPP describes the formal procedures used to adopt or amend the Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, and Unified Planning Work Program.

RTA – Regional Transportation Authority: Nine-county regional agency that plans and develops regional transit in the Nashville area.

STIP - State Transportation Improvement Program: A priority list of transportation projects developed by the Tennessee Department of Transportation that is to be carried out within the four (4) year period following its

adoption; must include documentation of federal, State, and local funding sources for each project. Transportation projects in the state's 11 metropolitan areas are determined through Metropolitan Planning Organization process.

TCA – Tennessee Code Annotated: The codification of Tennessee state laws.

TCC - Transportation Coordinating Committee: (Formerly Technical Coordinating Committee) A standing committee of area planners, engineers, and other transportation related agencies which provide advice on plans or actions to the Transportation Policy Board.

TDEC – Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation: State agency responsible for protecting the quality of the natural environment, conserving natural and historic resources, and providing quality outdoor recreational activities through the state park system.

TDOS – Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security: State agency responsible for driver's licenses, vehicle titles, highway patrol, handgun permits, public safety, and homeland security

TDOT – Tennessee Department of Transportation: State agency responsible for the planning and implementation of Tennessee's multimodal transportation system including roads and bridges, aviation, public transit, waterways, and railroads.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act - Enacted as part of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

TIP - Transportation Improvement Program: A priority list of transportation projects developed by a metropolitan planning organization that is to be carried out within the four (4) year period following its adoption; must include documentation of federal, state, and local funding sources for each project and be consistent with adopted MPO long range transportation plans and local government comprehensive plans.

TMA - Transportation Management Area: An area designation by the U.S. Department of Transportation given to all urbanized areas with a population of 200,000 or more (or other area when requested by the Governor and MPO); these areas must comply with special transportation planning requirements regarding congestion management systems, project selection and certification; requirements identified in 23 CFR - 450.300-338.

Transportation Policy Board (formerly the Executive Board): A standing committee created for the purpose of serving as spokespersons for the citizens of the metropolitan area and is the designated MPO to prioritize and direct federal transportation funds to local projects.

The TMA Group: A local non-profit organization headquartered in Williamson County responsible for carrying out certain transit services on behalf of the Regional Transportation Authority and the Franklin Transit Authority, and for the administration of the regional Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee, under contract to Williamson County and the Nashville Area MPO.

TOD - Transit Oriented Development: a mixed-use development that is anchored by a transit station. The transit mode may include bus or rail, and the development may include uses such as housing, office and retail.

Transportation Disadvantaged: People who are unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation due to disability, income status or age.

UPWP - Unified Planning Work Program: Developed by Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPOs); identifies all transportation and planning activities anticipated within the next one to two years, including a schedule for the completion of the identified tasks and activities.

U.S.C – United States Code: A consolidation and codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. Titles 23 and 49 of the USC pertain to highways and transportation.