

Unified Planning Work Program

UPWP

Glossary



**North Jersey
Transportation
Planning
Authority, Inc.**

NJTPA Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

AA

see Alternatives Analysis.

AASHTO

see American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Active Transportation

(also known as Non-motorized Transportation)

Includes walking, bicycling, small-wheeled transport (skates, skateboards, push scooters and hand carts) and wheelchair travel.

ADA

see Americans with Disabilities Act.

All-Electric Vehicle (AEV)

Automobiles that rely solely on electric power with no gasoline assistance.

Alternatives Analysis (AA)

Preliminary engineering and environmental studies of a wide range of transportation project alternatives. Alternatives are narrowed down, with some selected for more detailed study, leading to a preferred alternative.

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

A nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states.

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

A professional certification for planners requiring completing a set of courses and passing a test offered by the American Planning Association's professional institute.

American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

An organization for the bus, rapid transit and commuter rail systems industry, based in Washington, DC that works to improve the accessibility and availability of public transportation.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

The economic stimulus package enacted by the federal government in 2009.

American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)

The oldest national transportation construction-related advocacy association, ARTBA works to increase and protect funding for investment in transportation infrastructure.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Enacted in 1990, the ADA established that persons with disabilities have the same rights as other citizens to access services and facilities available to the public. In transportation terms, the ADA seeks to ensure that all Americans can meet their basic mobility needs.

AMPO

see Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

APTA

see American Public Transportation Association.

ARRA

An economic stimulus package enacted by the federal government in 2009.

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)

AMPO, of which the NJTPA is a member, is a nonprofit, membership organization established to serve the needs and interests of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) nationwide.

BMS

A set of tools for analyzing data on the condition of bridges, predicting deterioration, and formulating optimum and cost-effective actions for preservation and maintenance.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC)

The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) is coordinated by the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The goal of the BPAC is to promote policies, practices and attitudes that increase bicycling and walking for transportation and recreation, in order to enhance the state's quality of life and improve public health and the environment.

BRT

see Bus Rapid Transit.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

A flexible, rubber-tired form of rapid transit using semi-dedicated or dedicated routes, ITS elements and specially branded vehicles to provide similar services as light rail systems with reduced capital costs.

Brownfields

Abandoned, idle, or under-used industrial or commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by environmental contamination that can make redevelopment financially or logistically prohibitive.

CAAA

see Clean Air Act Amendments.

CAFRA

CAFRA is a state permitting program that determines what can be built along environmentally sensitive coastal areas.

Canadian Pacific Railway (CP)

Formerly also known as CP Rail, it is a Canadian Class 1 railroad headquartered in Calgary, Alberta. It owns approximately 14,000 route miles of track across Canada and into the United States. Its rail network (both owned and operated via trackage rights) serves major cities in the United States including Newark, NJ.

CAIT

see Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation

Capital Funds

Funding used to build or renovate transportation infrastructure.

Categorical Exclusion (CE)

A CE applies to transportation projects that have minimal environmental impacts.

CE

see Categorical Exclusion.

Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT)

CAIT is a University Transportation Center, one of 60 academic research institutions sanctioned and supported by the U.S. Department of Transportation. CAIT helps develop safer, more durable, and more efficient infrastructure and transportation systems.

Central Staff

The support staff for the NJTPA.

Certification

A federally mandated process whose purpose is to certify that an MPO is legally qualified to receive and expend federal dollars. A certification review examines the planning process to ensure that it complies with all applicable federal regulations.

CFR

see Code of Federal Regulations.

Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA)

Federal law that requires states to set budgets and timetables for reducing air pollution. The law requires the NJTPA to give priority funding to transportation projects that reduce vehicle emissions through travel pattern changes, travel mode options, and/or traffic flow improvements.

CMAQ Congestion Mitigation Air Quality

This program funds transportation projects or programs that will contribute to attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), with a focus on reducing ozone and carbon monoxide.

CMP

see Congestion Management Process.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

A compilation of all regulations issued by the federal government's agencies and departments. Published annually.

Committee for a Smart New Jersey (CSNJ)

A non-lobbying, non-profit, organization of public, private, and academic sector organizations having an interest in the research, deployment, and operation of Intelligent Transportation Systems in New Jersey. CSNJ is a State Chapter of ITS America, and provides ITS education and outreach to foster the understanding of ITS applications and technologies.

Commuter Rail

Passenger rail service between cities or job centers and their suburbs.

CON

see Construction

Conformity

A federally required analysis of transportation plans such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) used to demonstrate that funded projects, taken together, will not produce more air pollution than allowed by New Jersey's State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Congestion Management Process (CMP)

A federally mandated CMP, formerly the Congestion Management System (CMS), takes a systematic approach to identifying and addressing congestion. It includes data collection, monitoring and measuring of transportation system performance and identifying alternative actions and strategies for particular locations.

Congestion Pricing (also Value Pricing)

Transportation tolls, fares or other charges that vary with the level of travel demand (for example, by time of day). Congestion pricing is intended to help optimize the efficiency of the transportation system.

Conrail Shared Assets Operations (CSAO)

Railroad company operating 1200 miles of track on three networks— Northern New Jersey, Southern New Jersey/Philadelphia, and Detroit Shared Assets Areas. It serves as a local carrier and switching company for CSX Transportation and the Norfolk Southern Railway.

Constrained

Funding for the first four years of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is fiscally constrained, meaning that the projected allocations must balance with assumed revenues.

Construction (CON)

A final phase of work in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), involving actual construction.

Context Sensitive Design (CSD)

A collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to designing transportation infrastructure that involves all stakeholders to develop a facility that is appropriate to its setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility.

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP)

A federally required plan to help guide the region in prioritizing and funding transportation services for disabled, elderly and low-income residents.

Corridor

A broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow connecting major origins and destinations of trips, and which may contain a number of streets, highways, and transit alignments.

County Route (or County Road) (CR)

A roadway designated and/or maintained by a county road department.

Cross County Connection

The TMA providing services to Burlington and Camden counties. A limited number of services are also provided to Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, and Cape May counties.

CSD

see Context-Sensitive Design.

CSNJ

see Committee for a Smart New Jersey.

CSX Transportation (CSX)

Jacksonville, Fla.-based railroad and transportation company operating a 21,000-route-mile rail system serving 23 states, the District of Columbia, the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec and having access to 70 ports in the eastern U.S.

Database Number (DBNUM)

A number given to each project and program in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for tracking purposes.

DBE

see Disadvantaged-Owned Business Enterprise.

DBNUM

see Database Number.

DBOM

see Design Build Operate Maintain.

DEIS

Draft Environmental Impact Statement. See EIS definition.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)

The DVRPC is a bi-state Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Philadelphia area, including the New Jersey counties of Mercer, Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester.

Design Build Operate Maintain (DBOM)

A term to indicate that the design, building, operation, and maintenance of a project are performed by a single agency or firm.

Disadvantaged Owned Business Enterprise (DBE)

The U.S. Department of Transportation's DBE program provides a vehicle for increasing the participation by disadvantaged business enterprises in state and local procurement. In transportation planning, DBE programs ensure that eligible small disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs), owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, can compete fairly for government-funded projects and programs.

DMS

Drainage Management System

DMU

Diesel Multiple Units

DRJTBC

Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission

DVRPC

see Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

EA

see Environmental Assessment.

Earmark

A requirement placed in legislation by an elected official devoting revenues to a specific public expenditure.

EC

see Executive Committee.

EIS

see Environmental Impact Statement.

EJ

see Environmental Justice.

Electric Vehicle (EV)

Automobiles that run on electric power but may rely on assistance from gasoline.

Emerging Small Business Enterprise (ESBE)

In order to meet the maximum feasible portion of its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal through race-neutral means in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) has established an Emerging Small Business Enterprise (ESBE) policy and certification process that applies to construction and consultant contracts funded in whole or in part with federal financial assistance.

Environment and Public Works Committee (U.S. Senate)

The committee of the U.S. Senate with jurisdiction over a variety of public infrastructure, including transportation systems

Environmental Assessment (EA)

A report that identifies the environmental impacts of project alternatives as a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA can lead to a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or indicate that further study through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

An investigative report issued to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that quantifies the environmental impacts of major proposed transportation projects. Also: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Environmental Justice (EJ)

In transportation planning, the principle that the benefits and burdens of transportation projects be equitably shared among all segments of the population. Regulations draw specific attention to low-income and minority persons; elderly and mobility impaired persons are sometimes of concern in this context.

EOC

A central command facility responsible for coordinating emergency preparedness, emergency management or disaster management functions.

ESBE

see Emerging Small Business Enterprise.

EPA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EV

see Electric Vehicle

EWR

Federal Aviation Administration code for Newark Liberty International Airport.

Executive Committee (EC)

Consists of the NJTPA's Chairman, First Vice-Chairman, Second Vice-Chairman, Third Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. Provides oversight and direction on administrative, personnel, and financial matters; coordinates issues of priority attention; and acts on behalf of the NJTPA Board of Trustees when not in session. Meets as needed.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

The FHWA is the agency of the USDOT that administers federal funding for highways and bridges. Along with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), FHWA oversees the planning process administered by the NJTPA.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

The FRA is the agency of the USDOT that issues and enforces rail safety regulations; administers railroad assistance programs; and conducts research and development in support of improved railroad safety and national rail transportation policy.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

The FTA is the agency of the USDOT that administers federal funding for public transit. Along with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the FTA oversees the planning process administered by the NJTPA.

FHWA

see Federal Highway Administration.

FIC

see Freight Initiatives Committee.

Final Scope Development (FSD) [now Preliminary Design]

see Preliminary Design definition.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

A determination of an Environmental Assessment (EA) indicating that a potential project will have no significant environmental impact.

FIRE

An economic sector composed of industries such as banks, credit companies, investment firms, real estate and accountants.

Fiscal Year (FY)

The New Jersey state fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. The federal fiscal year is October 1 through September 30.

FONSI

see Finding of No Significant Impact.

FRA

see Federal Railroad Administration.

Freight Initiatives Committee (FIC)

A standing committee of the NJTPA. It supports the region's economically vital goods movement industry and works to fashion a transportation agenda for truck, rail, air, and waterborne commerce in the region. Meets bi-monthly.

FSD

see Final Scope Development [now Preliminary Design].

FTA

see Federal Transit Administration.

FY

see Fiscal Year.

GARVEE

see Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles.

GDP

Gross Domestic Product

Geographic Information System (GIS)

A computer system that can spatially manage, analyze, and present geographic data. With it, electronic and printed maps can be generated.

GHG

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. Some GHGs, such as carbon dioxide, occur naturally, while others, such as fluorinated gases, are created and emitted solely through human activities.

GIS

see Geographic Information System.

Global Positioning System (GPS)

A navigation system made up of a network of satellites that allows land, sea, and airborne users to determine their exact location.

Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE)

A GARVEE is any bond or other form of debt repayable, either exclusively or primarily, with future federal highway funds.

Greater Mercer TMA

A TMA serving Ocean Mercer and a portion of Somerset County.

HART Commuter Information Services

A TMA serving Hunterdon County

HAWK

High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk Signal

HBLRT

see Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit.

Heavy Rail

High-volume passenger rail systems that run in separate rights-of-way from all other vehicular and foot traffic.

High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes

Under some road pricing systems, motorists in single-occupant vehicles can pay a premium toll to travel in these lanes, which otherwise are reserved for high-occupancy vehicles lanes (see HOV lanes).

High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes (HOV Lanes)

Highway lanes designated for high occupancy vehicles such as buses and carpools.

High Risk Rural Roads Program (HRRRP)

Supports construction of quick-fix, high-impact safety improvements on rural roadways in the NJTPA region.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

The HSIP is a core Federal-aid program that requires a data-driven, strategic approach to improving highway safety on all public roads with a focus on performance. The goal of the program is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads, including non-State-owned public roads and roads on tribal lands.

HOT Lanes

see High Occupancy Toll Lanes

HOV Lanes

see High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes.

HRRRP

High Risk Rural Roads Program

HSIP

See Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit (HBLRT)

A light rail system that became operational in 2000. It provides travel along the Hudson County waterfront serving residents of Hudson and Bergen counties.

Hudson TMA

A TMA serving Hudson County

IATA

International Air Transport Association

Implementing Agencies

Agencies responsible for maintenance, construction, and operation of the state highway and public transit systems. Also known as operating agencies, these include NJDOT, NJ Transit, and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Technology to better manage traffic and transit resources, enhance safety and reduce accidents, inform the public about travel conditions, and more effectively handle toll collection, safety inspection, log maintenance, licensing and vehicle registration.

Intermodal

Intermodal facilities are equipped to serve and connect two or more modes of transportation. For example, Newark Penn Station features commuter rail, light rail, and buses. Freight intermodal terminals move goods among modes, including trucks, ship, rail, and air.

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA)

Enacted in 1991 by Congress (and superseded by TEA-21 in 1998 and SAFETEA-LU in 2005), ISTEA inaugurated a new approach to transportation planning that emphasizes the interdependence and connections among major components of the national transportation system.

ISTEA

see Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.

ITS

see Intelligent Transportation Systems.

JARC

see Job Access Reverse Commute.

Jitney

A small bus that travels on a fixed or semi-fixed route, on a flexible schedule, and can pick up and drop off riders along the way. The term comes from an old-time name for the nickel.

Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC)

A Federal Transit Administration (FTA) program providing funding for selected counties and municipalities to increase job accessibility for the most disadvantaged members of the population, including facilitating urban to suburban commuting.

Jones Act

Section of U.S. maritime law that requires that all goods transported by water between U.S. ports be carried in U.S.-flag ships.

Journey to Work (JTW)

A classification of data used in transportation planning; it describes the mode used by an individual to travel from home to work, as well as the time that it takes to do so. This data is collected in travel surveys and through the U.S. Census.

Keep Middlesex Moving

A TMA serving Middlesex County.

LCD

see Local Concept Development

LCPD

see Local Capital Delivery Program

Level of Service (LOS)

A traffic engineering measure of vehicular flow and congestion that uses the letters A through F. An A represents freely flowing traffic while F indicates severe congestion.

Liberty Corridor

A congressionally designated economic and development zone that extends along the I-95 corridor, encompassing port facilities in Newark/Elizabeth and Camden. It combines road and rail improvements, harbor and terminal upgrades, freight movement strategies, brownfields redevelopment, and incentives to spur the continued growth in the research and development sector.

Light Rail

An urban Transit system that generally has a lower capacity and lower speed than heavy rail systems, but higher capacity and higher speed than systems such as street cars, trolleys or cable cars.

Local Capital Project Delivery Program (LCPD)

A competitive program that provides funding to the NJTPA's 15 subregions to conduct concept development and preliminary engineering on proposed transportation projects, preparing them for eventual federal funding and construction.

Local Concept Development (LCD)

The initial phase of project development that identifies and compares reasonable alternatives and strategies that address the purpose and need statement and selects a preliminary preferred alternative.

Local Lead

A past competitive program administered by the NJTPA for the advancement of locally important projects through final design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction. It has become part of the NJTPA Local Capital Project Delivery Program.

Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE)

The phase of project development in which the preferred alternative identified in concept development is further developed and refined to a level of detail necessary to secure the approval of the environmental document, also known as the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) document.

Local Scoping

A past competitive program to provide federal funds to the 15 NJTPA subregions for planning of local projects through the environmental process and preliminary engineering. It has become part of the NJTPA Local Capital Project Delivery program.

LOS

see Level of Service

LPE

see Local Preliminary Engineering

M-95

A Marine Highway along the US east coast that parallels Interstate-95 from Maine to Florida.

Major Investment Study (MIS)

A study, similar to an Alternatives Analysis (AA), which was previously required by federal regulation. It reviewed and evaluated a range of alternatives for proposed transportation improvements in a corridor or subarea.

Management System

System designed to generate strategies or actions related to transportation system performance and/or the physical condition of transportation system assets (examples include the Bridge and Pavement Management Systems, as well as the Congestion Management Process).

Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices

MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration, and it defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and roads open to traffic.

MAP-21

see Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century

MARAD

The Maritime Administration within U.S. Department of Transportation.

Marine Highways

Term typically used for American flag vessel movements between intercostal/river ports in U.S.

Meadowlink

A TMA serving Bergen County and portions of Hudson, Passaic, Union, Essex and Monmouth counties.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

An official agreement designed to ensure consistency in the administration of programs or projects.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

An official agreement establishing the principles that will guide the implementation of programs or projects.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Under federal legislation (see SAFETEA-LU), MPOs plan all federally funded transportation investments and serve as a forum where local officials, public transportation providers and state agency representatives can come together and cooperatively plan to meet a region's current and future transportation needs.

Minimum Operable Segment (MOS)

The initial section or operating component of a transportation project.

MIS

see Major Investment Study.

Mitigation

Any action taken or not taken to offset environmental or other impacts of proposed transportation improvements.

MOA

see Memorandum of Agreement.

Model

see Travel Demand Model.

MOM

see Monmouth Ocean Middlesex [Commuter Rail Extension].

Monmouth Ocean Middlesex (MOM)

A proposed commuter rail extension that would connect parts of Monmouth, Ocean, and Middlesex counties with NJ Transit's Northeast Corridor and/or North Jersey Coast Line.

MOS

see Major Operating Segment.

MOU

see Memorandum of Understanding.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)

Federal surface transportation law enacted in 2012, which authorizes the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit. MAP-21 is a milestone for the U.S. economy and the Nation's surface transportation program. 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.

MPO

see Metropolitan Planning Organization.

MUTCD

see Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices

NAAQS

see National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

NACO

see National Association of Counties

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

These standards apply to pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment.

National Association of Counties (NACO)

An organization representing the nation's county governments in Washington, D.C.

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)

NARC is a nonprofit membership organization serving the interests of regional councils and Metropolitan Planning Organizations nationwide.

NARC

see National Association of Regional Councils.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA aims to help public officials and citizens understand the environmental consequences of major projects and actions. It seeks to protect, restore, and enhance the environment. NEPA requires planners to develop or categorized exclusion documents and environmental assessments on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and to consider alternatives and mitigations steps for major construction projects.

National Highway System (NHS)

The national system consisting of interstate highways and other key links such as major state highways.

NEC

Northeast Corridor

NEPA

see National Environmental Policy Act.

New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC)

Advocacy group for New Jersey's 21 county governments.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

The cabinet-level agency that leads the state's environmental science, regulatory, research, education and assessment efforts.

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)

The state agency responsible for maintenance, construction, and operation of state and interstate highways.

New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

A public technology and science university located in Newark. NJIT is the host agency of the NJTPA.

New Jersey Short Line Railroad Association (NJSLRRA)

An organization that addresses issues facing short line railroads serving New Jersey.

New Jersey Transit (NJT)

The state agency responsible for maintenance, construction, and operation of public transit facilities.

New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA)

The agency that maintains, operates, and plans the NJ Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. NJTA facilities do not fall under the jurisdiction of the NJTPA, but its projects are included in determining air quality conformity (see Conformity).

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC)

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for New York City, Long Island, and Rockland, Putnam, and Westchester counties. The NJTPA has a non-voting seat on the NYMTC Board.

New York Susquehanna & Western (NYS&W)

An existing, privately owned rail freight line that was rehabilitated in the mid-1980s to allow low speed freight operations and is now used by several long distance and local freight trains.

NHS

see National Highway System.

NJAC

see New Jersey Association of Counties.

NJDEP

see New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety (NJDHHS)

The mission of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety is the Safe Passage of all roadway users in New Jersey with the goal of zero fatalities. To achieve their mission, the Division promotes statewide traffic safety programs through education, engineering and Enforcement activities.

NJDOT

see New Jersey Department of Transportation.

NJIT

see New Jersey Institute of Technology.

NJRMTM

see North Jersey Regional Transportation Model

NJT

see New Jersey TRANSIT.

NJTA

see New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

NJTPA

see North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

NJTPA Online Transportation Information System (NOTIS)

An interactive text and map-based online tool that displays transportation project information.

North Jersey Regional Transportation Model - Enhanced (NJRTM)

This federally required computer model of the region's transportation system and travel patterns guides the NJTPA's transportation planning efforts and its major products.

New Jersey Shortline Railroad Association (NJSLRRA)

The NJSLRRA is an association of Class 3 short line railroads in the state. Membership and a listing of NJ short lines is available at <http://njshortline.com/>.

Norfolk Southern (NS)

Norfolk, VA-based transportation company which includes the Norfolk Southern Railway (21,000 route miles in 22 states and the District of Columbia, serving every major container port in the eastern U.S.

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)

The federally authorized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the six and a half million people in the 13-county northern New Jersey region.

Northeast Corridor (NEC)

The rail corridor from Washington, D.C. to Boston. It is the busiest passenger rail corridor in the U.S.

NJTPA

see North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

NOTIS

see NJTPA Online Transportation Information System.

NYMTC

see New York Metropolitan Transportation Council.

NYS&W

see New York Susquehanna & Western.

Office for Planning Advocacy (OPA)

Oversees implementation of New Jersey's State Strategic Plan (the latest version of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan). It is located in the Business Action Center in the Department of State. Formerly it was called the Office of Smart Growth (OSG) and was division of the state Department of Community Affairs.

OHSP

Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness

OPA

see Office of Planning Advocacy

Operating Agency

Agencies responsible for maintenance, construction, and operation of the state highway and public transit systems. Also known as implementing agencies, these include NJDOT, NJ Transit and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

PANYNJ

see Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Park-and-Ride

Designated parking areas for automobile drivers who then board buses or trains from these locations.

PATH

see Port Authority Trans-Hudson.

Pavement Management System

A set of tools or methods for assessing the condition of roadway pavements and selecting strategies for pavement maintenance and preservation.

PE

see Preliminary Engineering.

PEDC

see Planning & Economic Development Committee.

Phase of Work

The stage of activity in a project's development within the Project Development Work Program (PDWP) or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

PL

see Planning Funds.

Plan 2040

The 2013 update of the NJTPA's federally mandated Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Plan 2040 sets out a vision for development of the transportation system over the next 25 years and serves as an investment guide for the region.

Planning & Economic Development Committee (PEDC)

A standing committee of the NJTPA. It oversees the content of and provides policy direction for future Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) updates and other planning-related matters. Meets bi-monthly.

Planning Funds (PL)

Federal funds provided for planning projects and programs derived from a 1.25 % set-aside from the federal transportation funding provided to states. PL funds are the principal revenue source for the NJTPA's Central Staff operation and other components of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Planning Recommendations Information Management Engine (PRIME)

A geographic database for organizing and correlating findings from completed plans and studies

PMS

Pavement Management System

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ)

The bi-state agency responsible for overseeing port operations, major airports, and for operating the Hudson River crossings, including the PATH rail system, tunnels and bridges. PANYNJ facilities do not fall under the jurisdiction of the NJTPA, but its projects are included in determining air quality conformity.

Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation (PATH)

Established in 1962 as a subsidiary of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the PATH's heavy rail rapid transit system serves as the primary transit link between Manhattan and neighboring New Jersey urban communities and suburban commuter railroads.

PONYNJ

Port of New York and New Jersey

PPC

see Project Prioritization Committee.

PRIME

see Planning Recommendations Information Management Engine

Project Pipeline

The multi-step project development process from problem statement through construction and completion.

Project Pool

All projects or programs eligible for inclusion in the TIP in any given year (unconstrained).

Project Prioritization Committee (PPC)

A standing committee of the NJTPA. It develops the four-year, fiscally constrained Transportation Capital Program (TCP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and other capital programming activities. Meets bi-monthly.

RCIS

see Regional Capital Investment Strategy.

Record of Decision (ROD)

The official record resulting from an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Regional Capital Investment Strategy (RCIS)

The NJTPA's policy on how transportation funds should be spent, centered on eight broad principles. Among these principles: promoting smart growth, making travel safer, improving the existing transportation system first, expanding public transit, limiting construction of new roads, applying transportation technology, supporting walking and biking, and moving freight more efficiently.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

A group of planners and engineers from NJTPA member agencies that meets bimonthly to review regional issues related to transportation planning. Members of the RTAC also serve as advisers to members of the Board of Trustees.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

The federally mandated long-range transportation plan for the region. It sets out a vision for development of the transportation system over the next twenty to twenty-five years and serves as an investment guide for the region. Updated every four years.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

In invitation - often issued as part of a competitive bidding process - for consultants, suppliers, vendors, etc. to submit a proposal on a specific service or commodity.

Ridewise of Raritan Valley

A TMA serving Somerset County.

Right-of-Way (ROW)

Property on which a transportation project is built. Also regularly used to refer to the phase of work during which such property is acquired.

ROD

see Record of Decision.

ROW

see Right-of-Way.

RRFB

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon

RQI

Road Quality Index

RTAC

see Regional Transportation Advisory Committee.

RTP

see Regional Transportation Plan.

SAFETEA-LU

see Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)

Enacted in 2005 and extended by Congress a number of times, SAFETEA-LU was the nation's principal transportation funding law before it was replaced in 2012 by MAP-21.

SCIS

State Capital Investment Strategy

S&D

see Study & Development.

SDI

Surface Distress Index

SDRP

see State Development and Redevelopment Plan .

Short-Line Railroads

Small railroads that provide links between major rail freight companies and industries.

Short Sea Shipping

Shipping between UK and European intercostal ports.

SHSP

New Jersey's Comprehensive Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV)

Refers to motor vehicles occupied by the driver only (excludes motorcycles).

SIP

see State Implementation Plan.

SJTPO

see South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization.

Smart Growth

Well-planned and well-managed growth that addresses housing and economic needs, while preserving open space, farmland, and environmental resources. Smart Growth supports livable neighborhoods with a variety of housing types, price ranges and multi-modal forms of transportation.

South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO)

SJTPO is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem counties in South Jersey.

South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMPO)

The SWRMPO is the federally mandated organization designated as the forum for cooperative transportation decision making in lower Fairfield County, Connecticut.

South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA)

SWRPA is the official regional planning organization for eight municipalities in lower Fairfield County, Connecticut. SWRPA is one of fifteen planning regions in Connecticut and brings together its member municipalities to coordinate planning for the region's future.

SOV

see Single Occupancy Vehicle.

SPC

see State Planning Commission.

Sprawl

The unlimited outward expansion of suburbs characterized by low-density residential and commercial development, unchecked land development, and dominance of transportation by autos.

SPR

see State Planning & Research.

SRTS

Safe Routes to School

Stakeholders

Groups - including communities, government officials, MPOs, and other organizations - affected by decisions regarding transportation projects, studies, and initiatives.

State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP)

Enacted in 1986 by the state Legislature, the SDRP is intended to control the unplanned "suburban sprawl" overtaking many parts of the state by influencing the intensities and locations of development and redevelopment. The latest version is the State Strategic Plan developed by the Office of Planning Advocacy.

State Implementation Plan (SIP)

The federally required plan for bringing the state into compliance with federal air quality goals as mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA).

State Planning Commission (SPC)

A 17-member group representing state government, local government and the public on statewide planning issues. The Director of the Office for Planning Advocacy serves as Executive Director and Secretary of the State Planning Commission.

State Planning & Research (SPR)

A federal funding category that provides operating funds for planning and research projects and programs administered by the NJDOT.

State Strategic Plan

The latest version of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan developed by the Office for Planning Advocacy.

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

The state's five-year agenda of transportation improvement projects that is made up of the TIPs approved by the state's three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

STB

see Surface Transportation Board.

STIP

see State Transportation Improvement Program.

STP

see Subregional Transportation Program.

STP-NJ

see Surface Transportation Program.

Strategy Evaluation

The NJTPA Strategy Evaluation is conducted periodically to assess how well the region's transportation system meets residents' needs. The project also generates recommendations for specific transportation strategies and programs to benefit particular areas.

Study & Development (S&D)

The program for planning projects through various stages of project development, including Concept Development (CD), and Preliminary Engineering (PE) normally required before projects can be included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This program was formerly known as the Project Development Work Program (PDWP).

Subregion

A politically- and geographically-defined area - such as a county or municipality - for coordinated planning activities. In the NJTPA region, there are 15 subregions: 13 counties and two major cities.

Subregional Transportation Program (STP)

Consists of the program of planning tasks carried out by the NJTPA's 15 subregions (13 counties and two cities).

Surface Transportation Board (STB)

The STB is a federal agency that adjudicates disputes and regulates federal interstate surface transportation including trucking, rail freight, ocean shipping, interstate buses, and other modes.

Surface Transportation Program (STP-NJ)

Provides flexible funding that may be used by the state and localities for projects on any federal-aid highway, including the NHS, bridge projects on any public road, transit capital projects, and intracity and intercity bus terminals and facilities.

SWRMPO

see South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization.

SWRPA

see South Western Regional Planning Agency.

System Expansion

Infrastructure projects that will physically add capacity to the existing transportation network.

System Management

Projects and programs that optimize the performance of the existing transportation network.

System Preservation

Projects and programs that rehabilitate or replacing aging infrastructure without expanding the system.

T&I Committee

see Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

TCAMs

see Transportation Clean Air Measures.

TCMs

see Transportation Control Measures.

TCP

see Transportation Capital Program.

TDM

see Transportation Demand Management.

TEA-21

see Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

A committee formed to provide feedback, guidance, and technical input regarding a project, program, or product. May include partner organizations and agencies, stakeholders, and representatives of other relevant groups.

TCSP

see Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program.

TEUs

see Twenty-foot Equivalent Units.

TIFIA

see Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

TIP

see Transportation Improvement Program.

TMA [Federal Designation]

see Transportation Management Area.

TMA_s

see Transportation Management Associations.

TMS

see Transportation Management Strategies.

TOD

see Transit Oriented Development.

Traffic Calming

Traffic calming involves changes in street alignments, installation of barriers, and other physical measures to reduce traffic speeds and/or cut-through volumes to improve street safety and livability.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

Compact, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development near bus and rail stations that serves housing, transportation, and neighborhood goals.

TransOptions

A TMA serving Morris, Sussex, Warren and portions of Passaic and Essex counties.

Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee

The committee of the House of Representatives with jurisdiction over all modes of transportation, aviation, maritime and waterborne transportation, roads, bridges, mass transit, and railroads.

Transportation Capital Program (TCP)

The TCP is a listing of NJDOT subregional and NJ Transit projects and programs to be submitted to the state Legislature for approval and to be considered for inclusion in the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Transportation Clean Air Measures (TCAMs)

Measures intended to reduce transportation-related emissions. TCAMs could include clean vehicle technology and diesel retrofits, anti-idling strategies, vehicle travel reduction, and public outreach programs.

Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program

A discretionary FHWA grant program providing funding for a comprehensive initiative of research and grants to investigate the relationships between transportation, community, and system preservation plans and practices and identify private sector-based initiatives to improve such relationships.

Transportation Control Measures (TCMs)

Projects or programs that will reduce transportation-related emissions by reducing vehicle use or improving traffic flow. In the context of transportation conformity, TCMs refer to actions that are specifically identified and committed to in the State Implementation Plan (see SIP).

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

Actions to reduce transportation demand, such as telecommuting, ridesharing, transit service improvements, commuter incentives, access management, and parking management.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)

Enacted in 1998, and replaced by SAFETEA-LU in 2005, TEA-21 was the nation's principal transportation law. It continued the essential features of ISTEA including a strong role for local elected officials in making transportation funding decisions through MPOs.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

A four-year, fiscally constrained agenda of improvement projects drawn from the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). To be eligible for federal funds, proposed projects must be approved by the NJTPA Board for inclusion in the TIP.

Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

Legislation that created a program to provide federal credit assistance in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees, and standby lines of credit to finance surface transportation projects of national and regional significance.

Transportation Management Area [federal designation] (TMA)

By federal designation, an urbanized area with a population over 200,000 (such as northern New Jersey) that is required by USDOT to carry out special congestion reduction and transportation planning activities.

Transportation Management Associations (TMAs)

Organizations established to work with employers to help provide more effective transportation options. They promote ridesharing and transit use, among other activities.

Transportation Research Board (TRB)

The TRB is a division of the National Research Council, which serves as an independent adviser to the federal government and others on scientific and technical questions of national importance.

Transportation System Management (TSM)

Initiatives designed to create the more efficient use of existing transportation facilities through improved infrastructure management and operation.

Transportation Trust Fund (TTF)

The account established by state law for funding transportation programs and initiatives, with revenues from fuel taxes and other sources.

Travel Demand Model

A computer-based simulation of the transportation network that generates travel pattern forecasts. Used by the NJTPA in its transportation planning activities. Also see NJRTM.

TRB

see Transportation Research Board.

Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Non-profit advocacy group dedicated to reducing car dependency in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

TTF

see Transportation Trust Fund.

Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU)

TEU is the standardized unit for measuring container capacity on ships, railcars, etc.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Summarizes the transportation planning activities of the NJTPA staff, the subregions and other transportation agencies in the region. Updated annually.

United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)

The USDOT is the main federal agency that develops and coordinates policies pertaining to the national transportation system. It includes the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

The EPA is a cabinet-level federal regulatory agency that leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts.

UPWP

see Unified Planning Work Program.

USDOT

see United States Department of Transportation.

USEPA

see United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Variable Message Sign (VMS)

An electronic traffic sign often used to give travelers information about emergencies, special events, construction, speed limits, etc.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

A measure of the amount of vehicular travel. One vehicle traveling the distance of one mile equals one VMT.

Value Pricing

see Congestion Pricing

VHT

Vehicle Hours Traveled

VMT

see Vehicle Miles Traveled

XBL

Lincoln Tunnel Exclusive Bus Lane

YOE

YOE estimates factor in inflation rates in an effort to more accurately predict project costs and schedules.