



Home for All Transportation Glossary

Active Transportation: Human-powered transportation, such as biking and walking.

Complete Streets: Complete streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

Congestion: The accumulation of vehicles (or people) at a specific place when more vehicles or people are trying to use a route than can effectively be accommodated without delay.

Delay: In traffic terms, how much longer it takes a person or car to go through a specific intersection or length of roadway than it would take if there was no congestion or obstruction.

Demand-responsive Parking: A method of parking management where meter prices for street parking are adjusted by location and time of day to ensure that parking supply runs close to but under capacity and to encourage drivers to park in areas with more available spaces.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): Part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an official report for major developments that discusses the environmental and social impacts of a development and possible ways to address those impacts. A discussion of transportation impacts is a required part of all EIRs.

Housing and Transportation Affordability Index: An index that measures housing affordability as a combination of direct housing costs (like rent) and transportation costs.

Induced Demand: Demand to use a piece of infrastructure created by its construction. A common example is that new highway construction can encourage people to drive more than they would have otherwise, reducing or eliminating the congestion benefit of the highway expansion.

In-lieu Parking Fees: A fee paid by a developer instead of supplying parking. These fees are then available to be used to build a central parking facility to serve multiple developments or to make transportation upgrades that reduce parking demand.

Level of Service (LOS): A way of measuring the level of vehicle delay at a specific roadway or intersection. Depending on how long a vehicle is delayed, the road or intersection is graded between A (best) and E (worst). LOS is good at measuring congestion in a single spot, but fails to consider the total length of a trip or the needs of non-automotive users.

Managed Lanes: A lane on a roadway that is managed by tolling, use restrictions, is reversed, or otherwise changes in function based on policy.

Multimodal: Involving more than one method (mode) of transportation, e.g. two or more of: biking, walking, driving, train, bus, etc.

Parking Minimum/Parking Maximum: The minimum (or maximum) number of spaces that a new development can build. Generally expressed as a number of spaces per housing unit, bedroom, or thousand square feet of commercial/industrial use.

Parking Podium: The construction of covered parking in the first few floors of a building above ground.



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Parking Ratio: Number of parking spaces per thousand square feet of use or per residential unit.

SB 743: A state law which changes the primary way of analyzing transportation impacts for new developments from Level of Service to Vehicle Miles Traveled.

Traffic Calming: A variety of engineering and enforcement measures to reduce vehicle speeds. Examples include speed humps, street narrowing, roundabouts, street closures, and other measures.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD): A development built near a high-quality transit stop. Commonly refers to development within a half mile of a train station.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM): A variety of strategies and policies designed to reduce vehicle travel demand, or to redistribute demand in space or time. Elements of such programs may include free transit passes, expanded bike parking, flexible work schedules, subsidies for carpooling, etc.

Transportation Impact Analysis: An analysis that assesses the transportation impacts of a new development and assists in identifying whether improvements are needed to the transportation network.

Transportation Management Association (TMA): Non-profit, member-controlled groups established by employers in an area to improve transportation services and transportation demand management.

Travel Demand Forecasting: Part of assessing transportation impacts from a development by figuring out how many trips a development will generate, where users will be going, what mode will be used to get there, and what route will be taken.

Trip Generation: The first step in the conventional travel forecasting process to predict the number of trips starting from or destined for a particular area.

Unbundled Parking: A parking strategy that separates the cost to rent or purchase a parking space from the cost to rent or purchase a housing unit. This is opposed to the normal practice, where purchase or rent of a housing unit is involuntarily associated with a parking space, regardless of whether the buyer or tenant owns a car.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT): The amount of travel for all vehicles in a geographic region over a given period of time, typically a one-year period.

Volume: The number of vehicles passing a given point in a specified period of time, usually measured as vehicles per lane per hour.

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