

TIPINFO-6 Glossary of Terms

(Revised June 2010)

Term	Definition
Air Quality Conformity Exemption	Certain categories of projects will have a neutral impact on air quality and are therefore exempt from transportation conformity requirements. These projects are identified in the federal and state conformity rules at 40 CFR Part 93 and WAC 173-420-070.
Categorical Exclusion (CE)	A Categorical Exclusion from NEPA and SEPA requirements. This term is applied to projects for which the sponsor is not required to prepare an "environmental assessment" as defined under NEPA and SEPA. A list of the project types that are categorically excluded can be found in 23 CFR 771 and WAC 197-11-800. Also known as programmatic CE or Class II(C) exclusion under NEPA.
Certification	In accordance with Washington State's Growth Management Act, certification is an action confirming consistency between a transportation element of a local comprehensive plan, or countywide planning policies, and the adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
CFR / Federal Register	Code of Federal Regulations. The CFR contains the codified documents prepared to help implement law as listed in the U.S. Code. Most regulations in the CFR were first proposed and published in the Federal Register for public review and comment. (Example: 23 CFR 771 is at Title 23 of the CFR at Part 771.) Copies of the CFR may be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office. Copies are also available at major libraries and on the Internet.
Comprehensive Plan	An integrated plan for a city, town or county. It includes plans for land use, transportation, utilities, housing, capital facilities, and other elements. Under Washington State's Growth Management Act, comprehensive plans must be internally consistent, as well as consistent with plans of adjacent jurisdictions.
Congestion Management Process	A systematic process for managing congestion. The CMP uses information on transportation-systems performance to identify areas of congestion, alternative strategies for alleviating congestion and enhancing the mobility of persons and goods to levels that meet state and local needs. The CMP requirements apply to Transportation Management Areas that are designated as in maintenance or nonattainment for federal air quality standards.
CO	Carbon Monoxide
DNS	Determination of Nonsignificance. A DNS documents the decision of a sponsoring agency that, in its opinion, there will not be a significant adverse environmental impact created by the proposed project.
Documented CE	Documented Categorical Exclusion from NEPA requirements (also known as Documented CE or Class II(D) exclusion) is allowed under 23 CFR 771.117. Similar to categorical exclusion from NEPA, a project qualifying for a Documented CE will have some measurable impact, or the impact will be relatively small and is acceptable after being properly documented. The project's sponsor must prepare the documentation for FTA or FHWA approval. When a project is fully excluded under NEPA, it is called "Programmatic CE" (as also defined under 23 CFR 771.17), and no federal approval is required.
EA	Environmental Assessment prepared under NEPA.

Term	Definition
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement. An EIS is issued to present alternatives, disclose impacts and mitigation measures, and solicit comments on a proposal.
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act. This federal law carries regulations and implications for transportation planning and projects.
Federal Classification Code	A classification system of all public roadways. Established by the Federal Highway Administration, the functional roadway classification categorizes roadways based on the type of service they provide (e.g., arterials, collectors and local roads).
Federal Register	A daily publication of the Rules, Proposed Rules and Notices of the Federal Government as well as executive orders and other presidential documents. It is published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.
Fixed Guideway	"Fixed Guideway" refers to any transit service that uses exclusive or controlled rights-of-way or rails, entirely or in part. The term includes heavy rail, commuter rail, light rail, monorail, trolleybus, aerial tramway, inclined plane, cable car, automated guideway transit, ferryboats, that portion of motor bus service operated on exclusive or controlled rights-of-way, and high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes. Examples of fixed guideway transit facilities in the PSRC region include light rail, commuter rail, demand response, ferry boats, bus service on fixed guideway or busways, trolley bus, monorail, and vanpools.
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact. A decision point under NEPA, as further defined in 23 CFR 771.121(a).
General Purpose Lanes	Roadway through-lanes that are not restricted to a particular type of vehicle or traffic.
HOV	High occupancy vehicle. Refers to a vehicle being used by two or more people. Included are such modes of travel as transit buses, carpools, vanpools and trains. HOV lanes are reserved for such vehicles.
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. A 1991 federal law that significantly revised federal transportation statutes affecting federal rules and funding for public roadways, public transit, and nonmotorized transportation facilities. The successor to ISTEA was TEA-21 (below).
MAB	Metropolitan Area Boundary, as defined in Titles 23 and 49, U.S. Code. The PSRC region is a designated Metropolitan Area.
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization, as defined in Titles 23 and 49, U.S. Code. The PSRC is the designated MPO for King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties.
MVET	Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

Term	Definition
Multimodal	Those issues or activities which involve or affect more than one mode of transportation, including transportation connections, coordination, and availability of modes. Examples include a travel corridor which accommodates walking, bicycling, transit and autos.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act, the federal law identifying procedures to help protect the environment.
Obligation	<p>The point at which the FHWA or FTA commits and sets aside a specific amount of federal transportation funds for eligible expenses on a federally funded project as approved in the Regional and State Transportation Improvement Programs. By obligating the funds, the federal agency agrees to reimburse the local agency up to an approved dollar amount.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If funds are granted through FHWA, they are obligated when the Local Agency Agreement has been signed by both the sponsoring agency and WSDOT, and the FHWA has "authorized" the project. ▪ If funds are granted through FTA, they are obligated when contract documents are awarded by FTA. Contract documents include the approved project budget.
PE	Preliminary Engineering. A project phase that occurs after completion of planning and environmental efforts, and before land acquisition and construction.
PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀	<p>Particulate matter - small particles of dust, soot, and organic matter suspended in the atmosphere - is regulated as a criteria pollutant under the Clean Air Act's National Ambient Air Quality Standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PM_{2.5} consists of fine particles 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller ▪ PM₁₀ consists of inhalable coarse particles smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter
Peak Hour	The single morning or evening hour during which the maximum traffic volume occurs on a roadway.
Programmatic CE	See Documented CE.
PSRC ID Number	Unique identification number assigned by the Puget Sound Regional Council to each project in its Regional TIP.
Regional TIP	Transportation Improvement Program. Prepared for an urban region by its MPO, the TIP contains a staged, multi-year, intermodal list of transportation projects selected to use federal funds. Projects that use state and/or local funds and are of regional significance are also included. The Regional TIP is submitted for approval into the State's TIP. All projects shown in the TIP must be consistent with the MPO's transportation plan and must conform with regional air quality requirements, and the funds must be "financially constrained." The PSRC is the designated MPO for King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties.
ROD	Record of Decision. A NEPA decision point related to documentation and timing, as further defined in 23 CFR 771.127(a).
RW or ROW	Right-of-Way. Land used or intended to be used for transportation and other purposes.

Term	Definition
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, A Legacy for Users. A 2005 federal law that replaced TEA-21 and substantially continued many TEA-21 and ISTEA programs.
SEPA	State (of Washington) Environmental Policy Act. The state law identifying procedures to help protect the environment in Washington State.
SOV	Single occupant vehicle. Refers to a vehicle with only one occupant.
State Sign Route	The number assigned to roadways maintained by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), e.g., I-5, SR-99, SR-3, etc.
State TIP or STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program. Similar to the Regional TIP but for the entire state. The State TIP incorporates the MPO regional TIPs. WSDOT maintains the STIP for Washington State.
State of Washington Inventory of Bridges and Structures	Database of information containing an inventory of all the bridges (as defined by the national bridge inspection standards) within the State of Washington. The database is maintained by the WSDOT, updated periodically and used in the selection of projects to use federal funds available for bridge rehabilitation and replacement.
Surface Transportation	The physical and operational transportation infrastructure available on land and water. This includes streets, roads, highways, walkways, bicycle routes, and bus, rail and ferry transport. It does not include air transportation.
TDM	Transportation Demand Management. The intent of TDM programs is to reduce the number of vehicles on the roadway by discouraging the use of single-occupant-vehicle travel and promoting other modes.
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century. A 1998 federal law that replaced ISTEA and substantially continued many ISTEA programs. SAFETEA-LU (above) is the current iteration of this law.
TIB	Transportation Improvement Board. The TIB is an independent state agency that makes and manages street construction and maintenance grants to 320 cities and urban counties in Washington State.
TMA	Transportation Management Areas. All urbanized areas over 200,000 in population, as defined in Titles 23 and 49 U.S. Code. The PSRC region is a TMA.
TSM	Transportation System Management. The intent of TSM programs is to maximize the efficiency of the transportation system through such programs as signal synchronization and freeway ramp metering.
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program. A document prepared by an MPO to list the transportation planning projects/activities it will undertake for its region. Planning projects/activities to be done by other public agencies in the region are also included if they use federal transportation funds or if they are required for transportation planning or transportation-related air quality planning. The PSRC maintains the UPWP for its four-county region.
USC	United States Code. The USC contains the laws passed by the Congress and signed by the President.
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation