

Appendix B

List of Transportation Acronyms

AADT - Average Annual Daily Traffic

AADT is the average 24-hour volume at a given location over a full 365 day year; the number of vehicles passing a site in a year divided by 365 days. (366 days in a leap year).

ACC/MEV – Accidents per Million Entering Vehicles

ACC/MEV stands for Accidents per Million Entering Vehicles. The ACC/MEV rate is ranking system based on traffic volume. It allows us to compare intersections with different traffic characteristics, ultimately providing a probability of being in a collision at a given intersection; the higher the rate, the greater the danger. The average ACC/MEV rates for southeastern Massachusetts, set by MassDOT, are currently .76 at signalized intersections and .58 at unsignalized intersections. An intersection whose ACC/MEV rate is at, or exceeds the regional average is considered a problem.

ACS – American Community Survey (Census)

The ACS is an ongoing survey, conducted by the U.S. Census that provides new data every year by a random sampling of addresses in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

ADT – Average Daily Traffic

ADT is the average 24-hour volume at a given location over a defined time period less than one year; a common application is to measure ADT for each month of the year.

ATR – Automatic Traffic Recorder

An ATR is a device, often electronic in nature, used to count, classify, and/or measure the speed of vehicular traffic passing along a location on a given roadway.

AVL - Automatic Vehicle Locator

AVL is a device that makes use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) to enable a business or agency to remotely track the location of its vehicle fleet by using the Internet.

CAC – Consumer Advisory Committee

Committee made up of individuals to provide an open forum for general consumer and ADA related issues concerning fixed-route and paratransit services.

CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

An annual report of the most recent economic strategy, as expressed by the vision, goals, objectives, action plan and recommended EDA projects in the region or the Economic Development District.

CMAQ – Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality

This is a funding category (80% federal / 20% non-federal) for **TIP** projects that will contribute to the attainment of national air quality standards, lessen congestion or both.

COA – Council on Aging

Each SRPEDD community has a COA which provides and coordinates services to assist older adults and to enhance and enrich their quality of life.

DAR – Dial-a-Ride

A curb to curb transportation service for passengers with a disability and/or are age 60+ in the communities served by **GATRA**.

DR – Demand Response

A curb to curb transportation service for passengers with a disability in the communities served by **SRTA**.

EJ – Environmental Justice

EJ is the Executive Order that makes part of our mission identifying and addressing any adverse effects (noise, air or water pollution, economic vitality, destruction of natural resources, property values) that may impact minority or low-income populations or neighborhoods *more than* other populations or neighborhoods.

"Each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations."
- *Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, 1994.*

EPDO – Equivalent Property Damage Only

EPDO is the "Equivalent Property Damage Only" index. The EPDO index allows intersections to be ranked based on the severity of collisions. Greater importance is given to crashes in which injuries or fatalities have occurred. A point system is applied to each crash: one point for a crash involving vehicular property damage only; five points for a crash that involved one or more personal injuries; and ten points for a crash in which a fatality occurred. The regional threshold, established by SRPEDD, is currently 15.0.

FAST Act - Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act – Transportation legislation signed into law by President Obama in 2015 as a long-term authorization of approximately \$305 billion nationally over five years for all modes of transportation. FAST Act follows the guidance developed in MAP-21 and adds new funding sources for a National Highway Freight Program.

FHWA – Federal Highway Administration

This is the federal agency that oversees the nation's surface transportation system (highways and roads). It provides 80% of transportation funds for our region through **MassDOT**. These funds are authorized by Congress to assist the state, including each MPO region, in providing for planning, construction, reconstruction, and improvement of the highways and bridges on eligible Federal-Aid roads and other special purpose programs and projects.

FTA – Federal Transit Administration

This is the federal agency that oversees the nation's public transportation system. It provides transit funding to the Regional Transit Agencies (RTAs). These funds help to operate, maintain, and improve existing systems as well as develop new transit connections through buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, trolleys and ferries.

GATRA – Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional (Transit) Authority

GATRA is the **RTA** that serves the cities of Attleboro and Taunton, and the towns of Berkley, Carver, Dighton, Lakeville, Mansfield, Middleborough, North Attleboro, Norton, Plainville, Raynham,

Rehoboth, Seekonk, and Wareham in the SRPEDD region. GATRA provides a variety of services including fixed route, Dial-a-Ride (**DAR**) and commuter shuttles. GATRA is a member of the **SMMPO**.

GIS - Geographic Information System

This is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data usually in map form.

GRRIP – Geographic Roadway Runoff Inventory Program – GRRIP is a program that began in the late 1990s to identify drainage issues that impact infrastructure and environmentally sensitive areas along roadways within southeastern Massachusetts.

ITS - Intelligent Transportation Systems

ITS applies advanced electronic technologies and communications to transportation systems in order to improve safety, efficiency and service through the transmittal of real-time information to motorists. One example is Electronic Variable Message (EVM) signs that alert motorists of travel times, crashes ahead and bridge closings.

JTPG - The Joint Transportation Planning Group

The JTPG is the advisory committee to the **SMMPO** for all transportation related issues. Voting members include the chief elected officials from each SMMPO community in the region or their designees; and all at-large SMMPO Commissioners that represent low-income and minority persons and groups. Non-voting members include **FHWA; FTA; MassDOT; SRTA; GATRA**; transportation interest groups; neighborhood groups; any interested member of the public; and SMMPO transportation staff. The JTPG is the forum for public involvement in transportation plans and programs and its responsibilities include: prioritizing the list of projects within each **TIP** funding category; advising the SMMPO regarding endorsements of the **TIP, UPWP** and **RTP**; and voting to make adjustments to the TIP.

LAP – Language Access Plan

As required by Executive Order 13166 an LAP uses four factors to help identify reasonable steps to provide language assistance for Limited English Proficient (**LEP**) persons seeking meaningful access to SMMPO programs, benefits, services and information.

LEP - Limited English Proficient

LEP persons are individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.

LOS – Level of Service

LOS is used to determine the efficiency of an intersection. LOS reflects the operating conditions of an intersection, approach and/or specific movement. There are six LOS categories, ranging from A to F; LOS A representing the best operating conditions and LOS F representing the worst. LOS A through C is considered acceptable because it provides an adequate quality of service to motorists. LOS D indicates that traffic flow is worsening but still tolerable. At LOS E and F, traffic flow is considered unacceptable.

MAP-21 - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act – Transportation Legislation signed into law by President Obama in 2012 to address improvements to the U.S. transportation system.

MassDOT – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation

SRPEDD receives funding from the Federal Highway Administration (**FHWA**) and the Federal Transit Administration (**FTA**) through MassDOT to maintain a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3C) planning process for the region. Stephanie Pollack, Transportation Secretary and CEO of MassDOT, is the chair for the **SMMPO**.

MassDOT ODCR - MassDOT Office of Diversity and Civil Rights

MassDOT ODCR is the principal section with the department that oversees, advises and coordinates Environmental Justice (EJ) and Title VI policy that governs transportation activities throughout the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

MassDOT OTP - MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

MassDOT OTP is the principal section with the department that oversees, advises and coordinates transportation planning activities of the Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs)/Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) throughout the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization

MPOs are responsible for transportation policy and federal resource allocation decisions throughout Massachusetts. Created by the United States Congress in the 1980s, MPOs were developed for urbanized areas that met or exceeded 200,000 in population. MPOs receive funding from the United States DOT (USDOT) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and work in conjunction with federal, state and municipalities on transportation planning activities. There are thirteen (13) MPOs within Massachusetts that essentially follow the borders of the RPAs.

NTD – National Transit Database

To provide public information and statistics, **FTA's** National Transit Database records the financial, operating and asset condition of transit systems.

PIF – Project Initiation Form

Following the approval of the **PNF**, the PIF requires more detailed project information including project type and description, project management responsibility and a public outreach plan. The **PRC** reviews the project, based on the PIF, at this point in the process.

PNF – Project Need Form

One of the first steps in the **TIP** process, the PNF lists pertinent info such as location, project need, cost estimates, etc. A PNF must be submitted to the MassDOT District 5 office and SRPEDD for initial review. At this point, the project will: be dismissed; be required to provide more info or alternatives; move into the design phase.

PPP – Public Participation Program

In accordance with state and federal requirements, the PPP is developed with the ultimate goal of allowing every person in the region, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender, gender identity or expression, disability, religion, ancestry or ethnicity, sexual orientation or veteran's status, an equal opportunity to become active participants in the planning and decision-making process guiding every issue, project, program or service. These efforts will, in no way, exclude persons who are low-income, minority, Limited English Proficient (LEP) or have a disability.

PRC – Project Review Committee

This committee, comprised of staff from MassDOT and chaired by the chief engineer, meets quarterly to review and assess the merits of each proposed **TIP** project, based on the **PIF**. Following a project's approval by the **PRC** it is assigned a project number, reviewed for Transportation Evaluation Criteria by SRPEDD staff and then placed on the TIP.

RBP – Regional Bicycle Plan – RBP is a document developed in 2016 that identifies and outlines a comprehensive plan to facilitate a regionally connected network for bicycling throughout southeastern Massachusetts. The intent is to connect the state of Rhode Island to Cape Cod by bicycle.

RESC - Regional Economic Strategy Committee

The SRPEDD RESC serves as the working committee on economic development matters and is responsible for developing criteria and ranking economic development projects in the region.

RPP – Regional Pedestrian Plan - RBP is a document to begin development in 2017 that identifies and outlines a comprehensive plan to facilitate pedestrian activities and connections throughout the communities of southeastern Massachusetts.

RSA – Road Safety Audit

The Federal Highway Administration (**FHWA**) defines a Road Safety Audit as a formal safety examination of a road or intersection by an independent, multidisciplinary team. The purpose of an RSA is to determine specific safety issues and ultimately identify measures to address them with the primary objective being to save lives and reduce injuries.

RTA – Regional Transit Authority

The agency that oversees and coordinates public transportation in a region. In our region, **GATRA** oversees 15 member communities (and 13 additional communities outside of the SRPEDD region) in the greater Attleboro-Taunton area and **SRTA** oversees the 10 communities in the greater New Bedford-Fall River area.

RTP – Regional Transportation Plan

A 25-year long range Transportation Plan for the southeastern Massachusetts region that is financially constrained and within the projected federal funds available. It is a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the region's highway and transit resources and needs and is updated every 4 years. (Also see Transit Acronyms for RTP- Regional Transit Plan)

RTP / CSA – Regional Transit Plan / Comprehensive Service Assessment

By state law each **RTA** was required to develop an RTP or CSA to examine existing service, identify new markets of service opportunity and provide recommendations on ways to improve service. **SRTA** released its final CSA in November 2014. **GATRA** released its final RTP in September 2015.

SAFETEA-LU - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users - Transportation Legislation signed into law by President Bush in 2005 with funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$244.1 billion and at the time, represented the largest surface transportation investment in US history.

SMMPO - The Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization

The SMMPO is responsible for transportation policy and federal resource allocation decisions in the region. Signatories include the SRPEDD Commission, the mayors of our 4 cities (Attleboro, Fall River, New Bedford and Taunton), selectmen from four of the region's 23 towns, the Administrator of SRTA, the Administrator of GATRA, the Highway Administrator of MassDOT and the Transportation Secretary and CEO of MassDOT.

The SMMPO is the body that is responsible for Transportation Planning Program Development and is responsible for the endorsement of the **TIP**, the **UPWP**, the **RTP** and the **PPP**. The SMMPO also certifies the planning process. SRPEDD is the staff to the SMMPO.

SRPEDD – Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District – SRPEDD

is the Regional Planning Agency (RPA) that represents twenty-seven (27) municipalities in southeastern Massachusetts. SRPEDD is involved with Comprehensive Land Use and Community Development, Economic Development, Homeland Security Planning and Transportation Planning and Programming for member communities. SRPEDD communities following the same boundaries and make up the SMMPO.

SRTA – Southeastern Regional Transit Authority

SRTA is the **RTA** that provides fixed route and Demand Response (**DR**) service to 10 communities in Southeastern Massachusetts, including Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Somerset, Swansea and Westport. SRTA is a member of the **SMMPO**.

Title VI

Title VI is the federal law that ensures that any program, issue, project or service is provided without regard to anyone's race, color, or national origin, as well as age, gender or disability. We need to promote the opportunity for all persons to participate in any part of the planning process including persons who are LEP, low-income and minority.

"No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

- *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*

TIP – Transportation Improvement Program

The TIP is the document that identifies projects scheduled in each fiscal year for construction with state and federal funds. The TIP lists projects over a 5-year period for our region. It is continually adjusted and amended to keep pace with costs and project readiness.

TMC – Turning Movement Count

A Turning Movement Count is conducted at intersections to count vehicle movements (lefts rights and through movements) for every approach of an intersection during certain time periods.

TOD – Transit Oriented Development

TOD is a type of community development that includes a mixture of housing, office, retail and/or other amenities integrated into a walkable neighborhood and located within a half-mile of quality public transportation.

UPWP - Unified Planning Work Program

This document provides a description of the overall transportation planning activities ongoing and anticipated within the region, including funding sources and agency responsibilities for the upcoming federal fiscal year.