

Northwest Municipal Conference
Glossary of Transportation Terms and Acronyms

Active Program Management (APM) –

Active Program Management provides a mechanism for ensuring timely obligations to protect the region’s funding from lapse and rescission, and to provide flexibility for moving forward projects that are “ready” in favor of those that are “delayed”. APM is achieved through strong project and program management with active monitoring of project implementation status from project selection through obligation of federal funds. All federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding is subject to APM policies.

ADA -

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Advance Funding -

The practice of borrowing against future funding to pay for a current project. The CMAP Council of Mayors Executive Committee must approve advance funding requests

Air Quality Conformity -

The process of determining the air quality impacts of transportation projects submitted for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Conformity analysis is done by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to assure that the TIP meets federal requirements and the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA).

Alternatives Analysis (AA) -

Part of the New Starts process for transit projects. The Alternatives Analysis Study is designed to examine all the potential transit options available and determine a locally preferred alternative.

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) -

The total yearly volume of vehicles on a roadway divided by the number of days in the year.

Annual Element -

A listing of the projects expected to have their contracts awarded within the current fiscal year. The Surface Transportation Program (STP) is made up of the Annual Element and the Multi-Year Program.

Arterial -

The functional classification of a roadway whose primary function is to serve through traffic. Ideally, arterials should not penetrate identifiable neighborhoods.

Bridge Discretionary Funds (Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program) -

States compete for these funds for specific major bridge projects. Criteria to receive funding includes availability of state funds, size of project, bridge closings or weight restrictions, average daily truck and vehicle traffic and the bridge's sufficiency rating.

Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Programs -

Federal funds allocated to the states on a formula basis.

BRT -

Bus Rapid Transit

CCDOTH -

Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

CMAP -

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. The regional, member-run agency designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region. Among other responsibilities, CMAP coordinates the Surface Transportation Program for northeastern Illinois including the North Shore Council and Northwest Council area.

Collector -

The functional classification for a roadway whose primary function is to connect residential areas with the arterial system.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) -

Federal transportation program that funds projects that improve air quality and/or reduce congestion. Projects are selected from a competitive application process through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).

Construction Engineering (ENG III) -

Also called Phase III engineering.

Council of Mayors -

The Council of Mayors is composed of the chief executives of the 283 municipalities in the seven-county CMAP region, organized into 11 subregional councils plus the City of Chicago. The subregional councils are defined by specific geographic boundaries – six in suburban Cook County and one for each of the collar counties. NWMC municipalities within Cook County belong to either the North Shore or Northwest Council of Mayors, while NWMC municipalities in the collar counties belong to one of the collar county Councils of Mayors.

CTA -
Chicago Transit Authority

FAST Act -
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act. The FAST Act authorizes \$305 billion over fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs.

FHWA -
Federal Highway Administration

Fiscal Year (FY) -
The Councils of Mayors Surface Transportation Program operates within the federal fiscal year (October 1 - September 30).

Fiscal Constraint (see also Major Capital Projects) -
Requires that revenues in transportation planning and programming (Federal, State, local, and private) are identified and "are reasonably expected to be available" to implement the metropolitan long range transportation plan and the STIP/TIP, while providing for the operation and maintenance of the existing highway and transit systems.

FRA -
Federal Railroad Administration

FTA -
Federal Transit Administration

FTA Section 5307 -
This federal program provides financing for capital improvements to transit systems in all urbanized areas of the country on a formula basis.

FTA Section 5309 (New Starts) -
Projects eligible for federal New Starts funding include rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, automated guideway transit, people movers and facilities for exclusive bus use. Recipients compete for these funds.

FTA Section 5310 -
These FTA formula-based grants finance the purchase of specially equipped vehicles for the transportation of elderly and mobility-limited persons. Service contracts are eligible for funding under this program. Public agencies are eligible to participate.

FTA Section 5316 - Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) -

These federal grants provide funding for transportation services designed to transport low income individuals to and from jobs. The program also supports development of transportation services between urban centers and suburban employment opportunities.

FTA Section 5317 - New Freedom -

Federal funds are allocated through a formula base upon population of persons with disabilities. The funds are to encourage services and facility improvements to address the transportation needs of persons with disabilities that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

High Priority Projects (HPP) -

High Priority Projects are specifically earmarked by Congress and are included in SAFETEA-LU.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) -

Federal safety funds consist of two categories - high hazard locations and rail crossing improvement. Safety funds are allocated on a statewide basis.

Highway Trust Fund (HTF) -

Federal fund supported by the federal motor fuel tax (MFT). It funds federal surface transportation programs including the STP and CMAQ.

HOV -

High Occupancy Vehicle

IDNR -

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

IDOT -

Illinois Department of Transportation

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) -

Federal funding source to provide facilities for pedestrians and bicycles; the acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites; landscaping or scenic beautification; historical preservation of transportation facilities; preservation of abandoned rail corridors; control of outdoor advertising; mitigation of water pollution due to highway run-off.

Letting -

The public opening of bids for a contract. IDOT has up to 45 days after the letting to award the contract or reject all bids.

Level of Service (LOS) -

A method of grading the performance of an intersection of roadway segment. An "A" indicates free traffic flow while an "F" is gridlock.

Mark -

The projected dollar value of a fund source used for programming purposes. The "mark" is developed through fiscal forecasting or through the budgetary process.

MFT -

Motor Fuel Tax

Minor Arterial -

Arterials not designated as Strategic Regional Arterials.

MPO -

Metropolitan Planning Organization. Federal designated agency with responsibilities for long-range planning and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is the Chicago region's federally designated MPO.

Multi-Year Program (MYP) -

A listing of projects to be completed in future years. The Surface Transportation Program (STP) is made up of the Annual Element and the Multi-Year Program.

MUTCD -

Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices

MYB -

Multi-Year B Projects that are not part of the fiscally constrained TIP

NEPA -

National Environmental Policy Act

NHS -

National Highway System

North Shore Council of Mayors -

A voluntary, cooperative effort by municipalities to plan and implement the Surface Transportation Program for the North Shore region of the Council of Mayors System. The following municipalities are members of the North Shore Council of Mayors: Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Golf, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Northbrook, Northfield, Skokie, Wilmette, and Winnetka.

North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee -

The committee includes municipal engineers that review all projects and proposals made to the North Shore Council of Mayors.

Northwest Council of Mayors -

A voluntary, cooperative effort by municipalities to plan and implement the Surface Transportation Program for the Northwest region of the CMAP Council of Mayors System. The following municipalities are members of the Northwest Council: Arlington Heights, Barrington, Bartlett*, Buffalo Grove**, Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Hanover Park*, Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Mount Prospect, Niles, Palatine, Park Ridge, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, South Barrington, Streamwood, and Wheeling.

* also a member of the DuPage Council of Mayors

** also a member of the Lake Council of Mayors

Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee -

The committee is comprised of eight members, including four Mayors/Presidents and four managers/administrators, that review all projects and proposals made to the Northwest Council of Mayors.

Obligated -

A highway project is said to be "obligated" when it has been accepted for funding, that is, when a project agreement has been executed with FHWA.

Phase I Engineering (ENG I) -

A conceptual engineering report involving geometry, design, right-of-way requirements and environmental studies. ENG I is not eligible for STP funding.

Phase II Engineering (ENG II) -

Translates the concepts of a Phase I report into specifics for the preparation of the contract plans and land acquisition.

Phase III Engineering (ENG III) -

Construction Engineering

Planning Liaison (PL) -

Staff employed by the Northwest Municipal Conference to coordinate the Surface Transportation Program for the Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors. The Liaison also represents the Council to county, state, regional and federal transportation agencies.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) -

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a reimbursement grant program that provides funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. This grant

program is federally funded and is administered by the IDNR in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

ROW -

Right-of-Way

RTA -

Regional Transportation Authority responsible for overseeing CTA, Metra and Pace.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) -

This federal program enables and encourages primary and secondary school children to walk and bicycle to school. Each state will receive a portion of the funds based on its percentage of the national total of school-aged children in grades K-8, but not less than \$1 million each year.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) -

A multi-year program of major transportation projects to be funded by the state.

Strategic Regional Arterial (SRA) -

An arterial roadway designated by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of the Strategic Regional Arterial System.

Surface Transportation Program (STP) -

The federal program that provides federal funding for locally initiated transportation projects. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act provides a suballocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding to the CMAP urbanized area from funds apportioned to the State of Illinois for a broad range of eligible transportation projects.

STP-L -

Programming authority is delegated to the regional Councils of Mayors and the City of Chicago to administer their programs according to locally established methodologies. Every local methodology includes regional planning factors and must be administered according to the region's Active Program Management policies.

STP-Shared Fund -

The shared fund was established for the purpose of supporting larger-scale regional projects that address regional performance measures and the goals of ON TO 2050. The programming authority distributed to the shared fund is derived from a set-aside of the region's annual allotment of STP-L funds. Project selection is a region-wide competitive process overseen by the STP Project Selection Committee.

TAP-L -

Locally programmed Transportation Alternatives Program. A federally-funded program of surface transportation improvements designed to support non-motorized transportation. CMAP uses a competitive process to select bicycle facility projects to fund under this program that help complete the Regional Greenways and Trail Plan.

Transportation and Community System Preservation -

This is a very small pilot program with the goal of developing strategies that use transportation investments to build "livable" communities.

Transportation Control Measures (TCM) -

Projects designed to reduce the impact/use of single occupant vehicles by encouraging the use of alternate modes of transportation, non-peak period travel or greater system efficiency.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) -

A unified document indicating coordination of all transportation agencies in the Chicago metropolitan area. All transportation projects, other than those entirely funded by local funds, are included in the TIP.

Unified Work Program (UWP) -

The Unified Work Program (UWP) lists the planning projects the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and other agencies undertake each year to enhance transportation in northeastern Illinois and to fulfill federal planning regulations.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) -

The VMT is the length of the proposed improvement multiplied by the number of vehicles that travel the route daily.