

## **Glossary of Terms**

## Glossary of Terms

### A

**Access, Accessibility:** The opportunity to easily reach a destination without being impeded by physical, social or economic barriers. Typically, accessibility is the extent to which transportation improvements make connections between geographic areas or portions of the region that were not previously well connected. Access is also the name of the complementary paratransit service in Greater Cincinnati operated by the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority for persons with disabilities who are unable to ride the Metro fixed route system.

**Activity Center:** An area with high population and concentrated activities that generate a large number of trips (e.g., CBD, shopping centers, business and industrial parks, and recreational facilities (also known as trip generator).

**Affected Environment:** The physical features, land, area or areas to be influenced, affected or created by a transportation improvement under consideration; also includes various social and environmental factors and conditions pertinent to an area.

**Agency Coordination:** Refers to the process whereby the Department of Transportation contacts, consults and maintains communication with various public and environmental resource agencies, affording such agencies an opportunity to review and comment upon specific transportation proposals.

**Alight, Alightings:** to exit from a transit vehicle.

**Alignment:** The horizontal and vertical ground plan of a roadway, railroad, transit line or other facility.

**Alternative:** One of a number of specific transportation improvement proposals, alignments, options, design choices, etc. in a study. Following detailed analysis, one improvement alternative is chosen for implementation.

**Alternatives Analysis:** A study to examine an array of modes and alignments to determine preferred alternative that meets the goals and objectives of the study and the needs of the study area.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** The federal law passed in 1990 that makes it illegal to discriminate against people on the basis of disabilities with regard to employment, services provided by federal, state and local governments, public and private transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications.

**Amtrak (National Railroad Passenger Corporation):** A quasi-public corporation created by the federal National Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 to improve and develop intercity passenger rail service throughout the United States.

**Area of Potential Effect (APE):** The geographical area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.

**Archaeological Investigations:** Studies of prehistoric and historic locales which provide understanding of past human behavior, culture change, and related topics through scientific and scholarly techniques such as literature research, excavation, analysis and interpretation. Current US archeological practice defines three phases of investigation: Phase I identification survey (this is sometimes divided into Phase I(a), which is primarily limited to background archival research, and Phase I(b), which includes actual field survey; Phase II evaluation investigations, which include a more intensive excavation to determine if a site meets the eligibility criterion for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); and Phase III data recovery excavations to mitigate the loss of archeological data when a NRHP eligible site cannot be avoided.

**Aronoff Center:** A major performing and visual arts complex, built in the late twentieth century, located on Walnut Street between Sixth and Seventh streets in downtown Cincinnati. It consists of three theaters, an art gallery and a restaurant. It is home of the Broadway series and other shows and performances throughout the year.

**Arterial:** A class of street serving major through traffic movements emphasizing a high level of mobility. These streets serve moderate to long trips and major activity centers. Arterials include interstates, freeways/expressways, urban principal arterials, and minor arterials.

**At grade:** The location of a structure, roadway or transit guideway at the same level as the ground surface.

**Authorization:** Basic, substantive federal legislation that established or continues the legal operation of federal program agencies, either indefinitely or for a specific period of time.

**Average Daily Traffic (ADT):** The average number of vehicles passing a fixed point in a 24-hour time frame. A way to measure traffic volume.

**Average Speed:** The rate of speed at which a vehicle moves under prevailing traffic and environmental conditions, factoring in dwell time and time at stops and stations.

## **B**

**Base Fare:** The price charged to one adult for one transit rider, excluding transfer, zone, express or premium charges and reduced fares.

**Base Period:** the period between the morning and evening peak periods when transit service is generally scheduled on a constant interval, also known as off-peak period.

**Base Year:** The lead off year of data used in a study, usually the current year or a year with the most recent comprehensive data.

**Bicycle Lane:** Bicycle lanes on a roadway are for the exclusive use of bicycles and are marked accordingly. They are typically one-way facilities designed to carry bike traffic in the same direction as adjacent motor vehicle traffic. A minimum bicycle lane width is generally four feet.

**Bi-directional:** A transit line or transportation corridor that operates in both directions.

**Board, Boardings:** to go onto or into a transit vehicle.

**Bump-out:** An extension of the sidewalk into the closet curbside traffic lane to allow buses to re-enter traffic flow without delay, provide a large waiting area for passengers and/or deliberately slow traffic by constructing the roadway.

**Build/No Build:** Often called the base case, the No Build Alternative includes all routine maintenance safety improvements and projects listed in the most recent Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan for the Cincinnati region adopted by the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI). The schedule of improvements covers a 25-year period. This alternative serves as the basis for comparison to all other Build Alternatives. Build Alternatives are alternatives that are developed at the concept level for analysis purposes that meet the project purpose and need and have the potential to be constructed.

**Bus:** A rubber-wheeled road vehicle designed to carry a substantial number of passengers, commonly operated on streets and highways for public transportation service.

**Bus Stop:** A curbside area where passengers board or alight buses.

**Bus Shelter:** A structure located at a bus stop to provide seating and/or protection from the weather for the convenience of waiting passengers.

## C

**Capacity:** Usually the maximum number of vehicles and/or people that can be carried past a point on a transportation system in a specified time, at a specified level of service (LOS).

**Capital Costs:** Costs of long-term assets such as property, buildings, roads, rail lines and vehicles.

**Capital Improvement Program:** The list of capital projects for a five-seven year programming period.

**Captive Rider:** Someone who must use public transportation for personal travel due to lack of alternatives based on availability and/or affordability.

**Catenary:** An overhead contact wire system that supplies electrical power from a central source to an electric vehicle such as a streetcar or light rail.

**Catenary Poles:** Vertical poles that support catenary wire. Also called catenary support.

**Central Business District (CBD):** An area of a city that contains the greatest concentration of commercial activity. It is typically the downtown area.

**Central Parkway:** A major boulevard with landscaped median that, in part, divides downtown Cincinnati from Over-the-Rhine. It was constructed in a former canal right-of way and sits atop an uncompleted subway tunnel.

**Choice Rider:** A transit passenger who chooses to ride public transportation but could use and/or afford another travel mode.

**Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC):** A quasi-private entity charged with the redevelopment and revitalization of downtown Cincinnati and Over-the-Rhine, with a focus on major projects.

**Circulator:** A relatively short transit route that is designed to provide comprehensive coverage within a relatively small but busy area, often serving as the collector and feeder route for longer-haul routes from other areas.

**Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA):** Federal legislation passed in 1990 to change both federal and state approaches to regulating air quality; mandating programs to curb acid rain, urban air pollution, and toxic air emissions. The CAAs call for emission reduction measures in air quality nonattainment areas, including the consideration of transportation control measures (TCMs) as part of transportation improvement projects. Projects in nonattainment areas may not increase the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMTs); the number of cars on the roadways must be reduced by encouraging drivers to use mass transit, ridesharing, and carpooling.

**Clifton Heights – University Heights – Fairview (CUF):** the linkage of three adjacent neighborhoods with common interests and characteristics in the Uptown area of Cincinnati, located near the University of Cincinnati.

**Collector:** A road that collects and distributes traffic, sometimes built next to an expressway to collect traffic from the area and then funnel it onto the expressway. Generally fewer lanes than an arterial. Or a relatively short transit route that serves a small area and connects with a longer-haul route from other areas, also called circulator.

**Commuter Bus:** A bus with better-than-average amenities and comfort such as high-back seats and greater legroom, designed to accommodate long-haul, peak period commuter trips from outlying suburban areas to major activity centers. They are often used on express and limited stop service along expressways. Also known as commuter coach.

**Commuter Routes:** Typically longer-haul express routes between outlying suburban areas to central city areas that operate primarily non-stop during weekday peak periods. Also called express routes.

**Comprehensive Plan:** The general, inclusive long-range statement of the future development of a community. The plan is typically a map accompanied by description and supplemented by policy statements that direct future capital improvements in an area.

**Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ):** Federal highway funds that are available for either highway or transit projects, at the discretion of the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), that contribute significantly to reducing automobile emissions that cause air pollution.

**Conformity:** The process to assess the compliance of any transportation plan, program, or project with air quality control plans. The conformity process, carried out at the regional level, is defined by the Clean Air Act and related amendments.

**Constraints:** More commonly described as “environmental features”. Significant resources, facilities or other features of a project area located in or adjacent to an existing or proposed transportation corridor that serve to restrain, restrict, or prevent the ready implementation of proposed transportation improvements in a given area; may include natural or physical resources, important structures, manner of payment, and various administrative requirements which must be met.

**Consulting Party:** The participants included in the consultation on historic properties during the Section 106 review process. Consulting parties always include the Department of Transportation and the State Historic Preservation Officer, local governments, representatives of Indian tribes, and may include others such as affected land-owners and other interested parties.

**Corridor:** A broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow connecting major sources of trips that may contain a number of streets, highways and transit lines.

**Cumulative Impact:** The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of transportation projects when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

## D

**dBA:** Noise levels are measured in units called decibels. Since the human ear does not respond equally to all frequencies (or pitches), measured sound levels (in decibels at standard frequency bands) often are adjusted or weighted to correspond to the frequency response of human hearing and the human perception of loudness. The weighted sound level is expressed in single-number units called A-weighted decibels (dBA) and is measured with a calibrated noise meter.

**Deadhead:** Non-revenue transit time and mileage on a transit route, typically between the maintenance and storage facility and the line or route.

**Deboard:** To exit from a transit vehicle, also called alighting.

**Dedicated Funding Source:** A source of monies that by law is available for use only to support a specific purpose and cannot be diverted to other uses.

**Demand Responsive:** Non-fixed route, “curb-to-curb service typically using vans or small buses, with passengers boarding and alighting at pre-arranged times at any location within the system’s service area. Often used to transport persons with disabilities who are unable to use fixed transit service.

**Design Criteria:** Established local, state, and national standards and procedures that guide the establishment of roadway and fixed guideway layouts, alignments, geometry, and dimensions for specified types of roadways and fixed guideways in certain defined conditions.

**Determination of Effect:** A finding made by Departments of Transportation for federal actions, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation), which determines whether a proposed project affects a property included on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

**Determination of Eligibility:** The process of assembling documentation to render professional evaluation of the historical significance of a property. Departments of Transportation, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer apply National Register of Historic Places criteria when deciding matters of historical significance.

**Direct Effects:** Influences or occurrences caused by a given action and occurring at the same time as the action. Changes in noise levels, traffic volumes, or visual conditions are some examples of direct effects generated by transportation improvements.

**Disabled, Disability:** With respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.

**Discretionary:** Subject to the direction of legislators or an administrator, as opposed to formula funding, such as the federal Section 5309 New Starts Program.

**Dispatch:** The office and procedure of a transit operation communicating with its operators while on duty to maintain service quality and on-time performance.

**Distance-Based Fares:** A system of fares in which different rates are charged based on the length of the trip.

**Downtime:** A period during which a vehicle is inoperative due to repairs or maintenance.

**Dwell Time:** The scheduled time a vehicle or train is allowed to discharge and take on passengers at a stop or station, including opening and closing of doors

## E

**Earmark:** A federal budgetary term that refers to the specific designation by the legislature that part of a more general lump-sum appropriation can be used for a particular project; the earmark can be designated as a minimum and/or maximum dollar amount.

**Environmental Justice:** Efforts to avoid disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority and low-income populations with respect to human health and the environment.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** EPA is the federal source agency of air quality control regulations affecting transportation.

**Environmental Site Assessment (ESA):** An environmental study conducted to assess the potential for contamination of a property or parcel with hazardous substances. The process by which a person or entity seeks to determine if a particular parcel of real property (including improvements) has been impacted by hazardous substances and/or petroleum products.

**Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan:** A detailed plan developed to minimize accelerated erosion and prevent sedimentation damage.

**Exclusive Lane:** A travel lane reserved for the exclusive use of transit vehicles.

**Exclusive Right-of-Way:** A right-of-way that is full grade-separated or access-controlled and is used exclusively by transit.

## **F**

**Fare:** Payment in the form of coins, bills, tickets, passes, tokens and smart cards, required of passengers to board transit.

**Farebox:** A device that accepts the coins, bills, tickets, passes, tokens and smart cards given by passengers as payment for rides.

**Fare-Free Zone:** A geographical area in which passengers can ride for free, typically located in Central Business Districts.

**Fare Machine:** A device located at stations, stops and on-board vehicles that enables riders to purchase fares. Inspections are typically done on a random basis.

**Fare Structure:** The system established to determine how much is to be paid by various segments of passengers using the system at any given time and within any given location.

**Federal Action:** A highway or transit project proposed by the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration, using federal funding. It also includes actions such as joint and multiple use permits, other federal permits and approvals, changes in access control, etc., which may or may not involve a commitment of federal funds.

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** An agency of the US Department of Transportation responsible for carrying out federal highway and transportation mandates through a network of several regional offices and Division Offices in each state.

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA):** An agency of the US Department of Transportation responsible for carrying out federal transit mandates through a network of regional offices. Formerly called the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

**Field Review:** A site visit conducted to gather or verify data, define scopes of work, perform analyses, and make decisions for specific projects.

**Final Design:** The development of detailed working drawings, specifications, and estimates for transportation projects. Final Design follows the receipt of necessary design and/or environmental approval and it includes right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and contract advertisement and award.

**Findlay Market:** The oldest public marketplace in Ohio, dating from the mid nineteenth century. It is a major activity center in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood and consists of

a central market house surrounded by commercial structures, primarily occupied by food stores and vendors.

**Fixed Cost:** An indirect cost that remains relatively constant irrespective of the level of operational activity.

**Fixed Guideway:** The linear structure or facility on which a transit mode operates or receives power, but does not veer off, such as a busway for buses; catenary for trolley buses, streetcar and light rail: track for streetcar, light rail, heavy rail and commuter rail; and beam for monorail.

**Fixed Route:** Transit service provided on a repetitive, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route from which it does not deviate, with vehicles stopping to pick up passenger and deliver passengers to specifically assigned locations.

**Fort Washington Way:** The segment of I-71 located in downtown Cincinnati between I-471 and I-75, primarily below-grade between Second and Third streets near the central riverfront.

**Fountain Square:** A public plaza located at Vine and Fifth Streets in downtown Cincinnati. It serves as the historic and symbolic heart of Greater Cincinnati and central gathering place in the city.

**Frequency:** The amount of time scheduled between two consecutive buses or trains on a given route segment; how often the bus or train comes. Also called headway.

**Fringe Parking:** An area for commuter parking usually located on the edge of or outside the Central Business District, most often used by suburban residents who work or visit downtown. It is often served by transit service on adjacent main line routes or via shuttle routes for this purpose.

**Functional Classification:** A method of cataloging a road's purpose and design. Roads are classified as Interstates, Freeways / Expressways, Arterials, Collectors, and local roads.

## **G**

**Garage:** A facility where transit vehicles are stored and maintained, and from where they are dispatched and recovered for the delivery of service. Also called barn, base, depot, district, division, O/M facility, yard.

**Geographical Information Systems (GIS):** Technology designed to capture, store, manage, manipulate, analyze and display geographically referenced data.

**Geometric Design:** Pertains to those engineering activities involving standards and procedures for establishing the horizontal and vertical alignment and dimensions of slopes of a highway or fixed transit guideway. It includes engineering work involved with proportioning the visible elements of a facility, tailoring the highway or guideway to the terrain, the controls of environmental and land space usage, and the requirements of the user, individually and collectively.

**Government Square:** The primary hub for public transit in Greater Cincinnati, located on Fifth Street between Walnut and Main streets in downtown Cincinnati. It serves as the primary systemwide transfer point and downtown bus stop for Metro. It is also served by the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky and Clermont Transportation Connection.

**Grade:** Change in elevation. Expressed as a percentage.

**Grade Separation:** A geometric difference in elevation between two or more overlapping and/or intersecting roadways or guideways.

**Guideway:** The linear facility on which some transit modes, specifically rail, are affixed to for operation, also called fixed guideway.

## H

**Headway:** The schedule time interval between any two revenue vehicles operating in the same direction on a route or line. Headways may be load-driven, developed on the basis of demand and loading standards, or policy-based, i.e., dictated by policy decisions such as service every 30 minutes during peak periods and every 60 minutes during off-peak periods. Also called frequency, vehicle spacing.

**Highway:** Term used to describe higher capacity roads; also includes rights of way, bridges, railroad crossings, tunnels, drainage structures, signs, guardrails, and protective structures in connection with highways.

**History/Architecture Investigations:** Studies that result in identification of resources (buildings, structures and sites) constructed over 50 years ago or of recent construction and demonstrably significant based on National Register of Historic Places guidelines, via literature research, photo documentation, analysis, and interpretation.

**Human Environment:** Human environment shall be interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. This means that economic or social effects are not intended by themselves to require preparation of an environmental impact statement. When an environmental impact statement is prepared and economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated, then the environmental impact statement will discuss all of these effects on the human environment.

**Hydrologically downgradient:** Water flowing down from a location above.

**Hydrologically upgradient:** Water flowing up from a location below.

## I

**Identification of Alternatives:** The Department of Transportation's engineering and environmental evaluations, in which the Department identifies and chooses an initial set of study alternatives that address the stated program objectives and the project need, and which are sensitive to the resources and land uses of a project area. The process involves a wide variety of possible options, assessing the merits and drawbacks, and choosing those that should be carried forward. Alternatives to be studied normally

include the No Build or no action alternative, an upgrading of the existing roadway alternative, new transportation routes and locations, transportation systems management strategies, multi-modal alternatives if warranted, and any combination of the above.

**Impacts:** Positive or negative effects upon the natural or human environment resulting from transportation projects.

**Incident:** Traffic or passenger accident that includes collisions with other vehicles, pedestrians or a fixed object, and passenger accidents while boarding, on-board or disembarking the transit vehicle.

**Indirect Effects:** Impacts that can be expected to result from a given action that occurs later in time or further removed in distance; for example, induced changes to land use patterns, population density or growth rate.

**Infrastructure:** A term connoting the physical underpinnings of society at large, including, but not limited to, roads, bridges, transit, water and waste systems, public housing, sidewalks, utility installations, parks, public buildings and communications networks.

**Infill:** Development on vacant or under-utilized property or structures located among already developed property, seen as a more efficient use of land and resources than developing previously unused property.

**Interested Community:** A compilation of the names and addresses of persons or groups affected by or interested in a specific transportation project. This information is gathered and maintained by Department of Transportation officials or local planning agencies during the course of transportation project studies.

**Interface, Interface Location:** The meeting of two or more transit routes and/or transit modes, at which transfers occur.

**Intermodal:** Those issues and activities that involve or affect more than one mode of transportation, including transportation connections, choices, cooperation and coordination of various modes. Also called multimodal.

**Intermodal Facility:** A building or site specifically designed to accommodate the meeting of two or more modes of travel. Also called multimodal facility, transit center, transit hub, transportation center.

**Interstate System:** The system of highways that connects the principal metropolitan areas, cities, and industrial centers of the United States. The Interstate System also connects the United States to internationally significant routes in Mexico and Canada. The routes of the Interstate System are selected jointly by the state department of transportation for each state and the adjoining states, subject to the approval of the United States Secretary of Transportation.

## J

**Joint Development:** Ventures undertaken by the public and private sectors for the development of land around transit stations or stops.

## K

**Kiss and Ride:** A place where commuters are driven and left at a stop, station or park and ride facility to board a public transportation vehicle.

## L

**Land Use:** Refers to how land and the structures (development) on it are used, i.e., commercial, residential, retail, industrial, etc.

**Layover Location:** A stop or pullout where a transit vehicle sits during layover time.

**Lead Agency:** A state or federal agency taking primary responsibility for preparing an engineering or environmental document.

**$L_{eq}$ :** To measure this noise accurately, noise energy (expressed in dBA) produced by different activities are averaged over a period of time in order to obtain a single number. This single number is called the equivalent continuous noise level, or  $L_{eq}$ . In other words,  $L_{eq}$  is the average sound level over a period of time. It is represented in terms of a constant noise level with the same energy content. For a one hour study, the abbreviation  $L_{eq}(h)$  can be used. The term " $L_{eq}$ " can represent any time period.

**Level Boarding:** The height of the stop or station is at the same level as the passenger floor of a transit vehicle, allowing for fast, convenient and accessible boarding and alighting without the need for wheelchair lifts, ramps or high platforms.

**Level of Service (LOS):** A qualitative measure describing operational road (traffic) conditions and the perception of motorists of the existing conditions. Six levels of service are defined for each type of facility, ranging from A to F, with level of service A representing the best operating conditions and level of service F the worst.

**$L_{dn}$ :** This is a noise measure which considers people's increased sensitivity to noise during sleeping hours. This measure is calculated by measuring noise levels over a 24-hour period to calculate what is called the day-night sound level, or  $L_{dn}$ .

**Light Rail, Light Rail Transit (LRT):** An electric railway with a relative light volume of traffic compared with heavy rail, but a heavy volume compared with most bus service. It is typically powered by electricity via overhead wires, or catenary. It can be operated at grade, elevated, below grade, in exclusive guideway, on exclusive lane or right-of-way, or in mixed traffic.

**Light Rail Vehicle (LRV):** Modern-day term for a streetcar-type transit vehicle, typically powered by electricity via overhead wire, or catenary.

**Limited Stop Service:** Higher speed bus or train service where designated vehicles stop only at transfer points and/or major activity centers, typically about every ½ mile. Limited stop service is usually provided on major trunk lines operating during a certain part of the day or in a specified area in addition to local service that makes all stops.

**Load Factor:** The ratio of passengers actually carried versus the total seated passenger capacity of a vehicle. A load factor greater than 1.0 indicates that the number of passengers exceeds the number of seats.

**Local Route, Local Service:** A bus route that provides on-street service with frequent stops, relatively low speeds and no express operation to pick up and drop off passengers as close to their points of origin and destination as possible.

**Local Street:** A class of street intended solely for access to adjacent properties.

**Long Range:** In transportation planning, refers to a time span of more than five years. A long-range plan typically covers a 20-year time span.

**Low Floor Vehicle:** A transit vehicle in which the passenger area is only slightly higher than the bottom of the vehicle, requiring the use of few, if any, steps and ramps or bridge plates to allow for fast, convenient and accessible boarding and lighting.

**Main Line:** A major bus route, or series of bus routes, providing service along a major street.

**Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF):** A facility where transit vehicles are stored and maintained, and from where they are dispatched and recovered for the delivery of service. Also called barn, base, depot, district, division, garage, O/M facility, yard.

**Major Investment Study (MIS):** A large scale analysis of a large-scale transportation corridor or area designed to determine problems and develop solutions through an alternatives analysis approach. An MIS typically includes a public involvement process and economic benefit analysis.

**Mapping:** A plan surface with graphic or photographic representation of land or water depicting the project area for a project. Existing alignments, alternatives, engineering design features, and environmental constraints are plotted on various types of mapping. Photogrammetric (aerial) mapping assists in resource identification and studies. Topographic (base) mapping provides a foundation in alignment layout. Property tax maps and traffic data maps also are consulted in the transportation development process. The type and scale of mapping are selected to fit the terrain and land use intensity of the project area as well as the level of detail in the proposed design.

**Mass Transit:** Transportation by bus, rail or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, that provides service to the general public on a regular and continuing basis. Also called mass transportation, public transit, public transportation.

**Maximum Load Point:** The location(s) along a route or line where the vehicle passenger load is the greatest.

**Metro:** the name of the fixed route system in Greater Cincinnati operated by the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)

**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO):** In urbanized areas, a federally-required planning body responsible for planning, programming, and coordinating federal highway and transit investments at the regional level. MPOs develop fiscally-constrained long-range plans and shorter-range Transportation Improvement Programs, while ensuring that the planned projects contribute to regional air quality goals and environmental justice. In Greater Cincinnati the MPO is the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI).

**Mitigation Measures:** Specific design commitments made during the environmental evaluation and study process that serve to moderate or lessen impacts deriving from the proposed action.

**Mobility:** The ability to move or be moved from place to place. Typically, mobility is the ease with which movement can occur through a transportation system.

**Mode:** Form of transportation, such as automobile, transit, bicycle and walking.

**Model:** A set of mathematical formulas that represent the activity and the interactions within a system so that the system may be evaluated according to various conditions: land use, population, households and employment (socio-economic), transportation, or others.

**Mode Split, Modal Split:** The proportion of people that use each of the various modes of transportation available in an area. Also describes the process of allocating the proportion of people using modes. Frequently used to describe the percentage of people using private automobiles versus public transportation, carpooling and vanpooling, walking or bicycling.

**Music Hall:** A historic performing arts center and cultural anchor of Greater Cincinnati, it is located in a historic nineteenth century structure located at Elm and 14<sup>th</sup> streets in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. It is home of the Cincinnati Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Ballet along with other concerts, performances and special events.

**Multimodal:** Those issues and activities that involve or affect more than one mode of transportation, including transportation connections, choices, cooperation and coordination of various modes. Also called intermodal.

**Multiple Use:** The non-highway or non-transit use of the airspace above or below the highway or transit grade line between the horizontal highway right-of-way limits acquired by the highway or transit agency.

## **N**

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):** Federal standards that set allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various air pollutants.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** Passed in 1969, the federal legislation requiring states to document the environmental impact of transportation projects. The NEPA process is enforced by regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality.

**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP):** The national list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. It is maintained by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of Section 101(a)(1)(A) of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

**Network:** A graphic and/or mathematical representation of paths in a transportation system. The configuration of streets and/or transit routes and stops that constitutes the total system.

**Non-Attainment Areas:** Metropolitan areas that do not meet national ambient air quality standards for carbon monoxide and/or ozone pollution; ranked by the severity of their problem as marginal, moderate, serious, severe or extreme. In accordance with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, these areas must take specific emission reduction measures.

## O

**Off-Peak:** Non-rush periods of the day or week when travel activity is generally lower and less transit service is scheduled.

**Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT):** An agency of the State of Ohio responsible for carrying out transportation mandates through a network of several regional offices and programs.

**Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Government (OKI):** The regional planning agency and Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Cincinnati area, including the counties of southwest Ohio, northern Kentucky and southeastern Indiana.

**Open House:** An informal, unstructured public meeting during which information stations with exhibits convey important project information and personnel are available to answer the public's questions.

**Operating:** Maintaining the ongoing functions of an agency or service. Operating expenses include wages, benefits, supplies and services.

**Operating Assistance:** Financial contributions for transit operating expenses (not including capital costs), typically provided by local, state and federal governments.

**Operating Deficit:** The sum of all operating expenses minus operating revenues.

**Operating Speed:** The rate of speed at which a vehicle moves in prevailing traffic and environmental conditions.

**Operator:** The driver or operator of a transit vehicle.

**Origin:** The location of the beginning of a trip or the zone in which a trip begins.

**Over-the-Rhine (OTR):** The historic and densely developed neighborhood located between downtown and the Uptown neighborhoods of Cincinnati.

**Ozone:** A colorless gas with a sweet odor. Ozone is not a direct emission from transportation sources but rather a secondary pollutant formed when hydrocarbons (HC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) combine in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is associated with smog or haze conditions. Although ozone in the upper atmosphere protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet rays, ground level ozone produces an unhealthy environment in which to live.

## P

**Pantograph:** A device which maintains electrical contact with the catenary wire and transfers power from the wire to the traction unit of a trolley bus, light rail vehicle or streetcar, mounted on the roof of the vehicle.

**Paratransit:** Comparable transportation service required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for individuals who are unable to use fixed route transit, typically operated as a curb-to-curb dial-a-ride service using vans or small buses.

**Park and Ride:** A parking area for auto drivers at which they board transit vehicles, carpools or vanpools to complete their trip.

**Park Once:** The concept of providing a parking facility and a sufficient amount of transit to allow someone to park one time over the course of the day and be able to access all other activities via public transit, walking car sharing or bicycling, designed to reduce the number of personal, single-function auto trips.

**Particulate Matter (PM), (PM 10):** Any material that exists as solid or liquid in the atmosphere. Particulate matter may be in the form of fly ash, soot, dust, fog, fumes, etc. Small particulate matter, or PM 10, is less than 10 microns in size and is too small to be filtered by the nose and lungs.

**Pass:** A means of transit prepayment, usually a card that carries some identification that is displayed to the driver, conductor or fare inspector in lieu of paying a cash fare.

**Passenger:** A person who rides a transportation vehicle, excluding the driver.

**Passenger Count:** The count or check of passengers arriving at, boarding and alighting, leaving from or passing through one or more points on a route or line. Counts are conducted by riding (ride check), using automated passenger counters, or at specific locations (point check).

**Passenger hours, Passenger Miles:** Measures of service utilization that represent the sum of the distances or time on-board a transit vehicle by each passenger. They are normally calculated by the summation of the passenger load x the distance and time between individual stops. For example, ten passengers riding in a transit vehicle for two miles equals 20 passenger miles.

**Passenger revenue:** Fares paid by passengers traveling aboard transit vehicles. Also called farebox revenue.

**Passenger trips:** the number of rides made by people using a public transportation system in a given time period. Also called ridership.

**Peak Hour:** The 60-minute period during which the largest volume of travel is experienced.

**Peak Period:** The time period during which the largest volume of travel occurs, and correspondingly highest level of transit service is provided.

**Person Trip:** A one-way trip made for any purpose, by any (usually vehicular) travel mode, by one person.

**Plans:** Technical drawings which show the location, character, and dimensions of prescribed project work, including layouts, profiles, cross-sections and other details.

**Preferred Alternative:** The mode, service and/or alignment chosen during the course of an Alternatives Analysis or Major Investment Study based on a thorough evaluation of reasonable alternatives and conduct of a public involvement process.

**Public Hearing:** A meeting designed to afford the public the fullest opportunity to express support of, opposition to, or comment on a transportation project. Documentation is required and comment from the public goes into the public record. Format for Public Hearings are not question-and-answer format and is governed by rules ordering who speaks when and for what duration. Public Hearings are overseen by a hearing official.

**Public Involvement:** Coordination events and informational materials geared toward public participation in the Transportation Development Process.

**Public Meeting:** An announced meeting conducted by transportation officials designed to facilitate public participation in the decision-making process and to assist the public in gaining an informed view of a proposed project during the Transportation Development Process. A Public Meeting is generally informal and a question-and-answer format and is a discussion between interested parties. Comments do not go into the public record. Public Meeting formats are open discussion with a moderator to keep comments focused and to ensure everyone has a chance to ask his/her question.

**Public Participation:** The active and meaningful involvement of the public in the development of transportation plans and improvement programs. Federal transportation legislation and regulations require that state departments of transportation proactively seek the involvement of all interested parties, including those traditionally under-served by the current transportation system.

**Public Transit System:** An organization that provides transportation services owned, operated or subsidized by any municipality, county, regional authority, state, multi-state organization, or other governmental agency, including those operated or managed by a private firm under contract to the government agency owner.

## Q

**Qualitative Analysis:** A general concept, which categorizes a process used in certain types of environmental or route location studies where multiple factors are compared in a systematic and comprehensive manner on the basis of sound judgment. Factors analyzed by using a qualitative analysis are such that they cannot be measured in monetary terms, have no apparent common denominators, and are not readily quantifiable.

**Quantitative Analysis:** The process used in certain environmental, economic, cost-benefit, engineering, or traffic studies where multiple factors, elements, and/or outcomes are evaluated and compared by the use of measurable data. Certain mathematical models, formulas, numerical indices, rankings, and value matrices may be used to assist with such a process.

**Queue Jump:** A bypass lane and/or special traffic signal that allows a transit vehicle to cross a roadway or enter an expressway ahead of general traffic, thereby providing the transit vehicle a time advantage, especially in congested conditions.

## R

**Radial, Radial Service:** Local or express service designed primarily to connect the Central Business District with outlying areas. Routes tend to “radiate” from a central point or area.

**Raised Curb:** The pavement of a transit stop raised to maintain pedestrian movement while providing level boarding and alighting between the stop and vehicle.

**Region:** An entire metropolitan area including designated urban and rural sub-regions.

**Regulatory Agency:** An agency empowered to issue permits or recommend approval or denial of a permit or action.

**Ridesharing:** A form of transportation, other than public transit, in which more than one person shares the use of a vehicle, such as a car or van, to make a trip.

**Ridership:** The number of rides taken by people using a public transportation system in a given time period.

**Right-of-Way (ROW):** Usually that land owned by or under the direct control of a transportation system and on which its users operate. The ROW area typically includes travel lanes, shoulders, curb and gutter, sidewalks, fixed guideways, stops and stations, landscaping, and space for utilities.

**Riverfront Transit Center:** An enclosed transit center located below Second Street in downtown Cincinnati, designed to accommodate service to special events and attractions in downtown and the riverfront and future commuter services such as light rail and commuter rail.

**Route:** A specified path taken by a transit vehicle usually designated by a number, letter, color or name, along which passengers are picked up or discharged.

**Route Miles:** The total number of miles included in a fixed route transit system.

**Running Time:** The time assigned for the movement of a revenue vehicle over a route or lone, usually done of a segment basis by various time of day.

## S

**Secondary Impacts:** A general term to define impacts which are caused by a specific action and which take place later in time or further removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable. Also see Indirect Effects.

**Section 106 Procedures:** Procedures based on Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 which govern the identification, evaluation, and protection of historical and archaeological resources affected by state and federal transportation projects. Principal areas identified include required evaluations to determine the presence or absence of sites, the eligibility based on National Register of Historic Places criteria and the significance of the effect of a proposed project upon such a site.

**Section 4(f) Resources:** Publicly owned parks, recreation lands, wildlife/waterfowl refuges, and historic sites that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

**Section 4(f) Determination:** Administrative action by which the Federal Highway Administration confirms that, on the basis of extensive studies and analysis, there are no “prudent and feasible” alternatives to the taking of land from resources protected under Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act, as amended.

**Sensitive Receptor:** An area of frequent human use (i.e. residential property, church, school, library, hospital, park, hotel, motel, etc.).

**Service Area:** A geographic area that is provided with transit services.

**Service Hours:** The time from the first scheduled pickup to the last scheduled drop-off.

**Service Period, Service Span:** The time period over which service is operated, e.g., 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. or 24 hours (owl). Service span often varies by weekday, Saturday and Sunday.

**Service Standards:** Benchmarks by which service operations performance is evaluated.

**Shuttle:** A public or private vehicle that travels back and forth over a particular route, typically a short route or one that provides connections between transportation systems, employment centers, entertainment centers, etc. Shuttle most commonly involve smaller-sized vehicles than used primarily on the transit system.

**Signal Pre-emption:** The ability of a transit vehicle to control the traffic signals at an intersection to allow halt all other traffic and allow the transit vehicle to proceed through the signal unimpeded.

**Signal Priority:** The configuration of a traffic signal system to allow a transit vehicle to ability to turn or pull into or out of a station or stop by momentarily holding back other traffic.

**Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA):** The public agency charged by the State of Ohio to provide public transportation in southwestern Ohio. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees appointed by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and Cincinnati City Council. SORTA operates the Metro fixed route bus system and Access paratransit service for persons with disabilities.

**Spare Ratio:** The percentage of the transit fleet (by type) that is in excess of what is needed to operate the peak schedule requirement, designed to ensure that there is a sufficient number of vehicles available due to maintenance, repairs, accidents, etc. The Federal Transit Administration allows for a maximum 20 percent spare ratio.

**State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO):** The official appointed or designated pursuant to Section 101(b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act to administer the State historic preservation program. The SHPO consults with state and federal agencies during the Section 106 process review. The SHPO administers the national historic preservation program at the State level, reviews National Register nominations, and maintains file data on historic properties that have been identified but not yet nominated. Agencies seek the view of the SHPO in the identification of historic properties and the assessment of the effects of a project on historic properties.

**State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP):** A staged, multi-year statewide, intermodal program of transportation projects which is consistent with the statewide transportation plan and planning processes, metropolitan plans, Transportation Improvement Plans and processes.

**Streetcar:** A form of light rail, consisting of a single passenger train car powered from overhead electrical wires, operating on-street, usually in mixed traffic, providing local or shuttle type service. Also called trolley, tram.

**Street Furniture:** The structures and amenities located within a sidewalk right-of-way, including lighting, benches, shelters, vending machines (newspapers, parking, transit), parking meters, water fountains, etc.

**Streetscape:** The various hardscape and landscape elements that comprise the visual character of a street. These typically include street trees, streetlights, sidewalks, paving treatments, utilities, signage, and street furniture, including shelters and benches.

**Study Area:** A geographic area selected and defined at the outset of engineering and environmental evaluations which is sufficiently adequate in size to address all pertinent project matters occurring within it.

## T

**The Banks:** The large mixed-use project currently being developed near the downtown

**Track, Trackway:** The rail on which a train operates.

**Traction Power Substations:** Facilities that provide constant levels of electricity to power vehicles.

**Transcript:** A typewritten record, usually prepared by a certified stenographer, providing a verbatim account of the official proceedings that take place at all Public Hearings and some Public Meetings.

**Transfer:** Changing from one transit vehicle to another to complete a trip. Also refers to the printed receipt issued to passengers that is used as the fare instrument upon boarding the second vehicle, also called transfer slip.

**Transit, Transit System:** Generally refers to passenger service provided to the general public along established routes with fixed or variable schedules at published fares. Related terms include public transit, mass transit, public transportation or paratransit. Transit modes include streetcar, commuter rail, heavy or light transit, bus, or other vehicles designated for commercial transportation of non-related persons.

**Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK):** The regional public agency created to provide public transportation service in the three northern Kentucky counties of Boone, Campbell and Kenton. Its fixed route network, also called TANK, is primarily centered on downtown Cincinnati. TANK also operates RAMP, a complementary paratransit service for persons with disabilities.

**Transit Center, Transit Hub:** A fixed location where passengers transfer from one route or line and/or mode. It can be an on-street or off-street facility and can feature a wide array of passenger amenities. Also called transportation center.

**Transit Dependent:** Someone must use public transit for personal travel needs, often due to income or disability.

**Transit Fund:** The earnings tax funding that is dedicated to public transit purposes in Cincinnati. It is primarily used to provide operating subsidy and local capital match to the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority.

**Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP):** A document prepared by metropolitan planning organizations listing projects to be funded with Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funds for the next one to three-year period.

**Travel Time:** Customarily calculated as the time it takes to travel from “door to door.” In transportation planning, the measures of travel time include time spent accessing, waiting, and transferring between vehicles as well as time spent traveling.

**Trip:** The one-way operation of a revenue vehicle between two terminus points on a route or line. Trips are generally noted as inbound, outbound, eastbound, westbound, etc. to identify directionality. Also called journey, one-way trip.

**Trunk Line:** A major bus route, or series of bus routes, providing service along a major street. Also called main line.

## U

**US Department of Transportation (DOT):** The principal direct federal funding and regulating agency for transportation facilities and programs. Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration are units of the United States Department of Transportation.

**Uptown:** The second largest employment and activity center in Greater Cincinnati. An area of Cincinnati located north of downtown and Over-the-Rhine that features the University of Cincinnati, several major medical centers, other large employers, commercial districts, residential areas, parks and other trip attractions. It is comprised of the neighborhoods of Avondale, Clifton, Clifton Heights, Corryville, Fairview, Mount Auburn and University Heights.

**Urbanized Area:** An area that contains a city of 50,000 or more population plus incorporated surrounding areas meeting set size or density criteria.

## V

**Validator:** A device at transit stops and stations, in systems that is used as proof-of-payment fare system, that record the time period that the fare payment will allow ridership.

**Variable Cost:** A cost that varies in relation to the level of operational activity

**Vehicle Hours of Travel (VHT):** The sum of time all vehicles spend traveling, calculated most typically over a 24-hour period. This statistic is most commonly summed over some area such as a county, but can also be calculated for specific routes or trip purposes like work.

**Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT):** A standard area-wide measure of travel activity. The most conventional VMT calculation is to multiply the average length of trip by the total number of trips.

**Vibration:** The major source of streetcar vibration is the rolling interaction of the car wheels on the track; the vibration resulting from this interaction increases with greater speeds. Vibration levels are expressed in V dB are 1 micro inch/second and noise levels are expressed in dBA. Vibration can be measured in terms of the displacement, velocity, or acceleration of ground movement. Similar to noise, vibration levels are often recorded on a logarithmic scale expressed as decibels, but vibration levels are denoted as "V dB" to differentiate them from sound levels.

## W

**Walkability, Walkable Urbanism:** An urban environment that promote pedestrian activity through the use of high densities, sidewalks, traffic calming techniques, street furniture, ground level retail ,etc.

## Y

**Yard:** An area used for vehicle maintenance, storage or holding. Also called yard and shops.

## Z

**Zone:** The smallest geographically designated area for analysis of transportation activity. A zone typically ranges in size from one to 10 square miles. Average zone size depends on total size of project area.

**Zone Fares:** A system of fares where a transit system's service area is divided into zones in which specified rates or fares apply. It provides a measure of distance-based fares.

## **Glossary of Acronyms**

## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AADT:	annual average daily traffic
AC:	alternating current
ACGIH:	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
ADA:	Americans with Disabilities Act
AMSL:	above mean sea level
APE:	area of potential effect
CAA:	Clean Air Act
CAGIS:	Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System
CBD:	central business district
CCHMC:	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
CERCLA:	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CLOMR-F:	Conditional Letter of Map Revision based on Fill
CNLU:	Cincinnati Northern Landscape unit
CO:	carbon monoxide
CPA:	Cincinnati Preservation Association
CPD:	Cincinnati Police Department
CSLU:	Cincinnati Southern Landscape Unit
CTC:	Clermont Transportation Connection
CUF:	Clifton Heights – University Heights – Fairview
dB:	decibel
dBA:	weighted decibel
DC:	direct current
EA:	Environmental Assessment
EDR:	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EJ:	Environmental Justice
EMF:	electromagnetic field
EO:	Executive Order
ESA:	Endangered Species Act
ESA:	Environmental Site Assessment
FEMA:	Federal Emergency Management Administration
FHWA:	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM:	federal insurance rate maps
FTA:	Federal Transit Administration
FWCA:	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
HC:	hydrocarbons
LOS:	level of service
Leq:	equivalent continuous noise level
LLC:	Limited Liability Company
mG:	milligauss (measurement of magnetic field)
MOT:	maintenance of traffic
MSAT:	meaningful potential mobile source toxics
MSF:	maintenance and storage facility
NAAQS:	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NATA:	National Air Toxics Assessment
NEPA:	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA:	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NO <sub>2</sub> :	nitrogen dioxide
NO <sub>x</sub> :	nitrogen oxide
NRHP:	National Register of Historic Places

NWI: National Wetland Inventory  
ODNR: Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
ODOT: Ohio Department of Transportation  
OHI: Ohio Historic Inventory  
OHPO: Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
OKI: Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments  
OTR: Over-the-Rhine  
Pb: lead  
PESA: Preliminary Environmental Screening Assessment  
PM: particulate matter  
QA/QC: quality assurance/quality control  
RCRA: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act  
SARA: Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act  
SCE: secondary and cumulative effects  
SCPA: School for the Creative and Performing Arts  
SORTA: Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority  
SO2: sulfur dioxide  
TANK: Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky  
3CDC: Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation  
TIP: Transportation Improvement Plan  
UC: University of Cincinnati  
USEPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency  
USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
VSL: visually sensitive resource  
VOA: Volunteers of America

## **Environmental Assessment Distribution**

## **Distribution List for Public Review Copies**

### Federal Agencies

- Federal Transit Administration, Region 5

### State and Local Agencies

- Cincinnati City Hall 801 Plum Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202
- Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 420, Cincinnati, OH 45202
- Ohio Department of Transportation District Eight 505 South SR 741, Lebanon, OH 45036
- Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority 602 Main Street, Suite 1100, Cincinnati OH 45202

### Libraries

- Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County –Main Branch 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202
- Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County – Corryville Branch 2802 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45219
- Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County – West End Branch 805 Ezzard Charles Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45203
- Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County – Walnut Hills Branch 2533 Kemper Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45206

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- Bond Hill Recreation Center 1501 Elizabeth Place, Cincinnati, OH 45237
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- Corryville Recreation Center 2823 Eden Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45219
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- Mt. Auburn Recreation Center 270 Southern Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45219
- Oakley Recreation Center 3882 Paxton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45209
- Over-the-Rhine Recreation Center 1715 Republic Street Cincinnati, OH 45210
- Price Hill Recreation Center 959 Hawthorne Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45205