

## Appendix C Glossary of Terms





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## Term

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**1  $\mu$ in** is one microinch, which is equivalent to .000001Inches. This value represents 1 millionth of an inch.

**“A” Minor arterials** supplement the mobility function of the principal arterials while also providing more land access than freeways or expressways.

**A-weighting (dBA)** scale is a standardized filter used to alter the sensitivity of a sound level meter with respect to frequency so that the instrument is less sensitive at low and high frequencies where the human ear is less sensitive.

**Access or Accessibility:** In transportation, “access” or accessibility refers to the ease with which people can reach multiple destinations. People in places that are highly accessible can reach many other activities or destinations quickly and easily.

**Activity center** is a destination where people gather. Activity centers include concentrated work locations, shopping areas, recreation areas, sports stadiums, educational institutions, government centers, museums, and so forth.

**Advanced conceptual engineering plans** are preliminary designs of the light rail system that include where the rail line, stations, bridges, and tunnels would be located, but do not include details of what those components would look like or how they would be constructed. Conceptual engineering is used to determine the viability of various transit alternatives.

**Advance transit preemption** temporarily changes traffic lights to allow the LRV to safely proceed through the intersection with minimal delay.

**Aerial grade-separations** are bridges

**Air Toxics** are pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects or adverse environmental effects. Examples include benzene, which is found in gasoline; perchlorethylene, which is emitted from some dry cleaning facilities; and methylene chloride, which is used as a solvent and paint stripper.

**Alignment** the horizontal location of a railroad or transit system as described by curved and tangent track.

**Ambient** refers to the pre-project background noise or vibration level.

**Amplitude** is the magnitude of change in the oscillating variable with each oscillation within an oscillating system.

**An overlay zoning district** is any of several additional districts established by the zoning regulations that may be more or less restrictive than the primary zoning district. Where a property is located within an overlay district, it is subject to the provisions of both the primary zoning district and the overlay district. Where the provisions are in conflict, the overlay district governs.

**Aquifer** is a water-bearing layer (or several layers) of rock or sediment capable of yielding supplies of water through a water well or spring.

**Aquitards** are layers that slow the flow of groundwater.

**Archaeological site:** Any place where evidence of past human life is found. Sites can range in size from small locations of artifacts to entire villages and cities.

**Area of Potential Effect (APE),** According to 36 CFR 800.16(d), is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist.

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**Area source:** The EPA defines "area sources" as those sources that emit less than 10 tons annually of a single hazardous air pollutant or less than 25 tons annually of a combination of hazardous air pollutants.

**Attended measurements** are measurements taken while an attendant/operator is present during the entire measurement to observe noise events and attend to the instrumentation if necessary.

**Avian:** bird

**A-weighting** scale is a standardized filter used to alter the sensitivity of a sound level meter with respect to frequency so that the instrument is less sensitive at low and high frequencies where the human ear is less sensitive. Also written as dBA.

**Best management practices (BMPs)** are the most efficient and effective means to achieve a desired goal, such as preventing pollution.

**Biennium** is a two-year period.

**Bike commute share** is the percentage of bike commuters among all commuters.

**Bio-bags** are plastic mesh bags filled with recycled wood chips.

**Biota** are plants and animals

**British Thermal Unit (BTU)** is a commonly used unit of energy that is equal to the amount of heat required to increase the temperature of a pint of water by one degree Fahrenheit.

**Bus shoulder operations** are allowed in many congested corridors where buses may use highway shoulders to bypass congestion to provide faster and more reliable transit commutes.

**Capital cost** is the one-time cost to build a project. For SWLRT, it is the cost of purchasing right of way; building the rails, bridges, and tunnels; purchasing the light rail vehicles; and other construction-related costs.

**Capital investment** is money invested in a business venture with an expectation of income.

**Center platform (island)** is a passenger platform located between two tracks or guideways so that it can serve them both.

**Choice** transit riders are people who could drive, but choose to use transit.

**Circulation and lead tracks** are segments of track, separated from the mainline tracks, which are used to store and move cars without interfering with mainline traffic.

**Commencing:** starting/beginning

**Compensatory mitigation measures** are actions required to offset the use of a Section 4(f) resource when impacts are unavoidable; such as photo-documentation of a historic building.

**Competitive transit option** offers a significant travel-time advantage that would attract choice riders while adequately serving transit-dependent riders.

**Computerized network** is an electronic (digital) representation of all the highways (local streets, freeways, arterials etc.) as well as the bus and rail routes in the transportation system, which is input into the transportation forecasting model.

**Congested lane miles** are the number of miles of congested freeways or roadways.

**Conservation area** is a tract of land that has protected status to ensure that natural features, cultural heritage, or biota are safeguarded. A conservation area may be a nature reserve, a park, or a land reclamation project.

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## Term

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**Contaminated site** is a location where a substance has been released to the environment and its presence creates a risk to human health or natural ecosystems.

**Contraflow:** in bus transit, a contraflow lane is a bus-only lane in which the direction of bus traffic is opposite the flow of traffic in the other lanes.

**Cost allocation** is the process of identifying and assigning the costs of a project among its various authorized purposes. In this case, the allocations include annual operation and maintenance costs.

**Cultural resource(s)** are defined as the buildings, structures, districts, objects and sites that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP or National Register).

**Cumulative Impacts:** The CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1508.7) define cumulative impacts as the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**Cut:** An area requiring excavation.

**Data set:** An organized collection of data.

**Day-Night Sound Level (Ldn)** is the sound exposure level for a 24-hour day calculated by adding the sound exposure level obtained during the daytime (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) to 10 times the sound exposure level obtained during the nighttime (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.). This unit is used throughout the U.S. for environmental impact assessment. Also written as DNL.

**Decibel (dB)** is a common unit for measurement of sound intensity with the minimum change perceptible to the human ear being roughly equivalent to 1 decibel. Zero dB is the lowest intensity detectable by the average person, and 130 decibels is the average point at which sound begins to cause pain.

**Deficiency Rating:** MnDOT's Metro District categorizes highways as having a high, medium, or low "deficiency rating." Because most of the highway system experiences congestion, the severity (miles and duration) of congestion for a highway is a critical factor for prioritizing and selecting mobility enhancement projects.

**Demographics** is the characteristics of a human population, such as, gender, race, age, income, disabilities, mobility, employment status, etc.

**Densification** is increasing population in a defined area through development of vacant land, or redevelopment of commercial/industrial property, for residential purposes.

**Descriptor** is a quantitative metric used to identify a specific measure of sound level.

**Direct Effect Earnings:** The incremental increase in transit job earnings for the region based on the incremental increase in operation and maintenance cost as a result of the new project.

**Direct Effect Employment:** The incremental increase in construction jobs in the region resulting from non-local resources spent on the project.

**Downtown core:** Downtown area

**Earnings:** Income earned based on new spending.

**Economic activity:** The sales of goods and services

**Electromagnetic interference (EMI)** occurs when the use of one electric device interferes with the use of another, such as a cell phone interfering with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Properly designed LRT power lines will minimize or avoid such interference.

**Emergent** systems support plants whose root systems grow underwater, but whose shoots grow above water.

**Employment:** Job creation based on new spending.

**Employment center:** A job location and/or worker destination.

**Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)** is a report that documents existing or potential environmental contamination. A Phase I ESA is a review of available information about potential contamination sources on and near a site. If warranted by the results of the Phase I ESA, a Phase II ESA is a field investigation including actual sampling of soil, air, groundwater, or site materials to confirm or refute the presence of a contaminant source.

**Equivalent Level (Leq)** is the level of a steady sound which, in a stated time period and at a stated location, has the same sound energy as the time-varying sound.

**Express routes** connect a number of areas with the central business district (CBD) or other major destinations. These services typically operate during the morning and afternoon-evening peak travel hours. Express routes often use freeways or major arterials and make fewer stops along the way to make more predictable, faster trips.

**Facilitate:** Assist, make easier

**Facilitate and enhance:** Make more attractive.

**Federal participation** is the amount of money the federal government will provide for a given project or program.

**Federal Register** is the official journal of the Federal Government of the United States that contains most routine publications and public notices of government agencies.

**Fen:** Low-lying, flat, marshy land.

**Final Demand Earnings:** Construction industry earnings resulting from non-local resources spent on the project.

**Final Demand Employment:** New construction jobs resulting from the non-local resources spent on the project.

**Final Demand Output:** The value of the final good produced through construction. Only non-local resources spent on construction will have a regional impact.

**Finance and Commerce** is a daily newspaper and online publication in Minneapolis/St. Paul, covering local business news.

**Fixed guideway or guideway** refers to transit service routes that are exclusive or controlled, either entirely or in part. Vehicles operating on fixed guideways may be railways—including light rail—portions of bus service operated on exclusive or controlled rights-of-way, or high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes.

**General fund appropriations** are the use of money placed into the State's general fund (the general fund consists of monies that are not restricted for specific uses).

**General Obligation bond** is a municipal bond backed by the credit and taxing power of the issuing jurisdiction rather than the revenue from a given project.

**Gentrification**, broadly defined, is a process by which low-income and working class neighborhoods in the inner city are refurbished by an influx of private capital and middle-class homebuyers and renters.

**Grade separation** is a bridge or tunnel that separates transportation facilities such as a highway or railroad so that they will not disrupt each other's traffic flow when they cross.

**Ground-borne vibration:** The effects of ground-borne vibration include discernable movement of the building floors, rattling of windows, shaking of items on shelves or hanging on walls, and rumbling sounds. In extreme cases, the vibration can cause damage to buildings. Building damage is not a factor for normal transportation projects, with the occasional exception of blasting and pile-driving during construction. Annoyance from vibration often occurs when the vibration exceeds the threshold of perception by only a small margin. A vibration level that causes annoyance will be well below the damage threshold for normal buildings.

**Headway** is the time between buses or trains arriving at stops along a given transit route.

**High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) signal:** a traffic signal that stops traffic movements only when activated by a pedestrian wishing to cross the street.

**High-capacity transit improvements** are transit improvements that can accommodate large numbers of passengers.

**High-capacity transit** includes any form of public transit that has an exclusive right of way, a non-exclusive right of way, or a combination of both. High-capacity transit vehicles make fewer stops, travel at higher speeds, have more frequent service, and carry more people than local transit. High capacity transit includes options such as light rail, commuter rail and bus rapid transit.

**Historic district** is a group of related buildings, properties, or sites that have been designated as historically or architecturally significant.

**Historic property(ies)** means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.

**Home-based work trips** are trips between a rider's home and his or her workplace.

**Housing unit** is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall.

**Impervious surfaces** are those that keep water from being absorbed into the ground. They include asphalt and concrete for roads, parking lots, sidewalks, etc.

**Incident-induced congestion and delays** result from a crash, fire, weather event, or emergency services response.

**Indirect benefits** result from direct investments in capital purchases (e.g., vehicles and equipment), and direct purchases for ongoing operations (e.g., fuel, parts and other materials) that lead to sales and thus support jobs in supplier industries.

**Induced benefits** stem from the wages of construction and operations workers, as well as growth in wages at suppliers, which can all lead to further retail sales for businesses that provide consumer goods and services.

**Infill development** involves building and developing in vacant areas in city centers or urban settings.

**Infrastructure** is defined as the fundamental facilities and systems serving a country, state, or city. Transportation infrastructure includes things like roads, bridges, highways, bus systems, LRT systems, etc.

**Interlined** LRT shares/uses the same tracks/guideway as another transit line.

**Interlining** uses interconnections to allow transit vehicles to operate on more than one route or set of tracks. On some routes, it allows passengers to reach their destination without changing to another vehicle, eliminating transfers. Interlining also allows a transit vehicle fleet to be shared throughout the system more efficiently, thereby reducing service and operational costs.

**Intermodal:** With respect to the FTA Standard Cost Category, "Intermodal" refers to a location where different modes of transportation connect, such as between commuter rail and light rail, or bus and light rail.

**Intersection operations** define how well intersections function to move traffic and pedestrians.

**Jurisdictional determination (JD)** is the process of identifying and locating jurisdictional Waters of the United States (including wetlands) regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**Land use** is the human modification of the natural environment or wilderness into built environment, such as fields, pastures, and settlements.

**Launched:** Initiated/began/started.

**Leakage**, in economic terms, represents purchases made by local suppliers from sources outside the region.

**Level of service (LOS)** is a quality measure used by traffic engineers to describe traffic, generally in terms of speed and travel time, maneuverability, comfort, and convenience. LOS ratings range from A (best) to F (worst). The Highway Capacity Manual provides LOS measures, thresholds, and estimation procedures for automobiles, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians.

**Limited stop routes** are a combination of local and express service. Stops may be several blocks to a mile or more apart.

**Linguistic Isolation** occurs in a household where all members age 14 years and over speak a non-English language and also speak English less than "very well" (have difficulty with English) is 'linguistically isolated.'

**Linked trip** is a trip from origin to destination. One linked trip could include several unlinked trips, such as driving to a park and ride, riding a commuter train, and taking a bus to the final destination; this sequence represents one linked trip, but is made up of three unlinked trips and includes two transit system boardings.

**Loam** is soil that consists of a relatively equal mixture of sand, clay, silt, and organic matter.

**Location-based employment** refers to jobs occurring within a certain location.

**Logarithmic scale** is a tool to compare sound intensity because it requires about a tenfold increase in power for a sound to register twice as loud to the human ear. A logarithm is the power to which a base, such as 10, must be raised to produce a given number. For example,  $10^3 = 1,000$ ; therefore,  $\log_{10} 1,000 = 3$ .

**Major activity center** is a place of significant employment, retail, or entertainment activity.

**Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** is a document written between parties to cooperatively work together on an agreed upon project or meet an agreed upon objective.

**Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB)** brings together the Governor's Office (as chair), five citizens, and the heads of nine state agencies that play a vital role in Minnesota's environment and development. The board develops policy, creates long-range plans, and reviews proposed projects that would significantly influence Minnesota's environment. The **EQB Monitor** is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The EQB Monitor is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>

**Mitigate:** To reduce the impact of an action.

**Mixed-flow traffic** is the combination of buses, cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, etc., on a roadway.

**Mobile sources:** Vehicles

**Mobility deficiency rating:** MnDOT's Metro District categorizes highways as having a high, medium, or low "mobility deficiency rating." Because most of the highway system experiences congestion, the severity (miles and duration) of congestion for a highway is a critical factor for prioritizing and selecting transportation improvements.

**Mobility**, in transportation, is the ability of people and goods to move freely within the transportation system.

**Multimodal** refers to a variety of modes (forms or types) of transportation such as personal automobile, bus, transit, pedestrian, etc.

**National Register-eligible archaeological sites** are places where important evidence of past human activity is found. Archaeological sites can be prehistoric or historic and can range in size from small locations of artifacts to entire villages or cities.

**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)** is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

**New Starts** is the federal funding program for new transit systems or extensions of existing transit systems; these funds are granted under Section 5309 (B) of the United States Code.

**No Build condition** = No Build Alternative

**Noise Area Classification** is based on the land use activity at the location of the receiver. It is similar to FTA land use categories in that it determines the noise standard for the land.

**Noise** is any disagreeable or undesired sound or other audible disturbance.

**Non-point pollutants** come from many different sources but are generally the result of land runoff, precipitation, and drainage. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants and deposits them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and ground waters.

**One-way pair** is two one-way tracks running in opposite directions on parallel streets.

**Operating conditions:** Time of day, number of trains in operation, weather, special events, etc.

**Operating revenues** are funds obtained to cover the cost of running the light rail line.

**Operation and maintenance** costs are the cost of running the light rail system, repairing any non-functioning parts of the system, and conducting routine maintenance of the light rail system

**Output:** The final product based on new spending.

**Overlay zoning district:** any of several additional districts established by the zoning regulations that may be more or less restrictive than the primary zoning district. Where a property is located within an overlay district, it is subject to the provisions of both the primary zoning district and the overlay district. Where the provisions are in conflict, the overlay district governs.

**Parapet** is a wall-like barrier at the edge of a structure. Parapets on bridges prevent users from falling off where there is a drop. They are also used to restrict views.

**Parcel** is a tract or plot of land.

**Passenger mile** is one passenger transported one mile.

**Passenger miles** is a measure of service utilization which represents the cumulative sum of the distances ridden by each passenger. It is normally calculated by summation of the passenger load times the distance between individual bus stops. For example, ten passengers riding in a transit vehicle for two miles equals 20 passenger miles.

**Passive use open space** is that portion of a park that has minimal development such as picnic areas, trails, and green spaces that are not otherwise developed for activities such as ball fields or playgrounds.

**Peak service times** are when light rail would be most used, generally during rush hour.

**Pedestrian facilities** are sidewalks, recreational trails, etc.

**Per capita:** Per person

**Permeability** is the quality of allowing fluids to flow through.

**Permitted Use-** Exceptions are built into zoning categories that permit or allow certain uses within a zoning category.

**Person and vehicle throughput:** Access for pedestrians and vehicles.

**Person-hours of delay:** Delay

**Person trip** is a trip by one or more persons in any mode of transportation. Each person is considered as making one person trip. For example, four persons traveling together in one auto make four person-trips.

**Phase I Environmental Site Assessment:** documents existing or potential environmental contamination based on available information about contamination sources on and near a site. Based on the results of the Phase I ESA, a Phase II ESA might be ordered. The Phase II ESA is a field investigation including actual sampling of soil, air, groundwater, or site materials to confirm or refute the presence of a contaminant source.

**Person-Hours of Delay per Peak Traveler** is the number of hours of delay caused by congestion times the number of travelers during peak travel times (6 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.).

**Point source pollutant** is a single identifiable localized source of air, water, thermal, noise, light, or chemical pollution.

**Pollutant loads:** The amount of pollution entering water resources.

**Population-based employment** refers to workers 16 years and older who are eligible to participate in the workforce.

**Preventative maintenance** is activity performed on a given schedule to prevent breakdowns of the light rail system or its components.

**Price-managed lanes** are toll lanes that charge a higher price when more people are using the lanes, such as during morning or afternoon rush-hours, and a lower price at other times when demand is less.

**Primary employment center:** Primary job location and worker destination.

**Prime farmland** is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion

**Programmatic Agreement (PA)** is a document that spells out the terms of a formal, legally binding agreement between a state Department of Transportation (DOT) and other state and/or federal agencies. A PA establishes a process for consultation, review, and compliance with one or more federal laws, most often with those federal laws concerning historic preservation.

**Propagate:** Transmit or spread

**Railway turnouts and crossovers** are mechanical installations enabling trains to move from one track to another.

**Readiness Requirements:** FTA readiness requirements include solid project cost estimates, local funding commitments, and a qualified project management team.

**Real growth** is the level of economic growth excluding the effects of inflation.

**Receptors (noise and vibration)** are places or areas that may be affected by changes in noise and vibration. Generally they are residential areas, churches, schools, recreation areas, hospitals, etc.

**Redevelopment** is a tool created by state law to assist local governments in eliminating blight from a designated area, as well as to achieve the goals of development, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of residential, commercial, industrial and retail districts.

**Regional energy consumption** is a measurement how much energy is used by a given geographic area.

**Regional long-range transit plan** for the Twin Cities metro area is the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan. This plan contains policies and plans to guide development of the transportation system in the area through the year 2030.

**Restrictive covenant** is a clause in a deed or lease to real property that limits what the owner of the land or lease can do with the property. Restrictive covenants allow surrounding property owners, who have similar covenants in their deeds, to enforce the terms of the covenants in a court of law. They are intended to enhance property values by controlling development.

**Restructured local service** means changing local bus routes to more appropriately serve transit travel patterns.

**Reverse commute:** Reverse commuters live in cities and travel to the suburbs to work. This is the opposite of regular commuters who live in the suburbs and work in the city.

**Riparian** areas are the banks of rivers, creeks, or lakes. Plants that grow in these areas are also referred to as riparian.

**Riparian habitat** is an area adjacent to rivers and streams with a differing density, diversity, and productivity of plant and animal species relative to nearby uplands.

**Root Mean Square (RMS)** is defined as the square root of the mean-square value of an oscillating waveform, where the mean-square value is obtained by squaring the value of amplitudes at each instant of time and then averaging these values over the sample time.

**Scoping:** NEPA scoping is a formal process to identify issues and alternatives for analysis in the NEPA document, which is either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**Scoping hearing** is a hearing where comments made by individuals are transcribed and become part of the public record.

**Secondary Impacts**, as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), are indirect or secondary impacts caused by the action, which are later in time and farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. They may include growth induced effects and changes in the pattern of land use, population densities, or growth rates and related changes in air, water, or other natural resources and ecosystems. In many cases, these indirect effects would occur outside of the project right-of-way. Indirect effects may include induced changes to land use resulting in resource impacts. Other indirect effects include the potential alteration of or encroachment on the affected environment. Examples of this are habitat fragmentation from land use changes, and increased runoff from new developments in the vicinity of proposed stations.

**Section 106 of Agreement** means the document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve the adverse effects of an undertaking upon historic properties.

**Sensitive “noise and vibration receptors”** are places or areas that may be affected by changes in noise and vibration. Generally they are residential areas, churches, schools, recreation areas, hospitals, etc.

**Sensitive receptors (visual)** are people whose view of a project area may be changed by the project. These include trail users, residents of nearby homes, or users of adjacent open spaces.

**Service periods** are hours and days of operation (ex. Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm).

**Shoofly operations** refers to freight rail operations on temporary trackage used to detour around a construction site.

**Shoring** is bracing used to temporarily prevent an excavation, such as a tunnel, trench, or ditch, from caving in.

**Side platforms** are passenger platforms located to the outside of the tracks or guideways, as distinguished from center platforms located between the tracks or guideways.

**Signage of:** Signs on

**Socioeconomic status:** Income, education, race, ethnicity, health, age, etc.

**Solicit :** Request

**Sound** is a physical disturbance in a medium that is capable of being detected by the human ear.

**Stakeholder** is a person or entity that has some interest in a project. For example, stakeholders can be community residents, businesses, construction and design contributors, funding sources and/or government agencies.

**Standardized Cost Category spreadsheets** are the cost estimating tool approved by the FTA for development of capital cost estimates for a transit project.

**State Implementation Plan (SIP):** States submit “State Implementation Plans” to EPA for approval to meet specific requirements of the Clean Air Act, including the requirement to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

**Status quo** is the existing condition – in this case the existing transportation condition in the project area.

**Stormwater ponds** are ponds that collect and temporarily store runoff water during storms to prevent flooding.

**Streetscape** is the appearance or view of a street.

**Study area:** The geographic boundaries of the area being studied for the proposed Southwest Transit system.

**Subsidies** are additional funds beyond transit fares necessary to offset operating costs.

**Subsoiling** is turning, breaking, or stirring the subsoil.

**Surface water feature** is a stream, lake, or wetland.

**Surficial** refers to geologic materials that are near the surface of the ground.

**System linkage** is a transit system's ability to get riders to work, recreation, shopping, and other destinations using a combination of lines or methods.

**Terminus:** End of the line

**Terrestrial:** Land-based.

**Through-routed** means all Southwest Transitway trains will run from the City of Eden Prairie northeast to Target Field Station then continue on Central Corridor LRT tract to St. Paul. Conversely, all Central Corridor LRT trains will run from St. Paul west to Target Field Station then continue southwest on Southwest Transitway tracks to the City of Eden Prairie.

**Town Center:** envisioned as an active, compact, mixed-use and walkable destination for people of all ages in the community.

**Traction power substations (TPSS)** are LRT power sources; these are enclosed structures surrounded by security fencing.

**Transit dependent populations** are people who rely exclusively on public transit for daily trips. The Federal Transit Administration defines transit-dependent persons as those who are 1) without private transportation, 2) elderly (over age 65), 3) youths (under age 18), and 4) persons below poverty or median income levels defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Transit tax** is a combination of quarter-cent sales tax and \$20 motor vehicle sales tax that is set aside for transit investment purposes

**Transit-oriented development (TOD)** is a development or neighborhood designed to provide easy access to public transportation. TODs are generally located within one-quarter to one-half mile of a transit facility—walking distance—and are designed for a relatively high population. TODs typically include a mix of residential and commercial/office uses built around or adjacent to a light rail station or bus stop.

**Transportation analysis zone (TAZ)** is a geographic area defined by transportation planners and used to help determine regional travel patterns and plan for future transportation needs. These zones vary in size, but typically include one or more census tracts or block groups.

**Transportation system capacity, transportation network capacity** is the ability of local roads and area highways to accommodate a projected amount of traffic.

**Transportation system performance measures** include travel time, speed, hours of congestion, and similar measurements.

**Transportation system user benefits (TSUB)** represent the changes in mobility for individual travelers that are induced by a project.

**Travel demand forecasts** are estimations of the number of people that would ride the light rail line.

**Travel demand model** is a computer generated travel demand estimate, created using either actual or projected population and employment data, to help predict how roadway or transit changes might affect local traffic.

**Travel demand, projected travel demand** is an estimate of how many vehicles will use local roads and area highways in the future.

**Underground utility chamber** is a subsurface vault that houses utilities; especially major utility junctions or connections.

**Underutilized** parcels are land or buildings that could be put to a higher or better use.

**Unique farmland** is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Examples of such crops include citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruits, and vegetables.

**Unit costs** are the dollars per item or measurement of various project components. For example steel rail unit costs may be given in dollars per linear foot; parking ramps may be in dollars per parking space.

**Unlinked trip** is a trip taken by an individual on one specific mode. A "linked trip" may involve two or more unlinked trips.

**Urban heat island** is a metropolitan area which has warmer temperatures than the surrounding suburban or rural area due to the higher density of development and energy use.

**Vehicle hours of travel** is the number of hours traveled by vehicles in one year.

**Vehicle mile** is one vehicle traveled one mile.

**Vehicle miles traveled** is the number of miles traveled by vehicles in one year.

**Vibration decibels (VdB)** – Vibration can be expressed as an acceleration, displacement, or velocity. FTA chose to express vibration as a velocity. Like sound, the range of vibration velocities is enormous. To compress that range into a simple and meaningful scale, FTA created a logarithmic unit – the vibration decibel, or VdB.

**Vibration** is an oscillation wherein the quantity is a parameter that defines the motion of a mechanical system.

**Vibration Velocity Level (LV):** Ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of the square of the amplitude of the RMS vibration velocity to the square of the amplitude of the reference RMS vibration velocity. The reference velocity in the United States is one micro-inch per second. Also written as VdB

**Viewshed** is the natural and/or built environment that can be seen from a reference point.

**Water resources** are wetlands, floodplains, streams, rivers, etc.

**Wayfinding system** = Signs posted to help people find their way to their destination.

**Zoning district** is an area within the limits of a city within which uniform regulations and requirements govern the use, placement, spacing, and size of land and structures.

**Zoning** is a device of land use planning used by local governments to separate one set of land use from another.