

## **MTP Glossary – September 2007**

**Accessibility** – Ensuring ease of approach and use of the transportation system by people of varying levels of ability.

**Alightings** – A count of the number of people getting off a transit vehicle. A person trip by transit may include more than one alighting if the passenger transfers between routes.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** – Federal legislation requiring accessibility to buildings, vehicles, and other facilities for individuals with disabilities. ADA sets standards and guidelines for design of public and private vehicles and facilities.

**Arlington County Commuter Services (ACCS)** – County-supported program that works with businesses, property developers, employees, and visitors to assist them in finding transportation solutions.

**Arterial Street** – A street intended to carry more traffic than is generated by the immediate area.

**Bike Route** – Any designated combination of signed streets and bikeways that provide cyclists with a specific route between destinations.

**Bikeway** – Any road, street, or trail, that is designated for bicycle travel, either for the exclusive use of bicycles or shared use with other vehicles or pedestrians.

**Boardings** – A count of the number of persons getting onto a transit vehicle.

**Business Improvement District (BID)** – Within a BID, property owners pay an annual assessment for infrastructure improvements, enhanced services, and other programs that increase the desirability of the area as a business location. A board of directors for the BID directs the expenditure of the funds.

**Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** – A plan produced biennially that guides Arlington's investments for long-term infrastructure improvements. The CIP is typically developed for a six-year time period and specifies the name and purpose of each improvement project along with its expected cost and funding source(s).

**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** – A colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that often results from fuel combustion. Accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> in the Earth's atmosphere is a primary cause of global climate change. Automobile emissions and electricity generation are primary sources of CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Carpool** – An arrangement in which two or more people share the use, costs, or both, of traveling in privately owned vehicles between fixed points.

**Corridor** – A geographic band that follows a general directional flow or connects major sources of trips. It may include more than one transportation facility and accommodate a variety of modes.

**Curb Extension (a.k.a. Nub)** – An extension of a sidewalk into the roadway to reduce the distance that pedestrians travel to cross a street.

**Cut-Through Traffic** – Vehicular traffic using a local street that has neither an origin nor a destination in that immediate neighborhood.

**Express Bus Service** – Bus service with few stops per mile in order to provide faster trips.

**Functional Classification** – A grouping of roadway facilities by the character of service they provide, i.e., through traffic or local traffic. Categorization by use, such as *arterial*, *neighborhood principal*, and *neighborhood minor streets*.

**Headway** – The time in minutes between departures of successive transit vehicles moving along the same route in the same direction.

**High-Occupancy-Vehicle (HOV) Lane** – Highway lanes restricted for use by vehicles carrying two or more persons.

**Infrastructure** – All the relevant elements of the physical environment in which a transportation system or mode operates.

**Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)** – The application of advanced technology to address various transportation issues, including signal coordination and the provision of real-time information to transportation users.

**Intermodal** – Interconnection of various modes of transportation for the movement of people and goods.

**Intersection** – The point at which two or more transportation facilities meet or cross.

**Land Use** – The type of building or activity (such as residential, commercial, industrial, public, or open space) that occupies a given piece of land.

**Lane** – A portion of a street or other facility, usually indicated by pavement markings, that is intended for one line of vehicles.

**Lane Mile** – Term used in measurement of roadway facilities in which the length of each travel lane on a roadway is measured separately. One lane mile is equal to 5,280 linear feet of travel lane.

**Level of Service (LOS)** – A measure of the vehicle mobility characteristics of a roadway or intersection. Letter designations from A through F describe the range of traffic conditions, with LOS A representing free-flow conditions with minimal delay, to LOS F, representing long delays and congested conditions.

**Local Street** – A street that primarily provides access to the residential and commercial properties that abut it.

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)** – An organization of elected officials from area governments whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in the National Capital

Region by responding to issues such as regional growth, transportation, air quality, and public safety. COG also works with its partners on emergency preparedness, affordable housing, and water quality.

**Mode** – A particular method of travel, such as walking, bicycling, driving, or taking transit.

**Mode Shift** – A change in mode share resulting from changes in personal travel behavior.

**Mode Share** – The percentage of all forms of transportation in use, defined either as the percentage of daily person trips or the percentage of daily person miles traveled.

**Multimodal** – Transportation that includes more than one type of travel method, such as walking and bicycling.

**Shared-use Trail** – A path segregated from motorized traffic for the use of bicyclists, pedestrians, and users of motorized wheelchairs.

**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)** – NVTA is charged with developing a transportation plan for Northern Virginia, working with Northern Virginia's communities to develop regional priorities and policies to improve air quality, and raising and distributing certain funds for transportation projects and services.

**Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)** – In addition to being a co-owner of Virginia Railway Express (VRE), the NVTC coordinates public transit policies within Northern Virginia. NVTC serves Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church.

**Nub** – See definition of *curb extension*.

**Paratransit** – A transportation service provided to individuals with disabilities who cannot use traditional public transportation.

**Peak Hours** – The hours of the day when the highest volume of traffic occurs on a transportation facility.

**Performance Measure** – A quantitative assessment of how well an activity, task, or function is being performed.

**Person Trip** – A measurement of the demand for travel. Each transportation trip that a person makes, regardless of travel mode, counts as a person trip.

**Queue Jumping** – A queue jump lane is an exclusive lane that allows buses to move ahead of a line of traffic.

**Right-of-Way (ROW)** – The area of land acquired for or devoted to the provision of existing or future transportation or utilities. Land used or reserved for future uses for a road, rail line, utility service, buffer, or similar corridor use.

**Shared Parking** – A parking area that serves two or more uses with different peak-use periods. For example, a bank parking lot that is active during the day is used for parking by an entertainment district at night.

**Sharrows** – Shared-lane markings for bicycle facilities that include an arrow guiding bicyclists' travel.

**Single-Occupancy Vehicle (SOV)** – A motor vehicle being used by only one person.

**Site Plan Review** – Process by which the plans for new development projects in Arlington undergo public review and approval. Only those projects seeking exceptions to current land use and zoning regulations are subject to the negotiations involved in the site plan review process.

**Stakeholders** – Individuals and organizations involved in or affected by the transportation planning process.

**Super Stops** – Special passenger facilities located along high-frequency bus routes. They include sheltered waiting areas, electronic passenger-information systems, and other measures to make transfers between buses more convenient.

**Sustainable Development** – Development that ensures that the use of resources and the environment today does not damage prospects for use by future generations.

**Traffic Calming** – A method of altering or designing a street, using a variety of techniques, to encourage reduced vehicle speeds and reduce neighborhood cut-through traffic.

**Traffic Signal Priority** – A traffic signal priority system enhances public transit or emergency response operations through the use of a device that makes a traffic signal respond to the approach of a transit or emergency vehicle. Typically, the signal priority extends the length of the green light to allow the vehicle to move through the intersection.

**Transit** – Any type of local public transportation (i.e., bus system, passenger rail, shuttle services, etc.).

**Transportation Demand Management (TDM)** – A coordinated strategy of policies and programs intended to reduce auto dependence and single-occupant driving.

**Transportation System Management (TSM)** – A term used to describe a range of actions that can be applied to improve the overall efficiency of the transportation network. TSM programs usually consist of low-cost alternatives to major capital expenditures and may include parking and incident management measures, variable message displays, or operational improvements to the existing roadway system.

**Vehicle Trip** – A measurement of travel made using motor vehicles. Usually used as a means to quantify the amount of traffic generated by a particular development or activity.

**Virginia Railway Express (VRE)** – The commuter rail service in Northern Virginia. VRE provides weekday passenger service along two lines between Fredericksburg and Manassas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)** – The regional transit provider for the Washington metropolitan area. WMATA provides Metrorail, Metro Bus, and Metro Access services. The authority is governed by representatives from the member jurisdictions in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

**Yield Streets** – Streets with a single narrow travelway on which vehicles alternate between operating at slow speeds and yielding to opposing traffic.