

List of Transportation/ Planning Acronyms

Acronym	Full Term	Description
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials	AASHTO develops guidelines and standards for roadway design, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities (http://www.aashto.org)
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	Federal law requiring construction that is publicly funded or open to the public to be accessible
ADT	Average Daily Traffic	Averaged count of traffic volume on a particular road or section of road
CBDG	Community Development Block Grant	Funding awarded to a municipality for improvements in low-income neighborhoods – can go for a range of facilities, including bicycle and pedestrian
CIP	Capital Improvement Program	A government's 5-year budget plan for expenditures for capital projects (i.e., major projects other than recurring operations costs)
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	A section of ISTEA and TEA-21 which funds projects to improve air quality in non-attainment areas (Charlotte is one) – bike and ped projects eligible
DBPT	Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (NCDOT)	The DBPT manages bicycle and pedestrian projects for the state, advises municipalities, creates state bicycle and pedestrian guidelines, and offers education and mapping materials
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	Analysis prior to development of potential impact of a project – required of major projects such as roads
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration	An agency of the USDOT – actively involved in promoting safe facilities and education programs, including bike and ped
FTA	Federal Transit Administration	Federal agency which provides funding for planning, development, and improvement of public mass transportation systems
GIS	Geographic Information System	Database and mapping software such as ArcInfo, ArcView, or TRANSCAD.
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act	Groundbreaking federal legislation that authorized a percentage of transportation money to go to alternative transportation – since reauthorized as TEA-21 – now being considered for reauthorization as TEA-3

LAB	League of American Bicyclists	National advocacy group located in Washington, DC
LOS	Level of Service	A measure of the facility of traffic flow – LOS standards are just being developed for bicycle and pedestrian traffic
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization	The Cabarrus-Rowan MPO (CR MPO) is one of 19 MPO's in NC – an MPO makes recommendations to NCDOT for transportation improvements in its region (Charlotte is in CRTPO, formerly Mecklenburg-Union Urban Area MPO)
MUTCD	Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices	The holy writ for traffic signals, signs, and pavement markings – used by all transportation departments
NCDOT	North Carolina Department of Transportation	The central office for NCDOT is in Raleigh – there are also 14 divisions in the state, each with its own office and local engineer. Cabarrus is in Division 10 and Rowan is in Division 9.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	1969 federal law requiring any project with federal funding or approval must examine impacts on environment, and consider alternatives, before a decision is made
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	Agency responsible for safety awareness and education programs – publishes materials for use with all ages and groups
SOV	Single Occupancy Vehicle	One car, one person (as opposed to HOV, High Occupancy Vehicle)
STBGP-DA	Surface Transportation Block Group Program – Direct Attributable	An MPO's funding from ISTEA, TEA-21, and FAST Act for small local enhancement projects or planning assistance.
STPP	Surface Transportation Policy Project	Research and Advocacy resource on transportation issues (http://www.transact.org)
TAC	Transportation Advisory Committee	The TAC is the governing board of the MPO – it consists of elected officials from the local governments in the MPO area plus the area's member of the BOT (Board of Transportation)
TCC	Transportation Coordinating Committee	The TCC is the technical advisory committee to the TAC – it consists of staff from transportation, planning, and local transit agencies
TDM	Traffic Demand	A toolbox of techniques for reducing traffic

	Management	congestion, from carpooling to HOV lanes to telecommuting
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program	The TIP is a statewide list of new roads and road improvement needs which is updated bi-annually by the NCDOT, based on recommendations from the MPO's – the TIP is revised every two years, but contains items budgeted for ten years out – bicycle and pedestrian facilities may be “incidental” or “independent” projects within the TIP – you may also see references to the STIP (State TIP) as opposed to the MTIP (MPO TIP)