

GLOSSARY OF LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING TERMS AND ACRONYMS

ADVANCED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (ATMS) – Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology that focuses on the coordination of traffic signal timing. It integrates hardware, equipment and technology, such as advanced vehicle detectors, closed circuit (CC) TV cameras and other electronic communication systems, to operate the traffic signals more efficiently.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) – Prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities. It applies to all publicly funded transportation facilities and transit vehicles and requires transit agencies to provide complementary paratransit service within the fixed-route service area to those persons unable to use fixed-route service because of a disability.

AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC (AADT) – The total volume of traffic on a highway segment for one year, divided by the number of days in the year.

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) – Forward Pinellas appointed committee comprised of representatives of various government agencies, law enforcement officials and private citizens interested in bicycle and pedestrian issues. The BPAC advises the MPO on matters concerning the planning and development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and encouraging bicycling and walking in Pinellas County and the region.

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN – An element of the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan identifies existing trails, bicycle lanes and sidewalks throughout Pinellas County. The Plan serves as a guide for the planning and development of a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian facility network that seeks to make these travel modes viable alternatives the personal automobile for commuting as well as recreational purposes.

BIKES ON BUSES – Allows Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) riders to mount their bikes on racks installed at the front end of PSTA buses to continue their trip as a bus passenger. The racks accommodate up to two bikes. Bike on bus accommodations are also offered in Hillsborough through Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) and Pasco County through Pasco County Public Transportation (PCPT).

BUS RAPID TRANSIT – A flexible high performance form of premium transit that combines features of rail systems with those of on-road vehicles, and is characterized by being able to operate in special purpose lanes or on city streets. BRT stations are used as an intermodal hub and activity center for the community. Service is frequent enough that passengers do not need a schedule. Intelligent transportation system (ITS) technology keeps track of vehicles, provides passengers with updated travel information, and improves safety.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) – Comprised of citizens representing municipal area and at-large membership appointed by Forward Pinellas to review transportation issues and topics before they are presented to the Board. They are the primary conduit for public input in the MPO planning process.

COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREA (CHHA) – The area below the elevation of the Category 1 storm surge line as established by a Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) computerized storm surge model, pursuant to Section 163.3178(2)(h), Florida Statutes.

COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (CTD) - A State agency responsible for the coordination of transportation services for older adults, persons with disabilities and low income and children at-risk. The CTD is responsible for overseeing local Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) programs, designating local planning agencies, approving the appointment of and then coordinating with community transportation coordinators.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR (CTC) – Responsible for managing the operations of the Pinellas County Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program and for the delivery of trips to individuals qualified to receive services through the Program. The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) is the designated CTC for Pinellas County.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP) – A systematic process designed to address transportation problems through the implementation of small scale physical improvements and strategies designed to improve the operations, safety and efficiency of all travel modes.

COUNTYWIDE PLAN – The document that coordinates land use planning among all 25 local governments in Pinellas County, pursuant to Chapter 2012-245, Laws of Florida. The Countywide Plan is comprised of the Countywide Plan Strategies, the Countywide Plan Map, and the Countywide Rules. Local government comprehensive plans and land development regulations are required to be consistent with the Countywide Plan.

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AUTHORITY (CPA) – The Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, acting in its capacity as the Countywide Planning Authority, through the exercise of its power under section 2.04(s) of the Pinellas County Charter and pursuant to Chapter 2012-245, Laws of Florida.

DENSITY – A measure of residential development expressed as the number of dwelling units per net acre of land area.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (DEO) – The State of Florida agency charged with reviewing amendments to local comprehensive plans and land development regulations, and other aspects of local planning, for compliance with Florida Statutes.

DESIGNATED OFFICIAL PLANNING AGENCY (DOPA) – Provides planning services in accordance with Chapter 427, F.S., for the local Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program. These include staff support to the Local Coordinating Board (LCB), evaluation of the local community transportation coordinator (CTC) and the administration and implementation of the TD Service Plan. The MPO serves as the Planning Agency in Pinellas County.

DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS (DMS) – (also called Variable Message Signs (VMS)) - large, electronic signs that overhang interstates and other major roads. The signs are typically used to display information about traffic conditions, travel times, construction or roadway incidents. The signs are also used to inform the public of important safety alerts (e.g., Amber Alerts), display special event information, and also to display safety messages such as reminders to use seat belts and not to drive impaired.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) – The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws regulations and policies. Environmental justice is a mandate of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the result of Executive Order 12898 signed by President Clinton in 1994.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA) – An agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that supports State and local governments in the design, construction, and maintenance of the Nation’s highway system (Federal Aid Highway Program) and various federally and tribal owned lands (Federal Lands Highway Program).

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) – Provides financial and technical assistance to local public transit systems, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, trolleys and ferries. FTA also oversees safety measures and helps develop next-generation technology.

FLOOR AREA RATIO (FAR) – A measurement of the intensity of building development on a site. A floor area ratio is the relationship between the floor area of all buildings on a site and the land area, not including water or right of way.

FIXING AMERICA’S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION (FAST) ACT – The FAST Act was signed into law in 2015. It authorized over \$305 billion in long-term funding for surface transportation infrastructure planning and investment, including highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs. The FAST Act succeeds the 2012 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 21) Act, the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation



Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) – Formed in 1969, FDOT is a decentralized agency responsible for the development, maintenance and regulation of public transportation systems and facilities in the state. The mission of FDOT is to provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of the environment and local communities.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) WORK PROGRAM – This is the State Five-Year Work Program of transportation improvements prepared in accordance with Section 339.135, Florida Statutes. It provides direction on where and when to build projects and how to fund them. The first year of the program authorizes FDOT to expend funds to complete the scheduled projects. The last four years of scheduled projects are included for planning purposes. The FDOT Work Program is also included in the MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION PLAN (FTP) - Defines Florida’s future transportation vision and identifies goals, objectives, and strategies to accomplish that vision. The FTP is the statewide long range transportation plan for all of Florida.

FORWARD PINELLAS – Countywide land use and transportation planning agency resulting from the consolidation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) in 2014. The agency is served by a 13 member board representing the county’s local governments and the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA).

HILLSBOROUGH AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT (HART) – The primary transit provider in Hillsborough County, HART provides fixed route bus and door to door paratransit service and operates the Tampa Electric Company (TECO) Line Streetcar System.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ITS) – Encompasses a broad range of advanced technology solutions designed to improve the efficiency and safety of transportation facilities and services. Examples of ITS technology include coordinated traffic signal controls, smart phone applications to monitor traffic conditions, variable message signs, intersection cameras monitoring vehicle speeds and automated bus fare systems.

INTENSITY – A measure of nonresidential or mixed-use development, usually expressed as a maximum Floor Area Ratio.

LAND USE – The type of development on a given parcel of land (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial).

LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) – A qualitative measure of roadway performance expressed in letter grades ranging from A through F, with A roads operating under optimum free-flow conditions and F roads operating under the most deficient conditions characterized by forced-flow traffic with considerable delays.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) – Refers to individuals whose primary language is not English and have difficulty communicating effectively in English. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires MPOs and other recipients of federal funding to take reasonable steps to make their programs, services and activities accessible to persons with LEP. The MPO Title VI Plan includes an element addressing the agency’s approach to accommodating people who are LEP.

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – A plan adopted by each of the local governments in Pinellas County, including the local future land use map as well as goals, objectives and policies that provide the basis for development decisions, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 2012-245, Laws of Florida.

LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD (LCB) – A board comprised of social service agencies, transportation providers, and citizens responsible for governing the Pinellas County Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The LCB identifies local service needs and provides information, advice and direction to the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) on the coordination of services to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged within their local service area. The LCB also serves as an advisory committee to the MPO, which is the Planning Agency for the Pinellas County Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program.

LOCAL FUTURE LAND USE MAP – A map adopted by each of the local governments as part of the local comprehensive plan, which graphically depicts future land use categories establishing allowable uses and maximum permitted densities/intensities for each land parcel.

LOCAL LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (LDRs) – Land development regulations enacted by local government ordinance for the regulation of development, including any local government zoning, rezoning, subdivision, building construction, or any other regulations controlling the development of land.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) – A 20-year strategy plan developed to guide the investment of public funds in transportation facilities while addressing all major modes of transportation including automobile, bicycle, air, rail, surface freight, and pedestrian travel. The LRTP is a federal requirement that also identifies the transportation goals, objectives and priorities of Pinellas County and the region.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) – Created under federal and state law to provide a forum for cooperative decision-making in regard to regional transportation issues. Metropolitan planning organizations ensure that existing and future expenditures of



governmental funds for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (“3-C”) planning process. Membership includes elected and appointed officials representing local jurisdictions and transportation agencies.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (MPOAC) – A statewide organization created by the Florida Legislature to augment the role of the individual MPOs in the cooperative transportation planning process. The MPOAC assists MPOs in carrying out the urbanized area transportation planning process by serving as the principal forum for collective policy decisions.

MORE OR LESS (M.O.L.) - a term used to describe approximate acreages of parcels in land use cases.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ACTION PLAN (PSAP) – Developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) through the collaborative efforts of Forward Pinellas and community stakeholders, the PSAP is designed to help local government agencies address pedestrian crash issues specific to their jurisdiction. It is intended to help these agencies understand the tools and organizational changes necessary to improve pedestrian safety.

PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL (PPC) – Pursuant to a special act of the State Legislature (Chapter 2012-245, Laws of Florida), the PPC serves as the advisory body to the Countywide Planning Authority, and is responsible for coordinating countywide land use planning and maintaining and implementing the Countywide Plan. The PPC and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) consolidated in 2014 and now serve under a joint policy making board operating as Forward Pinellas.

PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY (PSTA) – The primary provider of public transportation services in Pinellas County. Their services include fixed route bus and the transport of individuals with disabilities through their DART paratransit program.

PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE (PTSTF) – Comprised of elected officials, law enforcement personnel and County staff, the PTSTF monitors and addresses issues affecting the safety of the Pinellas Trail.

PLANNERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) – provides technical input and makes recommendations on land use matters that go before Forward Pinellas, acting as the Pinellas Planning Council. The PAC membership is comprised of various local government planning department directors, or their representatives.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY – A process developed to ensure that the design of transportation projects appropriately reflects and incorporates the unique engineering and community characteristics of the area. The FDOT created the process to ensure

that projects receiving Federal aid follow the policies and procedures outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act.

PUBLIC HEARING - Formal meetings required by regulation, rule or policy where public comments are recorded into official public record. Public hearings invite public comment but do not offer a question-and-answer format as is typically provided for at a public meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP) – Provides a systematic approach for involving citizens in the MPO planning process. The PPP identifies the agency’s public involvement objectives, outreach strategies and measures of effectiveness. Performance of the PPP is evaluated periodically to gauge the Plan’s effectiveness toward meeting its objectives.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (P3) – a contractual agreement between a public and private sector entity. The agreement leverages the skills and assets of each partner to complete public projects with the private sector assuming much of the risk in exchange for being compensated based on performance.

RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) – A type of land easement, either granted or reserved, for transportation and/or utility purposes.

ROAD SAFETY AUDIT (RSA) - Formal safety performance examination of a road or intersection by an independent, multidisciplinary team. It qualitatively estimates and reports on potential road safety issues and identifies opportunities for improvements for all users.

ST. PETE-CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PIE) – Located in the mid-county Gateway area, PIE is an international, commercial service airport operating under the authority of the Board of County Commissioners.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROGRAM – Funded and managed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the SRTS Program helps communities address school transportation needs while encouraging more students to walk or bicycle to school. The SRTS Program provides funding for projects such as sidewalks, shared-use paths, flashing beacons and median refuge islands.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE (STSC) - Established by the MPO in 1998, the STSC is made up of representatives of the School Board, Board of County Commissioners and local municipalities. The STSC considers transportation and safety matters concerning the safe movement of students traveling to and from school. They serve in an advisory capacity to Forward Pinellas.

SINGLE OCCUPANT VEHICLE (SOV) - A vehicle occupied by only one person.

SPECIAL ACT – Chapter 2012-245, Laws of Florida, as amended. The Special Act establishes the Pinellas Planning Council and the authority for the Countywide Planning Authority and provides the legal requirements for countywide planning and coordination in Pinellas County.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN – Approved by the Forward Pinellas Board in 2017, this Plan guides the communication efforts of Forward Pinellas as it relates to land use as well as transportation planning. The Strategic Communications Plan complements and is consistent with the PPP.

STRATEGIC INTERMODAL SYSTEM (SIS) –The Governor and Legislature established the SIS in 2003 to focus the state’s limited transportation resources on the facilities most significant for interregional, interstate, and international travel. The SIS is the state’s highest priority for transportation capacity investments and a primary focus for implementing the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP), the state’s long-range transportation vision and policy plan.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (STP) – A block grant program authorized under the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act that allows for flexibility in State and local transportation decisions and provides flexible funding to address multimodal transportation needs.

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (TBRPC) – One of 11 regional planning councils in Florida, established by the Legislature to coordinate planning for the 43 jurisdictions in the Tampa Bay region. Specific duties include environmental management, economic analysis, and water quality, emergency preparedness, and hurricane evacuation planning.

TAMPA BAY AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (TBARTA) – Created by the Florida State Legislature in 2007 to develop and implement a Regional Transportation Master Plan for the seven-county West Central Florida region consisting of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Sarasota counties. The agency was reconstituted in 2017 with a directive to develop a Regional Transit Development Plan. The agency was also reduced in size to represent Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas counties. Their purpose is to improve mobility and expand multimodal transportation options for people and freight throughout the seven-county region.

TAMPA BAY AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (TBARTA) CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) – Comprised of residents and business representatives from the Tampa Bay area, members are appointed by the TBARTA Board to advise them on a range of regional transportation issues. They are also responsible for assisting in the development and maintenance of a multimodal transportation master plan. There are 17 voting members and 8 advisory members serving on the TBARTA CAC.

TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (TIA) – The largest airport in the Tampa Bay region, TIA is a public airport that opened in 1971 at its current location six miles west of downtown Tampa. The Airport serves more than 16 million daily passengers.

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC) – Represents local governments, the School District, PSTA, TBARTA, and Pinellas County. They assist the Forward Pinellas Board by reviewing transportation plans and programs and making recommendations based on their technical adequacy. There are 31 voting members on the Committee.

TITLE VI – Refers to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

TITLE VI PLAN – As a recipient of federal transportation funds, the MPO is required to document its compliance with Title VI requirements through the submittal of a Title VI Program once every three years. This documentation is included in the MPO’s Title VI Plan. Included in the documentation is the process involved in submitting and investigating a Title VI complaint, public involvement efforts targeting environmental justice communities, minority representation on advisory committees and providing people with limited English proficiency (LEP) access to the MPO planning process.

TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP) – PSTA’s planning, development and operational guidance document required for Florida Public Transit Block Grant funding. The TDP is used in creating the mass transit portions of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the FDOT Work Program.

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) – A type of community development that includes a mixture of housing, office, retail and/or other amenities integrated into a walkable neighborhood and located within a half-mile of a transit stop or terminal.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) – Provides Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding for projects and activities encompassing a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management, and environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity. Forward Pinellas adopts a priority list of projects for TA funding each year for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT (TDM) – The application of strategies and policies to reduce demand for single occupant vehicle (SOV) travel and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Common TDM strategies include the promotion of vanpooling services, transit use, and telecommuting.

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED (TD) PROGRAM – A state-wide program supported by funding provided through the Florida TD Trust Fund, the TD Program provides low cost transportation to individuals who, because of a disability, income status, or age are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation. In Pinellas County, individuals who are unable to transport themselves, receive transportation from others and are 150% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible to participate in the TD Program. The Pinellas TD Program provides 10-day or 31-day bus passes with a co-payment, door-to-door transportation or group trips, depending on the individual, their needs and abilities.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – A five-year program of transportation improvements adopted annually by Forward Pinellas. The TIP incorporates state and federal work programs along with the capital improvement programs/elements of the local governments within Pinellas County, as well as PSTA.

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) – Urbanized areas with populations of over 200,000 are designated as TMAs and are subject to federal planning requirements. The Tampa Bay TMA is populated by over 2.4 million people and includes portions of Hillsborough and Pasco counties and nearly all of Pinellas County. Transportation plans and programs within a TMA must be carried out by the MPO(s) in cooperation with the state and transit operators and based on a continuing and comprehensive planning process.

TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP) – State funded program created to improve regionally significant transportation facilities in "regional transportation areas". The funds are intended to provide incentives for local governments and the private sector to help pay for critically needed projects that benefit regional travel and commerce.

TRI-COUNTY BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) – Comprised of BPAC representatives from Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties, the Tri-County BPAC formed in 2015 to coordinate planning efforts involving the development of regional bicycle/pedestrian facilities and to address regional issues affecting with these travel modes.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) – Federally required biennial statement of MPO planning work. The UPWP includes a description of planning tasks and resulting products, agencies that will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, and associated costs and the source(s) of funds.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT) – Established in 1966, the USDOT is a federal Cabinet department responsible for ensuring a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of American citizens. The agency oversees the operations of several subsidiary agencies that include the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA),

Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Federal Railroad Administration and Maritime Administration.

VEHICLE HOURS TRAVELED (VHT) - The total vehicle hours expended traveling on the roadway network in a specified area during a specified time period.

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT) – Calculated by multiplying the average (mean) of the total average annual daily traffic volume (AADT) by the length of the segment where the data is collected, in centerline miles. It is used to identify travel habits within an urbanized area.