

# APPENDIX A:

## Glossary of Transportation Terms

---

**AAADT:** Average Annual Daily Traffic

**Access Rights:** The element identifies who has acquired legal access rights over a road segment.

**Accessibility:** Easily approached, as in a barrier-free environment, or easily attained, as in availability of services.

**ADA Americans with Disabilities Act:** 1990 Federal Civil Rights legislation which prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity and access for persons with disabilities. The Federal Transit Administration works to ensure nondiscriminatory transportation in support of the ADA.

**ADT:** Average Daily Traffic

**Affordable Housing:** Housing that is affordable, according to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, for either home ownership or rental, and that is occupied, reserved, or marketed for occupancy by households with a gross household income that does not exceed 50 percent of the median gross household for a local jurisdiction. Also called “low income housing”.

**AIP Airport Improvement Program:** Provides funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for airport development, airport planning, noise compatibility planning, and to carry out noise compatibility programs.

**Airport:** 1) An area of land or water that is used or intended to be used for the landing and takeoff of aircraft, and includes its buildings and facilities, if any; 2) Facility used primarily by conventional, fixed-wing aircraft; 3) A facility, either on land or water, where aircraft can take off and land. Usually consists of hard-surfaced

landing strips, a control tower, hangars and accommodations for passengers and cargo; 4) A landing area regularly used by aircraft for receiving discharging passengers or cargo.

**All-Cargo Carrier:** An air carrier certificated in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 121 to provide scheduled air freight, express, and mail transportation over specified routes, as well as to conduct nonscheduled operations that may include passengers.

**Alternative Transportation:** Any mode of travel other than a single-occupant motorized vehicle. Methods of travel include modes such as walking, bicycling, bus-riding, rail, carpool, vanpool, ferry and similar such modes.

**Amtrak:** Operated by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation of Washington, D.C. This rail system is a government-owned corporation that was organized in 1971 to provide intercity passenger train service in the United States.

**Arterial Highway:** (See also Freeway, Minor Arterial, Principal Arterial) serve major traffic movements or major traffic corridors. While they may provide access to abutting land, their primary function is to serve traffic moving through the area.

**Arterial, Major:** A major thoroughfare, used primarily for through traffic rather than for access to adjacent land, that is characterized by high vehicular capacity and continuity of movement.

**Arterial, Minor:** A roadway that carries a mixture of local and through traffic.

**At Grade Crossing:** A crossing of highways, railroad tracks, other guideways, and/or pedestrian walkways at the same level or grade.

**ATIS Advanced Traveler Information System:** The application of advanced technology to provide real time travel information to travelers.

**ATMS Advanced Traffic Management System:** The application of advanced telecommunications technology to the surveillance and management of traffic flow, traffic data, and other traffic system information to improve efficiency.

**Automobile:** A wheeled motor vehicle used for transporting passengers, which also carries its own engine or motor.

**AVCS Automatic Vehicle Control Systems:** The application of advanced technology to traffic control, including management, data acquisition, message systems, radio communications and other systems to improve efficiency.

**Balloon Freight:** Lightweight freight

**Barge:** A non-motorized water vessel, usually flat-bottomed and towed or pushed by other craft, used for transporting freight.

**Bay/Inlet:** A water area that is an opening of the sea/ocean into the land, or of an estuary, lake or river into its shore.

**Benchmark:** Key performance indicators for which quantifiable or directional targets may be set.

**Berth:** A specific segment of wharf where a ship ties up alongside at a pier, quay, wharf, or other structure that provides a breasting surface for the vessel. Typically, this structure is a stationary extension of an improved shore and intended to facilitate the transfer of cargo or passengers.

**BIA:** Bureau of Indian Affairs

**Bicycle:** A vehicle having two tandem wheels, propelled by human power, upon which any person or persons may ride.

**Bicycle Lane (Bike Lane):** A portion of a roadway which has been designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

**Bicycle Path (Bike Path):** A bikeway physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier either within the highway right-of-way or within and independent right-of-way.

**Bicycle Route (Bike Route):** A segment of a system of bikeways designated by the jurisdiction having authority, with appropriate directional information markers, with or without a specific bicycle route number.

**BIFA Border Information Flow Architecture:** A tool based on existing U.S. and Canadian National Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architectures, developed by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Transport Canada to ensure that technologies deployed at border crossings interact efficiently with one another.

**Bill of Lading:** A document issued by a common carrier to a shipper that serves as: 1) A receipt for the goods delivered to the carrier for shipment; 2) A definition of the contract of carriage of the goods; 3) A Document of Title to the goods described therein;

**Bikeway:** Any road, path, or way which in some manner is specifically designated as being open to bicycle travel regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicycles or are to be shared with other transportation modes.

**BMS Bridge Management System:** A State level program required by ISTEA. Compiles, analyzes and summarizes information on bridge conditions for effective management and maintenance and as input to the transportation process.

**BNSF Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad:** In 1995, the former Burlington Northern Railway and Santa Fe Pacific Corporation merged, forming one of the largest railway systems in the United States.

**Break-Bulk:** Packages that are handled individually, palletized, or unitized for purposes of transportation as opposed to bulk and containerized freight.

**Breakbulk Cargo:** Packaged products that can be utilized into larger parcels and assembled together, for example, on pallet boards bound by wire, or gathered up in rope cargo slings as a means of lifting on and off a vessel.

**BTS Bureau of Transportation Statistics:** As part of the USDOT, the BTS compiles, analyzes, and makes accessible information on the nation's transportation systems; collects information on intermodal transportation and other areas as needed; and improves the quality and effectiveness of DOT's statistical programs through research, development of guidelines, and promotion of improvements in data acquisition and use.

**Bulk Cargo:** Cargo not packaged or broken into smaller units. Bulk cargo is either dry (grain) or liquid (petroleum).

**Bulk Terminal:** A facility used primarily for the handling and storage of commodities such as petroleum products, grain or chemicals, which has a total bulk storage capacity of 50,000 barrels or more.

**Bus:** Includes intercity buses, mass transit systems, and shuttle buses that are available to the general public. Also includes Dial-A-Bus and Senior Citizen buses.

**Bus Lane:** A lane restricted to buses, generally used to speed up public transport that would be otherwise held up by traffic congestion. Local traffic laws may allow car pools, motorcycles and bicycles access to the lane.

**Busway:** Exclusive freeway lane for buses and carpools.

**CA Certifying Authority:** Agency having authority to review engineering plans for that agency and others. Authority is granted by the state.

**CAA Clean Air Act:** Federal legislation that establishes standards for air quality in the United States.

**CAO Critical Areas Ordinance:** Rules established to protect critical areas.

**Capital Costs:** Costs of long term physical assets, such as equipment, rights of way, stations, buildings and vehicles, traditionally identified with public transportation investments.

**Carbon Footprint:** A measure of the amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitted through the combustion of fossil fuels. In the case of an organization, business, or enterprise, the measure is based on routine operations. For an individual or household, it is a measure related to day-to-day living. Often expressed as tons of carbon dioxide or tons of carbon emitted, usually on a yearly basis.

**Cargo Vessel:** 1) Any vessel other than a passenger vessel; 2) any ferry being operated under authority of a change of character certificate issued by a Coast Guard Officer-in Charge, Marine Inspection.

**Carpool:** An arrangement in which two to six people share the use and or costs, of traveling in a privately owned automobile between fixed points on a regular basis. See also ridesharing and vanpool.

**CBD Central Business District:** The downtown retail trade and commerce area of a city or an area of very high valuation, traffic flow, and concentration of retail business offices, theaters, hotels and services.

**CBSA Canada Border Services Agency:** The Canadian Agency responsible for monitoring 119 land border crossings and 9 international airports.

**Census:** The complete enumeration of a population or groups at a point in time with respect to well-defined characteristics: for example, population, production, traffic on particular roads.

**Census Division:** A geographic area consisting of several States defined by the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The states are grouped into nine divisions and four regions.

**Certification:** Formal process by which the Whatcom Council of Governments recognizes the consistency of local transportation-related planning provisions with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and conformity with state planning mandates.

**CFP Capital Facilities Plan:** A required element of the Comprehensive Plan designed to form a better match between development and provision of services. It must include an inventory of existing facilities, forecast of future needs and a six-year financing plan.

**CFR Code of Federal Regulations:** A compilation of the general and permanent rules of the executive departments and agencies of the federal Government as published in the Federal Register. The code is divided into 50 titles that represent broad area subject to Federal regulation.

**CFS Container Freight Station:** Port facility for loading and unloading containerized cargo to and from ships, also called container terminal.

**Channel Bottom:** Project depth or grade elevation.

**Channel Width:** The upstream channel width (bank to bank dimensions of the defined channel, not the flood plain).

**Charter Bus:** A bus transporting a group of persons who pursuant to a common purpose, and under a single contract at a fixed price, have acquired the exclusive use of a bus to travel together under an itinerary.

**Charter Transportation of Passengers:** Transportation, using a vehicle or vessel, of a group of persons who pursuant to a common purpose, under a single contract, at a fixed charge for the vehicle, have acquired the exclusive use of the vehicle to travel together

under an itinerary either specified in advance or modified after having left the place of origin.

**Climate Change:** Refers to the variation in the earth's global climate (or in regional climates) over time. It describes changes in the variability or average state of the atmosphere.

**CO Carbon Monoxide:** A colorless, odorless, highly toxic gas that is a normal by-product of incomplete fossil fuel combustion. It is one of the major air pollutants, which can be harmful in small amounts if breathed over a certain period of time.

**CO<sub>2</sub> Carbon Dioxide:** A colorless, odorless non-poisonous gas that is a normal part of the ambient air. It is a product of fossil fuel combustion.

**Coastal Zone:** All United States waters subject to the tide, waters of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain, specified ports and harbors on inland rivers, waters of the contiguous zone, other waters of the high seas subject to the National Contingency Plan, and the land surface or land substrate, ground waters, and ambient air proximal to those waters. The term "coastal zone" delineates an area of federal responsibility for response action. Precise boundaries are determined by agreements between the EPA and the USCG, and are identified in Federal Regional Contingency Plans and Area Contingency Plans.

**Collectors:** In rural areas, routes serving intra-county, rather than statewide travel. In urban areas, streets providing direct access to neighborhoods as well as direct access to arterials.

**Combination Vessels -** A type of ship that accommodates both container and break-bulk cargo. It can be either self-sustaining or non-self-sustaining.

**Commercial Airport:** A public airport which is determined to enplane annually 2,500 or more passengers and receive scheduled passenger service of aircraft.

**Common Carrier:** A business who, through a contract of carriage, undertakes to perform or procure the performance of carriage by rail, road, sea, air, inland waterway, or by a combination of modes.

**Commute:** Regular travel between home and a fixed location (e.g., work, school).

**Commuter:** A person who regularly travels between home and work or school.

**Commuter Bus Service:** Fixed route bus service, characterized by service predominantly in one direction during peak periods, limiting stops, use of multi-ride tickets, and routes of extended length, usually between the central business district and outlying suburbs. Commuter bus service may also include other service, characterized by a limited route structure, limited stops, and a coordinated relationship to another mode of transportation.

**Commuter Rail:** A passenger rail transport service between a city center, and outer suburbs and commuter towns or other locations that draw large numbers of commuters.

**Complete Streets:** 1) Streets that are designed and operated to ensure safe travel for all users – pedestrians, cyclists, transit-riders, and motorists. Typically, complete streets include sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, and other features and amenities. 2) The National Complete Streets Coalition seeks to fundamentally transform the look, feel and function of the roads and streets in our community by changing the way most roads are planned, designed, and constructed.

**Comprehensive Plan:** A land use document that identifies and guides growth and development for a local jurisdiction.

**Compressed Work Week:** An alternative work schedule, in accordance with employer policy that regularly allows a full time employee to eliminate at least one work day every two weeks by working longer hours during the remaining days, resulting in fewer

commute trips by the employee.

**Concurrency:** A state planning requirement to ensure that needed services and facilities are in place by the time development is completed and to be occupied or that funding has been committed to provide such services within six years.

**Congestion:** A condition characterized by unstable traffic flows that prohibits the movement on a transportation facility at optimal legal speeds. Recurrent congestion is caused by constant excess volume compared with capacity. Nonrecurring congestion is caused by actions such as special events and/or traffic incidents.

**Consignee:** The individual or company, to whom a seller or shipper sends merchandise and who, upon presentation of necessary documents, is recognized as the merchandise owner for the purpose of declaring and paying customs duties.

**Consignor:** A term used to describe any person who consigns goods to himself or to another party in a bill of lading equivalent document. A consignor might be the owner of the goods, or a freight forwarder who consigns goods on behalf of his principle.

**Consistency:** The degree of compatibility or agreement among planning provisions. The Growth Management Act addresses consistency in three ways: (1) internal consistency of comprehensive plans, (2) consistency of zoning and regulations with the comprehensive plan, and (3) consistency with other jurisdictions.

**Consolidated Shipment:** A method of shipping whereby an agent (freight forwarder or consolidator) combines individual consignments from various shippers into one shipment made to a destination agent, for the benefit of preferential rates.

**Consolidator** - An agent who brings together a number of shipments for one destination to qualify for preferential rates.

**Constant Dollars:** A series of figures is expressed in constant dollars when the effect of change in the purchasing power of the dollar has been removed. Usually the data are expressed in terms of dollars of a selected year or the average of a set of years.

**Containerized Cargo:** Cargo shipped in containers.

**Controlled Access Rights-of-Way:** (See also Right of Way) Lanes restricted for at least a portion of the day for use by transit vehicles and other HOV's. Use of controlled access lanes may also be permitted for vehicles preparing to turn. The restriction must be sufficiently enforced so that 95 percent of the vehicles using the lanes during the restricted period are authorized to use them.

**CRAB County Road Administrative Board (Washington State):** Provides accountability through standards of good practice, fair administration of funding programs, and technical and professional assistance to the 39 Washington State County Road Departments.

**Critical Areas:** As defined by each jurisdiction, including at least the following areas and ecosystems: (a) wetlands; (b) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; (c) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; (d) frequently flooded areas; and (e) geologically hazardous.

**CTAG:** Citizens Transportation Advisory Group

**CTR Commute Trip Reduction:** Washington State Legislation requiring major employers in the nine most populated counties to take measures to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles (SOV) trips.

**Current Dollars:** The dollar value of a good or service in terms of prices current at the time the good or service is sold. This contrasts with the value of the good or service measured in constant dollars.

**Custom House:** The government office where duties and/or tolls are placed on imports or exports and are paid on vehicles or vessels entered or cleared.

**Customs:** An authority or agency in a country responsible for collecting and safeguarding customs duties and for controlling the flow of goods in and out of a country.

**Customs Broker:** A person licensed by the Treasury Department to transact business at a customhouse on behalf of importers and exporters.

**Customs Duty:** A kind of indirect tax which is realized on goods of international trade. Duties levied by the government in relation to imported items are referred to as *import duty*; duties realized on export consignments are called *export duty*.

**Dedicated Funds:** Any funds raised specifically for transit purposes and which are dedicated at their source (e.g. sales tax, gasoline tax, and property tax), rather than through an allocation from the pool of general funds.

**Deficiency:** A condition that does not meet adopted policy criteria.

**Demand Response (Dial-a-Ride):** Non-fixed-route service utilizing vans or buses with passenger boarding and alighting at pre-arranged times at any location within the system service area.

**Demurrage -** An ancillary cost that represents liquidated damages for delays. It occurs when the shipping vessel is prevented from loading or discharging cargo within the stipulated lay time.

**Dial-A-Ride:** Another name for "Demand Response."

**Disabled Person:** A person with a disability is an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

**DNS Determination of Non Significance:** A finding of no significant environmental impact.

**Dock:** (See also Marina, Pier, Wharf) For ships, a cargo handling area parallel to the shoreline; for land transportation, a loading or unloading platform at an industrial location or carrier terminal.

**Dockage:** (See also Wharfage) Charge assessed against a vessel for berthing at a wharf, pier, bulkhead structure, or bank or for mooring to a vessel so berthed.

**DOE:** Department of Ecology, also abbreviated as Ecology.

**DOH:** Department of Health

**Dredged Shipping Lane:** A shipping lane that has been dug out to provide an adequate depth of water for navigation.

**Dredging:** To clean, deepen or widen harbors and waterways.

**Dry Bulk Cargo:** Cargo which may be loose, granular, free-flowing or solid, such as grain, coal, and ore, and is shipped in bulk rather than in package form. Dry bulk cargo is usually handled by specialized mechanical handling equipment at specially designed dry bulk terminals.

**Dry-Bulk Container:** A container constructed to carry grain, powder and other free-flowing solids in bulk. Used in conjunction with a tilt chassis or platform.

**Drydock:** An artificial basin fitted with gate or caisson into which a vessel may be floated and from which the water may be pumped out to expose the bottom of the vessel.

**DVD Daily Vehicle Delay:** The sum of hourly delay values (for 24 hours) for all vehicles traveling on a typical day for both directions in one mile of roadway.

**EIS:** Environmental Impact Statement

**Emissions Standards:** Standards for the levels of pollutants emitted from automobiles and trucks.

**Employment Center:** Locations having a concentration of jobs or employment. Centers, which vary in size and density, serve sub-regional or local markets.

**Environmental Justice:** The fair distribution of costs and benefits, based on a concern for social equity. Environmental justice is concerned with the right of all people to enjoy a safe, clean, and healthy environment, and with fairness across income, ethnic, and racial groups in the siting and operation of infrastructure, facilities, or other large land uses, such as power plants or landfills. Presidential Executive Order 12898 (1994) directs federal agencies — and those receiving federal funds — to make environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing the effects of all programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

**Energy Efficiency:** In reference to transportation, the inverse of energy intensiveness: the ration of outputs from a process to the energy inputs; for example, miles traveled per gall of fuel (mpg).

**EPA Environmental Protection Agency:** Established in 1970, the mission of the EPA is to protect human health and the environment by leading the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts.

**ESA Environmentally Sensitive Area:** An area that is vulnerable to negative environmental impacts, such as a flood plain or a wetland, may also be an EPA designated plant, fish, and animal habitat.

**Executive Board (WCOG):** The managerial and administrative body of the Whatcom Council of Governments. Members of the Executive Board are appointed by Full Council Members to represent the member governments.

**FAA Federal Aviation Administration:** A program of the DOT, the FAA is responsible for civil aviation safety.

**Fare:** The required payment for a ride on a public transportation vehicle. It may be paid by any acceptable means, for example, cash, token, ticket, transfer, fare-card, voucher, or pass.

**FASP Federal Aid Safety Program:** STP discretionary funds for highway and street improvement projects that reduce or eliminate hazards at specific locations.

**FBR Federal Bridge Replacement Program:** Funds for the replacement or rehabilitation of deficient bridges due to structural problems, physical deterioration or functional obsolescence.

**Federal-Aid Highways:** Those highways eligible for assistance under Title 23 U.S.C. except those functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors.

**Federal Functional Classification:** The process by which public streets and highways are grouped into classes according to the character of service they are intended to provide. The classifications are: principal and minor arterials, major and minor collectors, and local streets or road.

**FFY Federal Fiscal Year:** October 1 to September 30.

**FGTS Freight and Goods Transportation System:** A statewide network and classification system of state highways, county roads, and city streets that carry freight. Routes are classified by tonnages of freight carried per year.

**FHWA Federal Highway Administration:** A component of the Department of Transportation administering the Highway Transportation Programs of the Department of Transportation under pertinent legislation and the provisions of law.

**Fixed Route:** Transit service provided on a repetitive fixed schedule basis along a specific route with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers to specific locations.

**Forecast** Projection of population or employment for a given future year.

**Foreign Trade:** The exchange of waterborne commodity movements (imports and exports) between the United States and its territory, and foreign countries.

**Foreign Trade Zone:** An area, operated by a port authority, where foreign merchandise may be stored or manipulated pending sale or reshipment without limitation as to time and without customs tariffs.

**Fossil Fuel:** Any naturally occurring organic fuel, such as petroleum, coal, and natural gas.

**Free Port:** A restricted area at a seaport for the handling of duty-exempted import goods.

**Freight:** Any commodity or good in the process of being transported.

**Freight Container:** A reusable container having a volume of 64 cubic feet or more, designed and constructed to permit being lifted from or to container ships, trucks and railcars with its contents intact.

**FTA Federal Transit Administration:** The FTA was established as a component of the DOT in 1968. The missions of the Administration are 1) to assist in the development of improved mass transportation facilities and methods, 2) to encourage the planning and establishment of area wide urban mass transportation systems 3) to provide assistance to State and local governments and their instrumentalities in financing such systems, 4) to provide financial assistance to State and local governments to help implement national goals relating to mobility.

**FVRD Fraser Valley Regional District:** A division of British Columbia's government which oversees the planning, strategies and policies of the communities within its district boundaries.

**FY:** Fiscal Year



**General Aviation:** All aircraft which are not commercial or military aircraft.

**General Cargo:** Those products or commodities such as timber, structural steel, rolled newsprint, concrete forms, agricultural equipment that are not conducive to packaging or unitization.

**GIS Geographical Information Systems:** A system of hardware, software, and data for collecting, storing, analyzing, and disseminating information about areas of the Earth.

**GMA Growth Management Act:** Adopted by Congress in 1990, the GMA sought to create a method for comprehensive land use planning involving citizens, communities, counties, cities, and the private sector that would prevent uncoordinated and unplanned growth.

**Goal:** Within the planning process, a goal identifies a desired end state.

**Grade Separated:** The use of tunnels, bridges and other structures to separate levels on which roadways, railroad tracks, guideways and walkways intersect.

**Greenbelts/Greenways:** An open space, natural area that is protected from development and construction, includes agricultural lands, parks, wetlands, wildlife corridors and other similar uses.

**Greenhouse Gas:** Components of the atmosphere which contribute to global warming, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Human activities have added to the levels of most of these naturally occurring gases.

**Gross Tonnage:** One method of expressing an amount of freight that includes the container, truck or vessel.

**GVRD Greater Vancouver Regional District:** A division of British Columbia's government which oversees the planning, strategies and policies of the communities within its district boundaries.

**HB:** House Bill

**HCT High Capacity Transit:** A public transit system, such as rail, able to accommodate many passengers.

**HEP:** Hazard Elimination Program

**Hours of Delay:** The aggregate time lost by all travelers in the region on all facilities due to congestion, as measured by the time to reach destinations at posted speed limits versus traveling at a slower congested speed.

**Household Vehicle:** A motorized vehicle that is owned, leased, rented or company owned and available to be used regularly by household members.

**HOV High Occupancy Vehicle:** Passenger vehicles carrying two or more persons. Examples of high occupancy vehicles are a bus, vanpool, and carpool.

**HOV Lane:** Exclusive road or traffic lane limited to buses, vanpools, carpools, and emergency vehicles.

**HPMS Highway Performance Monitoring System:** The system used by the FHWA to provide information on the extent and physical condition of the nation's highway system, its use, performance, and needs. The system includes an inventory of the nation's highways including traffic volumes.

**HUTF:** Highway Users Tax Fund

**IM Intestate Maintenance:** STP funding allocations directed to maintain the existing interstate system. Funding is provided for resurfacing, restoring, rehabilitating and reconstructing interstate highways.

**Impact Fees:** Costs imposed on new development to fund public facility improvements required by new development and ease fiscal burdens of providing services on localities.

**Impervious Surface:** Surfaces such as rooftops, sidewalks, roads, and parking lots — covered by impenetrable materials, including asphalt, concrete, brick, and stone. These materials seal surfaces, repel water and prevent precipitation and runoff from infiltrating into soils.

**IMS Intermodal Management System:** A systematic process of identifying key linkages between one or more modes of transportation, identifying where the performance or use of one mode will affect another, defining strategies to enhance the overall performance of the transportation system.

**IMTC:** International Mobility and Trade Corridor Project

**Inclusionary Zoning:** Zoning that requires developers to provide a portion of housing units in a specific project or area to meet the needs of low and moderate income people.

**In-fill:** The practice of encouraging or requiring the development of land that lies within a city, urban growth area (UGA), or developed area outside resource lands, where services are available rather than passing over such parcels in favor of land farther out or farther from available services.

**Infrastructure:** 1) In transit systems, all the fixed components of the transit system, such as rights-of-way, tracks, signal equipment, stations, park and ride lots, bus stops and maintenance facilities. 2) In transportation planning, all the relevant elements of the environment in which a transportation system operates.

**Intercity Rail:** Rail transportation between cities, generally over long distances and at relatively high speeds.

**Intermodal Terminal:** A location where links between different transportation modes and networks connect, using more than one mode of transportation in moving persons and goods.

**Intermodal Transportation:** Use of more than one type of transportation; e.g., transporting consumer goods to an intermodal

facility for transfer to truck then on container ship. For freight movement, generally refers to a trip including transfer between marine and ground.

**Intermodalism:** Typically used in three contexts: 1) most narrowly, it refers to containerization, piggyback service, or other technologies that provide a seamless movement of goods and people by more than one mode of transport. 2) more broadly, intermodalism refers to the provision of connections between different modes, such as adequate highways to ports or bus feeder services as adequate highways to ports or bus feeder services to rail transit. 3) In its broadest interpretation, intermodalism refers to a holistic view of transportation in which modes work together or within their own niches to provide the user the least costly or most timely service.

**International Airport:** 1) Any airport designated by the Contracting State in whose territory it is situated as an airport of entry and departure for international air traffic. 2) An airport of entry which has been designated by the Secretary of Treasury or Commissioner of Customs as an international airport for customs service. 3) A landing rights airport at which specific permission to land must be obtained from customs authorities in advance of contemplated use. 4) Airport designated under the Convention on International Civil Aviation Organization as an airport for use by international commercial air transport and/or international general aviation.

**Interstate:** Movement of people or goods across State lines.

**Interstate Highway (Freeway or Expressway):** Limited access divided highway of at least four lanes designated by the Federal Highway Administration as part of the Interstate System. A divided arterial highway for through traffic with full or partial control of access and grade separations at major intersections.

**Intrastate:** Travel within the same state.

**ISTEA Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991:** The 1991 act that gave significant authority to MPOs by mandating a collaborative planning approach to highway and transit funding, and requiring inclusion of consideration for multiple modes.

**ITS Intelligent Transportation Systems:** A category of transportation-related technologies that include most any system that relies on the integration and application of real-time data. Generally refers to the application of advanced electronics and computer technology to enable safer and more efficient vehicular traffic flow.

**IVHS:** Intelligent Vehicle Highway System

**Jurisdiction:** Includes counties and cities, the term may also include federal and state agencies and federally recognized tribes.

**LCDC:** Land Conservation and Development Commission

**LCL:** Less than container load.

**LID:** Local Improvement District

**Light Rail:** An electric powered rail transit system that can operate on a variety of rights of way, ranging from mixed traffic on street to fully grade separated. Generally characterized by narrow station spacing, slower average operating speeds and shorter train units than heavy rail.

**LOS Level of Service Standard:** A mechanism used to determine if a given facility or service is operating efficiently. Innovations in level-of-service for transportation now take into account overall people-moving performance, rather than focusing on traditional assessments of vehicular volume and capacity.

**Low Income Housing:** Housing that is affordable, according to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, for either home ownership or rental, and that is occupied, reserved, or marketed for occupancy by households with a gross household

income that does not exceed 50 percent of the median gross household for a local jurisdiction. Also called “affordable housing”.

**LTL Less than Truckload:** A truck shipment wherein cargo in the trailer or van consists of more than one shipment.

**MAB:** Metropolitan Area Boundary

**Manifest:** A list of the freight or people on an individual conveyance, highway, rail, air or marine being transported by a carrier.

**Marina:** A facility for accommodating boats and providing a range of other services such as cleaning and incidental boat repair.

**Marine Cargo Handling:** Processes directly related to moving cargo to or from a vessel at dock, pier, terminal, staging area, or in-transit area until loaded or unloaded. Loading may include the transfer of cargo between ship and barges, trucks, trains, pipelines, or wharfs, and may include operation and maintenance of piers, docks, and associated buildings and facilities.

**Marine Terminal:** A designated area of a port, which may include wharves, warehouses, storage spaces, cold storage plants, grain elevators, cargo loading, unloading structures, landings, and receiving stations. Used for the transmission, care, and convenience of cargo and/or passengers in the interchange of same between land and water carriers or between two water carriers.

**Mass Transit:** Another name for public transportation.

**Mobility:** The ability of any individual to move about geographically.

**Mode:** A form of transport, for either people or goods or both. General categories include ground, air, marine, bus and bicycle.

**Mode Split:** A term that describes the relative number of people using various forms, or modes, of transportation. Frequently used to describe the percentage of people using private automobiles as opposed to the percentage using transit. Or, in the case of freight, the percentage using marine versus the percentage of highway use.

**Motorcycle:** A two or three wheeled motor vehicle designed to transport one or two people, including motor-scooters, mini-bikes and mopeds.

**MPA Metropolitan Planning Area:** The geographic area in which the metropolitan transportation planning process required by 23 U.S.C. 134 and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607) must be carried out.

**MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization:** A federally-mandated and federally-funded transportation policy-making organization in the United States that is made up of representatives from local government and governmental transportation authorities.

**MTP Metropolitan Transportation Plan:** Plan Required of MPOs.

**Multimodal Concurrency:** Addressing transportation system performance by taking into account land development and transportation solutions that provide alternatives to driving alone. Moves beyond the assessment of vehicle travel to focus more on the people-moving capacity of the system.

**Multimodal Transportation:** Also referred to as combined transport, is the transportation of goods under a single contract but performed with at least two different means of transport.

**Multiplier:** Multipliers account for the direct and indirect economic effects of employees earnings, purchases of goods and services, tax payments, and payments of principal and interest for a particular business sector of the economy. The impact of these effects on overall employment in the regional economy are referred to as the ‘multiplier’ of a particular employment sector.

**NAAQS National Ambient Air Quality Standards:** Maximum allowable levels of air pollution emissions determined by the EPA.

**NAFTA:** North American Free Trade Agreement

**Natural Resource Lands:** Natural Resource Lands include agricultural, forestry, and mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products.

**NCHRP:** National Cooperative Highway Research Program

**NEPA Nation Environmental Policy Act:** The 1969 act that required agencies to integrate environmental values into the decision making process.

**Neo-bulk Cargo:** Shipments consisting entirely of units of a single commodity, such as cars, lumber, or scrap metal.

**NHI:** National Highway Institute

**NHS National Highway System:** The National Highway System was created by Congress in 1995. It includes approximately 160,000 miles of US roadway that have been deemed important to “the nation’s economy, defense and mobility”.

**NHTSA National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:** The Administration was established by the Highway Safety Act of 1970 (23 U.S.C. 401 note). The Administration was established to carry out a congressional mandate to reduce the mounting number of deaths, injuries, and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes on the Nation’s highways.

**Noncompliance:** Failure to comply with a standard or regulation issued under 46 U.S.C. Chapter 43, or with a section of the statutes.

**Non-Motorist:** Any person who is not an occupant of a motor vehicle in transport and includes the following: 1) Pedestrians, 2) Pedalcyclists, 3) Occupants of parked motor vehicles, 4) Others such as joggers, skateboard riders, people riding on animals, and persons riding in animal-drawn conveyances.

**O-D Origin-Destination Study:** A study of where person or vehicle trips begin and end. May also include trip purposes and frequency.

**OEM Office of Financial Management:** State agency responsible for preparing population forecasts used by counties and their cities in development of local comprehensive plans.

**Open Policy:** A cargo insurance policy that is an open contract; e.g., it provides protection for all shipments in transit within a specified geographic trade area for a limited period of time. It is referred to as “open” because it does not require reporting of individual shipments. Summary or grouped reporting requirements vary with different policies.

**Open to Public Travel Road:** A road must be available, except during scheduled periods, extreme weather or other emergency conditions, and open to the general public for use by four-wheel, standard passenger cars without restrictive gates, prohibitive signs, or regulation other than restrictions based on size, weight, or class of registration. Toll plazas of public toll facilities are not considered restrictive gates.

**Operator:** An agency responsible for providing a service or operating a facility (e.g. Whatcom Transportation Authority is a transit operator).

**OUM:** WSDOT Office of Urban Mobility

**Ozone:** An air pollutant that is a toxic, colorless gas which is the product of the reaction of hydrocarbons (HC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) in the presence of sunlight in the atmosphere. Automobile emissions are the primary source of ozone.

**Paratransit:** Transit service that is scheduled or dispatched upon demand, providing “point-to-point” travel. Normally used in specialized applications with user eligibility limitations (e.g., elderly and/or handicapped) or where demand is not sufficient to

support fixed-route service.

**Park and Ride:** A facility that allows commuters to leave their personal vehicles in a parking lot and transfer to a bus, rail system, or carpool for the rest of their trip.

**Particulate Matter:** A pollutant consisting of liquid and solid particles in the air, such as soot, dust, and smoke. Particulate matter pollution includes inhalable coarse particles of 10 micrometers or less in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and fine particles of 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). These particles may pose serious health problems, such as heart and lung ailments, as well as environmental consequences, such as reduced visibility. Automobiles, particularly those fueled with diesel, are a significant source of particulate matter.

**PE Preliminary Engineering:** Analysis and design work to produce construction plans, specifications and cost estimates. PE brings plans to 30 percent complete. The next step, Final Design, brings plans to 100 percent completion.

**Peak Period:** The period of the day during which the maximum amount of travel occurs. It may be specified as the morning (AM) or afternoon or evening (PM) peak. Generally from 6AM-9AM, 4PM-7PM.

**Pedestrian:** Any person not in or upon a motor vehicle or other vehicle.

**Pedestrian Oriented Development:** The development and siting of housing, commercial space, services, and job opportunities in a manner that accommodates walking. Such development is intended to create more vibrant urban areas and to reduce dependency on automobile travel.

**Pedestrian Walk (or Walkway):** A continuous way designated for pedestrians and separated from the through lanes for motor vehicles by space or barrier.

**Performance Indicator:** The set of evidence that shows progress toward, movement away from, or static state in policy implementation or policy achievement. A quantitative measure of how well an activity, task or function is being performed. In transportation systems, it is usually computed by relating a measure of service output/use to a measure of service input/cost.

**Performance Monitoring:** A process of comparing actual performance against policies set by the planning process. It includes conducting the data collection and calculation procedures, and reporting the results on a specified regular and ongoing basis.

**Person Trip:** A trip made by a person from one location to another, whether as a driver, passenger or pedestrian.

**Petroleum Refinery:** An installation that manufactures finished petroleum products from crude oil, unfinished oils, natural gas liquids, other hydrocarbons, and alcohol.

**Pipeline:** A closed conduit, with pumps, valves and control devices, for conveying fluids, gases, or finely divided solids.

**PMS Pavement Management System:** A state-level program required by ISTEA. Compiles, analyzes and summarizes information on pavement conditions for effective management and maintenance and as input to the transportation planning process.

**PMT Person Miles of Travel:** A measure of person travel. When one person travels one mile, the result is one person mile of travel. Where two or more persons travel together in the same vehicle, each person makes the same number of person miles as the vehicle miles. Therefore, four persons traveling five miles in the same vehicle results in 20 person miles.

**Port:** A harbor area in which are located marine terminal facilities for transferring cargo between ships and land transportation.

**Port Authority:** An entity of state or local government or private sector that owns, operates, or otherwise provides wharf, dock and other marine terminal investments at ports.

**Port of Entry:** A port at which foreign goods are admitted into the receiving country.

**Port of Loading:** A port where cargo is loaded aboard the vessel, lashed, and stowed

**Port Tariff:** A set of rules and regulations governing a port along with the published fees and charges for using a port's facilities.

**Pricing:** A strategy for charging users of transportation systems. May be used to manage demand for the facility, cover costs, and/or achieve other policy objectives.

**Principle Arterial:** Major streets or highways, many with multi-lane or freeway design, serving high-volume traffic corridor movements that connect major generators of travel.

**Private Utilities:** Water and/or sewer service owned and operated by an entity other than a political subdivision of the federal, state or tribal governments.

**PTBA Public Transportation Benefit Area:** A municipal corporation of the State of Washington which may be created by the legislative authority of a county to provide public transportation services to residents of the area. The governing body of a PTBA is referred to as a "public transportation benefit area authority."

**PTMS:** Public Transportation Facilities and Equipment Management System

**Public Authority:** A Federal, State, county, town or township, Indian tribe, municipal or other local government or instrumentality thereof, with authority to finance, build, operate, or maintain highway facilities, either as toll or toll-free highway facilities.

**Public Entity:** (See also Private Entity) 1) Any state or local government; 2) Any department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of one or more state or local governments; and 3) The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and any commuter authority.

**Public Transit:** Passenger transportation services, usually local in scope, that is available to any person who pays a prescribed fare. It operates on established schedules along designated routes or lines with specific stops and is designed to move relatively large numbers of people at one time.

**Public Transit Agencies:** A public entity responsible for administering and managing transit activities and services. Public transit agencies can directly operate transit service or contract out for all or part of the total transit service provided.

**Public Transportation:** Transportation by bus, rail, or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, which provides to the public general or special service on a regular and continuing basis. Also known as “mass transportation,” “mass transit” and “transit.”

**Public Utilities:** Water and/or sewer services owned and operated by a political subdivision of federal, state or tribal governments (includes water and sewer districts and public utility districts).

**Publicly Owned Airport:** An airport which is publicly owned and under control of a public agency.

**RAP Rural Arterial Program:** A road and bridge reconstruction funding program of CRAB that counties compete for every two years within their respective regions.

**Ramp Metering:** Traffic signal control on an entry ramp to a freeway for regulating vehicle access.

**RCW Revised Code of Washington:** The codified version of current Washington State law.

**RDP:** Revenue Development Plans

**REET Real Estate Excise Tax:** Local option tax traditionally used in part for transportation improvements.

**Refined Petroleum Pipelines:** Establishments primarily engaged in the pipeline transportation of refined products of petroleum, such as gasoline and fuel oil.

**Resource Based Industry:** A business or industry that has a direct relationship to natural resources such as agriculture, minerals, forestry and fishing. This type of industry is generally located in close proximity to the resource or resource land.

**Resurfacing:** The addition of a layer or layers of paving material to provide additional structural integrity, improved serviceability, and rideability.

**RID Rural Improvement District:** Local tax district formed to provide local improvements in rural areas.

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

**Ridematching:** A process by which people who are interested in carpooling or vanpooling are linked with others based on the origin and destination of their commutes.

**Ridesharing:** A form of transportation in which more than one person shares the use of the vehicle, such as a van, car, bus or train, to make a trip. Also known as “carpooling” or “vanpooling.”

**ROW Right of Way:** The land (usually a strip) acquired for or devoted to highway transportation purposes.

**RSPA Research and Special Programs Administration:** Established in 1977 under the DOT, the RSPA is responsible for hazardous materials transportation and pipeline safety, transportation emergency preparedness, safety training, multimodal transportation research and development activities, and collection and dissemination of air carrier economic data.

**RTP Regional Transportation Plan:** The intermodal transportation plan developed by the RTPO for the region.

**RTPO Regional Transportation Planning Organization:** An organization created by the Growth Management Act to coordinate regional transportation efforts and to foster cooperation among state and local jurisdictions.

**Rural Area:** Outside the urban growth area, rural lands contain a mix of low-density residential development, agriculture, forests, open space and natural areas, as well as recreation uses. Counties and adjacent small towns provide a limited number of public services to rural residents.

**SAFETEA-LU Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act- A Legacy of Users:** The federal surface transportation program for highways, highway safety and transit. The core provisions of the program address safety, equity, innovative finance, congestion relief, mobility, efficiency, environmental stewardship, and environmental streamlining.

**SB:** Senate Bill

**SEPA State Environmental Policy Act:** The purpose of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act is to: (1) To declare a state policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; (2) to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere; (3) and stimulate the health and welfare of man; and (4) to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the state and nation.

**SFY State Fiscal Year:** July 1 – June 30.

**Shared Roadway:** Any roadway upon which a bicycle lane is not designated and which may be legally used by bicycles regardless of whether such facility is specifically designated as a bikeway.

**Shipment:** Freight tendered to a carrier by one consignor at one place at one time for delivery to one consignee at one place on one bill of lading.

**Shipper** - Term used to describe an exporter (usually the seller).

**Short-Shipped** - Cargo manifested but not loaded

**Short-Term/Long Term Boundaries:** Short Term boundaries are used as a tool for facilitating provision of urban levels of services and preventing sprawl. The Long Term boundary includes the short term boundary and areas that have unresolved issues within the identified 20 year Urban Growth Boundary.

**Small Urban Area:** Places of 5,000 to 49,999 urban populations (except in the case of Maine and New Hampshire) outside of urbanized areas. As a minimum the small urban area includes any place containing an urban population of 5,000 or more as designated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

**SOV Single-Occupancy Vehicle:** A motor vehicle occupied by the driver alone.

**Specific Public Transportation:** Transportation by bus, rail, or any other conveyance (other than aircraft) provided by a private entity to the general public, with general or special service (including charter service) on a regular and continuing basis.

**State Transportation Agency:** The State highway department, transportation department, or other State transportation agency to which Federal-aid highway funds are apportioned.

**Stewardship:** Taking responsibility for actions affecting the natural or built environment. Stewardship demonstrates acceptance of this responsibility through the continuous improvement of environmental performance by individuals, communities, the private sector, and governmental agencies.

**STIP State Transportation Improvement Program:** A document containing federally funded and regionally significant transportation projects, identifying the projects with the greatest priority.



**Stormwater Management System:** An infrastructure system that collects runoff from storms and redirects it from streets and other surfaces into facilities that store and release it — usually back into natural waterways

**STP Surface Transportation Program:** A function of SATETEA-LU providing funding for highway based projects and maintenance. Consists of many subsections.

**STP-E Surface Transportation Program Enhancements:** Program of funds allocated for projects that are ancillary to typical road projects. May include pedestrian or bicycle facilities, beautification, signage and other features.

**STP-R Surface Transportation Program Regional:** Program of funds allocated to RTPOs with region benefit.

**Surface Rights:** Fee ownership in surface areas of land, also used to describe a lessee’s right to use as much of the surface of the land as may be reasonably necessary for the conduct of operations under the lease.

**Sustainability:** Commonly defined as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Encompasses environmental, economic, social, and institutional factors.

**System Management:** Increasing travel flow on existing facilities through improvements such as ramp metering, signal synchronization, and removal of on-street parking. Improvements typically have a low capital cost, require little major construction, and can be implemented in a relatively short time frame.

**TAZ Traffic Analysis Zone:** Geographical area defined for transportation modeling purposes.

**TCM:** Transportation Control Measures

**TDM Travel Demand Management:** Programs, regulations, and land uses designed to minimize the use of SOV.

**TEA-21 Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** Assured funding for surface transportation through 2003, extended the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, strengthened safety programs throughout the DOT, continued the proven and effective program structure established for highways and transit under ISTEA legislation, and invested in research and its application to maximize the performance of the transportation system.

**Terminal:** Any location where freight either originates, terminates, or is handled in the transportation process; or commercial motor carriers maintain operating facilities.

**TEU Trailer Equivalent Unit:** Twenty foot equivalent units.

**TIA:** Transportation Improvement Account

**TIB:** Transportation Improvement Board

**TIP Transportation Improvement Program:** The multiyear program of transportation projects for highways, transit, and other modes to be implemented over several years. This program is required as a condition for a locality to receive federal transit and highway grants.

**TMA Transportation Management Area:** An urbanized area with a population over 200,000 (or other area when TMA designation is requested by the Governor and the MPO) and officially designated by the FHWA and the FTA. TMAs are required to implement programs to reduce congestion. The Bellingham-Ferndale MPA is not a TMA.

**Traffic Signal Synchronization:** A process by which a number of traffic signals are synchronized to create efficient progression.

**Transit-Dependent:** Individual(s) dependent on public transit to meet personal mobility needs (e.g., unable to drive, not a car owner, not licensed to drive).

**Transit-Oriented Development:** The development of housing, commercial space, services, and job opportunities in close proximity to public transportation. Such development is intended to reduce dependency on automobiles, as well as to improve mobility and access between residences, jobs, and services.

**Transmission Pipeline:** Pipelines (mains) installed for the purpose of transmitting gas from a source or sources of supply to one or more distribution centers, or to one or more large-volume customers, or a pipeline installed to interconnect sources of supply. In typical cases, transmission lines differ from gas mains in that they operate at higher pressures, are longer, and the distance between connections is greater.

**Transport Canada:** The department within the government of Canada which is responsible for developing regulations, policies and services of transportation in Canada.

**Transportation Demand:** The quantity of transportation desired by users.

**Transportation Demand Management:** A concept designed to reduce or eliminate vehicle trips, including a variety of programs and strategies, such as carpool/vanpool, flextime, working from home, and ride matching.

**Transportation Sector:** The transportation sector consists of private and public vehicles that move people and commodities. Included are automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, railroads and railways (including streetcars), aircraft, ships, barges, and natural gas pipelines.

**TRI Travel Rate Index:** A comparison of the time needed to get from one point to another with and without congestion. If the TRI equals 1.0, then the vehicle is traveling at the posted speed limit and not experiencing delay. If the TRI equals 2.0, then congestion is making the trip twice as long.

**TTAC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee:** A committee composed of local planners and engineers, who meet monthly to discuss regional transportation planning and project funding issues, and make recommendations to the Whatcom Policy Boards.

**UAB:** Urban Arterial Board

**UGA Urban Growth Area:** An area designated within which urban growth will be encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature.

**UPWP: Unified Planning Work Program:** Whatcom Council of Governments annual transportation work plan.

**Urban Area:** Any area that includes a municipality or other built up place which is appropriate, in the judgment of the Secretary of Transportation, for a public transportation system to serve commuters or others in the locality taking into consideration the local partners and trends of urban growth.

**Urban Highway:** Any highway, road, or street within the boundaries of an urban area. An urban area is an area including and adjacent to a municipality or urban place with 5,000 or more population. The boundaries of urban areas are fixed by the states, subject to the approval of the Federal Highway Administration, for purposes of the Federal-Aid highway program.

**Urban Level of Service:** The minimum level of urban facilities and services, including sanitary sewer, water service, police protection, fire protection and emergency medical services, parks and recreation programs, solid waste management, electric service, land use controls, communication facilities and public schools, to support urban levels of development. A full range of services would add urban public transit, natural gas, storm drainage facilities, street lighting, libraries, local parks, local recreation facilities and services, and health services.

**Urbanized Area:** A census designated area with a specific population per area.

**U.S.C. United State Code:** Contains a consolidation and codification of all general and permanent laws of the U.S.

**USCBP United States Customs and Border Protection:** One of the Department of Homeland Security's largest components, with a priority mission of keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. It also has a responsibility for securing and facilitating trade and travel while enforcing hundreds of U.S. regulations, including immigration and drug laws.

**USCG United States Coast Guard:** Established in 1915 the USCG became a component of the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. The Coast Guard is a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States at all times. Responsibilities include: search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, marine inspection, marine licensing, Great Lakes pilotage, marine environmental response, port safety and security, waterways management, aids to navigation, bridge administration, ice operations, deep water ports, boating safety, Coast Guard auxiliary, military readiness, reserve training and Marine Safety Council.

**USCIS United States Citizen & Immigration Services:** The USCIS is responsible for the administration of immigration and naturalization adjudication functions and establishing immigration services policies and priorities.

**USDOT United States Department of Transportation:** Establishes the nation's overall transportation policy. Under its umbrella are ten administration which jurisdiction include highway planning, development and construction; urban mass transit; railroads; aviation; and the safety of waterways, ports, highways, and oil and gas pipelines. The DOT was established in 1966.

**Vanpool:** An organized ridesharing arrangement in which 7 – 15 people travel together on a regular basis in a van. The van may be

publicly owned, employer owned, individually owned, leased, or owned by a third party. Expenses are shared and there is usually a regular volunteer driver. See also ridesharing.

**VMT Vehicle Miles Traveled:** One vehicle traveling the distance of one mile. Total vehicle miles, thus, is the total mileage traveled by all vehicles.

**Water Transportation:** Includes establishments engaged in freight or passenger transportation on the open seas or inland waters, and establishments that provide incidental services such as lighterage, towing, and canal operation. Also includes excursion, sightseeing, water taxis, and cargo handling

**Water Transportation of Freight (Not Elsewhere Classified):** Establishments primarily engaged in transporting freight on all inland waterways, including the intracoastal waterways on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

**Water Transportation of Passengers (Not Elsewhere Classified):** Establishments primarily engaged in furnishing water transportation of passengers, not elsewhere classified, such as airboats (swamp buggy rides), excursion boat operations, and sightseeing boats.

**Watershed:** An area of land surface defined by a topographic divide that collects precipitation into a stream or river. Sometimes referred to as a drainage basin.

**Waterway:** River, canal, lake or other stretch of water that by natural or man-made features is suitable for navigation.

**WCOG Whatcom Council of Governments:** WCOG was named in 1981, by the Washington State Governor, as the region's MPO and in 1990 as the RTPPO under the GMA.

**Wharf:** A landing place where vessels may tie up for loading and unloading of cargo.

**Whatcom Smart Trips:** Whatcom Smart Trips is an ongoing partnership between local government, public agencies, employers, and schools to promote transportation by walking, bicycling, sharing rides, and riding the bus.

**WIST Whatcom International Shipping Terminal:** Port of Bellingham marine facility for berthing and loading/unloading large vessels.

**WSDOT:** Washington State Department of Transportation.

**WTA Whatcom Transportation Authority:** The public transportation provider for Whatcom County.