
APPENDIX C – GLOSSARY

A

ACTION

An action is a concrete or specific step to implement the strategy.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, is federal legislation passed in 1990 that protects against discrimination based on disability. A portion of the law imposes accessibility requirements on public accommodations, which includes transportation infrastructure.

AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP

Unique to Minnesota, Area Transportation Partnerships, or ATPs, are regional partnerships made up of technical and political representatives from the state, tribes, counties, cities, townships and other local partners. There are eight ATPs that closely follow MnDOT district boundaries. Each ATP in the state functions differently. Generally speaking, the ATPs are programming entities. They have some level of involvement in selecting projects for most state and federal funding programs. However, their role varies depending on the funding program and ranges from reviewing and commenting to project selection.

ASSET

In terms of transportation, an asset refers to infrastructure, equipment or data (such as roadway pavement, bridges, signals, rest areas, transit vehicles, condition data, etc.) under the responsibility of a transportation entity.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Asset management is a systematic process of maintaining, upgrading and operating physical assets cost-effectively throughout their life cycle. Asset management provides a decision-making framework for both short- and long-range planning.

AUTOMATED VEHICLE

Automated vehicles use technology to steer, accelerate, and brake with little to no human input. Some vehicles still require a human to monitor the roadway, while other vehicles require no human intervention.

B

BENEFITS

Transportation benefits are positive impacts of all modes of transportation, including access to affordable, reliable and safe transportation options. Other benefits of transportation include access to affordable housing, employment opportunities, healthy food, clean air and clean water. Transportation benefits are best defined by impacted communities.

BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC)

Transportation equity requires acknowledging past harms by intentionally naming and centering the experiences of communities that faced the most profound transportation harms and racism. While BIPOC includes all people of color, it leads with Black and Indigenous identities to counter anti-Black racism and erasure of Native communities.

APPENDIX C | GLOSSARY

BURDENS

Transportation burdens are negative impacts of all modes of transportation including lack of or limited access to affordable, reliable and safe transportation options. Other transportation burdens include exposure to air pollution and related poor health outcomes as well as lack of or limited access to affordable housing and employment opportunities. Transportation burdens are best defined by impacted communities.

C

CENTERLINE MILES

One mile of a single roadway, regardless of the number of lanes or overall roadway width, is called a centerline mile.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change refers to a change in global or regional climate patterns. This includes natural variation and the influence of human activity.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Local organization that could be a public or private nonprofit, charitable or tribal organization that represents a community or significant segment of a community. The organization provides assistance and services to individuals in the local community.

CONNECTED VEHICLES

Connected vehicles use technology to either communicate with each other, connect with traffic signals, signs, and other road items, or obtain data from a cloud. This information exchange will help with safety and improve traffic flow.

COMPLETE STREETS

Complete streets is an approach to road planning and design that considers and balances the needs of all users. Its goal is to provide a system that is accessible and equitable to all, regardless of how they choose to travel.

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

Collaborative approach that involves providing transportation infrastructure that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources include archaeological, Native American, traditional and built environment resources. It includes buildings, structures, objects, districts and sites.

E

E-COMMERCE

E-commerce is the sale of goods and services where the buyer places an order, or the price and terms of the sale are negotiated over an Electronic Data Interchange, the internet or any other online system (extranet, e-mail, instant messaging).

ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Electric vehicles (EVs), also referred to as battery electric vehicles, have an electric motor instead of an internal combustion engine. The vehicle uses a large traction battery pack to power the electric motor and must be plugged in to a wall outlet or charging equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Identifying and addressing as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low income populations.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Environmental stewardship is the protection and preservation of environmental quality, support for healthy communities and conservation of natural resources.

F

FAIR

Fairness in transportation means everyone has access to transportation outcomes that are free from bias and discrimination. Fairness in transportation requires a proportionate distribution of transportation benefits and burdens.

FOCUS AREAS

The six focus areas used in this plan are aging infrastructure, climate, economy and employment, equity, safety and transportation options. Focus areas were selected in collaboration with the public, stakeholders and partners. These focus areas cut across all transportation topics and guide priorities for transportation system.

G

GREATER MINNESOTA

Greater Minnesota is the portion of the state excluding the seven county Twin Cities region.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Greenhouse gasses (GHG) are atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect through their absorption of solar radiation. Commonly known greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane and ozone.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRACTICES

Most green infrastructure uses natural processes to improve water quality and manage water quantity. This could include using soils and vegetation to capture, slow down and filter runoff. The practices can be integrated into existing features of the built environment, including streets, parking lots and landscaped areas.

H

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a collaborative approach to address key drivers of health outcomes and health inequities in policy making. Using a HiAP approach means health considerations are intentionally incorporated into decision-making processes across sectors and policy areas.

I

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure refers to the basic underlying structures and facilities that are required by society, such as buildings, roads and power supplies.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA)

Also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This congressional act passed in November 2021 and authorizes federal funding for the nation’s infrastructure. This includes roads, highways, bridges, transit, ports, airports, railway systems, electric systems and rural broadband.

INTERSTATE

Interstate refers to the Eisenhower Interstate System of highways that retains its separate identity within the National Highway System.

J

JUST

Justice in transportation means taking proactive measures to ensure transportation benefits are adequately accessible to underserved communities especially Black, Indigenous and People of Color, who often bear disproportionate transportation burdens. Justice in transportation requires transforming current inequitable systems so no person is denied accessing the transportation opportunities they need to lead a dignified life.

JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE

President Biden signed Executive Order 14008 “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” which created the Justice40 initiative. Justice40 is a whole-of-government effort that aims to deliver 40% of the benefits of relevant federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.

L

LAND USE

Land use refers to the physical characteristics and activity that define an area. Different types of land uses exist, such as residential, commercial and agricultural.

LIFE CYCLE COSTS

Total amount of money spent on an asset over the course of its useful life.

M

MANAGED LANES

Also referred to as E-ZPass (formally known as MnPASS), managed lanes are express lanes that use electronic tolls to improve traffic flow, provide alternatives to congestion and improve safety.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

A Metropolitan Planning Organization, or MPO, is an entity created by federal law. The primary role of the MPO is to encourage and facilitate teamwork among local governments related to transportation planning. The MPO's work includes planning for highways, public transit, bicycles and pedestrians, freight and other modes of transportation.

The MPO acts as a liaison between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and local municipalities within the MPO planning area. The governing body of the MPO is the Policy Board. MPOs are designated in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000 as determined by the Decennial Census. State departments of transportation are required by federal law to uphold a continuous, comprehensive and cooperative (3-C) planning process within a MPO planning boundary.

MICROMOBILITY

Collective name for fleets of small, low-speed vehicles for personal transportation. They usually are bicycles or scooters and used primarily for short trips.

MOBILITY HUB

A mobility hub is a place where people can connect to many modes of transportation. Hubs help make people's trips as safe, convenient and reliable as possible. Airports, train and transit stations are examples of mobility hubs.

MODE

Mode refers to the different ways that goods and people move, such as by foot, bicycle, car, truck, train, ship and airplane.

MULTIMODAL

Multimodal refers to anything that includes more than one type of transportation. For example, the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan is a plan for all the ways people and goods move throughout Minnesota.

N

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM

The National Highway System, or NHS, is a network of strategic highways throughout the country. It includes Interstates and principal arterials as well as other roads that serve major freight or passenger facilities and destinations. The NHS is designated by the United States Department of Transportation, but MnDOT periodically reviews and submits changes to the system.

NEXT GENERATION ENERGY ACT

The Next Generation Energy Act, under Minn. Stat. Chapter 216H, was signed by Governor Pawlenty in 2007. The act requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% between 2005 and 2050, while supporting clean energy, energy efficiency and supplementing other renewable energy standards in Minnesota.

NEXTGEN HIGHWAYS

NextGen Highways are highways where electric and communications infrastructure are strategically co-located in the highway right-of-way.

O

OBJECTIVE

In the SMTP, an objective is a few key phrases that describe the outcome that MnDOT and transportation partners are working toward. This plan's six objectives can be found in Chapter 5.

OMNIBUS SURVEY

MnDOT conducts a public opinion survey call the "Omnibus" every year. A representative sample of more than 1,000 Minnesota residents are asked to reflect on their transportation experiences and rate MnDOT's products, services and performance. Respondents provide input on key areas to influence MnDOT operations and future decision making.

P

PARIS AGREEMENT

The Paris Agreement is an international accord adopted by nearly every nation in 2015 to address climate change. Also referred to as the Paris Accord, the agreement aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a rate to keep global temperature from increasing 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The United States joined the agreement in 2021, and Minnesota is a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance—a coalition of governors who have committed their states to meeting their share of the U.S. greenhouse gas reduction target.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE

In the SMTP, a performance measure is a metric that measures progress toward a goal, outcome or objective. This plan's existing performance measures can be found in Chapter 5 and Appendix I - Performance Measures.

PROGRAMMING

In transportation, programming refers to the process of identifying which projects will receive funding. Different funding sources have different processes to select projects. Most projects use funding from more than one source.

Q

QUALITATIVE

Qualitative refers to something measured by its characteristics rather than number.

QUANTITATIVE

Quantitative refers to something measured by its number rather than characteristics.

R

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Regional Development Organizations, or RDOs, are regional entities that primarily work with, and on behalf of, local units of government in order to develop plans and implement programs that focus on the economic, social, physical and governmental concerns in each region of the state. This includes working with MnDOT related to rural regional transportation planning and programming. There are 12 regions that cover Greater Minnesota. Many of the RDOs are formally designated Regional Development Commissions, or RDCs, as established by Minnesota statute. Not every region has a RDC.

RESILIENCE

Resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to and recover rapidly from disruptions. This means transportation is designed and built to address current and future vulnerabilities.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Return on investment, or ROI, is a measure comparing costs and benefits of a particular project, action, or strategy. In transportation, ROI is most commonly used to determine the net present value of a project and typically includes financial as well as societal costs and benefits.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Right-of-way refers to a strip of land which is used as a transportation corridor. The land is acquired as an easement or in fee, either by agreement or condemnation. It may also refer to temporary rights needed to construct a transportation facility.

S

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School programs improve safety, reduce traffic and improve air quality near schools through a multidisciplinary approach that is structured around the 6 E's: evaluation, education, encouragement, equity, engagement and engineering.

SAFE SYSTEM

The Safe System approach aims to anticipate human error and accommodate human injury tolerances to reduce fatal and serious injuries.

SHARED-USE MOBILITY

Transportation services and resources that are shared among users. This includes public transit, taxis, bike sharing, car sharing and scooter sharing.

SHARING POWER

Sharing power means creating opportunities for underserved communities to access decision making power. This includes institutional and structural power. Institutional power is the ability to create or greatly influence and shape the rules, policies and actions of an institution. Structural power is the ability to create or greatly influence and shape the rules, policies and actions that govern multiple and intersecting institutions or an industry. Sharing power requires engaging early and often with underserved communities to better understand community needs and incorporate those needs to transportation initiatives that lead to real, measurable change in the lives of community members. Shared power framework recognizes and addresses the power imbalance that often leads to poor and uninformed decisions that perpetuate harms on underserved communities especially Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

SOCIOECONOMIC

Socioeconomic refers to a combination of social and economic factors such as a person's job, income and education. A person's socioeconomic status can impact their transportation needs, preferences and choices.

STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

The state highway system is a network of roads that includes interstates, U.S. highways and state highways, and serves automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit.

STRATEGY

In the SMTP, a strategy is an action to help MnDOT and transportation partners achieve an objective. This plan's strategies can be found in Chapter 5.

SYSTEM RESILIENCY

System resiliency refers to the transportation system's ability to handle stresses, such as extreme weather or other emergencies.

T

TARGET

In the SMTP, a target is a specific performance level or value of a performance measure representing the achievement of a goal, outcome or objective. This plan's performance targets can be found in Chapter 5 and Appendix I - Performance Measures.

TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Toward Zero Deaths, or TZD, is Minnesota's cornerstone roadway safety initiative. It is led through a partnership between MnDOT, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Minnesota Department of Health. It is a collaborative program aimed at eliminating fatal and life-changing injury crashes on Minnesota roadways by strategically addressing education, enforcement, engineering and emergency response issues.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY

Transportation equity means the benefits and burdens of transportation systems, services and spending are fair and just, which historically has not been the case. Transportation equity requires ensuring underserved communities, especially Black, Indigenous and People of Color, share in the power of decision making.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Transportation services refer to various programs that transportation agencies manage.

TRANSPORTATION SPENDING

Transportation spending refers to the decisions that lead to the allocation of funds for specific projects such as spending of capital projects to construct interchanges or spending for maintenance on trunk highways.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Transportation system refers to the various elements and networks that constitute the overall state transportation system such as state and local road networks, sidewalks and trails, transit systems, rail networks, ports and airports, etc.

TRANSPORTATION USER

Transportation user refers to a person using any mode of transportation, whether walking, bicycling, driving, riding as a passenger, etc.

TRAVEL DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Travel demand management is a set of strategies aimed at reducing the demand for travel, particularly single occupancy vehicles. Travel demand management is often implemented as an alternative to adding capacity to the road system. Examples of strategies include telework, ridesharing, parking pricing and transit incentives.

TWIN CITIES

Twin Cities refer to the portion of the state including and surrounding Minneapolis and St. Paul. Most commonly, this includes the seven-county area of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties. Other similar, though different, "Twin Cities" boundaries also exist.

U

UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Underserved communities refer to populations that share a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied through public and private discriminatory practices and neglect the full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. This includes Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. These characteristics can and do overlap, which can magnify and increase the impact experienced.

URBAN HEAT ISLAND

Heat islands are urbanized areas that experience higher temperatures than outlying areas. Structures such as buildings, roads and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit the sun's heat more than natural landscapes, such as forests and water bodies.

USEFUL LIFE

The expected lifetime or productive period of use of a depreciable asset. For example, the useful life of transit vehicles is based on the combination of miles and years the vehicle has been in service.

V

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is the sum of all distances traveled by all motor vehicles on all roadways during a year.

VISION ZERO

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

Z

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE

A zero emission vehicle (ZEV) is one that does not produce exhaust emissions of criteria pollutants or greenhouse gases, excluding emissions from air conditioning systems.