

Glossary of Transportation and Land Use Planning Terms

Access Management – The process of providing and managing access to land development while preserving safe and efficient traffic flow.

Activity Center – An area of a community where office, retail, service, residential or civic uses are concentrated.

Aesthetic Zoning – The regulation of building or site design to achieve desirable appearance.

Affordable Housing – Housing units where the occupant is paying no more than 30% of gross income for housing costs.

Annexation – The act or process of adding land to a governmental unit, usually an incorporated place, by an ordinance, a court order or other legal activity.

Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) – The Atlanta area's MPO or regional planning agency that covers ten counties and the City of Atlanta.

Arterial – A class of roadway that serves major traffic movement and that feeds into the interstate freeway system.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) – The average number of vehicles passing a fixed point in a 24-hour period.

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) – ADT averaged over a one-year period.

Bikeway – A facility designed to accommodate bicycle travel for recreational or commuting purposes (also called a bike lane).

Block Grant – A grant that can be used to fund a wide range of community improvement projects or programs.

Buffer – A strip of land, fence or border of trees between one use and another designed to set apart one use area from another.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – A type of transit service that uses buses like rail cars. BRT usually operates on an exclusive track and loads passengers at stations where the platform is level with the bus floor. By operating a bus on a route that is used exclusively by buses, the speed and quality of the transit trip can be improved.

Comprehensive Plan (Comp. Plan) – A Countywide document mandated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Local Comp. Plans address community needs and objectives for economic development, community facilities, natural and historic resources, housing, and land use over a 20-year horizon. The Comp. Plan includes both policy and short-term project recommendations. Paulding County and the cities of Braswell, Dallas, and Hiram are currently updating the County Comp. Plan in coordination with the Coosa Valley RDC.

Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) – A document that summarizes the 16-month long process of identifying long range transportation deficiencies and developing a multimodal program to meet transportation needs.

Circulators – Trolleys or people-movers that usually operate within a major employment or residential area as part of a commuter's journey. Circulators generally move people between bus and rail stops.

Clustered – Term describing development that is oriented to create a small, functional, well-connected group of uses. These clustered areas of development should have interconnected street networks, pedestrian access and scale, pedestrian connections to residential areas, and possibly civic or recreational uses.

Collector – A class of roadway that facilitates thru movement as well as access to land, and connects highways and arterials to local streets & roads.

Community Improvement District (CID) – A self-taxing district that uses tax revenue to finance improvements within its respective boundaries.

Community Participation Program (CPP) – The public participation program for the Paulding County CTP that includes community leader interviews, fact sheets, web site updates, Stakeholders Task Force committee meetings, and several rounds of public information meetings, and forms of communication.

Commuter Bus – Commuter bus systems usually have several buses that connect cities or activity centers along major freeways or arterials with few stops in between.

Commuter Rail – Commuter rail uses multiple cars along an existing rail corridor (mainly, freight lines). Commuter rail usually connects cities and does not have a large number of stops.

Congestion Management System (CMS) – The federally required Congestion Management System is developed by ARC and includes a list of congested roadways in the region. The CMS is part of the ongoing ARC Congestion Management Process (CMP).

Conservation Subdivision – A residential subdivision that sites housing units on smaller lots away from sensitive environmental areas. The sensitive environmental features are protected as open areas or greenspace, which are commonly owned and/or protected by a third party through a conservation easement.

Corridor – A broad area of land that follows a general direction and connects major sources of trips. It may contain a number of streets, highways, transit lines and routes. It generally follows an interstate, freeway or major roadway.

Department of Community Affairs (DCA) – The Georgia Department of Community Affairs – the state agency responsible for monitoring and reviewing local and regional comprehensive plans.

Density – The number of units, or square footage of development per acre of land used for residential, commercial or industrial purposes. Unless otherwise specified, density figures are to be set forth in terms of net acres or the amount of land devoted to residential, commercial or industrial use exclusive of streets or other public lands.

Express High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes – Lanes for use by multi-occupant vehicles only, such as buses, carpools and vanpools. In Georgia, motorcycles and alternatively-fueled cars, such as electric vehicles, can also use these lanes.

FHWA – Federal Highway Administration

FTA – Federal Transit Administration

Flexible Design Standards – Standards that provide a builder or developer with options and alternatives to strict regulatory limits, if the alternatives create a positive impact.

Freeway – A divided highway having two or more lanes for the exclusive use of traffic in each direction, full control of access, and uninterrupted flow.

Functional Classification – Ranking for streets and roads based on the degree of mobility and access that they provide, (i.e., arterials, collectors and local streets).

GDOT – Georgia Department of Transportation

GRTA – Georgia Regional Transportation Authority – a regional transportation authority “charged with combating air pollution, traffic congestion and poorly planned development in the metropolitan Atlanta region, which is currently designated nonattainment under the federal Clean Air Act.

HOV Lane – High-occupancy vehicle (carpool) lane – An additional roadway lane reserved for vehicles with more than one occupant, such as carpools.

Infill development – New development that utilizes vacant or underutilized parcels of property within a previously developed area to typically provide a more intense use of the property.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) – The use of different technologies on the existing transportation system to save time, improve safety and reduce congestion without adding new lanes or widening the existing network (i.e., changeable message signs, video cameras, detectors embedded in the pavement).

Level-of-Service (LOS) – Roadway LOS indicates the quality of service provided by a facility. Similar to a student’s report card, LOS is represented by the letters “A” through “F”, with “A” representing the most favorable driving conditions and “F” representing the least favorable. Methodologies for determining LOS vary for roadways versus signalized and unsignalized intersections.

Mixed-Use Development – Type of development that sites a number of uses in close proximity. Provides opportunities for walking, biking or using transit to create transportation and life-style benefits. Mixed-use is most often applied by siting residential areas near commercial and office areas. This mix of uses may provide the opportunity to live, work and shop in one area, thereby reducing the number or length of travel trips.

MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization. ARC is the MPO for the Atlanta Region. Paulding County is included as part of ARC due to air quality issues.

Paulding DOT – Paulding County Department of Transportation

Redevelopment – Redevelopment is the reuse of existing developed property. Redevelopment would generally require changes to the existing structure and site. For example, redevelopment of a former industrial site may be redeveloped to accommodate office, commercial and/or residential uses, such as Atlanta’s Atlantic Station.

Regional Development Center (RDC) – A Regional Development Centers assists member local governments with implementing the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, including development of local Comp. Plans. Paulding County is part of the Coosa Valley RDC, which serves as the regional planning and development instrument for Northwest Georgia.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – ARC’s Regional Transportation Plan. The current RTP is *Mobility 2030* highlighting recommended long-range projects through the year 2030. *Envision 6* is the version of the current RTP under development.

Right-of-Way (ROW) – Publicly owned property, including roadway, sidewalks, rail lines, public utilities and the buffer between transportation infrastructure and private property.

Stakeholder Task Force (STF) – A group of citizens representing the unincorporated Paulding County and the cities of Braswell, Dallas and Hiram to help guide the transportation plan. The STF represents a diversity of stakeholder groups and individuals.

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) – Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax – an additional one (1) cent sales tax used for special purposes such as transportation. Paulding County's current SPLOST covers years 2006-2011.

Technical Committee (TC) – A group of approximately 20 members comprising staff from Paulding County, the cities of Braswell, Dallas, and Hiram, ARC, GDOT, GRTA, Coosa Valley RDC, and planning staff from adjacent counties.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – ARC's six year Transportation Improvement Program that includes funded transportation projects throughout the region. The current TIP period covers years 2006-2011. The next TIP period will cover years 2008-2011.

Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) – A residential or mixed-use development that incorporates historic design features and pedestrian access/scale typical of cities or neighborhoods that existed prior to the widespread use of the automobile.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) – Development that is located adjacent to transit stations or within walking distance of a transit route, providing direct access and accommodations from the development to transit.

Traffic Calming – A term applied to a range of techniques intended to reduce the speeds or impact of automobile traffic on adjoining pedestrian areas.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) – A measurement of the total miles traveled by all vehicles in the area for a specified time period.

Vehicle Hours Traveled (VHT) – A measurement of the total hours traveled by all vehicles in the area for a specified time period.

Volume-to-Capacity (V/C) Ratio – Compares the amount of traffic on the road to the amount of traffic the road was built to carry. A lower V/C ratio indicates less congestion on a road than does a higher V/C ratio.