

# Appendix A

## GLOSSARY

### **ABAG: Association of Bay Area Governments**

ABAG is a voluntary association of counties and cities formed in 1961 that serves as the land-use planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area. ABAG provides demographic, financial, administrative, training, and conference services to local governments and businesses. For planning purposes, the region is defined as the following nine counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma. Ninety-four of the 100 cities in the Bay Area and all of the nine counties are members of ABAG, representing nearly all of the region's population. Several special districts, cities outside the nine-county Bay Area, and other units of government are among non-voting, cooperative members.

### **ACE: Altamont Commuter Express**

A commuter rail service that runs between the city of Stockton in San Joaquin County and the city of San Jose in Santa Clara County. The service is a partnership involving VTA, the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission and the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency.

### **ACS: Advanced Communication System**

A state-of-the-art, comprehensive radio and fleet management system utilizing satellite technology to provide real-time bus and light rail vehicle location information. ACS includes Automated Vehicle Locating (AVL) capability and computer-aided dispatching.

### **ADA: Americans With Disabilities Act**

On July 26, 1990, ADA was signed into law, which required public transit systems to make their services fully accessible to persons with disabilities, as well as to underwrite a parallel network of paratransit service for those who are unable to use the regular transit system. In addition, VTA must meet the new ADA accessibility design guidelines for all newly constructed transit facilities, such as light rail stations, bus stops and transit centers. All procurement of bus/rail vehicles must also meet the ADA accessibility design guidelines.

### **Artics: Articulated Buses**

Also known as a “bendable” bus, an articulated bus is composed of two vehicle sections connected by a “turntable” or an articulated joint, increasing passenger capacity. VTA is in the process of purchasing new 60-foot articulated buses.

### **AVL: Automated Vehicle Location**

AVL is the use of electronic technologies to allow fleet managers to know where vehicles are located at a given time. Several different types of technologies

exist. The Department of Defense's Global Positioning System (GPS) is the basis for several recent transit industry AVL projects. In addition to its primary use by transit dispatchers and supervisors, AVL can be linked into other systems and used to provide real time arrival information for transit customers, to support paratransit services, and for a variety of other applications.

**BAAQMD: Bay Area Air Quality Management District**

The regional agency created by the State legislature for the Bay Area air basin (Alameda, Contra Costa, half of Solano, half of Sonoma, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara Counties) that regulates industry and employers to keep air pollution in check. They also develop, in conjunction with MTC and ABAG, the air quality plan for the region.

**BART: Bay Area Rapid Transit**

The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) provides heavy passenger rail service in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and San Francisco Counties, between the cities of Fremont, Pleasanton, Richmond, Pittsburg and San Francisco.

**BRT: Bus Rapid Transit**

BRT combines the quality of rail transit and the flexibility of buses. It can operate on exclusive transitways, HOV lanes, expressways, or ordinary streets. A BRT system combines intelligent transportation systems technology, priority for transit, cleaner and quieter vehicles, rapid and convenient fare collection, and integration with land use policy.

**CAA: Clean Air Act**

A federal law established in 1970 that regulates air emissions. The CAA gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the protection of the public and the environment.

**Caltrain/Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board**

Commuter rail service running between Gilroy and San Francisco through San Jose. The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB), made up of representatives from the Counties of San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara, oversees this commuter rail service.

**Capitol Corridor Intercity Rail Service**

A 150-mile intercity rail service along the Capitol Corridor, which runs between San Jose and Sacramento.

**CARB: California Air Resources Board**

A state regulatory agency charged with regulating the air quality in California.

**CDP: Countywide Deficiency Plan**

A document that will address deficiencies on Santa Clara County's freeways and expressways and include a set of improvements, programs and actions that are designed to both improve service on the overall transportation system and cause a significant improvement in air quality.

**CIP: Capital Improvement Program**

As a part of the Congestion Management Program (CMP), the CIP is a seven-year list of projects designed to improve transportation conditions in Santa Clara County. The program must conform to state and federal air quality requirements. It may include any project that will increase the capacity of the transportation system, as well as safety, maintenance and rehabilitation projects.

**CMA: Congestion Management Agency**

The CMA is a countywide organization responsible for preparing and implementing the County's CMP (see definition below). CMAs came into existence as a result of State legislation and voter approval of Proposition 111 in 1990 (later legislature removed the statutory requirements of Proposition 111, making CMA's optional). In Santa Clara County, VTA is the designated CMA.

**CMP: Congestion Management Program**

A comprehensive program designed to reduce traffic congestion, to enhance the effectiveness of land-use decision-making, and to improve air quality. The program must comply with CMP state statutes, and with state and federal Clean Air Acts. Unless otherwise specified, CMP means Santa Clara County's Congestion Management Program.

**Commute**

A home-to-work or work-to-home trip.

**CPUC: California Public Utilities Commission**

State regulators of privately-owned telecommunications, electric, natural gas, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies.

**Crosstown Bus Routes**

These are medium length routes approximately 10-15 miles in length, which fill in the gaps in the grid bus route network. They are similar to grid routes in that they are relatively straight and evenly spaced. However, crosstown routes operate on lesser-traveled arterial streets and serve areas with lower density land use.

**CTA: Committee For Transit Accessibility**

An advisory committee to the VTA Board of Directors consisting of individuals from the disabled community, representatives from human service agencies within the County, and VTA's paratransit broker. The CTA provides advice on bus and rail system accessibility issues and on paratransit service. Most of these issues are related to VTA's efforts to comply with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**CTC: California Transportation Commission**

A state agency that sets state spending priorities for highway and transit and allocates funding. Members are appointed by the governor.

**DBE: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program**

The purpose of the DBE program is to ensure maximum opportunity for disadvantaged business enterprises to compete for and perform VTA contracts.

Consistent with Federal requirements, the definition of “socially disadvantaged and economically disadvantaged individuals” for the DBE program includes women as well as minority business enterprises.

**Eco Pass**

An annual transit pass offered by VTA that can be purchased by employers for all their full-time employees at a substantial discount. A similar program is in place for residential developments. Pricing levels are based on proximity to VTA transit services and the number of employees/residents.

**Express Bus Routes**

This service is primarily commuter oriented during peak periods. However, service may be offered on selected regional routes during midday, evening and weekends. This type of route emphasizes direct service with few stops and utilizes freeways and expressways to minimize travel time.

**Fare Box Recovery Ratio**

A measure of the proportion of transit operating expenses covered by passenger fares. It is calculated by dividing a transit operator’s fare box revenue by total operating expenses. A fare box recovery ratio does not take into consideration all non-subsidy sources of revenue collected by transit operators, such as advertising fees and parking fees at stations. Therefore, it is necessary to use a cost recovery ratio to measure the portion of transit operating expenses covered by non-subsidy revenues.

**Feeder Bus Routes**

These are short routes approximately 10 miles or less in length. They provide feeder/distribution service to and from major stops, transit centers, activity centers or rail stations.

**Fixed Route**

Transit service provided on a repetitive, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route with vehicles stopping to pick up passengers at and deliver passengers to specific locations.

**FTA: Federal Transit Administration**

A component of the U.S. Department of Transportation, delegated by the Secretary of Transportation to administer the Federal transit program under the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, and various other statutes.

**FY: Fiscal Year**

FY refers to the fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. FY references in the SRTP use the final year designation. For example, FY 2004-2005 is referred to as FY 2005.

**Grid Bus Routes**

Grid routes are mainline arterial routes that form the backbone of the bus network. Typically they are long routes, approximately 15-20 miles or longer in length, operating along major corridors with higher density land uses. The routes making up the basic route network are relatively straight and stops are evenly spaced.

**HOV: High Occupancy Vehicle**

A motor vehicle occupied by two or more people, sometimes referred to as a “carpool”.

**ISTEA: Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act**

Federal legislation passed in 1991 and expired in 1997 that restructured much of the basis for funding highways projects and made some of these funds available to urban areas for transit projects.

**ITS: Intelligent Transportation Systems**

ITS, referred to as a “Smarter Transportation System” allows traffic engineers and transit operators to better manage and operate the system, and can also provide travelers with improved travel information. These benefits are accomplished collectively through the use of electronics, communications infrastructure, and computers.

**LOS: Level-of-Service**

The measure used by transportation professionals to grade performance of roadway transportation facilities. LOS is graded on a scale of A (free flow, best performance) to F (gridlock, worst performance).

**LRT: Light Rail Transit**

LRT is a fixed guideway transit service provided by LRT trains and operated on an electrical system powered from overhead wire. The system can be operated in dedicated rights of way or shared rights of way with auto traffic, or a combination of both.

**LRV: Light Rail Vehicle**

Vehicles used on the LRT system. Vehicles are electrically self-propelled and can operate in one, two or three-car trains.

**Measure A (1996)**

A Santa Clara County advisory ballot measure passed in 1996 that identified a specific program of priority transportation improvement projects in Santa Clara County to be undertaken if funding became available.

**Measure A (2000)**

A ballot measure passed by voters on November 7, 2000, Measure A (2000) will fund transportation improvements with a 30-year half-cent sales tax to take effect after the 1996 Measure B sales tax expires in March 2006. It is estimated that \$6.5 billion (FY 2000 constant dollars) will be collected, which will be used to fund the transit projects and operations specified in the Measure and listed in the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2020’s Transportation Plan and Expenditure Program.

**Measure B (1996)**

A 1996 ballot measure in Santa Clara County that raised the local sales tax by one-half cent for a nine-year period, with the proceeds being deposited into the County’s General Fund.

**MIS: Major Investment Study**

A study conducted for major federally funded transportation projects (highway and rail) before a project can be included in the Regional Transportation

Plan. The MIS must include reasonable alternatives to address defined transportation problems, and the study process must include all affected agencies, local governments, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the public.

**MPO: Metropolitan Planning Organization**

A federally required transportation planning body responsible for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in its region; the governor designates an MPO in every urbanized area with a population of over 50,000.

**MTC: Metropolitan Transportation Commission**

The MPO for the nine-county San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Bay Area.

**Paratransit**

Paratransit services are specialized systems of transportation operated for people who are unable to use conventional fixed-route transit. Paratransit services provide trips between a rider's origin and destination, usually door-to-door. ADA requires that the service be comparable to the fixed-route service available.

**Park-and-Ride**

A parking lot for automobile drivers who park their cars and then board transit vehicles, shuttles or carpools from these locations.

**RTP: Regional Transportation Plan**

A multimodal blueprint to guide the region's transportation development for a 20-year period. Updated every two to three years, it is based on projections of growth and travel demand coupled with financial assumptions. Required by state and federal law.

**Santa Clara County Transportation Plan 2010 (T2010)**

The first update of the Santa Clara County Transportation 2000 (T2000) plan, a long-range countywide transportation plan adopted in 1987.

**SEMS: Standardized Emergency Management System**

Voted into law by the California state legislature in 1993, the Standardized Emergency Management System improves the coordination of state and local emergency response in California.

**Smart Park**

A concept that incorporates various state-of-the-art Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies into a light rail/bus transit center park-and-ride lot. Smart Parks features could include: travel information kiosks, real-time electronic transit schedules linking to Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) on buses and light rail, transit information signs, electronic signs on the Silicon Valley Smart Corridor, and other on-site transit user amenities.

**SOV: Single Occupancy Vehicle**

A motor vehicle occupied by one person.

**STIP: State Transportation Improvement Program**

An expenditure program that is updated every two years. It lists the highway and transit capital improvement projects that have been prioritized in California for state and federal gas tax funds.

**TEA-21: Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The 1998 law that reauthorizes federal surface transportation programs for six years (FY 1998 to FY 2003). TEA-21 preserves much of the basic programmatic structure of its predecessor, ISTEA. It includes a core highway program that is primarily formula based, a core transit program that includes both formula and discretionary elements, and flexible programs that allow the states and MPO's to allocate Federal dollars in a manner that best meets their local and regional transportation needs.

**TOD: Transit-Oriented Development**

TOD combines transit (rail/high capacity bus) and land use strategies to create better communities with multiple transportation choices. The typical TOD is a mixed-use community within a comfortable walking distance of a major transit stop. Through TOD, growth is focused around transit stops and stations to increase transit ridership, reduce reliance on the auto, help contain sprawl and make more efficient use of existing public services.

**Translink**

An innovative fare collection system sponsored by MTC, which will utilize "smart cards" capable of holding electronic memory of monetary value. Fares are deducted each time it is used for travel by an electronic reader the passenger introduces the card to upon boarding.

**TRIP: Transit Route Improvement Program**

A program to develop strategies for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the bus route network. TRIP concentrates on areas of service quality, system integration, cost effectiveness and commute service improvements.

**TRP: Trans Response Plan**

A comprehensive multi-modal transportation response, mutual aid and coordination plan for public transit providers in the nine-county Bay Area, coordinated with the State Office of Emergency Services (OES).

**VTP 2030: Valley Transportation Plan 2030**

The adopted (20-year) long-range transportation plan for Santa Clara County. VTP 2030 provides a framework for making key transportation decisions, planning for investment in the transportation system, and setting strategic direction for VTA's involvement in land use and other livability issues.

**Zero Emissions Bus (ZEB)**

A bus that is powered by a fuel-cell engine, which generates power through an electrochemical process. This technology allows the engine to convert alternative fuels like natural gas, methanol, or hydrogen directly into electricity without combustion and pollutants. Zero Emission vehicles produce far less carbon, sulfur, and ozone pollution than those with standard internal combustion engines.