

APPENDIX E

- Glossary of Common Transportation
Terms and Abbreviations

Glossary of Common Transportation Terms and Abbreviations

ADA (American with Disabilities Act) – Federal legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disabilities, requiring accessible transportation services and that public documents be made available in accessible formats on request.

ADT (Average Daily Traffic) – The average number of vehicles traveling a road during a 24-hour period, based on actual traffic counts and factored to account for seasonal and daily variations.

Arterial – A class of street or highway serving major through traffic, usually on a continuous route.

Authorization – The amount of federal funds available to be spent by the states in a given fiscal year. Usually established through a multi-year authorization act (e.g., ISTEA).

CAAA (Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990) – Federal legislation that establishes maximum allowable levels for various pollutants. Where these standards are not attained, officials must take specified actions within a set time frame or face sanctions, such as the loss of federal highway funds.

CMAQ (Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement Program) – ISTEA program that provides funding for air quality non-attainment areas to implement transportation projects that will contribute to an area's compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Collector – A lower volume class of street, usually used within neighborhoods that connect with arterials.

Conformity Determination – Requirement that the state or metropolitan transportation plan, programs, and projects be consistent with the purpose of the SIP. The CAAA prohibits federal funding approval of any project that does not meet this test.

Consultation – One party conferring with another identified party and, prior to taking action(s), considering that party's views.

EPA – The United States Environmental Protection Agency.

FHWA – The Federal Highway Administration, a division of the U. S. Department of Transportation, responsible for funding highway planning and programs.

FTA – The Federal Transit Administration, a division of the U. S. Department of Transportation, responsible for the transit planning and programs.

Functional Classification – A system of classifying rural and urban roadways by use and level of traffic volume: interstates, arterials, collectors, and local roads are the chief classes.

GIS – Geographic Information System, a computerized technology allowing overlays of various geographic features linked to socioeconomic and other data.

IM (Interstate Maintenance) – A funding category for Federal Highway Trust Funds expected to be available for maintaining and rehabilitating Kentucky's Interstate Highways.

ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) – The federal 5-year transportation-funding act passed in 1991, which changed the approach to transportation funding programs. Through various measures, this act required a greater degree of Intermodal coordination, regional, and statewide planning than was required under the previous highway and transit funding measures.

Intermodalism – Coordination between transportation modes, assuring connectivity between rail, air, water, mass transit facilities, roadways and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Interstates – Designed for high volume, high speed, and unimpeded traffic flow. Recognizable as divided highways utilizing grade separations and accessed only by a system of ramps from arterial roadways.

KYTC (Kentucky Transportation Cabinet) – Agency responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance of Kentucky state highways and bridges.

Local Roads – Carry lowest traffic volume and may connect with other local roads and collectors.

Metropolitan Area Boundary – Boundary enclosed by the existing urban area and the contiguous area expected to become urban in the next 20-years. This boundary establishes the area covered by the Transportation Improvement Program, other program activities, and the current boundary, which recognizes the authority of the Transportation Policy Committee. The Ashland Area Boundary includes all of Boyd County and the urbanized portion of Greenup County.

MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) – Specified by ISTEA as the organization responsible for comprehensive transportation planning and programming for the urbanized areas.

NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards) – Federal standards that establish allowable concentrations and exposure limits for ozone, CO, and Particulate Matter.

Non-attainment Area – A geographic region that the U. S. EPA has designated as not meeting NAAQS.

NOx (nitrogen oxides) – Precursor emission that forms from high-temperature combustion process. React with VOCs in the presence of heat and sunlight to form ozone.

Ozone – A colorless gas with a sweet odor that is not a direct emission from transportation sources, but is formed with VOCs and NO_x from car exhausts and certain industrial emissions combine in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone is associated with smog conditions and initiates damage to lungs, trees, crops, and materials. Regulated by CAAA.

ROW (Right-of-Way) – Priority path for construction and operation of highways, rail, etc. The ROW phase occurs at the time in which the land within the ROW is purchased.

SIP (State Implementation Plan) – A document that contains procedures to comply with the NAAQS, as specified in the CAAA. Prepared by states and submitted to the U. S. EPA for approval.

STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) – A staged, multi-year, statewide, intermodal program of transportation projects, which is consistent with the statewide transportation and planning processes and metropolitan, plans and processes.

STP (Statewide Transportation Plan) – Statewide Transportation Plan is a federally required long-range transportation plan for a period of twenty years. The federal legislation requires that a plan be developed for at least a twenty-year period and must be financially balanced. The document is updated every four years in Kentucky and includes policy and project listings.

STP (Surface Transportation Program) – A funding category under ISTEA and TEA-21 for transportation roadway projects. The STP funds cannot be used for improvements on a highway, which is functionally classified as a rural minor collector or local road.

TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) – A program of transportation projects consistent with the Transportation Plan. Shows projects to be funded under federal programs for a four-year period.

VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) – A measure of the level of travel activity in an area. As vehicle miles travel increase, congestion and auto emissions that degrade air quality may be expected to increase.

VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) – A group of chemicals that react in the atmosphere with NO_x in the presence of heat and sunlight to form ozone. Examples include gasoline fumes and oil based paints.