

## Glossary of Terms

**Access or Accessibility:** In transportation, “access” or accessibility refers to the ease with which people can reach multiple destinations. People in places that are highly accessible can reach many other activities or destinations quickly and easily.

**Activity center** is a destination where people gather. Activity centers include concentrated work locations, shopping areas, recreation areas, sports stadiums, educational institutions, government centers, museums, and so forth.

**Alignment** is the horizontal location of a railroad or transit system as described by curved and tangent track.

**Archaeological site:** Any place where evidence of past human life is found. Sites can range in size from small locations of artifacts to entire villages and cities.

**Area of Potential Effect (APE):** According to 36 CFR 800.16(d), this is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist.

**Best management practices (BMPs)** are the most efficient and effective means to achieve a desired goal, such as preventing pollution.

**Biota** are plants and animals

**Capital cost** is the one-time cost to build a project.

**Capital investment** is money invested in a business venture with an expectation of income.

**Compensatory mitigation measures** are actions required to offset the use of a Section 4(f) resource when impacts are unavoidable; such as photo-documentation of a historic building.

**Competitive transit option** offers a significant travel-time advantage that would attract people who could drive but chose to use transit while adequately serving transit-dependent riders.

**Contaminated site** is a location where a substance has been released to the environment and its presence creates a risk to human health or natural ecosystems.

**Cultural resource(s)** are defined as the buildings, structures, districts, objects and sites that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP or National Register).

**Cumulative Impacts:** The CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1508.7) define cumulative impacts as the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**Cut:** An area requiring excavation.

**Earnings:** Income earned based on new spending.

**Economic activity:** The sales of goods and services

**Employment:** Job creation based on new spending.

**Express routes** connect a number of areas with the central business district or other major destinations. These services typically operate during the morning and afternoon-evening peak travel hours. Express routes often use freeways or major arterials and make fewer stops along the way to make more predictable, faster trips.

**Facilitate:** Assist, make easier

**Fixed guideway or guideway** refers to transit service routes that are exclusive or controlled, either entirely or in part. Vehicles operating on fixed guideways may be railways (including light rail), portions of bus service operated on exclusive or controlled rights-of-way, or high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes.

**General fund appropriations** are the use of money placed into the State's general fund (the general fund consists of monies that are not restricted for specific uses).

**Grade separation** is a bridge or tunnel that separates transportation facilities such as a highway or railroad so that they will not disrupt each other's traffic flow when they cross.

**Ground-borne vibration:** The effects of ground-borne vibration include discernible movement of the building floors, rattling of windows, shaking of items on shelves or hanging on walls, and rumbling sounds. In extreme cases, the vibration can cause damage to buildings. Building damage is not a factor for normal transportation projects, with the occasional exception of blasting and pile-driving during construction. Annoyance from vibration often occurs when the vibration exceeds the threshold of perception by only a small margin. A vibration level that causes annoyance will be well below the damage threshold for normal buildings.

**Headway** is the time between buses or trains arriving at stops along a given transit route.

**Historic district** is a group of related buildings, properties, or sites that have been designated as historically or architecturally significant.

**Historic property(ies)** means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.

**Housing unit** is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live and eat separately from any other persons in the building and which have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall.

**Impervious surfaces** are those that keep water from being absorbed into the ground. They include asphalt and concrete for roads, parking lots, sidewalks, etc.

**Indirect Effects** are those that are caused by the proposed action that occur later in time and/or proximity while being reasonably foreseeable.

**Infrastructure** is defined as the fundamental facilities and systems serving a country, state, or city. Transportation infrastructure includes things like roads, bridges, highways, bus systems, LRT systems, etc.

**Intermodal:** With respect to the FTA Standard Cost Category, “Intermodal” refers to a location where different modes of transportation connect, such as between commuter rail and light rail, or bus and light rail.

**Intersection operations** define how well intersections function to move traffic and pedestrians.

**Jurisdictional determination** is the process of identifying and locating jurisdictional Waters of the United States (including wetlands) regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**Land use** is the human modification of the natural environment or wilderness into built environment, such as fields, pastures, and settlements.

**Level of service (LOS)** is a quality measure used by traffic engineers to describe traffic, generally in terms of speed and travel time, maneuverability, comfort, and convenience. LOS ratings range from A (best) to F (worst). The Highway Capacity Manual provides LOS measures, thresholds, and estimation procedures for automobiles, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians.

**Limited stop routes** are a combination of local and express service. Stops may be several blocks to a mile or more apart.

**Linked trip** is a trip from origin to destination. One linked trip could include several unlinked trips, such as driving to a park and ride, riding a commuter train, and taking a bus to the final destination; this sequence represents one linked trip, but is made up of three unlinked trips and includes two transit system boardings.

**Low Income** person is one whose median household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.

**Major activity center** is a place of significant employment, retail, or entertainment activity.

**Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** is a document written between parties to cooperatively work together on an agreed upon project or meet an agreed upon objective.

**Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB)** brings together the Governor’s Office (as chair), five citizens, and the heads of nine state agencies that play a vital role in Minnesota’s environment and development. The board develops policy, creates long-range plans, and reviews proposed projects that would significantly influence Minnesota’s environment. The **EQB Monitor** is a biweekly publication of the Environmental Quality Board that lists descriptions and deadlines for Environmental Assessment Worksheets, Environmental Impact Statements, and other notices. The EQB Monitor is posted on the Environmental Quality board home page at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>

**Minority Populations** are any readily identifiable group or groups of minority persons who live in geographic proximity, and if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed or transient persons such as migrant workers or Native Americans who will be similarly affected by the project.

**Mitigate:** To reduce the impact of an action.

**Mixed use** development is the practice of allowing more than one type of use in a building or set of buildings.

**Mobility**, in transportation, is the ability of people and goods to move freely within the transportation system.

**Multimodal** refers to a variety of modes (forms or types) of transportation such as personal automobile, bus, transit, pedestrian, etc.

**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)** is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

**New Starts** is the federal funding program for new transit systems or extensions of existing transit systems; these funds are granted under Section 5309 (B) of the United States Code.

**Noise** is any disagreeable or undesired sound or other audible disturbance.

**Operating conditions:** Time of day, number of trains in operation, weather, special events, etc.

**Operation and maintenance** costs are the cost of running the light rail system, repairing any non-functioning parts of the system, and conducting routine maintenance of the light rail system

**Parcel** is a tract or plot of land.

**Passenger mile** is one passenger transported one mile.

**Passenger miles** is a measure of service utilization which represents the cumulative sum of the distances ridden by each passenger. It is normally calculated by summation of the passenger load times the distance between individual bus stops. For example, ten passengers riding in a transit vehicle for two miles equals 20 passenger miles.

**Peak periods** are when light rail would be most used, generally during rush hour.

**Pedestrian facilities** are sidewalks, recreational trails, etc.

**Person trip** is a trip by one or more persons in any mode of transportation. Each person is considered as making one person trip. For example, four persons traveling together in one auto make four person-trips.

**Pollutant loads:** The amount of pollution entering water resources.

**Preventative maintenance** is activity performed on a given schedule to prevent breakdowns of the light rail system or its components.

**Programmatic Agreement (PA)** is a document that spells out the terms of a formal, legally binding agreement between a state Department of Transportation (DOT) and other state and/or federal agencies. A PA establishes a process for consultation, review, and compliance with one or more federal laws, most often with those federal laws concerning historic preservation.

**Railway turnouts and crossovers** are mechanical installations enabling trains to move from one track to another.

**Receptors (noise and vibration)** are places or areas that may be affected by changes in noise and vibration. Generally they are residential areas, churches, schools, recreation areas, hospitals, etc.

**Redevelopment** is a tool created by state law to assist local governments in eliminating blight from a designated area, as well as to achieve the goals of development, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of residential, commercial, industrial and retail districts.

**Regional long-range transit plan** for the Twin Cities metro area is the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan. This plan contains policies and plans to guide development of the transportation system in the area through the year 2030.

**Restrictive covenant** is a clause in a deed or lease to real property that limits what the owner of the land or lease can do with the property. Restrictive covenants allow surrounding property owners, who have similar covenants in their deeds, to enforce the terms of the covenants in a court of law. They are intended to enhance property values by controlling development.

**Restructured local service** means changing local bus routes to more appropriately serve transit travel patterns.

**Reverse commute:** Reverse commuters live in cities and travel to the suburbs to work. This is the opposite of regular commuters who live in the suburbs and work in the city.

**Ridership:** The number of passengers using a particular form of public transportation.

**Right-in/right-out** intersections do not permit left turns or through movements.

**Riparian** areas are the banks of rivers, creeks, or lakes. Plants that grow in these areas are also referred to as riparian.

**Scoping:** NEPA scoping is a formal process to identify issues and alternatives for analysis in the NEPA document, which is either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**Section 106 Agreement** means the document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve the adverse effects of an undertaking upon historic properties.

**Sensitive noise and vibration receptors** are places or areas that may be affected by changes in noise and vibration. Generally they are residential areas, churches, schools, recreation areas, hospitals, etc.

**Side platforms** are passenger platforms located to the outside of the tracks or guideways, as distinguished from center platforms located between the tracks or guideways.

**Socioeconomics:** Income, education, race, ethnicity, health, age, etc.

**Solicit:** Request

**Stakeholder** is a person or entity that has some interest in a project. For example, stakeholders can be community residents, businesses, construction and design contributors, funding sources and/or government agencies.

**Stormwater ponds** are ponds that collect and temporarily store runoff water during storms to prevent flooding.

**Streetscape** is the appearance or view of a street.

**Study area:** The geographic boundaries of the area being studied for the proposed Bottineau Transitway.

**System linkage** is a transit system's ability to get riders to work, recreation, shopping, and other destinations using a combination of lines or methods.

**Terminus:** End of the line

**Traction power substations (TPSS)** are LRT power sources; these are enclosed structures surrounded by security fencing.

**Transit-oriented development (TOD)** is a development or neighborhood designed to provide easy access to public transportation. TODs are generally located within one-quarter to one-half mile of a transit facility—walking distance—and are designed for a relatively high population. TODs typically include a mix of residential and commercial/office uses built around or adjacent to a light rail station or bus stop.

**Travel demand forecasts** are estimations of the number of people that would ride the light rail line.

**Travel demand model** is a computer generated travel demand estimate, created using either actual or projected population and employment data, to help predict how roadway or transit changes might affect local traffic.

**Travel demand, projected travel demand** is an estimate of how many vehicles will use local roads and area highways in the future.

**Unit costs** are the dollars per item or measurement of various project components. For example steel rail unit costs may be given in dollars per linear foot; parking ramps may be in dollars per parking space.

**Unlinked trip** is a trip taken by an individual on one specific mode. A "linked trip" may involve two or more unlinked trips.

**User benefits** represent the changes in mobility for individual travelers that are induced by a project.

**Vehicle miles traveled (VMT)** is the number of miles traveled by vehicles in one year.

**Vibration** is an oscillation wherein the quantity is a parameter that defines the motion of a mechanical system.

**Visually sensitive receptors** are people whose view of a project area may be changed by the project. These include trail users, residents of nearby homes, or users of adjacent open spaces.

**Water resources** are wetlands, floodplains, streams, rivers, etc.

**Zoning** is a device of land use planning used by local governments to separate one set of land use from another.

**Zoning district** is an area within the limits of a city within which uniform regulations and requirements govern the use, placement, spacing, and size of land and structures.

## Acronyms

AA	Alternatives Analysis
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway Officials
ACER	African Career, Education, and Resource, Inc.
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AEDA	Asian Economic Development Association
ALP	Airport Layout Plan
ACS	American Community Survey
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ARCC	Advise, Review, and Communicate Committee
AREMA	American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
ATF	Across the Fence
BMP	Best Management Practice
BNSF	Burlington Northern Santa Fe (Railroad)
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
BTU	British Thermal Unit
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAC	Community Advisory Committee
CCLRT	Central Corridor Light Rail Transit
CEI	Cost Effectiveness Index
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CET	Community Engagement Team
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CP	Canadian Pacific Railway
CPI	Consumer Product Index
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
CR	County Road
CRU	Cultural Resource Unit
CSAH	County State-Aid Highway
CTIB	Counties Transit Improvement Board
CTUL	Centro de Trabajadores Unidos En La Lucha
CWR	Continuously Welded Rail
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
Draft EIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order

EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EQB	Environmental Quality Board
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FFGA	Full Funding Grant Agreement
Final EIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FLSC	Fire Life Safety Committee
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GBN	Ground-Borne Noise
GBV	Ground-Borne Vibration
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HCM	Highway Capacity Manual
HCRRA	Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority
HERC	Hennepin Energy Recovery Center
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
LEDPA	Least Environmentally Damaging Preferred Alternative
I-35W	Interstate 35W
I-394	Interstate 394
I-94	Interstate 94
LAWCON	Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
LOS	Level of Service
LPA	Locally Preferred Alternative
LRT	Light Rail Transit
LRV	Light Rail Vehicle
MAC	Metropolitan Airports Commission
MAP-21	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Act
MEPA	Minnesota Environmental Protection Act
MICAH	Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing
MLS	Multiple Listing Service
MN MUTCD	Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
MnDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MnDOT-CRU	Minnesota Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Unit
MnEQB	Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
MNOSHA	Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOT	Maintenance of Traffic
MP	Mile Post
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
mph	Miles Per Hour
MPRB	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



MSAT	Mobile Source Air Toxics
N/A	Not Applicable
NC	Neighborhood Commercial
NCHRP	National Cooperative Highway Research Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NMMC	North Memorial Medical Center
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NTN	Northside Neighborhood Transportation Network
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OCS	Overhead Contact System
OMF	Operations and Maintenance Facility
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PAC	Policy Advisory Committee
PIP	Public Involvement Plan
RFFAs	Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions
ROD	Record of Decision
ROW	Right-of-way
RPZ	Runway Protection Zone
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users
SCC	Standard Cost Category
SEL	Sound Exposure Level
SEPP	Security and Emergency Preparedness Plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SRF	SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
SSMP	Safety and Security Management Plan
TH	Trunk Highway
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TOD	Transit Oriented Development
TPP	Transportation Policy Plan
TPSS	Traction Power Substation
TSM	Transportation Systems Management
U.S.	United States
UROC	Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled