

FREQUENTLY USED MPO TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

"3-C" Process	"Continuing, Cooperative and Comprehensive"; Language from federal legislation establishing MPOs and used in reference to the regional transportation planning and programming process.
ADT	Average Daily Traffic; used in conjunction with current and projected traffic volumes.
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CARE	Community Assisted Ride Enterprise; program operated by GRTC providing demand-response paratransit service for the elderly and disabled in the City of Richmond and Henrico County.
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality funds also available for eligible planning activities leading to project implementation.
CMS	Congestion Management System; transportation management areas – like the Richmond region – must develop a CMS that both identifies and evaluates projects and strategies aimed at reducing traffic congestion and increasing the mobility of people and goods. The Richmond Area CMS is updated every three years in conjunction with the LRTP.
COA	Comprehensive Operational Analysis
CTB	Commonwealth Transportation Board
FY	Fiscal Year (July 1 to June 30)
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
Local Match	Funds required by recipients of federal and state grant funds.
LOS	Level of Service
LRTP	Long-Range Transportation Plan. The MPO's adopted LRTP serves as the initial step and framework in developing a regionally based network of transportation facilities and services that meets travel needs in the most efficient and effective manner possible.
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area. The Richmond/Petersburg MSA includes the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond; the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, and Prince George; and the Town of Ashland.
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Richmond Area MPO's membership includes the following local governments and agencies: Town of Ashland; Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, and Powhatan; City of Richmond, CRAC, GRTC, RMA, RRPDC, VDOT, Ridefinders, FHWA, FTA, and VDA; serves as the forum for cooperative transportation decision making in the Richmond area.

NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Federal standards defined by EPA that set allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various pollutants.
NHS	National Highway System
NO_x	Nitrogen oxides
Ozone	A secondary pollutant formed when VOCs and NO _x combine in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is associated with smog or haze conditions. Although ozone in the upper atmosphere protects us from harmful ultraviolet rays, ground level ozone produces an unhealthy environment in which to live.
PE	Preliminary Engineering
PL	Planning funds available from FHWA for MPO program activities.
RFP	Request for Proposals; process used for reviewing and selecting proposals for consultant study activities (goods and non-professional services).
RFQ	Request for Quotes (Consultant Services).
ROW	Right-of-Way
RSTP	Regional Surface Transportation Program
Section 5303	Planning funds available from the FTA for MPO program activities.
SIP	State Implementation Plan; A plan mandated by the CAA that identifies control measures and processes for achieving and maintaining NAAQS.
SOV	Single Occupant Vehicles
SPR	State Planning and Research; funds allocated to VDOT in support of MPO program activities.
STIP	State Transportation Implementation Program; A staged multi-year, intermodal program of transportation projects, consistent with the statewide transportation plan and planning process as well as metropolitan plans, TIPs, and processes.
STP	Surface Transportation Program
Study Area	The area projected to become urbanized within the next 20 years; defines the area for MPO plans, programs, and studies.
TAZ	Transportation or Traffic Analysis Zone; Generally defined as areas of homogeneous activity served by one or two major highways. TAZs serve as the base unit for socioeconomic data characteristics used in various plans and studies.
TCM	Transportation Control Measures (for Air Quality Control); eligible for CMAQ funding.
TDM	Transportation Demand Management; Programs designed to reduce the demand for transportation through various means, such as the use of transit, ridesharing, and alternative work hours.
TEIF	Transportation Efficiency Improvement Fund; purpose of program is to reduce traffic congestion by supporting transportation demand management programs designed to reduce use of single occupant vehicles and increase use of high occupancy vehicle modes; operated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

TIP	Transportation Improvement Program; a staged, multiyear, intermodal program of transportation projects that is consistent with the transportation plan.
TMA	Transportation Management Area (i.e., MPO's greater than 200,000 in population)
Urbanized Area	Term used by the U.S. Census Bureau to designate urban areas. These areas generally contain population densities of at least 1,000 persons per square mile in a continuously built-up area of at least 50,000 persons. Factors such as commercial and industrial development, and other types and forms of urban activity centers are also considered.
UWP	Unified Work Program; MPO's program of work activities noting planning priorities, assigned staffs, work products, budgets, and funding sources.
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds; emissions from cars, power plants, etc; when VOCs react with oxides of nitrogen (Nox) in the presence of heat and sunlight to produce ground level ozone or smog.

MPO STANDING COMMITTEES

CTAC	Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee
EDAC	Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee

FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

CRAC	Capital Region Airport Commission
EPA	Federal Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administrators
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GRTC	Greater Richmond Transit Company
MRAQC	Metropolitan Richmond Air Quality Committee
RideFinders	A public, nonprofit corporation that provides carpool/vanpool matching and other commuter and transportation services.
MARAD	Maritime Administration
RMA	Richmond Metropolitan Authority
RRPDC	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
VDA	Virginia Department of Aviation

VDEQ	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VDRPT	Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
VTRC	Virginia Transportation Research Council

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

ADA of 1990	Americans With Disabilities Act
CAAA of 1990	Clean Air Act Amendments
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991; Legislative initiative by the US Congress that restructured funding for transportation programs; authorized an increased role for regional planning commissions/MPOs in funding decisions; and required comprehensive regional and statewide long-term transportation plans.
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1991
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century; signed into law on June 9, 1998. Authorizes federal funds for highway, highway safety, transit, and other surface transportation programs for the next six years. Builds on and continues many of the initiatives established in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991.