

Common Transportation Acronyms

85 th Percentile	Speed at which 85% of vehicles are traveling at or below.
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
AM Peak	Traffic volumes in the morning usually 2 hours in duration.
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
Article 97	Article 97 of the 1972 Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution requires that any conversion of public parklands be authorized by a 2/3 vote of both houses of the Massachusetts legislature.
ATR	Automatic Traffic Recorder for counting vehicles
B/C	Benefit over Cost ratio
BMP	Best Management Practices-effective and practical methods to protect water quality
CAA	Federal Clean Air Act
CAD	Computer Aided Design
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
C-D Road	Collector-Distributor Road
CE	Categorical Exclusion under NEPA regulations
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMR	Code of Massachusetts Regulations
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CORSIM	Corridor Simulation – a microscopic traffic simulation model
CTPS	Central Transportation Planning Staff
CWA	Federal Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
dba	Noise level expressed in A-weighted decibels
DEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
DMS	Dynamic Message Signs
EA	Environmental Assessment under NEPA (Federal) regulations
EB	Eastbound
EEOEA	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
ENF	MEPA (State) Environmental Notification Form
EIR	Environmental Impact Report under MEPA regulations
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA regulations
EJ	Environmental Justice
EO	Executive Order
EOTPW	Executive Office of Transportation & Public Works
EPA	Federal Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact under NEPA regulations

Acronyms, continued

“Fix it first”	Massachusetts transportation directive to fix existing infrastructure first as a means of providing better transportation infrastructure, mobility and safety before committing to new build alternatives.
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCM	Highway Capacity Manual
HCS	Highway Capacity Software to analyze operational performance and estimate capacity of highway systems.
HEP	Habitat Evaluation Procedure
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
LEDPA	Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative under ACOE permitting procedures
LOS	Level of Service usually performed for roadway segments or turning movements at intersections
MAAQS	Massachusetts Ambient Air Quality Standards
MBTA	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
MCP	Massachusetts Contingency Plan
MEPA	Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act
MESA	Massachusetts Endangered Species Act
MEV	Million Entering Vehicles (used in computing crash rates at intersections)
MGL	Massachusetts General Laws
MHC	Massachusetts Historic Commission
MHD	Massachusetts Highway Department
MTM	Manual Turning Movement Counts for counting vehicle turns at intersections
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MVM	Million Vehicle Miles (used in computing crash rates on highways)
MVPC	Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
MVRTA	Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority
MWPA	Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAC	Noise Abatement Criteria
NB	Northbound
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHESP	Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System surface water discharge permitting program
NMCOG	Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
NOx	Oxides of nitrogen
O-D survey	Origin-Destination survey
PDO	Property Damage Only (crash type)
PL	Public Law
PM Peak	Traffic volumes in the late afternoon/evening usually over a 2 hour period
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
RCNM	Roadway Construction Noise Model
ROW	Right-of-Way
RTA	Regional Transit Authority

Acronyms, continued

SAC	Study Advisory Committee for the Methuen Rotary feasibility study
SB	Southbound
Scoping	Formal process under MEPA for determining what is to be studied in an EIR which is conducted by EOE in an informal public meeting. Also used under NEPA in situations where federal agency has determined an EIS is required.
Scope or Scope of Work	sets the parameters of study for any project and or the formal items to be studied in conducting NEPA/MEPA studies.
Section 4(f)	Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Act of 1966 requires transportation projects to avoid impacting publicly owned parks, recreation areas, historic sites, etc. unless there is not prudent and feasible alternative.
Section 6(f)	Section 6(f) of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCFA) states that no property acquired or developed with assistance under the LWCFA shall, without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses.
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SPUI	Single Point Urban Interchange
SYNCHRO	Software package for performing traffic engineering calculations.
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program, planning document prepared by each Metropolitan Planning Organization listing all highway, bridge, transit, and intermodal projects that are programmed to receive federal-aid funding.
TSM	Transportation Systems Management
V/C	Volume-to-Capacity ratio
VHT	Vehicle-hours Traveled
VMS	Variable Message Signs
VMT	Vehicle-miles Traveled
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
VISSIM	Visual microscopic traffic simulation to graphically show traffic conditions in near realistic modeling
WB	Westbound