

# Mode Shift Omaha transportation -- Glossary of Terms 2019

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## **Abstract of Title**

A document showing the condensed history of the title to property, containing portions of all conveyances or other pertinent instruments relating to the estate or interest in the property, and all liens, charges, encumbrances, and releases.

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## **Access Drive**

A paved surface, other than a street, which provides vehicular access from a street to a lot.

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## **Accessibility**

The extent to which facilities, including transit vehicles, are barrier-free and can be used by people who have disabilities, including wheelchair users.

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## **Accessible**

As defined by FTA, a site, building, facility, or portion thereof that complies with defined standards and that can be approached, entered, and used by physically disabled people.

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## **Accessible Service**

A term used to describe service that is accessible to non-ambulatory disabled riders. This includes fixed route bus service with wheelchair lifts or dial-a-ride service with wheelchair lift equipped vehicles.

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## **Accessible Vehicles**

Public transportation revenue vehicles that do not restrict access, are usable, and provide allocated space and/or priority seating for individuals who use wheelchairs.

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## **Ad Valorem Tax**

A tax based on property value. It may also be based on the assessed value of the property.

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## **ADA Paratransit Service**

Non fixed route paratransit service utilizing vans and small buses to provide prearranged trips (demand response) to and from specific locations within the service area to certified participants in the program, typically wheelchair accessible.

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## **American Planning Association (APA)**

National organization of professional planners; focus includes planning policy, lobbying and public information.

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## **Americans with Disabilities Act Definition of Service Area**

The following information is taken in part from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Register, Vol. 56, No. 173, Rules and Regulations: (a) Service Area (1) Bus. (i) The entity shall provide complementary paratransit service to origins and destinations within corridors with a width of three-fourths of a mile on each side of each fixed route. The corridor shall include an area with a three-fourths of a mile radius at the ends of each fixed route. (ii) Within the core service area, the entity also shall provide service to small areas not inside any of the corridors but which are surrounded by corridors. (iii) Outside the core service area, the entity may designate corridors with widths from three fourths of a mile up to one and one half miles on each side of a fixed route, based on local circumstances. (iv) . . . the core service area is that area in which corridors with a width of three-fourths of a mile on each side of each fixed route merge together such that, with few

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## **Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)**

Legislation which mandates equal access to all public transportation services. The ADA requires that fixed route transit be accessible and paratransit (curb-to-curb) service be provided in the same geographic areas on the same days and hours as the fixed route service. The curb-to-curb services are exclusively geared to persons with disabilities who are unable, because of their disability, to use traditional fixed route transit. ADA requirements also affect streetscape design.

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## **Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)**

Daily traffic that is averaged over a calendar year.

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## **Annual Average Weekday Traffic (AAWDT)**

The calendar year average of daily traffic considering only Monday through Friday.

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## **Appropriation**

An act of a legislative body which makes funds available for expenditures with specific limitations as to amount, purpose, and period.

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## **Arterial Highway**

A general term denoting a highway primarily for through traffic, usually on a continuous route.

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## **Arterial Street**

A major thoroughfare, used primarily for through traffic rather than for access to adjacent land, that is characterized by high vehicular capacity and continuity of movement.

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## **Articulated Buses**

Extra long (54 ft. to 60 ft.) buses with two connected passenger compartments. The rear body section is connected to the main body by a joint mechanism that allows the vehicles to bend when in operation for sharp turns and curves and yet have a continuous interior.

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## Asphalt Concrete Paving (asphalt surfacing) (ACP)

Concrete may be either asphalt or cement based.

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## Assessed Valuation

The valuation of real property for the purposes of taxation.

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## Automated Vehicle Locator or GPS

Equipment that allows a vehicle to be electronically located or tracked by local sensors or satellites.

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## AVL - Automatic Vehicle Location

A system, usually using satellite based sensing such as Global Positioning Satellite (GPS), that allows a vehicle with the proper equipment to locate itself either in absolute latitude and longitude, or relative to known spatial objects such as a building or a road.

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## Bicycle Lane (Bike Lane)

A portion of a roadway which has been designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

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## Bicycle Path (Bike Path)

A bikeway physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent right-of-way.

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## Bicycle Route (Bike Route)

A segment of a system of bikeways designated by the jurisdiction having authority with appropriate directional and information markers, with or without a specific bicycle route number.

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## BRT

Bus Rapid Transit: a modern bus route with level boarding, pre-sale of tickets and less frequent stops.

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## Bus Lane

A street or highway lane intended primarily for buses, either all day or during specified periods, but sometimes also used by carpools meeting requirements set out in traffic laws.

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## Capital Program Funds

Financial assistance from the Capital Program of 49 U.S.C. (formerly Section 3). This program enables the Secretary of Transportation to make discretionary capital grants and loans to finance public transportation projects divided among fixed guideway (rail) modernization; construction of new fixed guideway systems and extensions to fixed guideway systems; and, replacement, rehabilitation, and purchase of buses and rented equipment, and construction of bus-related facilities.

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## Charter Service

A commercial passenger vehicle trip not scheduled, but specially arranged. The charter contract normally commits the carrier to furnish the agreed to transportation service at a specified time between designated locations. A vehicle hired for exclusive use that does not operate over a regular route, on a regular schedule and is not available to the general public.

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## CIP

City of Omaha's Capital Improvement Plan with prospective projects and their proposed source of funds for the coming five years. Sometimes call City Improvement Plan.

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## City of Omaha Master Plan

Master Plan – a document maintained by the City of Omaha Planning Department that includes the Environment Element, the Transportation Element, and the Urban Design Element among others. The document provides the legal basis for land use regulation and also presents a vision for the community that is entrusted to entities within the city for implementation.

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## Class 1 Road

Hard surface highways including Interstate and U.S. numbered highways (including alternates), primary State routes, and all controlled access highways.

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## Class 2 Road

Hard surface highways including secondary State routes, primary county routes, and other highways that connect principal cities and towns, and link these places with the primary highway system.

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## Class 3 Road

Hard surface roads not included in a higher class and improved, loose surface roads passable in all kinds of weather. These roads are adjuncts to the primary and secondary highway systems. Also included are important private roads such as main logging or industrial roads which serve as connecting links to the regular road network.

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## Class 4 Road

Unimproved roads which are generally passable only in fair weather and used mostly for local traffic. Also included are driveways, regardless of construction.

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## CMAQ

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (Improvement Program). Pronounced C-Mac.

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## CNG

Compressed Natural Gas

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## Collector Highways

Collector highways are those highways which link local highways to arterial highways.

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## Collector Streets

In urban areas, streets providing direct access to neighborhoods as well as direct access to arterials.

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## Daily Vehicle Travel

Is the amount of vehicle travel (in thousands) accumulated over a 24-hour day, midnight to midnight, traversed along a "public road" by motorized vehicles, excluding construction equipment or farm tractors. Vehicle travel not occurring on public roads, such as that occurring on private land roads (private roads in parking lots, shopping centers, etc.) must be also be excluded.

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## Demand Response

Non-fixed-route service utilizing vans or buses with passengers boarding and alighting at pre-arranged times at any location within the system's service area. Also called "Dial-a-Ride." Passenger cars, vans or Class C motor buses operating in response to calls from passengers or their agents to the transit operator, who then dispatches a vehicle to pick the passengers up and transport them to their destinations. A demand response operation is characterized by the following: 1) the vehicles do not operate over a fixed route or on a fixed schedule except, perhaps, on a temporary basis to satisfy a special need; and 2) typically, the vehicle may be dispatched to pick up several passengers at different pick-up points before taking them to their respective destinations and may even be interrupted en route to these destinations to pick up other passengers.

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## Design Speed

Design speed determines the maximum degree of road curvature and minimum safe stopping, meeting, passing, or intersection sight distance.

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## Dial-A-Ride

Another name for "Demand Response."

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## Farebox 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 its total operating expenses.

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## Farebox Revenue

Revenue derived from passenger fares. See also Operating Revenue.

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## Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

(Formerly the Urban Mass Transportation Administration) operates under the authority of the Federal Transit Act, as amended (49 U.S.C. app. 1601 et seq.). The Federal Transit Act was repealed on July 5, 1994, and the Federal transit laws were codified and re-enacted as chapter 53 of Title 49, United States Code. The Federal Transit Administration was established as a component of the Department of Transportation by section 3 of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968 (5 U.S.C. app.), effective July 1, 1968. The missions of the Administration are 1) to assist in the development of improved mass transportation facilities, equipment, techniques, and methods, with the cooperation of mass transportation companies both public and private. 2) to encourage the planning and establishment of areawide urban mass transportation systems needed for economical and desirable urban development, with the cooperation of mass transportation companies both public

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## Federal-Aid Primary Highway System

The Federal-Aid Highway System of rural arterials and their extensions into or through urban areas in existence on June 1, 1991, as described in 23 U.S.C. 103b) in effect at that time.

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## 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.

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## Frequency

The amount of time scheduled between consecutive buses or trains on a given route segment; in other words, how often the bus or train comes (also known as Headway).

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## FTA

Federal Transit Administration, a part of the U.S. Department of Transportation

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## FY

Fiscal Year or the financial year -- may be the same or different from a calendar year.

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## Global Positioning System (GPS)

A space base radio positioning, navigation, and time transfer system developed by the Department of Defense. When fully deployed, the system is intended to provide highly accurate position and velocity information, and precise time, on a continuous global basis, to an unlimited number of properly equipped users. The system will be unaffected by weather, and will provide a worldwide common grid reference system. The Global Positioning System (GPS) concept is predicated upon accurate and continuous knowledge of the spatial position of each satellite in the system with respect to time and distance from a transmitting satellite to the user. The GPS receiver automatically selects appropriate signals from the satellites in view and translates these into a three-dimensional position, velocity, and time.

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## Headway

The scheduled time interval between any two revenue vehicles operating in the same direction on a route. Headways may be LOAD driven, that is, developed on the basis of demand and loading standards or, POLICY based, i.e., dictated by policy decisions such as service every 30 minutes during the peak periods and every 60 minutes during the base period.

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## High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)

Vehicles that can carry more than two persons. Examples of high occupancy vehicles are a bus, vanpool and carpool.

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## High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane

Exclusive road or traffic lane limited to buses, vanpools, carpools, and emergency vehicles carrying more than one person.

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## Highway Trust Fund

The federal account established by law to hold receipts collected by the government and earmarked for highway programs and a portion of the federal mass transit program. It is supported by the federal gasoline tax and other user taxes.

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## Infrastructure

1) In transit systems, all the fixed components of the transit system, such as rights-of-way, tracks, signal equipment, stations, park-and-ride lots, but stops, maintenance facilities. 2) In transportation planning, all the relevant elements of the environment in which a transportation system operates.

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## Joint Powers Authority

A group of representatives from several entities that have agreed to undertake a joint venture. For example, the City of Omaha and Douglas County could have a Joint Powers Authority for bus service.

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## Light Rail

Light Rail is a mode of transit service (also called streetcar, tramway, or trolley) operating passenger rail cars singly (or in short, usually two-car or three-car, trains) on fixed rails in right-of-way that is often separated from other traffic for part or much of the way. Light rail vehicles are typically driven electrically with power being drawn from an overhead electric line via a trolley or a pantograph; driven by an operator on board the vehicle; and may have either high platform loading or low level boarding using steps. An electric railway with a "light volume" traffic capacity compared to "heavy rail." Light rail may use shared or exclusive rights-of-way, high or low platform loading, and multi-car trains or single cars.

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## Load Factor

The ratio of passengers actually carried versus the total passenger seating capacity of a vehicle. A load factor of greater than 1.0 indicates that there are standees on that vehicle.

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## Local Service

A type of operation that involves frequent stops and consequent low speeds, the purpose of which is to deliver and pick up transit passengers as close to their destinations or origins as possible.

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## LOS

Level of Service: how often does transportation serve you -- the quality of service.

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## L RTP

Long Range Transportation Plan maintained by MAPA, the Metro Area Planning Agency

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## MAPA

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, a regional council of governments for the Council Bluffs & Omaha area consisting of five counties plus cities and towns both in Nebraska and Iowa.

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## Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Formed in cooperation with the state, develops transportation plans and programs for the metropolitan area. For each urbanized area, a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) must be designated by agreement between the Governor and local units of government representing 75% of the affected population (in the metropolitan area), including the central cities or cities as defined by the Bureau of the Census, or in accordance with procedures established by applicable State or local law

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## Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

(See also Central City, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area) Areas defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. A Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is 1) A county or a group of contiguous counties that contain at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or 2) An urbanized area of at least 50,000 inhabitants and a total MSA population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). The contiguous counties are included in an MSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city.

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## Mode

A particular form of travel (e.g., bus commuter tail, train, bicycle, walking or automobile).

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## Municipal Code

The City of Omaha's Municipal Code is the constitution that outlines what can be done and what must be done under the charter of the city.

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## NDOT

Nebraska Department of Transportation -- for many years named Nebraska Department of Roads

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## NRD

Natural Resources District. A taxing authority in Nebraska dealing water and other natural resources.

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## Overlay District

A zoning tool that is applied to urban design districts, as defined by the City of Omaha's Municipal Code, Chapter 55, Article 11. They provide additional guidelines above the base zoning districts to areas of special need or importance in the city -- such as designated Areas of Civic Importance (ACI) and Neighborhood Conservation / Enhancement Districts (NCE). Overlay districts can be proposed by citizens.

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## Paratransit

Transportation service required by ADA for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use fixed-route transit systems. The service must be comparable to the fixed-route service.

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## Park-and-Ride

A parking area for automobile drivers who then board vehicles, shuttles or carpools from these locations.

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## PUD Planned Unit Development

Planned Unit Development (PUD) - a regulatory process that streamlines development of a tract of land as a mixed-use development. The process provides for flexibility from the general requirements of the base zoning -- in exchange for greater oversight of the project from the city council.

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## Reverse Commute

Movement in a direction opposite to the main flow of travel, such as from the Central City to a suburb during the morning commute hour.

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## Ridership

The number of rides taken by people using a public transportation system in a given time period.

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## Ridesharing

A form of transportation, other than public transit, in which more than one person shares in the use of the vehicle, such as a van or car, to make a trip.

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## Rolling Stock

The vehicles used in a transit system, including buses and rail cars.

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## Route

A specified path taken by a transit vehicle usually designated by a number or a name, along which passengers are picked up or discharged.

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## Route Miles

The total number of miles included in a fixed route transit system network.

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## ROW Right-of-Way (R/W)

The land over which a public road or rail line is built. An exclusive right-of-way is a road, lane, or other right-of-way designated exclusively for a specific purpose or for a particular group of users, such as light rail vehicles or buses.

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## Running Time

The time assigned for the movement of a revenue vehicle over a route, usually done on a [route] segment basis by various time of day.

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## SOV

Single Occupant Vehicle.

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## Streetcar

See light rail.

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## TDM

Travel Demand Management or Traffic Demand Management (TDM) looks at all the options available going and coming from a person's location and outlines the most freedom for that person. TDM is the application of strategies and policies to reduce travel demand, or to redistribute this demand in space or in time. In transport, as in any network, managing demand can be a cost-effective alternative to increasing capacity. A demand management approach to transport also has the potential to deliver better environmental outcomes, improved public health, stronger communities, and more prosperous and livable cities.

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## **TIF**

Tax Increment Financing: during an initial number of years some of the increased taxes on a new development go to pay for the development before going, after the initial years, to the local taxing districts.

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## **TIP**

Transportation Improvement Plan maintained by MAPA --- a list of proposed projects and their expected source of funds for the coming three years for the Omaha and Council Bluffs region.

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## **Transfer**

A slip of paper issued to a passenger that gives him or her the right to change from one transit vehicle to another according to specified limitations.

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## **Transit Center**

A fixed location where passengers transfer from one route to another.

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## **Transit Corridor**

A broad geographic band that follows a general route alignment such as a roadway of rail right-of-way and includes a service area within that band that would be accessible to the transit system.

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## **Transit Dependent**

Someone who must use public transportation for his/her travel.

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## **Transportation Freedom**

How does a person escape the trap of spending \$15,000 per year maintaining a single car with minimum mileage (more mileage spends more than \$15,000). The liberty of spending that much money elsewhere comes from Travel Demand Management (TDM).

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## **Vanpool**

Vanpool is ridesharing by prearrangement using vans or small buses providing round trip transportation between the participant's prearranged boarding points and a common and regular destination. Data included in this report are the sum of vanpool data reported in the National Transit Database (NTD) and do not include any data for vanpools not listed in the National Transit Database. Vanpool service reported in the NTD must be operated by a public entity, or a public entity must own, purchase, or lease the vehicle(s). Vanpool included in the NTD must also be in compliance with mass transit rules including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions, be open to the public and that availability must be made known, and use vehicles with a minimum capacity of 7 persons.

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## **VMT**

Vehicle Miles Traveled.

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## **Wheelchair Lift**

A device used to raise and lower a platform in a transit vehicle for accessibility by handicapped individuals.

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