

The following table provides a summary of common transportation terms and acronyms.

Term	Acronym	Description
5% set-aside	–	A constitutionally established 5% portion from the HUTD Fund that can be allocated under state statutes (with the remaining 95% constitutionally allocated); <i>also see Highway User Tax Distribution Fund</i>
Alternatives analysis	AA	An engineering study or a project development phase that compares different types of options for transportation investment in a corridor
Airports Fund	AIR	<i>See State Airports Fund</i>
Americans with Disabilities Act	ADA	Federal law requiring various accommodations for persons with disabilities
Apportionment sum	–	Portion of funds from the CSAH Fund for formula-based aid to counties for the county state-aid highway system
Appropriation	–	<i>See Direct appropriation, and see Statutory appropriation</i>
Area transportation partnership	ATP	Regional decision-making body that performs stakeholder involvement and project planning roles in transportation; the state is divided into eight ATPs
Arterial bus rapid transit	A-BRT	A form of bus rapid transit that primarily operates on urban arterial (major local) streets; <i>also see Bus rapid transit</i>
Autonomous vehicle	AV	A motor vehicle equipped with a system capable of driving activity without active human intervention
Average daily traffic	ADT	A measure of the volume of traffic passing a particular point on a road, expressed as an average per day
Base	–	Funds specified in fiscal tracking as the starting or comparison amount for potential future appropriations
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law	–	<i>See Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act</i>
Bonds	–	Funds borrowed from investors for capital projects, with agreement to repay the money with interest on a schedule; <i>also see General obligation bonds, Trunk highway bonds, Debt service</i>
Bridge Improvement program	BIP	<i>See Trunk Highway Bridge Improvement program</i>
Budget activity	–	Fiscal category for functions within the legislative budget of a state agency, underneath each “program”; <i>also see Program</i>

Term	Acronym	Description
Bus rapid transit	BRT	A form of mass transit service from buses that generally provides an express service and includes some characteristics similar to rail service
Calendar year	CY	A one-year accounting period, typically used by local units of government as their fiscal year; <i>also see Fiscal year</i>
Capital Highway Investment Plan	CHIP	MnDOT's 10-year plan for planned trunk highway system investments
Center for Transportation Studies	CTS	A center in the University of Minnesota that supports multidisciplinary transportation research
Chapter 152	152; Ch. 152	2008 state law that made various changes to transportation finance and funding
Commercial driver's license	CDL	A driver's license category that authorizes a person to operate different types of larger trucks and buses
Congestion mitigation and air quality	CMAQ	A category of federal aid, generally for projects to reduce congestion and improve air quality
Commuter rail	–	A form of passenger railroad transit service, usually connecting suburban or rural areas to a metropolitan area
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act	CARES Act	2020 federal law related to aid in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic
Cost participation	–	The division of transportation project costs between MnDOT and political subdivisions
County state-aid highway	CSAH	A constitutionally established system of county roads that are under the jurisdiction of each county and are eligible to receive dedicated state aid
County State-Aid Highway Fund	CSAH	An accounting fund for administering county state-aid dollars as well as the 5% set-aside funds
Counties Transit Improvement Board	CTIB	A former joint powers board in the Twin Cities metropolitan area that funded transitway projects and operations
Debt service	–	Money to pay the sum of principal and interest on bonds; <i>also see Bonds</i>
Department of Public Safety	DPS	<i>See Minnesota Department of Public Safety</i>
Deputy registrar	DR	A county, city, or private corporation appointed by DPS to administer motor vehicle titling and registration functions
Direct appropriation	–	Authorization for a state agency to spend a specific amount of money only during a specified time period (such as a biennium), made in session law (rather than in state statute); <i>also see Statutory appropriation</i>

Term	Acronym	Description
District	D1; D2; etc.	A regional unit in MnDOT’s organizational structure that handles trunk highway operations and projects; the state is divided into eight districts
Driver and Vehicle Services	DVS	A division in the Department of Public Safety that administers driver licensing and vehicle registration
Driver and vehicle services operating account	DVSOA	An account in the Special Revenue Fund for DVS program administration; it receives fees related to driver licensing and motor vehicle transactions
Driver’s license agent	DLA	A county, city, or private corporation appointed by DPS to administer driver licensing functions
Dynamic shoulder lane	–	A shoulder on a highway used as a traffic lane during certain periods of the day
Environmental assessment	EA; EAW	A document as well as a process for a transportation project that evaluates environmental impacts of the project
Environmental impact statement	EIS	A document as well as a process for a transportation project that evaluates environmental impacts of that project
Excess sum	–	A portion of funds from the CSAH Fund for formula-based aid to counties for the county state-aid highway system
Express bus	–	A form of mass transit service from buses that generally travel on longer fixed routes with fewer stops
E-ZPass	E-ZPass	MnDOT system of Twin Cities metropolitan area high-occupancy and tolled express lanes on trunk highways
FAST	FAST-DS; FAST-VS	A vendor and its information technology system used for driver licensing and motor vehicle titling and registration
Federal fiscal year	FFY	Fiscal year used by the federal government, which covers October 1 to the following September 30; it is named for the calendar year in which it ends; <i>also see Fiscal year</i>
Federal Highway Administration	FHWA	A federal agency in the U.S. Dept. of Transportation that administers highway-related funding and programs
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	FMCSA	A federal agency in the U.S. Dept. of Transportation that administers commercial motor carrier safety
Federal motor vehicle safety standards	FMVSS	A set of federal regulations governing and providing technical standards for manufacture of motor vehicles
Federal Transit Administration	FTA	A federal agency in the U.S. Dept. of Transportation that administers transit-related funding and programs
Final design	–	A highway or transit project development phase, for preparing construction plans and specifications; the last phase before construction

Term	Acronym	Description
Fiscal note	–	Formal state estimate of expenditures or nontax revenues resulting from proposed legislation
Fiscal year	FY	A one-year accounting period used in financial management; <i>also see State fiscal year, Federal fiscal year, Calendar year</i>
Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act	FAST Act	Federal act that re-authorizes transportation funding and sets policy, originally for FFY 2016 to 2020; predecessor to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
Flexible highway account	Flex account	An account that receives a portion of the 5% set-aside funds; funds are allocated to highway purposes including turnbacks
Gas tax	–	<i>See Motor fuels tax</i>
General Fund	GF	The largest and primary accounting fund of the state
General obligation bonds	GO; GO bonds	A form of bonds in which debt service is paid by the state and backed by a tax of statewide application; <i>also see Bonds, Trunk highway bonds</i>
Graduated driver licensing	GDL	A system of phased driving privileges for novice drivers
Greater Minnesota transit account	–	An account in the Transit Assistance Fund for state aid to transit providers in greater Minnesota
High-occupancy toll lane	HOT	A traffic lane dedicated to (1) vehicles with more than one occupant, and (2) drivers who pay a toll to use the lane; <i>also see High-occupancy vehicle lane</i>
High-occupancy vehicle lane	HOV	A traffic lane dedicated to vehicles with more than one occupant (with other vehicle types sometimes allowed)
Highway bus rapid transit	–	A form of BRT mainly operated on highways; <i>also see Bus rapid transit</i>
Highway User Tax Distribution Fund	HUTD; HUTDF	A constitutionally created fund that receives revenue from user taxes (gas tax, registration tax, and MVST), and from which funds are allocated to state and local road systems via constitutional and statutory formulas
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	IIJA	Federal act that includes both re-authorization of transportation funding programs and creates new programs, for FFY 2022 to 2026; successor to the FAST Act
Locally preferred alternative	LPA	Formally selected route for a federally funded transit project, specifying the type of service and basic route
Light rail transit	LRT	Form of passenger rail transit service, usually within a metropolitan area
Metro Mobility	–	Metropolitan Council component that provides door-to-door special needs transit service
Metro Transit	–	Division of the Metropolitan Council that provides transit service in the Twin Cities metropolitan area

Term	Acronym	Description
Metropolitan Airports Commission	MAC	Governmental agency that is responsible for several airports in the Twin Cities metropolitan area
Metropolitan area transit account	–	An account in the Transit Assistance Fund for state aid to transit in the Twin Cities metropolitan area
Metropolitan Council	–	A Twin Cities metropolitan area agency that administers planning and programs, including operating transit service and allocating some federal transportation funds
Metropolitan planning organization	MPO	A federally designated body that performs regional transportation planning and project decision-making for a metropolitan area
Metropolitan Transportation Services	MTS	A division of the Metropolitan Council that administers transit planning, funding, and service contracting
Mileage-based user fee	MBUF	<i>See Road usage charge</i>
Minnesota Department of Public Safety	DPS	A state agency that administers public safety matters; its divisions include the State Patrol, Driver and Vehicle Services, and the Office of Traffic Safety
Minnesota Department of Transportation	MnDOT	A state agency that administers the state's trunk highway system, transportation planning, and aid for local highways, aeronautics, and transit
Minnesota Drive	MNDRIVE	DVS information technology system for both driver licensing and motor vehicle titling and registration
Minnesota rail service improvement program	MRSI	A program administered by MnDOT for state aid for rail system improvements
Minnesota state highway investment plan	MnSHIP	MnDOT's 20-year plan for trunk highway system investment priorities and direction
Motor fuels tax	–	A constitutionally dedicated state tax on gasoline and other motor fuels; set at an indexed rate (of 32.6 cents per gallon for gas and diesel fuel beginning Jan. 1, 2026)
Motor vehicle lease sales tax	MVLST	Portion of state general sales tax revenue that is due to motor vehicle leases
Motor vehicle rental tax	–	A tax on short-term rental of vehicles; set at a 9.2% rate
Motor vehicle registration tax	–	A constitutionally dedicated tax on motor vehicle registration (also referred to as tab fees)
Motor vehicle sales tax	MVST	A constitutionally dedicated tax on the sale of motor vehicles; set at a 6.875% rate
Municipal state-aid street	MSAS	A constitutionally established system of city streets under the jurisdiction of each city, for which eligible cities receive dedicated state aid

Term	Acronym	Description
Municipal State-Aid Street Fund	MSAS	An accounting fund for administering municipal state-aid funds
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969	NEPA	A federal law requiring analysis of environmental impacts from transportation (and other infrastructure) projects
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	NHTSA	A federal agency in the U.S. Dept. of Transportation that administers traffic safety and consumer programs
New Starts	–	A federal aid program for transitway projects, administered by the Federal Transit Administration
Office of Traffic Safety	OTS	A division in the Department of Public Safety that administers and coordinates traffic safety programs
Operations & maintenance	O&M	A MnDOT budget activity for general daily highway operations, maintenance work, and smaller projects
Opt-out	–	<i>See Suburban transit provider</i>
Preliminary engineering	PE	A highway or transit project development phase, for initial design, planning, and environmental analysis
Program	–	1) A major fiscal category for functions within the legislative budget of a state agency; <i>also see Budget activity</i> 2) A set of policies and practices to implement an agency activity 3) A set of commitments to undertake specified transportation projects
Program delivery	–	Portion of a highway construction project reflecting planning, engineering, and oversight for that project
Programmed	–	An agency commitment to undertake a specific transportation project
Regional railroad authority	RRA	A county-level political subdivision of the state that preserves rail corridors and develops transitways
Regional Traffic Management Center	RTMC	A MnDOT office that provides coordinated traffic management in the Twin Cities metropolitan area
Regional transit capital levy	RTC	A form of financing for transit facilities, from proceeds of bonds issued by the Metropolitan Council and backed by a property tax levy; <i>also see Transit taxing district</i>
Regional transportation sales and use tax	–	A sales and use tax imposed by the Metropolitan Council in the Twin Cities metropolitan area; set at a rate of 0.75%
Regular route transit	–	Transit service operating on fixed routes on a set schedule
Retail delivery fee	–	A tax on the delivery of certain tangible personal goods purchased from a retailer; set at a rate of \$0.50

Term	Acronym	Description
Right-of-way	ROW; R/W	The entire area of land under the legal control of a road authority, usually including the roadway and ditches
Right-of-way acquisition loan fund	RALF	Metropolitan Council program for local unit of government loans for right-of-way acquisition prior to a highway project
Road usage charge	RUC	Transportation tax mechanism primarily based on vehicle distance traveled; also known as mileage-based user fee
Sales tax – auto parts	–	State general sales tax revenue attributed to sales of automobile repair and replacement parts
Small cities assistance program	–	A program jointly administered by MnDOT and the Department of Revenue for aid to smaller-sized cities
Special Revenue Fund	SR	An accounting fund of the state that contains various specialized accounts
Special transportation service	STS	Nonemergency transportation provided to eligible individuals who are elderly or disabled
State Airports Fund	AIR	An accounting fund of the state for funding aeronautics
State fiscal year	SFY	Fiscal year used by the state, which covers July 1 to the following June 30 and is named for the calendar year in which it ends; <i>also see Fiscal year</i>
State road construction	SRC	A MnDOT budget activity for final engineering tasks, right-of-way acquisition, and contracts with private firms for highway construction projects
State transportation bonds	–	A form of general obligation bonds of the state used for local road and bridge purposes; <i>also see General obligation bonds</i>
State transportation improvement program	STIP	MnDOT’s four-year comprehensive schedule of state and federally funded trunk highway construction projects
Statewide multimodal transportation plan	SMTTP	MnDOT’s 20-year multimodal plan for transportation policy objectives and priorities
Statutory (or standing) appropriation	–	Ongoing authorization for a state agency to spend money made in state statute (rather than in session law); spending authority does not need to be re-established in the biennial budget process; <i>also see Direct appropriation</i>
Suburban transit provider	STP	A transit provider in the Twin Cities metropolitan area that generally operates independently of Metro Transit
Tab fees	–	<i>See Motor vehicle registration tax</i>
Toward zero deaths	TZD	A multidisciplinary initiative to reduce traffic fatalities
Town bridge account	–	An account that receives a portion of 5% set-aside funds for town bridge replacement
Town road account	–	An account that receives a portion of 5% set-aside funds for town road construction and maintenance

Term	Acronym	Description
Transit Assistance Fund	TA; TAF	An accounting fund of the state for state aid to fund transit
Transit taxing district	TTD	A geographic region within the Twin Cities metropolitan area where the Metropolitan Council levies a property tax for transit capital; <i>also see Regional transit capital levy</i>
Transitway	–	General category for some modes of transit service provided in a transportation corridor; usually includes BRT, commuter rail, express bus, and LRT
Transportation advancement account	TAA	An account for formula-based allocation of some transportation-related tax revenue
Transportation Advisory Board	TAB	An advisory body in the Metropolitan Council that addresses transportation planning and some federal funding
Transportation improvement program	TIP	Metropolitan Council’s four-year schedule of highway and transit projects
Transportation policy plan	TPP	Metropolitan Council’s policies and long-range plan for transportation development in the metropolitan area
Transportation Revolving Loan Fund	TRLF	An accounting fund and state program for loans to local units of government for transportation projects
Trunk highway	TH	The system of state and interstate highways under the jurisdiction of MnDOT
Trunk Highway Fund	TH	An accounting fund for construction, maintenance, and general administration of the trunk highway system
Trunk highway bonds	THB	A constitutionally distinct form of general obligation bonds of the state; proceeds are solely for projects on the trunk highway system; <i>also see Bonds, General obligation bonds</i>
Trunk Highway Bridge Improvement program	BIP	MnDOT program for state bridge maintenance and replacement
Turnback	–	The transfer of jurisdiction over a highway segment, often a trunk highway turned over to a local unit of government
Vehicle miles traveled	VMT	A measure of the amount of travel in motor vehicles or the amount of usage of a roadway



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