

# Transportation Acronyms & Terminology



## Acronyms:

BCT	Broward County Transit
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
LRT	Light Rail Transit
LRTP	Long Range Transportation Plan
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
PPP/P3	Public Private Partnership
SFRTA	South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
TDP	Transit Development Plan
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program

## Terminology:

### Advanced Fare Collection

A ticketing system where a passenger purchases a ticket prior to boarding the transit vehicle; the benefit of this type of system is that it speeds up passenger boarding, allowing the transit vehicle to spend less time at a stop.

### Car Sharing

Refers to a car rental program where people rent cars for short periods of time, often by the hour. Car sharing locations may include transit stations, activity centers, and downtowns.

### Guideway

Refers to the area used by a transit vehicle for travel and is typically used in reference to bus rapid transit and rail. There are two main types of guideways:

- **Dedicated:** an area that is used exclusively by the transit vehicle and can be on the surface, in the air, or underground. The rail corridor in which Tri-Rail operates is an example of a dedicated guideway.
- **Shared:** this is an area that can be used by more than one mode. For example, a roadway that has travel lanes for both cars and a light rail vehicle; in this case, the rails for the train are located within one of the travel lanes of the road, allowing cars to use the lane when the train is not present.

### Improvements

Refers to construction projects that increase the ability of a transportation facility to carry vehicles, people or goods, or that enhance the quality of the facility. For example, roadway improvements can include the addition of new lanes, installation of turn lanes, or the addition of trees and plants within the median or along the curb.

### Intelligent Transportation Systems

Refers to information and communications technologies that provide information to travelers concerning travel conditions in an effort to improve safety, travel times, and fuel consumption. Examples include:

- Variable Message Signs (VMS) installed on I-95 that alert drivers to accidents or other roadway conditions that may affect travel routes and time.
- Real Time Travel Information installed by Broward County Transit at some stops and within several buses that allow passengers to know exactly how far away (in both distance and time) the bus is from the stop and how long it will take to reach the next stop.

### Intermodal

Most commonly refers to a facility that allows for the exchange of travelers from one mode to another. For example, the Fort Lauderdale – Hollywood International Airport station on Tri-Rail. At this station, travelers transfer from commuter rail to airplanes.

### Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

A 20 to 30 year plan that identifies the desired transportation system and the transportation improvements necessary to move people and goods throughout an area as quickly and safely as possible.

**For more information about the Broward MPO 2035 LRTP, visit our website at [www.broward2035lrtp.com](http://www.broward2035lrtp.com)  
Other transportation terms can be found at <http://www.apta.com/research/info/define/>**

## **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

The agency responsible for preparing the LRTP and determining the schedule and funding for transportation improvements; includes 19 elected officials from the various cities and the County Commission.

## **Mode**

Different types or methods of travel, such as walking, bicycles, cars, buses, trains, boats, and planes. The following are different types, or modes, of transit.

- ☞ Automated transit – an electric train that operates on a separate guideway and is fully automated (no onboard driver), such as Miami-Dade's Metromover.
- ☞ Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) –a bus that operates in its own lane for a majority of its route, allowing it to travel at the same speed or faster than automobile traffic; may also receive signal priority, real time travel information, and advanced fare collection.
- ☞ Commuter rail – an electric or diesel propelled passenger train that provides connectivity between central cities and adjacent suburbs. The train is heavier to allow operations on existing freight railways. Tri-Rail is a regional example.
- ☞ Light Rail Transit – lighter weight passenger cars that can operate on rails which are in a separate right-of-way or in streets with cars; typically use electricity from an overhead line; includes streetcars, trams, or trolleys.
- ☞ Heavy rail – an electrically driven train that is able to travel at high speed in a separate right-of-way. Because electricity is often provided through a “third rail” that is exposed, separation of this mode from streets where other vehicles or people may come into contact with the electric supply is required: includes subway, rapid transit, rapid rail, urban rail or metro (e.g. Miami-Dade's Metrorail).
- ☞ Rapid or Fast Bus –a bus that provides frequent service with limited stops and may receive signal priority.

## **Multimodal**

Refers to facilities that allow for the use by or the exchange of travelers from more than one mode. In transportation planning, this generally means developing a transportation system that relies on a variety of modes to move people and goods.

## **Park and Ride/Park-n-Ride/Park & Ride**

A location where individuals traveling by private vehicle gather and transfer to vehicles that can carry two or more persons, such as carpools, vanpools, and public transit.

## **Public Private Partnership (PPP/P3)**

A government service or private business venture that is funded and operated through an association between a governmental agency and one or more private sector companies.

## **Pull-out Bays/Bus Pullouts**

Areas adjacent to bus stops or stations where the bus can pull over to the side of the road to pick up and drop off passengers. These bays allow the bus to move out of the travel lane and can help reduce traffic back up and congestion at bus stops.

## **Ridesharing**

A form of transportation where more than one person shares the use of a vehicle, such as a van or car, to make a trip. Also known as carpooling or vanpooling.

## **Signal Priority**

An electronic system that gives transit vehicles a little extra “green time” or a little less “red time” at traffic signals to reduce the time their wait time.

## **Transportation Facilities**

Refers to the different components that make up the transportation system and are generally referenced by specific mode. For example, bicycle and pedestrian facilities refers to sidewalks, bike paths or lanes, bike racks or other bicycle parking structures, and pedestrian-level lighting.

## **Transportation System**

Refers to the entire transportation network, including roads, public transportation, airports, seaports, and freight railroads. As a system, it should be interconnected and work as one.

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