

Acronyms and [Glossary](#)

Acronyms

3-C:	Continuing Comprehensive and Cooperative Planning Process
AADT:	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AASHTO:	American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials
ACHP:	US Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADA:	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
ADR:	Administrative Dispute Resolution Act
ADT:	Average Daily Traffic
AEC:	Area of Environmental Concern
APE:	Area of Potential Effect
AQ:	Air Quality
AQI:	Air Quality Index
AQNMP:	Air Quality and Noise Management Plan
AST:	Aboveground Storage Tank
AWDT:	Average Weekday Traffic
BA:	Biological Assessment - USFWS
BIA:	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BMP:	Best Management Practices
BMS:	Bridge Management System
BO:	Biological Opinion - USFWS
BOT:	Board of Transportation
BSIP:	Business Systems Improvement Project
CAA:	Clean Air Act
CAAA:	Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
CAC:	Citizens Advisory Committee
CADD:	Computer Aided Design and Drafting
CAMA:	Coastal Area Management Act
CATS:	Cross Application Time Sheet
CBD:	Central Business District
CE:	Categorical Exclusion
CEQ:	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA:	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFR:	Code of Federal Regulations
CIA:	Community Impact Assessment
CIP:	Capital Improvement Program
CMAQ:	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
CMP:	Construction Management Plan
CMS:	Congestion Management Systems
CO:	Carbon monoxide
COE:	Army Corps of Engineers
COG:	Council of Government
CPM:	Critical Path Method
CSS:	Context Sensitive Solutions
CTPP:	Census Transportation Planning Package
CTP:	Comprehensive Transportation Planning
CWA:	Clean Water Act
CZMA:	Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972

DAQ: Division of Air Quality, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR)

DCA: Division of Community Assistance

DCR: Department of Cultural Resources

DDC: Division Design and Construct

DEIS: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

DEM: Division of Emergency Management

DEM: Digital Elevation Modeling

DENR: Department of Environment and Natural Resources

DMF: Division of Marine Fisheries

DOC: Department of Commerce

DOI: Department of the Interior

DOT: Department of Transportation

DSS: Decision Support System

DTM: Digital Terrain Modeling

DWQ: Division of Water Quality - NCDENR

EO: Executive Order

EA: Environmental Assessment

EDR: Environmental Data Resources

EEP: Eco-system Enhancement Program

EFH: Essential Fish Habitat

EFT: Electronic Fund Transfer

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement

EJ: Environmental Justice

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

ETDM: Efficient Transportation Decision-Making

FAA: Federal Aviation Administration

FAPG: Federal-Aid Policy Guide

FC: Functional Classification

FEIS: Final Environmental Impact Statement

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMP: Federal Energy Management Program

FERC: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

FHWA: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

FNSI: Finding of No Significant Impact

FOIA: Freedom of Information Act

FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact (alternate to FNSI)

FRA: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration

FTA: Federal Transit Administration

FTP: File Transfer Protocol

FWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FY: Fiscal Year begins July 1

GIS: Geographic Information System

GP: General Permit

GPS: Global Positioning System

HCS: Highway Capacity Software

HEP: Habitat Evaluation Procedure

HEU: Human Environment Unit

HOV: High Occupancy Vehicle

HPO: (State) Historic Preservation Office

HQR: High Quality Resources

HSR:	High Speed Rail
HTF:	Highway Trust Fund
IAG:	Interagency Agreement
ICA:	Immediate Corrective Action
ICE:	Indirect and Cumulative Effects
ICI:	Indirect and Cumulative Impact Assessment
IJR	Interchange Justification Reports
ILT:	Interagency Leadership Team
IMR	Interchange Modification Reports
IP:	Individual Permit
IRT:	Interagency Review Team
ISTEA:	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
ITRE:	Institute for Transportation Research and Education
ITS:	Intelligent Transportation System
LDD:	Local Development District
LOS:	Level of Service
LPA:	Lead Planning Agency
LPO:	Local Planning Organization
LEDPA:	Least Environmentally Damaging Practical Alternative
LRS:	Linear Referencing System
LRTP:	Long-range transportation plan
LSC:	Limited Service Contract
LUST:	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MAB:	Metropolitan Area Boundary
MP:	CAMA Major Development Permit
MOA:	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
MPO:	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NAAQS:	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA:	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NCBOT:	North Carolina Board of Transportation
NCCGIA:	North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis
NCDCR:	North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
NCDENR:	North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources
NCDOC:	North Carolina Department of Commerce
NCDOH:	North Carolina Division of Highways
NCDOT:	North Carolina Department of Transportation
NCDWQ:	North Carolina Division of Water Quality
NCGICC:	North Carolina Geographic Information Coordination Council
NCMIN:	North Carolina Multimodal Investment Network
NCTA:	North Carolina Turnpike Authority
NCWRC:	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
NEPA:	National Environmental Policy Act
NEU:	Natural Environment Unit
NHL:	National Historic Landmark
NHPA:	National Historic Preservation Act
NHS:	National Highway System
NMFS:	U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
NO2:	Nitrogen dioxide
NOAA:	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI:	Notice of Intent

NOV:	Notice of Violation
NOX:	Nitrogen oxides
NPDES:	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPDWR:	National Primary Drinking Water Regulations
NPS:	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
NRHP:	National Register of Historic Places
NRCS:	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRTR:	Natural Resources Technical Report
NWP:	Nationwide Permit
OA:	Office Administration
OHE:	Office of Human Environment
ONE:	Office of Natural Environment
OSA:	Office of State Archaeology
PA:	Programmatic Agreement
PAB:	Planning Area Boundary
PAC:	Public Advisory Committee
PCE:	Programmatic Categorical Exclusion
PCN:	Pre-Construction Notification
PDE:	Project Development Engineer
PDEA:	Project Development and Environmental Analysis (NCDOT)
PDF:	Portable Document Format files viewed and printed with the Adobe Acrobat® Reader.
PE:	Project Engineer
PEF:	Private Engineering Firm used to outsource work
PERT:	Program Evaluation and Review Technique
PHASE II:	Stormwater Regulation/Permit Process – Phase II is also the second phase of an archaeological survey, when NR eligibility is determined. Also, Phase II is the second phase of an environmental site assessment.
PHO:	Public Hearing Officers
PI:	Public Involvement
PICS:	Public Involvement and Community Studies
PIO:	Public Information Office
PIP:	Public Involvement Plan
PMii:	Project Management Improvement Initiative
POP:	Proof of Publication
PR:	Public Relations
PSA:	Public Service Announcement
PTD:	Public Transportation Division (NCDOT)
PWP:	Planning Work Program
QPR:	Quarterly Progress Report
RCRA:	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFQ:	Request for Qualifications
RFP:	Request for Proposals
ROD:	Record of Decision
RPO:	Rural Planning Organization
RTAC:	Rural Transportation Advisory Committee)
RTCC:	Rural Planning Organization Technical Coordinating Committee advisory staff
RTK:	Right-To-Know
ROW:	Right-of-Way
SASHTO:	State Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials

SAFETEA-LU: Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users

SAV: Submerged aquatic vegetation

SBA: U.S. Small Business Administration

SDEIS: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

SDWA: Safe Drinking Water Act

Section 106: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Section 4(f): Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act

Section 7: Section of the Endangered Species Act

SEHSR: Southeast High Speed Rail

SEPA: State Environmental Policy Act for North Carolina

SHC: Strategic Highway Corridors

SHPO: State Historic Preservation Officer

SIP: State Implementation Plan

SO2: Sulfur dioxide

SOV: Single Occupant Vehicle

SPR: State Planning and Research Funds

STP: Surface Transportation Program

SUE: Subsurface Utility Engineer

SWP: Statewide Planning Branch (NCDOT)

T&E: Threatened and Endangered Species

TAC: Technical Advisory Committee

TAZ: Transportation Analysis Zone

TCC: Technical Coordinating Committee

TCM: Traffic Calming Measure

TCM: Traffic Control Measure

TDM: Travel Demand Model

TEAAS: Traffic Engineering Accident Analysis System software

TEA-21: Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

TECO: Technically Complete

THPO: Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

TIP: Transportation Improvement Program

TMA: Transportation Management Association

TMP: Traffic Management Plan

TO: Task Orders

TPB: Transportation Planning Branch

TRB: Transportation Research Board

TSM: Transportation System Management

TVA: Tennessee Valley Authority

UAB: Urban Area Boundaries

UH: Unit Head

UPWP: Unified Planning Work Program

URL: Uniform Resource Locator; an address that specifies the location of a file on the Internet

USACE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USC: United States Code

USCG: U.S. Coast Guard

USDOT: U.S. Department of Transportation

USFWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USGBC: U.S. Green Building Council

USGS: U.S. Geological Survey

UST: Underground Storage tank
VHT: Vehicle Hours of Travel
VMT: Vehicle Miles of Travel
WBS: Work Breakdown Structure
WRC: Wildlife Resources Commission

Glossary of Terms

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A

Abatement (noise)	A reduction in the degree or intensity of traffic and other noise sources through various forms of 'mitigative' measures, such as noise barriers or walls (source: NCDOT, TransitNet Glossary).
Access	The ability to reach or connect to another mode of transportation from an existing mode of transportation or an individual property (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Access Management	The planning, design, and implementation of land use and transportation strategies that maintain a safe flow of traffic while accommodating the access needs of adjacent development. The goal of Access Management is to balance the need to provide efficient, safe, and timely travel with the desired ability to allow access to the individual destination (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Access Management Plan	A plan showing the location of access (and in some cases the design) for every parcel on a major roadway segment or within an interchange area. The Plan is often jointly developed and adopted by state agencies and local jurisdictions that have control over land development in the affected area (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Activity	A major item of work in a Project Schedule Network that has a definite start, finish and duration. An Activity will generally have a specific product, outcome or deliverable associated with it and can be further broken down into activity elements. An Activity will have a responsible work center to monitor completion (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Activity Centers	Statewide and regional centers, and areas outside North Carolina that serve a state's citizens (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Activity Element	A breakdown of tasks necessary to complete an activity. Each Activity Element will have planned work effort in hours, and an assigned work center and cost center. The duration and dates for Activity Elements are drawn from the scheduled start date and the finish date of its activity. Each Activity Element has an Activity Type for calculation of planned and actual costs (source: PMii Course Catalog).

Aerial Photography	Photographs of the ground taken from a plane or helicopter. Usually provided in a .sid file format with a .sdw file that contains position/location data.
Affected Environment	The physical features, land, area, or areas to be influenced, or impacted, by an alternative alignment under consideration. This term also includes various social and environmental factors and conditions pertinent to an area (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Agency Coordination	A general term referring to the process whereby government agencies are afforded an opportunity to review and comment upon transportation proposals (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Agricultural Land	Land that includes: arable land, land under permanent crops and land under permanent meadows and pastures (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Air Quality Standards	Regulated levels of air pollutants that may not be exceeded during a specified time in a defined area (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Air Pollutants	Substances in the air that could, at high enough concentrations, harm human beings, animals, vegetation or inanimate objects. Air pollutants may include forms of matter of almost any natural or artificial composition capable of being airborne. They may consist of solid particles, liquid droplets or gases, or combinations of these forms (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Alternative	One of a number of specific transportation improvement proposals, alignments, options, design choices, etc., in a defined study area. For a transportation project, alternatives to be studied normally include the no-action alternative, an upgrading of the existing roadway alternative, new transportation routes and locations, transportation systems management strategies, multi-modal alternatives, if warranted, and/or any combination of the above (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Alternative Access	The ability of any vehicle to enter a roadway indirectly through a roadway of lower classification (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Alternatives CP2	Concurrence Point 2 in the Section 404/NEPA Merger process (source: NCDOT PDEA).
Alternatives Analysis	Comparative analysis of the social, economic and environmental impacts and benefits for alternatives on a proposed action (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).

Alternative Screening	One of a number of specific transportation improvement proposals, alignments, options, design choices, etc., in a defined study area. For a transportation project, alternatives to be studied normally include the no-action alternative, an upgrading of the existing roadway alternative, new transportation routes and locations, transportation systems management strategies, multi-modal alternatives, if warranted, and any combinations of the above.
Alignment and Slope	Arrangement or position in a straight line or in parallel lines and to diverge from the vertical or horizontal; incline (source: http://dictionary.reference.com).
Ambient	Surrounding on all sides; baseline or existing condition. Often refers to noise or air quality (source: Webster's New World Dictionary; 1994).
Annual Average Daily Traffic	The total volume of traffic on a highway segment for one year, divided by the number of days in the year (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Appalachian Development Highway System	A system of highways in Appalachia (200,000-square-mile region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi) designed to generate economic development in previously isolated areas, supplement the interstate system, connect to the interstate system, and provide access to areas within the Region as well as to markets in the rest of the nation (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Aquaculture	Farming of aquatic organisms including fish, mollusks, crustaceans and aquatic plants. Farming implies some sort of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators and so forth (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Aquifer	Underground geologic formation, or group of formations, containing groundwater that can supply wells and springs (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Area Source	Source of non-natural air pollution released over a relatively small area that cannot be classified as a point source. Such sources may include vehicles and other small fuel combustion engines (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Archaeological Predictive	Model Use of GIS technology to predict and quantify potential archaeological impacts in order to streamline the identification of

archaeological resources early in the NEPA process. Under Merger 01, preliminary design and environmental data are gathered and analyzed for all NCDOT projects. These data are then used to select the best alternative for construction for projects needing an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Archaeological Site(s)	A place (or group of physical sites) in which evidence of past activity is preserved (either prehistoric or historic), and which has been investigated using scientific archaeological methods (source: Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological_site).
ArcMap	GIS Application Software
Arterial	A class of roads serving major traffic movements (high-speed/high volume) for travel between major points (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Aspect Ratio	The ration of the width or an image to its height.
Average Daily Traffic	Total volume during a given time period (in whole days), greater than one day and less than one year, divided by the number of days in that time period (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Avoidance Alternative	General term used to refer to any alignment proposal which has been either developed, modified, shifted, or downsized to specifically avoid impacting one or more resources (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).

B

Backage Road	A local street or road running parallel to an arterial that allows service access to abutting properties. A backage road also controls access to the arterial, which provides land access to the rear lot line of a property (arterial frontage becomes the rear lot and the buildings front the backage road) [source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005].
Brownfield	Abandoned, idle, or under-used industrial or commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Boulevard	A facility with a functional purpose of moderate mobility and low to moderate access. The facility has limited (Type I) or partial control of access (Type II), traffic signals, and a minimum of 2 travel lanes with a median. Connections are provided primarily at-grade intersections for major and minor cross streets. Type I

facilities do not have driveways, while driveways are allowed on Type II facilities (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).

Buffer zone	A strip of land that physically separates two or more different land uses. These areas typically are landscaped with evergreen plants or contain walls that strengthen the barrier between uses (source: NCDOT, TransitNet Glossary).
Business Process Maps	Process flow charts that are the result of an NCDOT internal, collaborative analysis (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Bus Route	The primary fixed-route bus system for the area per the CTP. This does not include demand response systems (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch)

C

CADD Software	Computer-aided drafting and design software. Used in the creation of Traffic Forecast Diagrams.
Capacity	A transportation facility's ability to accommodate a moving stream of people or vehicles in a given time period (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary).
Categorical Exclusion	A classification given to federal aid projects or actions, which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment. Categorical Exclusions do not require extensive levels of environmental documentation (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Census Transportation Planning Package	Information from the federal census which contains transportation related data (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).
Change Management	The process of directing, monitoring and reporting an organization's transition from an "as-is" status to a "to-be" goal. Change Management seeks to ensure that the organization is able to accept changes brought about by increased business integration. The essential objective is to predict, or recognize, resistance to change and act to minimize, or overcome that resistance. This effort is focused on making incremental change within NCDOT via a customized, planned and phased strategic effort focused initially on top management (defining and speaking directly to their concerns). This effort is then directed toward the individual end-user (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Clean Air Act	Purpose is to "protect and enhance the quality of the Nation's air resources." Primary programs regulate the release of contaminants to the air from new and existing sources (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Clean Water Act	Objective is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." One of the act's major enforcement tools is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Coastal Protection	Steps required to prevent erosion of the coast. The stabilization of beaches or dunes is achieved with mechanical means or vegetation, or by erecting heavy sea walls or revetments (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Coastal Zone	Lands and waters adjacent to the coast that exert an influence on the uses of the sea and its ecology or, inversely, the use of the sea and its ecology that exert an influence on the lands and waters adjacent to the coast (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Command-and-Control Policy	Environmental policy that relies on regulation (permission, prohibition, standard setting and enforcement) rather than financial incentives (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Comment Period	Duration of time during which written comments or responses may be submitted to an agency that has distributed a document for review and comment. It can be applicable to all types of documents that are circulated, as well as to formal presentations such as those given by transportation department officials at a public hearing (source: Strategic Highway Corridors Glossary; April 22, 2005).
Common Property Resources	Environmental natural resources owned and managed collectively by a community or society rather than by individuals (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Comprehensive Transportation Planning	A process that supports the development of a new long-range comprehensive (multi-modal) transportation plan (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Conformity	As it relates to transportation plans and spending programs: A process by which such plans and programs are reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with Federal clean air requirements (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	A category of funding created with ISTEA. Direct funds to projects which contribute to meeting national air quality standards. These funds must be used in non-attainment or maintenance areas (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).

Conservation	Management of human use of organisms or ecosystems to ensure that such use is sustainable (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Consultant Corridors	An individual or firm providing Professional Services to NCDOT. As it relates to Transportation: General term referring to the various alignments under consideration on a project. Usually used early in the project life before specific designs have been developed (source: NCDOT PDEA).
CP1	Concurrence Point 1 in the Section 404/NEPA Merger Process (source: NCDOT PDEA).
CP2	Concurrence Point 2 in the Section 404/NEPA Merger Process (source: NCDOT PDEA).
CP3	Concurrence Point 3 in the Section 404/NEPA Merger Process (source: NCDOT PDEA).
Critical Activity	An activity on the critical path that must be finished on time or the entire project will fall behind schedule based upon its interdependencies with other project activities (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Critical Path	A series of activities that will push out the project's end if any activity is delayed. The word 'critical' has nothing to do with the importance of an activity. It refers to how its scheduling will affect the project's finish date. The project's finish date is of great importance. If you want to shorten the duration of a project to bring the finish date in (finish earlier), you must begin by shortening the critical path. Over the life of the project, the critical path is likely to change as activities are completed ahead or behind schedule (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Critical Path Method	A planning and control technique which can be used to assist in the management and control of well defined, projects – small or large. It allows you to establish a schedule, which provides for the completion of the project in the fastest possible time. It also provides a means of accurately assigning resources to the project to minimize the effect of resource shortfalls (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Cross section	A vertical section of the road showing the different elevations and layers. Generated to calculate earthwork (cut and fill) for a proposed section of roadway.
CTP Document	Related to Comprehensive Transportation Planning. Written report that contains both the CTP maps and documents the CTP Study.

CTP Maps	Related to Comprehensive Transportation Planning. Five maps that make up the CTP. The CTP maps are officially adopted by the Local Area or MPO and NCDOT, and endorsed by the RPO in non-MPO areas.
Cumulative Impact	The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

D

<i>De minimis</i>	Latin expression that refers to a level of risk which is too small to be concerned with. In terms of NCDOT projects, <i>de minimis</i> means effect is of little consequence or significance. <i>De minimis</i> impacts related to publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges are those that do not "adversely affect the activities, features and attributes" of the Section 4(f) resource. For historic sites, a <i>de minimis</i> impact is defined as a "no adverse effect" or "no historic properties affected" in compliance with Section 106.
Design Files	A MicroStation file with .dsn or .dgn as the extension. Representing a plan view of the project, containing layers incorporated into Roadway design plans.
Design Hour Volume	The volume for the 30 th highest hour in the year (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).
Design and Construction Impact	The impact to the natural and human environments due to the basic elements of the actions construction and design (source: AMEC).
Direct Effects	Effects caused by a given action and occurring at the same time and place. Changes in noise levels fill discharges in wetlands, and changes in visual conditions are some examples of direct effects (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Distribution A	News Article Summaries intended for NCDOT employees located on the Intranet Portal at NCDOT > Employee Info > Distribution A
Drill down	Functionality that allows the user to double-click on an object to gain more detailed information without having to exit the current operation (source: PMii Course Catalog).

Draft Environmental Impact Statement	One of several document types outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] and its associated documentation (source: NCDOT PDEA).
Drop Down	Used to supply the user with a list of possible entries for a specified field. Sometimes these lists are dependent on other fields to further limit the selection criteria (source: PMii Course Catalog).
DTM/tin/Triangles	Digital Terrain Modeling (DTM) and Digital Elevation Modeling (DEM) is a digital representation of ground surface topography or terrain. It is used to describe the continuum of a surface as a finite amount of three dimensional points (x,y,z-values) in a space. This can be represented as a raster (a grid of squares) or as a triangular irregular network.

E

Ecosystem Enhancement Program	The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) partnered to create the Ecosystem Enhancement Program, in order to deal with a rapidly expanding transportation program that would impact acres of wetlands and streams. The Ecosystem Enhancement Program protects the state's natural resources through the assessment, restoration, enhancement, and preservation of ecosystem functions, and through identifying and implementing compensatory mitigation programmatically, at the watershed level (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
ENG 4345 Form	Application for Department of the Army Permit, Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403, Clean Water Act, Section 404. (source: Army Corp. of Engineers, Wetlands).
Environmental Assessment	A NEPA document that evaluates the environmental effects of a project. Often followed by a FONSI. If there are no significant impacts, the assessment is followed by an EIS (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Environment Document	General term used throughout DOT to refer to any of the NEPA required documents (source: NCDOT PDEA).
Environmental Impact Assessment	Analytical process that systematically examines the possible environmental consequences of the implementation of projects, programs, and policies (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Environmental Degradation	Deterioration in environmental quality from ambient concentrations of pollutants and other activities and processes such as improper land use and natural disasters (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Environmental Features Map	Map of a project area showing known Human and Natural Environmental features often using information from various sources including GIS, aerial photography etc. (source: NCDOT PDEA).
Environmental Health Indicators	Indicators that describe the link between environment and health by measuring the health effect due to exposure to one or several environmental hazards (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Environmental Impact	Direct effect of socio-economic activities and natural events on the components of the environment (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Environmental Impact Statement	A NEPA document that evaluates environmental impacts of a project and typically takes years to complete (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Environmental Justice	A federal requirement to make sure that “traditionally disadvantaged” groups (such as minority groups or poor groups) do not share an undue proportion of the Transportation burden (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Environmental Justice Populations	Historically ethnic and low-income groups who do not typically participate in the planning process and have been under-represented and/or underserved by the transportation system (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Environmental Monitoring	The continuous or periodic assessment of the actual and potential impact of any activity on the environment (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Environmental Protection	Any activity to maintain or restore the quality of environmental media through preventing the emission of pollutants or reducing the presence of polluting substances in environmental media (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Environmental Restoration	Reactive environmental protection. It includes (a) reduction or neutralization of residuals, (b) changes in the spatial distribution of residuals, (c) support of environmental assimilation and (d) restoration of ecosystems, landscape and so forth (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Environmental Streamlining	An initiative aimed at identifying ways that transportation and environmental agency representatives can more effectively work together in a collaborative and cooperative manner to avoid unnecessary delays in processing environmental documents, approvals and permits. The environmental streamlining provision is contained in the Federal transportation law passed in 1998, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). This provision calls on Federal agencies to jointly develop a coordinated environmental review process for transportation projects. Because major transportation projects are affected by dozens of Federal, State, and local requirements administered by a multitude of agencies, improved interagency cooperation is critical to the success of environmental streamlining (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Equity Formula	Formula that governs the apportioning of Transportation dollars (except Loop Funds) across the State. Formula determined by the North Carolina General Assembly (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Erosion	Wearing away of the land by running water, rainfall, wind, ice or other geological agents, including such processes as detachment, entrainment, suspension, transportation and mass movement. Geologically, erosion is defined as the process that slowly shapes hillsides, allowing the formation of soil cover from the weathering of rocks and from alluvial and colluvial deposits. Erosion is often intensified by land-clearing human activities related to farming, resident and industrial development and it has as effect increasing run-offs, decline of arable layers, siltation in lakes, lagoons and oceans (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Estuary	A generally broad portion of a river or stream that is near its outlet and that is influenced by the marine water body into which it flows. The demarcation line is generally the mean tidal level (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Efficient Transportation Decision-Making Process	Process developed by the State of Florida that is used to accomplish transportation planning and project development within its current statutes and regulations. Creates linkages between land use, transportation and environmental resource planning initiatives through early, interactive agency involvement which is expected to improve decisions and greatly reduce the time, effort and cost (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

F

Federal Register
(Code of Federal
Regulations)

The official, daily publication for Rules, Proposed Rules, and Notices of US Federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential Documents. The Government Printing Office is the official source for the Federal Register (source: AMEC).

Final Environmental
Impact Statement

One of several document types outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] and its associated documentation (source: NCDOT PDEA).

Final Environmental
Impact Study

The Environmental Impact Statement is a full disclosure document that provides a full description of the proposed project, the existing environment, and analysis of the anticipated beneficial and adverse environmental and social effects of reasonable alternatives. A Draft (DEIS) and Final (FEIS) document are prepared. The FEIS must address comments received on the DEIS, making any appropriate revisions or decisions and, identify (if not identified in the DEIS) and describe the preferred alternative and the basis for the decision (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Finding of No Significant
Impact

Environmental document for proposed projects where it has been determined through the circulation of an Environmental Assessment that a project will not have a significant impact on the environment. A Finding of No Significant Impact is the decision document for an Environmental Assessment (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Fixed Guideway

Any transit service that uses exclusive or controlled rights-of-way or rails, entirely or in part, per the CTP. The term includes heavy rail, commute rail, light rail, monorail, trolleybus, aerial tramway, included plan, cable car, automated guideway transit, and ferryboats (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).

Functional Classification

Streets provide two distinct functions: mobility (through movement) and access to land. Functional classification is a hierarchical ranking based on the degree of mobility and access that a street provides (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Functional Design

Assures that each modular part of working design relationship has only one responsibility and performs that responsibility with the minimum of side-effects on other parts (sources: http://appl.nasa.gov/resources/lexicon/terms_f.html and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_design)

G

Gantt Chart	A graphic display of schedule-related information often called a "bar chart" at the NCDOT. In the typical Gantt chart, activities or other project elements are listed in table form down the left side of the chart, dates are shown across the top, and activities are shown as date-based horizontal bars (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Geopak Database	The Geopak coordinate geometry database (gpk) files store graphical elements together as a "chain" that can be displayed graphically and stationed using other Geopak tools.
GIS Application	Software used to access GIS data and create maps.
GIS Data Layers	Geographically referenced data defined by a specific location on the earth.
GIS Document	Map document that contains various related GIS layers within a defined area.
Green Sheet	A summary of project environmental commitments with responsible units identified. Green Sheets provide a quick reference for special project commitments on stand-alone green page(s).
Groundwater	Freshwater beneath the earth's surface (usually in aquifers) supplying wells and springs. Because groundwater is a major source of drinking water, there is a growing concern over leaching of agricultural and industrial pollutants or substances from underground storage tanks (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

H

Habitat	Place where an organism or population (human, animal, plant, micro-organism) lives (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Hearing Map	A map, usually of the selected alternative, presented to the Public at a Public Hearing on a project (source: NCDOT PDEA).
Highway Trust Fund Act	In 1989, the North Carolina Highway Trust Fund Act established a system of intrastate highways for North Carolina. The act calls for multi-lane improvements for all two-lane roads in the system (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
High Speed Rail Corridor	Corridor designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation as a potential high-speed rail corridor (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).

Historic Properties	A designation assigned to a site or property that is listed in, or is eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is a federal program administered by the National Park Service in partnership with state governments. A listing in the National Register means that a property has been researched and evaluated according to established procedures and determined to be worthy of preservation for its historical value (source: North Carolina State Historic Preservation web site; http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/compare.htm).
Indirect and Cumulative Impacts	Analysis done as part of the project development process to access the secondary and cumulative impacts of transportation improvement initiatives (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Indirect Effects	Effects caused by a given action, occurring later in time or farther removed in distance but which are reasonably foreseeable. Induced changes to land use patterns, population density or growth rate are examples. Also known as secondary impacts (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Idle Land	Land that was cultivated but is now in a state of disuse; abandoned land; fallow land (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Info Packet, 4A	A package of information assembled and distributed to Merger Team members to prepare for a 4A meeting (source: NCDOT PDEA).
In-house	Describes work performed by NCDOT staff.
Interagency Team	An interdisciplinary work group composed of individuals representing a number of government agencies who participate in the development of transportation projects (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Interchange Justification Policy	FHWA policy statement regarding requests for added access to the existing Interstate system.
Intermodal Connector	Interconnectivity between various types (modes) of transportation (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Investing Support for Resource Agencies	The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) funds 21 positions with state and Federal resource agencies for staff dedicated to review of environmental projects. The funded positions include the following: 22 positions at the North Carolina

	Department of Environment and Natural Resources; 3 at the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission; 3 at the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources; 3 at the US Fish & Wildlife Service; and 2 at the US Environmental Protection Agency (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act	Federal legislation signed into law in 1991. It emphasized diversity and alternate modes of transportation. It expired in 1997, but was followed by TEA-21 (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Intelligent Transportation Systems	Advanced traffic operations and communications technologies that increase traffic flow on existing facilities, improve safety, and provide better and more accurate traveler information (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
J	
Jurisdiction Ruling	A decision by the court regarding the authority of a governing (source: http://www.investionary.com/glossary/jurisdiction.htm).
L	
Land Use	Characteristics that specify certain development parameters for real property, usually made at the local level through a land use plan and/or zoning (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Land-use Classification	Classification providing information on land cover, and the types of human activity involved in land use. It may also facilitate the assessment of environmental impacts on, and potential or alternative uses of, land (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Land Use Plan	The element of a comprehensive plan that designates and justified the future use or reuse of land (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Lead Planning Agency	Designated by the Memorandum of Understanding this agency houses staff to carry out the work of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or Rural Planning Organization (RPO) [source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch].
Level of Service	A system to evaluate congestion on a roadway – similar to a report card. LOS A would indicate no congestion while LOS D indicates severe congestion that could easily lead to breakdown conditions (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Linear Referencing System	System being developed by GIS to link the universe file (database of road segments) with their geographic counterpart (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Limited Service Contract	An “as-needed basis” contract established for a maximum dollar amount for professional or specialized services to be performed during a specified contract period, generally not to exceed three years. When a task is identified, a scope of services, schedule and total compensation are negotiated with the firm for the performance of an individual assignment of professional or specialized service, as defined by the Agreement. The scope of services, schedule and compensation for each individual assignment are documented in a Notice to Proceed. The Department may elect to utilize the maximum amount of the agreement during the contract period, or may elect not to negotiate with the firm for any services during the contract period.
Link	The method of referring from one document on the web to another (source: NCDOT website).
Local Agency	Includes municipal, county, other state government (e.g., DENR, DAQ, NCST-ITRE), other state, or Council of Government.
Logical Termini	Logical Termini for project development are defined as rational end points for a transportation improvement, and rational end points for a review of environmental impacts.
Long Range Transportation Plan	A plan with a 20 year minimum planning horizon that must be updated every three to five years and is only required for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO). It incorporates all modes of transportation, including transit, bicycle, pedestrian, rail, aviation, ports and ferries. The plan may be viewed as a layering of fiscally constrained plans with each layer equating to a separate, but integrated, mode of transportation. Therefore, only projects that can reasonably be expected to be funded within the planning period are included in the LRTP (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).

M

Memorandum of Understanding	This is the legal document signed by all Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or Rural Planning Organization (RPO) members and the NCDOT that sets up the organization that carries out the planning task outlines in the Prospectus. It defines the membership of the TAC, a minimum membership for the TCC, and who will be the LPA. It may also include the voting structure
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on the TAC (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Merger 01 Process	Interagency effort to streamline the project development and permitting process. The objective is to ensure that the regulatory requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act are incorporated into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision-making process for transportation projects. The Merger 01 process mapping, which includes defined concurrence points, is fully integrated into the standard networks that are the basis for project schedules in SAP (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Merger 404	The Section 404/NEPA Merger Process (source: NCDOT PDEA).
Merger Team	Group of people from various State and Federal agencies put together to work through the Merger Process on a particular project (source: NCDOT PDEA).
Metropolitan Planning Organization	A federally mandated transportation policymaking entity made up of representatives from local government and transportation authorities for urban areas with populations greater than 50,000. MPOs are responsible for developing long-range transportation plans (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) for their respective regions, while ensuring transportation projects and programs are based on a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) planning process (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Metropolitan Statistical Area	May contain one or more urbanized areas. Used for statistical analysis (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
MicroStation	CADD/engineering design and drafting software.
Milestone	Used to document significant events or completion of phases of work in a project (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Minimization CP4A	Concurrence Point 4A in the Section 404/NEPA Merger (source: NCDOT PDEA)
Mitigation	To moderate the impact a project has on the environment (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary)
Mobility	The ability to travel safely and unimpeded along single or linked transportation facilities (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Mode	Modes are methods of moving people or goods. Such as private vehicle, transit (bus, express bus, rail), bike, walking (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Mode/Modal	A particular form of transportation facility or service such as a bicycle/pedestrian, highway, transit system or plane (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary, modified by AMEC).
Mode Split	The proportion of total person trips using various modes of transportation (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Modernization	Improvements related to upgrading system safety, functionality, and overall operational efficiency, without adding major physical capacity (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Moratorium	A temporary ban or halt to a specific activity. For NCDOT Projects, a moratorium usually refers to a defined period of time (i.e., "season" or "window") during which specific construction activities are not allowed in order to protect sensitive animal species from disturbance. (source: NCDOT PDEA web site, Glossary of Terms)
MPO Coordinator	Transportation Planning Branch employee who is responsible for coordinating planning activities of the MPO.
Multimodal	The availability of multiple transportation options, especially within a system or corridor (source: Interagency Leadership Plan – Goal #1 Glossary).
Multi-Modal	Using or consideration of more than one Mode (method of moving people or goods). Transportation Plans must be multi-modal (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Multiple Land Use	Use of land for more than one purpose, for example, grazing of livestock, recreation and timber production. The term may also apply to the use of associated bodies of water for recreational purposes, fishing and water supply (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

N

National Environmental Policy Act	<p>An act to establish a national policy for the environment, to provide for the establishment of a Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to administer the act (NEPA), and to provide for other purposes. NEPA requires a federal agency to document the environmental impact of its actions including an evaluation of alternatives.</p> <p>The NEPA process consists of a set of fundamental objectives that include interagency coordination and cooperation, and public participation in planning and project development decision-</p>
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making. Environmental reviews involve an interdisciplinary and interagency process. A framework for collaborative decision making between federal agencies and those who will bear the environmental, social and economic impacts of agency decisions (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005). This coordinated review process includes input from the public, as well as from other agencies, to guarantee that all environmental protections, as well as other issues are addressed (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

National Highway System

Includes the Interstate system and other routes identified as being of particular importance to local governments (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Natural Environment Project Management Group (NEPMG)

Manages all phases of the environmental input process for each project from initial environmental documentation through permitting and construction. It is organized into three (3) regions, the Eastern Region which focuses on NCDOT Divisions 1-4, 6; the Central Region that focuses on NCDOT Divisions 5, 7-9; and the Western Region that focuses on NCDOT Divisions 10-14. Regional staffs are the primary point of contact for projects in the particular regions, but there is also close coordination across regions to insure consistency. This Group serves as the initial landing point for most requests coming into the NEU and the outlet for many of the NEU's deliverables. The NEPMG performs general natural resource investigations, wetland delineations, non-aquatic protected species surveys, prepares natural resource technical reports (NRTRs), prepares environmental permit applications and secures environmental permits. This group works closely with other units within NEU and may draw on those units' expertise from time to time during the project development process.

Natural Environment Program Operations Group (NEPOG)

The Natural Environment Program Operations Group serves the Unit and the Department with regulatory knowledge associated with permitting, mitigation and natural resource investigations. This group monitors the flow of information and products through the Unit and coordinates all non-project requests for information from PDEA and NCDOT management, the Board of Transportation Members, state and federal agencies, and other third parties. This group has worked with the NCDOT Information Technology Group to implement the NEU Data Warehouse.

Natural Resources

Natural assets (raw materials) occurring in nature that can be used for economic production or consumption. See also renewable natural resources and non-renewable natural resources (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Natural Resources
Technical Report

A report generated by the NCDOT PDEA Natural Environment Unit that summarizes information from field visits, surveys, and other data sources concerning the natural resources found within a project area. The report is used to qualify and quantify the natural environmental impacts from proposed project alternatives.

Navigable Waters

(unless specifically declared otherwise by congress):

- a) Territorial sea
- b) Internal waters subject to tidal influence; and
- c) Internal waters not subject to tidal influence,
 1. which are or have been used, or are or have been susceptible for use, by themselves or in connection with others, as highways for substantial interstate or foreign commerce, notwithstanding obstruction that requires portages: or
 2. which a governmental or non-governmental body having expertise in waterway improvement determines or has determined to be capable of improvement at a reasonable cost (a favorable balance between cost and need) to provide, by themselves or in connection with others, highways for substantial interstate or foreign commerce.

NCDOTnet

NCDOT's collection of web sites. NCDOTnet must serve equally as an intranet, extranet and internet site simultaneously. Due to public information laws, NCDOT may not have a pure intranet or extranet. Many complex issues arise when attempting to have one website serve three distinct purposes, thus the need for carefully planned Policy to be rigidly enforced (source: NCDOT website).

Network

Links in which you want to use the travel demand model to predict volumes and to solve transportation problems (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).

Non-Attainment

If an area is designated as an Air Quality "Non-Attainment" it means that the air quality does not attain the air quality standards set by the EPA/federal legislation (that is their air quality is poor). This triggers a requirement of actions by the MPO or State that an analysis be performed on long range plans and the TIP to show that these programs will improve their air quality. After being designated as "non-attainment" and improving their air quality to the required standards, the area becomes "maintenance" – it does not revert to "attainment" (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Non-Point Source
of Pollution

Pollution sources that are diffused and without a single point of origin or not introduced into a receiving stream from a specific outlet. The pollutants are generally carried off the land by storm-water run-off. The commonly used categories for non-point sources are agriculture, forestry, urban areas, mining, construction, dams and channels, land disposal and saltwater

	intrusion (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Non-Renewable Natural Resources	Exhaustible natural resources such as mineral resources that cannot be regenerated after exploitation (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Notice of Intent	The Notice of Intent (NOI) is an announcement to the public and to interested agencies that a project is being developed and that an EIS will be prepared. It briefly describes the Study Area, the proposed action, its proposed purpose and need, the agency's proposed public scoping process, and identifies the name and address of the agency contact person (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
NC Certified Sites	NC Department of Commerce Certified Sites program showcases premium property sites that have been pre-qualified by undergoing a stringent site package preparation process to ensure property is ready for development. Sites are approved by the NC Certified Sites Steering Committee (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
NC Multimodal Investment Network	Represents the major physical transportation framework upon which transportation planning, investment and economic development strategies can be applied; used as a basis for evaluating the existing system as well as describing the future transportation network-broken into three Tiers: Statewide, Regional, Sub regional. (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary)
NC Regional Economic Partnerships	Counties of North Carolina are organized into seven regional partnerships for economic development. These regional partnerships enable regions to compete effectively for new investment and to devise effective economic development strategies based on regional opportunities and advantages (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
NC Turnpike Authority	Organization that was created in 2002 by the General Assembly in response to concerns about rapid growth, heavy congestion and dwindling resources. The NCTA is authorized to study, plan, develop, construct, operate and maintain up to nine toll roads.
National Highway System	The Interstate Highway System as well as other roads important to the nation's economy, defense, and mobility; developed by the US Department of Transportation in cooperation with the states, local officials, and metropolitan planning organizations (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Non-attainment	If an area is designated as an Air Quality "Non-Attainment" it means that the air quality does not attain the air quality standards set by the EPA/federal legislation (that is their air quality is poor).

This triggers a requirement of actions by the MPO or State that an analysis be performed on long-range plans and the TIP to show that these programs will improve their air quality. After being designated as "non-attainment" and improving their air quality to the required standards, the area becomes "maintenance" - it does not revert to "attainment" (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

North Carolina:
Moving Ahead!

Transportation initiative sponsored by Governor Easley in 2003 to redirect the use of remaining bonds to invest in highway maintenance, modernization and public transit (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

O

- Off-Road Bicycle Facility A facility that accommodates bicycle transportation (may also accommodate pedestrians, e.g., Greenways) and is physically separated from a highway facility usually on a separate right-of-way (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).
- On-Road Bicycle Facility A facility that accommodates bicycle transportation on a highway facility (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).
- Operational Strategies Plans geared toward the non-single occupant vehicle. This includes but is not limited to HOV lanes or express bus service (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).
- Operating Transit Needs For the purposes of this Statewide Transportation Plan, "Operating" needs include labor, fuel, insurance, advertising, marketing and administration (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

P

- Passenger Rail Typically inter-regional or interstate rail service; as compared to commuter rail, which is primarily within a metropolitan region (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
- Park and Ride Lot A strategically located parking lot that is free of charge to anyone who parks a vehicle and commutes by transit or in a carpool (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).
- Pedestrian One who walks or journeys on foot; a walker (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
- Permit Written permission given by a governmental agency with "permitting" authority to take certain action during specific steps of a project development process. Example: permits may include permission for any construction, excavation, depositing of material, or other work in navigable waters (Corps of Engineers),

permission required for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (Corps of Engineers). A permit may also refer certain other clearances or certifications such as a clearance from the Federal Aviation Administration for proposed highway construction in the vicinity of public use and military airports, and water quality certifications for the licensing of an action that would result in a discharge into regulated waters. These approvals, plus certain others relating to solid waste management, underground storage tanks, coastal zone areas, etc., involve approvals and documentation commonly referred to as permits (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

401 Permit	Part of the Clean Water Act this permitting process is a certification of the water quality standards of the state. It can be applied to wetlands protection (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
404 Permit	Also part of the Clean Water Act, it allows states to designate specific areas as a disposal site for dredged or fill material (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Permit Drawings	A set of project drawings required as part of the Section 404 permit application package (source: NCDOT PDEA).
Planimetrics (pln)	Mapping features for which only horizontal data is presented. These features generally include property lines, street centerlines, structure footprints, utility lines, location of vegetation and other natural or cultural features that may be pertinent to the purpose of the map.
Planning Work Program	A yearly program of anticipated work in an MPO or RPO with tasks being defined by the Prospectus (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).
PMii	Project Management Improvement Initiative, or PMii, went live and was successfully integrated into the SAP R/3 system in May 2004. PMii provides NCDOT with critical path scheduling, Project Management and financial transaction tools to manage Transportation Improvement Program projects. This allows for active project management and tracking from project initiation to letting.
Point Source of Pollution	Anthropogenic source of emissions that is located at an identifiable point in space. The term covers stationary sources such as sewage treatment plants, power plants, other industrial establishments, and similar buildings and premises of small spatial extension (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Preferred Alternative	Is the recommended alternative put forth no later than the FEIS. A recommended Preferred Alternative can be identified in the DEIS (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Preliminary Impact	The initial Impact to the natural and human environments from an action (source: AMEC).
Preservation	In the statewide planning context, activities that protect the infrastructure and extend facility service life. Also, in the natural resources context, activities that protect natural resources (source: Interagency Leadership Plan – Goal #1 Glossary).
Procedure	Written documentation of a process in conformance with the NCDOT Procedures Manual (source: AMEC).
Process	A series of actions and functions bringing about a result (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Process Owner	The person who has the authority to approve a change to the process (source: NCDOT).
Process Co-Owner	Some processes transcend functional boundaries. In these cases, different parts of a process may have different owners, or “co-owners.” Therefore, changes may require collaboration before being approved (source: NCDOT).
Process Expert or Specialist	A person who understands and can explain what and how the steps in a process are accomplished. They are able to extrapolate the process to adapt to unique circumstances or find out how. This is a point of contact for questions and clarifications. There may be multiple experts for any process (source: NCDOT).
Process Manager/Caretaker	One who monitors process performance for efficiency and effectiveness. The Process Manager/Caretaker receives and evaluates recommendations for enhancements (source: NCDOT).
Project	Clearly defined effort consisting of a beginning and end with interrelated activities, finite resources, deliverables and a well-defined scope (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Project Schedule Network	Grouping of interconnected activities that together, form the basis of a project schedule. During the life of a project, networks are used for planning, analyzing and controlling as well as monitoring schedules, dates and resources. The five types of standard networks include Document Preparation, Preliminary Plans, Final Plans, Right-of-Way Acquisition and Bid and Award (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Project Scope	States what will and will not be included as part of the project (source: www.dis.wa.gov/pmframework/charter/scope)

Project StaRS	Project Scheduling Tracking and Reporting System, which replaces the PMii name. This provides NCDOT management, planners and design engineers with access to project status information and reporting during the planning and design of TIP projects.
Project Store	An electronic filing tool developed to assist NCDOT with communication. It is comprised of a set of folders for each Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project that contains information about that project from all NCDOT Business Units.
Prospectus	A document listing the “menu” of planning items which the RPO (Rural Planning Organization) or MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) may consider doing. The PWP (Planning Work Program) uses the prospectus to define all the possible work items, and then “pulls” from this menu to include those tasks scheduled for the year (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Public Information	North Carolina law states that all information related to a public agency, such as NCDOT, must be accessible by the citizens of the state in the most convenient manor available (source: NCDOT website).
Public Involvement	Process through which government communicates with its stakeholders using a series of products, tools, documents and outreach opportunities (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Public Hearing	A meeting designed to afford the public the fullest opportunity to express opinions on a transportation project. A verbatim record (transcript) of the proceedings is made part of the project record (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Public Meeting	An announced meeting conducted by the convening agency designed to facilitate participation in the decision-making process and to assist the public in gaining an informed view of a proposed project at any level. Can be referred to as a public information meeting (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Public Transportation	Transportation by bus, rail (commuter or light), ferry or other Transport, either publicly or privately owned, which is provided to the public or specialty service on a regular and continuing basis (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Purpose and Need Statement	Establishes why the project is proposed and is the foundation to determine if alternatives meet the needs in the area. The Purpose and Need Statement is developed in consultation with local, state and federal agencies as well as the public. The Study Team will solicit comments from the public on the Purpose and Need until

the completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It is the first concurrence point of the 404/Merger process (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

R

Rail Corridor	Locations of railroad tracks that are either active or inactive tracks. These tracks were used for either freight or passenger service (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).
Rail Stop	A railroad station or stop along the railroad tracks (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).
Rework	Refers to tasks that need to be performed again due to some events that have stopped or slowed the project. Examples of this might be not reaching concurrence at key regulatory meetings, environmental realignment activities, etc (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Regional Tier	NCMIN tier of facilities providing regional connectivity; typically most NC marked routes, some secondary routes, bus rapid transit lines and light rail (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Right of way	A public or private area that allows for passage of people or goods, including, but not limited to, freeways, streets, bicycle paths, alleys, trails and walkways. A public right-of-way is dedicated or deeded to the public entity for use under the control of a public agency (source: NCDOT, TransitNet Glossary).
ROD	Record of Decision. An environmental process of 90 days posting for review time by public. A ROD is the decision document for an Environmental Impact Statement (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Rural Planning Organization (RPO)	Planning entities for rural (non-MPO) areas of three to 15 counties (establishment is voluntary). Core roles include: 1) development and prioritization of transportation projects for input into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); (2) coordination of local and regional multi-modal transportation plans; (3) providing an information clearinghouse (information resource center); and, (4) providing a mechanism for meaningful public participation (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
RPO Local Coordinator	Local RPO Staff person that carries out the work tasks of the RPO as directed by the TCC and TAC.

S

SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009. (source: FHWA web site).
SAP R/3	Enterprise department-wide software used for business integration. SAP stands for Systems Applications and Products (in data processing). Worldwide corporation headquartered in Germany (source: PMii Course Catalog).
Scoping	The process of establishing the principal issues to be addressed in an environmental impact assessment (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Scoping Data	The process of establishing the principal issues to be addressed in an environmental impact assessment (source: AMEC).
Secondary and Cumulative Effects Analysis	An analysis, by project alternative, of a) effects which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable (secondary effects) and b) impacts on the environment which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions (cumulative impacts). (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Section 4(f)	Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act is a class of resources (historic properties, wildlife refuges, public parks and public recreation facilities) identified by FHWA, which must be avoided during the design of projects involving FHWA or DOT monies. (source: NCDOT Enhancement Program web site, Glossary of Terms).
Shapefiles (shp)	Files that spatially describe geometries: points, polylines, polygons.
Short Line Railroad	Independently-owned and operated entities often servicing shorter segments of track across the nation (below Class I railroads) [source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary].
Significant Impacts	Any number of social, environmental, or economic effects or influences which may be brought about as a result of the implementation of a transportation improvement. "Significant impacts" may include effects which are direct, secondary, or cumulative. The term "significant" is used and interpreted to

Southeast High Speed Rail	<p>determine which type of NEPA document is appropriate. Categorical exclusions are those actions which do not involve significant effects. Environmental Impact Statement projects in most cases can and do involve significant impacts (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).</p> <p>One of five US DOT-designated national high-speed rail corridors across the country. The SEHSR — extending from Washington, D.C. through Richmond and Raleigh to Charlotte — has been identified as the most economically viable high-speed rail corridor in the country (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).</p>
Stakeholder	<p>Individuals, communities, government agencies, private organizations, non-governmental organizations or others having an interest or "stake" in both the process and outcomes of a project (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).</p>
State (North Carolina) Environmental Policy Act	<p>The North Carolina Environmental Policy Act of 1971 (SEPA) requires state agencies to review and report the environmental effects of all activities that: 1) involve a state action, 2) involve an expenditure of public money or private use of public land, and 3) have a potential environmental effect. This may include some local government projects. If SEPA applies, the state agency involved must process an environmental document through the State Clearinghouse under the North Carolina Department of Administration before a permit, license, grant, or other state authority can be completed. For a project or activity to be subject to the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) it must involve all three of the following: 1) an action by a state agency (such as land and money appropriations, awarding grants, issuing permits, or granting licenses); and, 2) an expenditure of public monies or private use of public land; and, 3) has a potential detrimental environmental effect upon natural resources, public health and safety, natural beauty, or historical or cultural elements of the state's common inheritance. SEPA applies when all three criteria are present. (General Statute 113A, sec. 1 to 13). [North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Permit Information Center web site; http://www.p2pays.org/ref/01/00483.htm]</p>
State (Environmental Review) Clearinghouse	<p>The State Environmental Review Clearinghouse manages the N.C. Intergovernmental Environmental Review process. (source: NC Department of Administration web site)</p>
State Finding of No Significant Impact	<p>One of several document types outlined in the State Environmental Policy Act [SEPA] and its associated documentation (source: NCDOT PDEA). Environmental document for proposed projects where it has been determined through the circulation of an Environmental Assessment that a project will not</p>

State Implementation Plan	<p>have a significant impact on the environment. A Finding of No Significant Impact is the decision document for an Environmental Assessment (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).</p>
Statewide Comprehensive Transportation Plan or Statewide Plan	<p>Required documents prepared by states and submitted to EPA for approval, implementation plans identify state actions and programs to implement designated responsibilities under the Clean Air Act (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).</p>
Statewide Tier	<p>State's transportation system consists of all transportation modes and the facilities that link them together. A "multimodal" statewide transportation plan identifies and evaluates a full spectrum of future transportation needs and potential solutions by mode and by function. The overriding purpose of this Statewide Transportation Plan is to establish a long-range blueprint for transportation investment in North Carolina. The Statewide Transportation Plan also provides a balanced picture of the State's transportation challenges and opportunities based on anticipated resources, projected passenger and freight movement needs, and estimated improvement costs. The end result is a preferred North Carolina transportation investment strategy for the next 25 years (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).</p>
Stormwater Management	<p>Highest order facilities in the NCMIN, emphasizing mobility and long distance travel (interstate/most US highways, passenger rail) [source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary].</p>
Strategic Highway Corridors	<p>Physical design features such as ponds or drainage swales which are incorporated into a highway project as measures to retain or direct stormwater run-off in a manner that controls discharge volumes and/or water quality, replicating the pre-construction drainage conditions (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).</p>
Sub-process	<p>An initiative to protect the mobility function of critical highway corridors. The concept provides an opportunity for NCDOT and its stakeholders to consider long-term vision, consistency in decision-making, land use partnerships, overarching design, and operational changes on key routes across the state. (source: NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch).</p>
Sub-consultant	<p>A subset or subdivision of a larger process; a component process (source: AMEC).</p>
	<p>An individual or firm providing Professional Services to the Consultant.</p>

Sub-regional Tier	NCMIN facilities with the lowest volumes, primarily providing access to property (secondary roads, short line rail, fixed route transit, human service transit) [source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary].
Sub-Task	A division of a larger task (source: AMEC).
Superfund	The common name used for the trust fund or process established under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to clean up hazardous waste sites across the country. Also used in the context of a cleanup site that has been placed on the National Priorities List as a “Superfund site” (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Systems Planning Process	A 25-30 year plan designed for a region, city or state that encompasses all modes of transportation (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
T	
Task	Work assigned to or demanded of a person; a component of a “process” comprised of specific steps necessary to accomplish a project (source: AMEC).
Task Order	An individual assignment or service to be performed by contractor under a Limited Service Contract.
TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century)	Congressional act authorizing Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the six-year period from 1998-2003 (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).
Technical Coordinating Committee	Technical Committee of the RPO that consists of local technical staff. It is responsible for reviewing administrative and technical work of the RPO and making recommendations to the TAC.
Thoroughfare	A facility with a functional purpose of moderate to low mobility and high access. The facility has no control of access, traffic signals, driveways with full movements and a minimum of two (2) travel lanes without a median (source: NCDOT PDEA web site, Glossary of Terms).
Traffic Analysis Zone	A geographic subset of the study area which is used to compile data (such as population or employment) for transportation studies (source: CDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Traffic Calming Measure	Includes speed bumps, traffic islands, roundabouts, etc. Their purpose is to make slow motorized traffic, primarily on residential streets (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Traffic Control Measure	A strategy to reduce driving or smooth traffic flows. Examples include HOV lanes, new or increased transit service, or a program to promote carpools (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Traffic Forecast	Comprised of three elements: the Cover Letter, the Diagrams and the Documentation.
Traffic Forecast Diagram	A traffic schematic that presents roads as a simplified network of lines and includes AADT (annual Average Daily Traffic) and other traffic factors. See the Traffic Forecast-Figures procedures for more information.
Traffic Forecast Location Map	A map that accurately displays the traffic forecast area, including all relevant roadways, all appropriate political boundaries, significant water bodies, including rivers and streams for bridge replacement projects, and includes other information that may have an impact on the traffic forecast, such as the location of major new developments.
Transportation Advisory Committee	Advisory Committee of the RPO that consists of elected and appointed local, state and/or federal officials that is the policy and decision making body of the RPO.
Transportation Demand Measure	Low-cost ways to reduce demand by automobiles on the system, such as programs to promote telecommuting, flextime, and ridesharing (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Transportation Improvement Program	The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is the document showing the transportation projects expected to occur over the next seven years. MPOs adopt an MTIP (Metropolitan TIP) or LTIP (Local TIP) which only covers that area within the MPO. The STIP and MTIP / LTIP must match exactly for federal funding to move forward (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).
Transportation Management Association	When referring to a group set to promote alternate transportation management solutions in an urban area. When referring to an urban area over 200,000 as defined by the decennial census and designated by the Federal Highway Administration (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Transportation System Management

Actions that control or improve the movement of cars and trucks on the highway system and buses on the transit system. It includes the coordination of the available systems for more efficient operations (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Travel Demand Management

A system of actions whose purpose is to alleviate traffic problems through improved management of vehicle trip demand. These actions, which are primarily directed at commuter travel, are structured to either reduce the dependence on and use of single-occupant vehicles, or to alter the timing of travel to other, less congested time periods. Simply stated, the purpose of travel demand management is to maximize the movement of "people," not vehicles, within the transportation system (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Typical Sections

A section of a road that shows exactly what the road should look like after it is constructed. It includes the type and thickness of the base and surface materials, the crown, superelevation, ditch slope, cut slope, fill slope, and all horizontal widths of components, such as surface, shoulders, and ditches.

U

Unit

An organizational structure within NCDOT (source: NCDOT website).

Unit home page

A document on the web with information about a unit and links to documents about that unit (source: NCDOT website).

Urbanized Area

Areas designated by the US Bureau of Census, which contains an urban area of 50,000 or more population plus surrounding areas meeting set size or density criteria. MPOs are required/designated for such areas (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Urban Run-off

Storm water from city streets and adjacent domestic or commercial properties that contains litter, and organic and bacterial wastes (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

Urban Sprawl

Expansion of an urban area to accommodate its growing population (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).

V

Vehicle Miles of Travel

A measurement of the total miles traveled by all vehicles in the

area for a specified time period; often used to compare performance of transportation systems (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Visualization

The process of converting data into a geometric or graphic representation.

W

Water Quality ICI

Water quality analysis done as part of the project development process to assess the secondary and cumulative impacts of transportation improvement initiatives (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Web

A worldwide collection of information, transmitted through the http protocol (source: NCDOT website).

Web site

A server publishing information in web format (source: NCDOT web site).

Wetland Delineation

A survey conducted by a qualified person to determine the extent of wetland and the types of wetland that would be impacted by a project. To be a jurisdictional wetland, a wetland must exhibit hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Wetland delineations are conducted in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual (source: NCDOT PDEA web site, Glossary of Terms).

Work Center

A group of workers who define who performs what work. Work centers will be assigned to activities and to activity elements to indicate which work group will perform the work. The work center contains information about the supply of resources (people) in the work group. Resource conflicts will be forecasted by comparing the supply (resources) and demand (planned work effort) information. Additionally, work centers are assigned to cost centers to collect costs as work is performed (source: PMii Course Catalog).

Z

Zone

In our context, another name for Transportation Analysis Zone (source: NCDOT-SWP Training & Development Acronyms/Terms; May 24, 2005).

Zoning

Process in physical planning, or the results thereof, in which specific functions or uses are assigned to certain areas. For example: industrial zones, residential areas (source: Interagency Leadership Team – Goal #1 Glossary).