

GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS AND ACRONYMS

- **Arterial:** One of the most significant surface streets in the transportation system, a main backbone route. Detailed definition provided in Chapter 3
- **Bypass:** A street or roadway constructed for the purpose to provide alternative routes of traffic flow, typically to avoid sending more future traffic through already congested areas.
- **Capacity:** The maximum number of vehicles per hour that can pass through an intersection, assuming local drivers and normal driving conditions.
- **CIP:** Capital Improvement Program, a program that defines the planned street system improvements.
- **Collector:** One of the significant roadways in the transportation system connecting local streets to the Arterial roadways. Detailed definition provided in Chapter 3
- **Congestion:** When drivers are constrained in traffic to move at speeds slower than they desire to travel, or when delays at intersections are higher than expected. Usually measured in terms of overall average for an intersection, but can also be measured for a specific approach.
- **Corridor:** A significant street segment, usually an arterial roadway, that spans several intersections.
- **Deficiency:** A traffic condition that is worse than LOS D conditions (LOS E or LOS F), which must be mitigated according to City General Plan policy.
- **Freeway:** Regional high-speed facilities with no surface street traffic control. Grade separated from Surface Street system. Detailed definition provided in Chapter 3
- **LOS or Level of Service:** A scaled rank from A to F to describe the traffic conditions at an intersection or street segment, with A being the best rank, and F being the worst, in terms of congestion and delay to motorists.
- **Mitigation:** An improvement to traffic conditions, whether it be a physical change, restriping of intersection geometry, widening of road, addition of a signal or signage, etc., reductions to traffic volume, or even changes to transportation demand via TDM program, etc.



- NCTC: Nevada County Transportation Commission, a regional transportation government agency.
- Roundabout: An intersection that has “Yield on entry” traffic control, is generally circular or oval in shape, and which channels traffic through the intersection in circular curving lanes in a counter-clockwise direction.
- SDA: Special Development Area, a vacant land area identified in the City’s General Plan as part of the “sphere of influence” and a potential annexation area.
- SSMP: acronym for Street System Master Plan, the name of this document.
- TDM: Transportation Demand Management, or the programmed shifting of traffic impact from various traffic generators, to different times of day so as to avoid the peak hour time period. An example of this includes employers providing different work shifts, schools providing different arrival times for different grades, etc.
- TPA: Traffic Planning Area, one of three geographical divisions in the City divided by the freeway systems.
- Traffic Calming: A technique of traffic management to discourage “through traffic” use of certain residential streets, slow down traffic speeds, or to block through traffic, etc. Typically done through use of speed bumps, narrow roads, closures of intersections, etc.

