

Transportation Funding Terms and Acronyms... Unraveling the Jargon

Every profession has its own acronyms and jargon. The “shorthand” wording makes it easier and quicker for professionals in any given field to communicate with each other. However, that same shorthand leaves everyone else searching for an interpreter.

The following pages contain definitions of terms and acronyms related to transportation funding commonly found in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The list below provides definitions of some common terms and concepts included in the TIP. On the following pages, you will find an alphabetical list of funding terms as shown in the “Funding Source” section of each project description in the TIP. Definitions of additional transportation and planning terms can be found in the COMPASS glossary at www.compassidaho.org/comm/glossary.htm.

General Acronyms and Terms Used in the TIP

ACHD	Ada County Highway District; the agency responsible for all non-state roadways in Ada County.
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act; civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities
Boise Area/ Boise Urbanized Area	Generally, northern Ada County, including the cities of Boise, Eagle, Garden City, Meridian, and Star. For FHWA funding: Generally, eligible for Transportation Management Area (TMA) funds. For FTA funding: Eligible for “large urban” (LU) funds.
BSU	Boise State University
CFI	Continuous flow intersection; a type of intersection where vehicles attempting to turn cross the opposing direction of traffic before they enter the intersection
COMPASS	Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho
HD	Highway district
Federal funding	Transportation funding collected by the federal government, then distributed to the states for use on both state and local transportation projects. The main purpose of the TIP is to budget federal funding.
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	An agency within the US Department of Transportation (DOT) that provides financial and technical assistance to state and local governments for the construction, maintenance, and preservation of the nation’s highways, bridges, and tunnels.
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	An agency within the US Department of Transportation (DOT) that provides financial and technical assistance to local public transportation systems.
FY	Fiscal year (refers to the federal fiscal year, which runs October 1 – September 30)
GARVEE	Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (bonds)
I-84	Interstate 84
Idaho Transportation Department (ITD)	The state agency responsible for state and national highways in Idaho, such as Interstate 84, US 20/26, and State Highway 55. ITD receives state and federal funding for transportation projects, primarily from state and federal fuel taxes and state registration fees.
ITS	Intelligent transportation systems; advanced technologies to improve the efficiency and safety of transportation systems
Key number	A unique identification number assigned to each project in the TIP
Local funding	Funding collected by local agencies, such as Ada County Highway District, for use on local projects.
Local match	The portion of a primarily federally funded project paid for with state or local funds. While match is required for most federally funded projects, the minimum required amount varies based on the type of funding.
MPO	Metropolitan planning organization (COMPASS is the MPO for Ada and Canyon Counties)

General Acronyms and Terms Used in the TIP, Cont.

Nampa Area / Nampa Urbanized Area	Generally, eastern Canyon County, including the cities of Nampa, Caldwell, and Middleton. For FHWA funding: Eligible for “urban” funds. For FTA funding: Eligible for “small urban” (SU) funds.
ORN	OTIS reference number (temporary key number)
OTIS	Office of Transportation Investment Systems (Department at ITD)
Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	A five-year budget of projects in Ada and Canyon Counties paid for with federal transportation dollars and/or that are “regionally significant.”
Rural	For FHWA funding: An area with less than 5,000 in population For FTA funding: An area with less than 50,000 in population
SH	State highway (e.g., SH-16)
SR2S	Safe Routes to School; a program to improve the health of children by enabling and encouraging them to walk and bike to school
State funding	Transportation funding collected by the State of Idaho for use by ITD and local roadway agencies
Transportation Management Area (TMA)	Any urbanized area over 200,000 in population. The Boise Urbanized Area (generally, northern Ada County) is the only TMA in Idaho. TMAs receive dedicated transportation funding not shared with the rest of the state. See specific policy regarding TMA funds at www.compassidaho.org/documents/prodserv/trans/TMApolicy.pdf .
TVT	Treasure Valley Transit, a private, non-profit public transportation company operating in rural southwest Idaho
Urban	For FHWA funding: An area with more than 5,000 in population. For FTA funding: An area with more than 50,000 in population.
US-	When used with a number, refers to a US highway (e.g., US-20)
VRT	Valley Regional Transit; the regional public transportation authority for Ada and Canyon Counties



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Funding Sources and Uses

The information below reflects typical use of funds and is provided to help the reader understand terms used in the TIP. It is NOT intended to set policy regarding the use of federal or state funds. Federal and state regulations provide additional details that further describe how funds can and cannot be used, and by whom. Contact COMPASS at 208/475-2238 with specific questions on any funding source or type of project.

Funding type*	What it's used for	Example	Whose can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
Bridge (Local)	Replacing or rehabilitating local (non ITD) bridges.	Fixing a current bridge or replacing an old bridge with a new one.	Local highway districts or cities
Bridge Preservation	Rehabilitating or repairing bridges.	Repairing the road surface of a bridge.	ITD
Bridge Restoration	Replacing an old bridge with a new one.	Replacing an old bridge with a new one.	ITD
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Enhance quality of living in communities. (Managed by the US Department of Housing and Development)	Downtown revitalization.	Cities
Early Development	Preparing for future projects.	Starting design of a large project.	ITD
Federal Rail	Projects that enhance transportation safety at railroad crossings using federal funds.	Rebuild railroad crossing and add crossing arms.	Any
FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program)	Projects that enhance access to federal lands. Program managed by the Western Federal Lands division of the US Department of Transportation.	Improvements to Bogus Basin Road.	Any
Freight	Projects that enhance the movement of freight on interstates and the National Highway System.	Improvements to a port of entry.	ITD
FTA 5303	FTA funding for metropolitan planning.	Funding for COMPASS to conduct regional transportation planning.	COMPASS
FTA 5307 LU	Planning, developing, improving, and operating public transportation services in large urban areas with a population over 200,000.	Purchasing new buses, paying operating costs, such as fuel and drivers' salaries.	Public transportation providers in the Boise Urbanized Area (generally, northern Ada County)
FTA 5307 SU	Planning, developing, improving, and operating public transportation services in small urban areas with a population between 50,000 and 200,000.	Purchasing new buses, pay operating costs, such as fuel and drivers' salaries.	Public transportation providers in the Nampa Urbanized Area (generally, eastern Canyon County)
FTA 5310 LU	Public transportation services and equipment that directly benefit the elderly and people with disabilities in large urban areas with a population over 200,000.	Purchasing buses or vans for senior centers.	Public transportation providers in the Boise Urbanized Area (generally, northern Ada County)
FTA 5310 R	Public transportation services and equipment that directly benefit the elderly and people with disabilities in rural areas with a population less than 50,000.	Purchasing buses or vans for senior centers.	Public transportation providers outside of the Boise and Nampa Urbanized Areas

Funding type*	What it's used for	Example	Whose can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
FTA 5310 SU	Public transportation services and equipment that directly benefit the elderly and people with disabilities in small urban areas with a population between 50,000 and 200,000.	Purchasing buses or vans for senior centers.	Public transportation providers in the Nampa Urbanized Area (generally, eastern Canyon County)
FTA 5311	Planning, developing, improving, and operating public transportation services in areas with a population less than 50,000.	Purchasing new buses or paying operating costs, such as fuel and drivers' salaries.	Public transportation providers outside of the Boise and Nampa Urbanized Areas
FTA 5339 LU	Capital funding to replace or rehabilitate buses or bus facilities, purchase buses and related equipment, and to construct bus-related facilities in large urban areas with a population over 200,000.	Purchasing buses or building bus shelters.	Public transportation providers in the Boise Urbanized Area (generally, northern Ada County)
FTA 5339 R	Capital funding to replace or rehabilitate buses or bus facilities, purchase buses and related equipment, and to construct bus-related facilities in areas with a population less than 50,000.	Purchasing buses or building bus shelters.	Public transportation providers outside of the Boise and Nampa Urbanized Areas
FTA 5339 SU	Capital funding to replace or rehabilitate buses or bus facilities, purchase buses and related equipment, and to construct bus-related facilities in small urban areas with a population between 50,000 and 200,000.	Purchasing buses or building bus shelters.	Public transportation providers in the Nampa Urbanized Area (generally, eastern Canyon County)
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	A project that improves safety on state managed roadways.	Adding rumblestrips along the side of a road.	ITD
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (Local)	A project that improves safety on locally managed roadways.	Adding safety lighting along a corridor.	Local highway districts or cities
Local Participating	A project that is primarily federally funded, but the sponsoring agency (and/or others) pay more than the minimum required match. Thus, the local agencies are "participating" in the funding.	Any project where the sponsoring agency (and/or others) chooses to pay more than the minimum to help make the project more competitive when projects are selected for funding.	Any
Non-Participating (Local)	A locally-funded project that could eventually be funded with federal funds.	Overlay on a local road.	Local highway districts or cities
Local (Regionally Significant)	Locally funded projects (no state or federal funds) that are included in the TIP because they meet the definition of "regionally significant" from an air quality standpoint.	Adding an additional traffic lane between two intersections on a major roadway, using local (not state or federal) funds.	Local highway districts or cities



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Funding type*	What it's used for	Example	Whose can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
Metropolitan Planning	FHWA funding for metropolitan planning.	Funding COMPASS to conduct regional transportation planning.	COMPASS
Pavement Preservation	Preventive maintenance on roadways.	Chip sealing.	ITD
Restoration	Replacing roads that are no longer repairable.	Rebuilding a road.	ITD
Sales Tax Anticipated Revenue (STAR)	Refunding money to a developer who pays for transportation improvements up front. Refunds come from anticipated sales tax generated by the new development.	Improvements funded by a developer, such as widening a road to accommodate increased traffic at a new shopping mall.	Private Developers
Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STP – R)	Mainly roadway projects in small towns and rural areas with populations under 5,000. However, this funding has flexibility to fund a broad range of projects, including studies, maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes, and more.	Nearly any type of road construction project, including projects such as road widening or chip sealing.	Jurisdictions in areas with populations under 5,000.
Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP – U)	Mainly roadway projects in urbanized areas with populations between 5,000 and 200,000. However, this funding has flexibility to fund a broad range of projects, including studies, maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes, and more.	Nearly any type of road construction project, including projects such as road widening or chip sealing.	Jurisdictions in the Nampa Urbanized Area.
Surface Transportation Program – Transportation Management Area (STP – TMA)	Mainly roadway projects in urbanized areas of 200,000 or greater population. However, this funding has flexibility to fund a broad range of projects, including studies, maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes, and more.	Nearly any type of road construction project, including projects such as road widening or chip sealing.	Generally jurisdictions in the Boise Urbanized Area
State Rail	Projects that enhance transportation safety at railroad crossings using state funds.	Rebuild railroad crossing and add crossing arms.	ITD
Strategic Initiatives	Funding set aside to address safety, mobility, and economic issues. Funding is available on a competitive basis statewide.	District funding is usually used for safety projects, such as turn lanes and traffic signals. Statewide competitive funds are mainly used for large projects with safety issues or economic development opportunities, such as building a new overpass, that are too expensive to be funded with other sources.	ITD
Systems Planning	Project to study a corridor for possible future improvements.	Corridor study on a major highway.	ITD
System Support	Projects that support the integrity of the state-owned transportation system.	Building ramps along a state-owned roadway at Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards.	Any local transportation agency, city, or county



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Funding type*	What it's used for	Example	Whose can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
Traffic Operations	Improvements to existing roads to improvement flow or enhance safety	Painting stripes down the side of a road.	ITD
Transportation Alternatives Program State (TAP – State)	Projects that support “alternative” (non-auto) transportation options.	Building a walking or biking path.	Any local transportation agency, city, or county (including jurisdictions in the Boise Urbanized Area)
Transportation Alternatives Program – Transportation Management Area (TAP – TMA)	Projects that support “alternative” (non-auto) transportation options in urbanized areas of 200,000 or greater population. Note that while these funds are set aside for use in the TMA, entities in the TMA may also apply for non-TMA TAP funds.	Building a walking or biking path.	Generally, jurisdictions in the Boise Urbanized Area

**Funding Type*: In most cases, ITD combines state and federal funds into “pots” of funding based on types of projects. This table includes these funding “pots,” such as a bridge preservation fund, as well as specific federal funding sources (e.g., “Surface Transportation Program – Urban”).

***Who can use this funding?*: Many types of funding are designated for specific uses, by specific types of agencies, for specific types of areas (e.g., rural vs urban). The information in this column shows the types of agencies within Ada and Canyon Counties who may apply for particular types of funding for particular types of projects. With the exception of TMA funds, all other funding sources can be used by other appropriate agencies throughout Idaho as well, based on funding definitions.

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