



## 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.

This document provides definitions of terms and acronyms related to transportation funding commonly found in the regional transportation improvement program (TIP). The first two pages include definitions of common terms and concepts included in the TIP. The subsequent pages contain an alphabetical list of funding terms as shown in the “Funding Source” section of each project description in the TIP.

### General Acronyms and Terms Used in the TIP

ACHD	Ada County Highway District; the agency responsible for all non-state roadways in Ada County.
ACCHD	Association of Canyon County Highway Districts.
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act; civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities.
Boise Area / Boise Urban Area	Generally, northern Ada County, including the cities of Boise, Eagle, Garden City, and Meridian. For FHWA funding: Generally, eligible for Transportation Management Area (TMA) funds. For FTA funding: Eligible for “large urban” (LU) funds.
CIM	<i>Communities in Motion</i> (the regional long-range transportation plan).
COMPASS	Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement.
EV	Electric vehicle.
Federal-aid roadway	A road that is functionally classified as a collector or higher, making it eligible for federal funding.
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 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 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).
HD	Highway district.
Hwy (Highway)	Used with a funding program (e.g., State Hwy – System Support).
I	Interstate.
I-84	Interstate 84.
IMR	Interchange Modification Report.
IN	Part of an ACHD key number. Local key numbers are used when a project is regionally significant, but 100% locally funded.
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.



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## General Acronyms and Terms Used in the TIP, Continued

Key number (KN)	A unique identification number assigned to each project in the TIP.
Large Urban (LU)	For FHWA funding: An area between 49,999 and 200,000 in population. For FTA funding: An area over 200,000 in population. The Nampa Urban Area (made up of the Cities of Nampa and Caldwell and parts of the unincorporated Canyon County) is an example.
Local funding	Funding collected by local agencies, such as Ada County Highway District, for use on local projects.
Local match	The portion of a 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).
Nampa Area / Nampa Urban Area	Generally, eastern Canyon County, including the cities of Nampa and Caldwell. For FHWA funding: Eligible for "large urban" (LU) funds. For FTA funding: Eligible for "small urban" (SU) funds.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	A law that requires the assessment of the environmental effects of proposed actions before making decisions on federally funded projects. A "NEPA study" refers to the documentation required for compliance with NEPA.
NHS	National Highway System
ORN	OTIS reference number (temporary key number).
OTIS	Office of Transportation Investment Systems (Department at ITD). (Renamed since this term was developed).
PD	Preliminary Development: the design phase of the project may begin, but construction is not yet programmed (budgeted) for a specific year.
PEL	Planning and Environmental Linkages (preliminary work for National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] requirements).
PHB	Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (pedestrian crossing signals on a roadway).
PM	Performance Measure. Refers to either of two sets of performance measures reported in the TIP: one to meet the vision or goals of the regional long-range transportation plan ( <i>Communities in Motion</i> ) and one to meet federal requirements.
RC	Part of an ACHD key number. Local key numbers are used when a project is regionally significant, but 100% locally funded.
RD	Part of an ACHD key number. Local key numbers are used when a project is regionally significant, but 100% locally funded.
Rural (R)	For FHWA funding: An area with less than 5,000 in population. For FTA funding: An area with less than 50,000 in population.
RRFB	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (pedestrian crossing signals on a roadway).
Road Weather Information System (RWIS)	A weather station to provide real-time data along roadways.
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 safely.
Small Urban (SU)	For FHWA funding: An area between 5,000 and 50,000 in population. For FTA funding: An area between 50,000 and 200,000 in population.
State funding	Transportation funding collected by the State of Idaho for use by the Idaho Transportation Department.
TDM	Transportation Demand Management: a wide range of tactics meant to reduce the level of demand on the transportation system by providing alternative options of how and when people travel to reduce the number of trips and vehicles during congested hours of travel.
TIP	Regional transportation improvement program. A seven-year budget of projects in Ada and Canyon Counties paid for with federal or state transportation dollars and/or that are "regionally significant," no matter the funding source.

## General Acronyms and Terms Used in the TIP, Continued

Transportation Management Area (TMA)	An urban area over 200,000 in population. The Boise Urban 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 <a href="https://compassidaho.org/wp-content/uploads/TAP-TMApolicy190225.pdf">https://compassidaho.org/wp-content/uploads/TAP-TMApolicy190225.pdf</a> (FHWA term. FTA refers to TMA areas as Large Urban.)
TSMO	Transportation System Management and Operations.
TVT	Treasure Valley Transit; a private, non-profit public transportation company operating in rural southwest Idaho.
TWTL	Two-Way-Left-Turn-Lane.
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.

## Funding Sources and Uses

The information below reflects the *typical* use of funds and is provided to help the reader understand the 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 source*	What it's used for	Example	Who can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
Advanced Construction (Local)	For projects that qualify for FHWA funding, a process that allows local funds to be used early in a project but qualifies the funds to be replaced with federal aid in the future.	When there is not enough federal aid in a given year, local funds must be added to cover costs.	Local highway districts or cities
Advanced Construction (State)	For projects that qualify for FHWA funding, a process that allows state funds to be used early in a project but qualifies the funds to be replaced with federal aid in the future.	When there is not enough federal aid in a given year, state funds must be added to cover costs.	ITD
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 (State)	Replacing or rehabilitating state bridges.	Fixing a current bridge or replacing an old bridge with a new one.	ITD
Carbon Reduction Program – Large Urban (CRP-LU)	Projects in the Nampa Urban Area designed to reduce carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emissions from on-road highway sources.	Traffic monitoring, management, or control facility or program; public transportation; sidewalks or pathways; etc.	Generally, jurisdictions in the Nampa Urban Area

Funding source*	What it's used for	Example	Who can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
Carbon Reduction Program – Transportation Management Area (CRP-TMA)	Projects in areas with populations over 200,000 designed to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from on-road highway sources.	Traffic monitoring, management, or control facility or program; public transportation; sidewalks or pathways; etc.	Generally, jurisdictions in the Boise Urban Area
Discretionary	Projects funded through a competitive grant process at the national level. These funds are available through a variety of federal programs with a wide variety of eligibility.	Large planning or construction projects that typically cannot be funded through regular funding sources.	Any public agency
Early Development	State projects that are in line for state funding. These funds will be replaced once the actual funding source is identified for the specific project.	Projects funded with state funding.	ITD
Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)	Projects that enhance access to federal lands. Program managed by the Western Federal Lands division of the US Department of Transportation.	Improvements to roads that access public lands such as Bogus Basin Road.	Any public agency
Federal Rail Crossing (Fed RRX)	Projects that enhance transportation safety at railroad crossings using federal funds.	Rebuild a railroad crossing or add crossing arms.	Any public agency
FTA 5303	Metropolitan planning.	Developing a long-range transportation plan.	COMPASS
FTA 5307 LU	Planning, developing, improving, and operating public transportation services in large urban areas with populations over 200,000.	Purchasing new buses or paying operating costs, such as fuel and drivers' salaries.	Public transportation providers in the Boise Urban Area
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 or paying operating costs, such as fuel and drivers' salaries.	Public transportation providers in the Nampa Urban Area
FTA 5310 LU	Public transportation services and equipment that directly benefit the elderly and people with disabilities in areas with populations over 200,000.	Purchasing buses or vans for senior centers.	Public transportation providers in the Boise Urban Area
FTA 5310 R	Public transportation services and equipment that directly benefit the elderly and people with disabilities in areas with a population of less than 50,000.	Purchasing buses or vans for senior centers.	Public transportation providers outside of the Boise and Nampa Urban Areas
FTA 5310 SU	Public transportation services and equipment that directly benefit the elderly and people with disabilities in areas with a population between 50,000 and 200,000.	Purchasing buses or vans for senior centers.	Public transportation providers in the Nampa Urban Area

Funding source*	What it's used for	Example	Who can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
FTA 5311	Planning, developing, improving, and operating public transportation services in areas with populations under 50,000.	Purchasing new buses, or paying operating costs, such as fuel and drivers' salaries.	Rural public transportation providers
FTA 5339 C	Capital improvements for public transportation projects.	Purchasing buses or building bus shelters.	Public transportation providers
FTA 5339 LU	Replacing or rehabilitating buses or bus facilities, purchasing buses and related equipment, or constructing bus-related facilities in areas with a population of over 200,000.	Purchasing buses or building bus shelters.	Public transportation providers in the Boise Urban Area
FTA 5339 R	Replacing or rehabilitating buses or bus facilities, purchasing buses and related equipment, or constructing bus-related facilities in areas with a population between 50,000 and 200,000.	Purchasing buses or building bus shelters.	Public transportation providers in rural areas
FTA 5339 SU	Replacing or rehabilitating buses or bus facilities, purchasing buses and related equipment, or constructing bus-related facilities in areas with a population between 50,000 and 200,000.	Purchasing buses or building bus shelters.	Public transportation providers in the Nampa Urban Area
Freight	Improving freight movement on prioritized freight corridors.	Providing wider turning movements at an intersection.	ITD, local highway districts, or cities (must be on prioritized freight corridor)
Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE)	Capacity projects on a corridor specifically approved by the Idaho Legislature for this funding.	Widening I-84.	ITD
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (Local)	Projects that improve safety on locally managed roadways.	Adding safety lighting along a corridor.	Local highway districts or cities
House Bill 132 and House Bill 312 (HB132 and HB312)	Projects to keep roads and bridges in good condition.	Rehabilitating a road.	ITD (other agencies receive these funds, but they are not reported in the TIP)
Interstate Maintenance (IM)	Projects to resurface, restore, rehabilitate, or reconstruct most routes on the Interstate system.	Replacing an interchange on Interstate 84.	ITD
Leading Idaho	Projects to expand or improve existing transportation systems on state or local highways, depending on the specific program.	Widening I-84 or replacing local bridges.	Any public agency



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Funding source*	What it's used for	Example	Who can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
Local Participating	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. The local agencies are "participating" in the funding.	Any type of project.	Any public agency
Local (Regionally Significant)	Locally funded projects (no state or federal funds) are included in the TIP because they are significant to the region, generally adding capacity to a principal arterial.	Adding an additional traffic lane between two intersections on a major roadway, using local (not state or federal) funds.	Local highway districts or cities
National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)	Construction, restoration, rehabilitation, or preservation projects on roads designated on the National Highway System.	Widening or restoration on I-84.	ITD
National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI)	Projects directly related to electric vehicle charging stations that are open to the public.	Installing public electric vehicle charging stations.	ITD
Metropolitan Planning	Metropolitan planning.	Developing a long-range transportation plan.	COMPASS
Private Developer	Transportation improvements important to private developers.	Widening a roadway to provide better access to a new development.	Any public agency
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)	Funds projects that make the transportation system more resilient to weather-related events, such as flooding or wildfire.	Raising the height of a bridge to reduce the chance of flooding.	ITD
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)	Design or construction projects with significant local or regional impact which are typically more difficult to fund through other federal programs.	Constructing accessible bus stops along State Street.	Any public agency
Sales Tax Anticipated Revenue (STAR)	Improve accessibility to a new retail establishment, paid by a developer, and repaid with future sales tax funds.	Widening a road to accommodate increased traffic at a new shopping mall.	Private developers in partnership with any transportation jurisdiction
State Funds	Projects on state-owned roadways.	Widening a highway.	ITD
State Rail Protection Account	Improve the surface of a railroad crossing and/or add lighting and safety gates.	Installing a railroad crossing arm.	Local highway districts or cities
Surface Transportation Block Grant – Large Urban (STBG – LU)	Mainly roadway and related projects in the Nampa Urban Area	Chip sealing.	Jurisdictions in the Nampa Urban Area



# Working together to plan for the future

Funding source*	What it's used for	Example	Who can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
Surface Transportation Block Grant – Rural (STBG – R)	Mainly roadway and related projects in small towns and rural areas with populations under 5,000 including studies, maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes, transit capital projects, and more.	Road widening.	Jurisdictions in areas with populations under 5,000
Surface Transportation Block Grant – Small Urban (STBG – SU)	Mainly roadway and related projects in areas with populations between 5,000 and 50,000 including studies, maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes, transit capital projects, and more.	Intersection improvements.	ACHD and the Cities of Kuna, Middleton, and Star
Surface Transportation Block Grant – State (STBG – State)	Mainly roadway and related projects anywhere in the state, including studies, maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes, and more.	Conducting a planning study on for a potential road project.	ITD
Surface Transportation Block Grant – Transportation Management Area (STBG – TMA)	Mainly roadway and related projects in urban areas of 200,000 or greater population including studies, maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes, transit capital projects, and more.	Replacing a bridge.	Jurisdictions in the Boise Urban Area
Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation (TECM)	Projects to expand the existing system to relieve congestion on state highways.	Widening a highway.	ITD
Transportation Alternatives Program State (TAP – State)	Projects that support “alternative” (non-motorized) transportation anywhere in the state.	Building a walking or biking path.	Any local transportation agency, city, or county and eligible non-profit organizations
Transportation Alternatives Program – Transportation Management Area (TAP – TMA)	Projects that support “alternative” (non-motorized) transportation options in urban areas of 200,000 or greater population.	Installing pedestrian crossing signals.	Generally, jurisdictions in the Boise Urban Area and eligible non-profit organizations
Transportation Alternatives Program, Large Urban (TAP – LU)	Projects that support “alternative” (non-motorized) transportation options in the Nampa Urban Area.	Upgrading sidewalks to be ADA accessible.	Generally, jurisdictions in the Nampa Urban Area and eligible non-profit organizations
Transportation Alternatives Program, Small Urban (TAP – SU)	Projects that support “alternative” (non-motorized) transportation options in areas with a population between 5,000 and 50,000.	Safe Routes to School programs.	Jurisdictions in the Cities of Kuna, Middleton, and Star and eligible non-profit organizations

\*Funding Source: The source of funds used to fund the project. These can include funds from federal, state, or local sources.

\*\*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 that may apply for particular types of funding for particular types of projects. Except for 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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