

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

Acronym	Definition
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.
APS	Accessible Pedestrian Signal
Boise Area / Boise Urban Area	Generally, northern Ada County, including the cities of Boise, Eagle, Garden City, and Meridian. <u>For FHWA funding:</u> Generally, eligible for Transportation Management Area (TMA) funds. <u>For FTA funding:</u> Eligible for “large urban” (LU) funds.
CIM	<i>Communities in Motion</i> (the regional long-range transportation plan).
CNG	Compressed natural gas.
COMPASS	Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho.
Federal-aid roadway	A road that is functionally classified as a collector or higher, making it eligible for 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).
Functional Classification	The process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes, or systems, according to the types of service they are intended to provide. For example, local streets are intended to serve residential areas, not heavy traffic; while interstates are designed for heavy traffic.
Hwy (Highway)	Refers to state highways; in the TIP, “Hwy” is used to describe certain types or sources of funding. For example, State Hwy – System Support is used for funding projects such as signage or striping.
I-84 / I-184	Interstate 84 and Interstate-184 (“the Connector”).
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: technologies, such as signal timing, that improve the efficiency and safety of transportation systems.
Key number (KN)	A unique identification number assigned to each project in the TIP.



Acronym	Definition
Large Urban (LU)	<u>For FHWA funding:</u> An area between 50,000 and 199,999 in population. The Nampa Urban Area (made up of the Cities of Nampa and Caldwell and parts of unincorporated Canyon County) is an example. <u>For FTA funding:</u> An area with a population of 200,000 or more. The Boise Urban Area (made up of the Cities of Boise, Eagle, Garden City, and Meridian, and parts of unincorporated Ada County) is an example.
Local match	The portion of a project paid for with state or local funds. While a match is required for most federally funded projects, the minimum required amount varies based on the type of funding.
MPO	Metropolitan planning organization: An organization tasked with transportation planning and budgeting federal transportation dollars within a region with an urban population of 50,000 or more. 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. <u>For FHWA funding:</u> Eligible for "large urban" (LU) funds. <u>For FTA funding:</u> 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
NHS-LOTTR	National Highway System – Level of Travel Time Reliability: A federal performance measure regarding the consistency, timeliness, predictability, and dependability of a trip. It is calculated as the ratio of the longer travel times (80th percentile) to a "normal" travel time (50th percentile).
ORN	OTIS Reference Number: Indicates a temporary key number for a new project before a permanent key number is assigned.
OTIS	Office of Transportation Investment System: The name of the database system used by the Idaho Transportation Department to track project funding.
PD	Preliminary Development: Used in place of the year of a project when the specific construction year has not yet been determined.
PEL	Planning and Environmental Linkages (study): Planning and environmental analysis that can be used as preliminary work toward National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] requirements.
PHB	Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon: A type of crosswalk signal directing drivers to stop for pedestrians, typically used at crosswalks that are not located at intersections.
Rural (R)	<u>For FHWA funding:</u> An area with less than 5,000 in population. <u>For FTA funding:</u> An area with less than 50,000 in population.
RRFB	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon: A type of crosswalk signal with flashing yellow lights to alert drivers of pedestrians.
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)	<u>For FHWA funding:</u> An area between 5,000 and 49,999 in population. <u>For FTA funding:</u> An area between 50,000 and 199,999 in population.
TIP	Regional transportation improvement program: A budget of transportation projects paid for with federal or state transportation dollars and/or that are "regionally significant," no matter the funding source. COMPASS' TIP spans seven years and covers Ada and Canyon Counties.
Transportation Management Area (TMA)	An urban area with a population of 200,000 or more. TMAs receive dedicated transportation funding. The Boise Urban Area is the only TMA in Idaho.
TVT	Treasure Valley Transit: A private, non-profit public transportation company operating in rural southwest Idaho.
US	When used with a number, it refers to a US highway (e.g., US 20).
VRT	Valley Regional Transit: The regional public transportation authority for Ada and Canyon Counties.
WYE	A triangular junction of the interstate. In Idaho, the "Wye interchange" is where I-84 and I-184 intersect.

Funding Sources and Uses

The information below reflects the typical use of funds and is provided to help explain 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)	Qualified local funds used early in a project to be replaced with federal funds in the future.	When there is not enough federal funding in a given year, local funds are used to cover costs.	Highway districts and cities
Advanced Construction (State)	Qualified state funds used early in a project to be replaced with federal funds in the future.	When there is not enough federal funding in a given year, state funds are used to cover costs.	ITD
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)	Funds multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional projects often difficult to fund through other funding mechanisms.	Transit systems, roads, bridges, highways, active transportation infrastructure, port and freight facilities, and safety and mobility enhancements.	Any public agency
Bridge (Local)	Replacing or rehabilitating local (non-ITD) bridges.	Fixing a current bridge or replacing an old bridge with a new one.	Highway districts and cities
Carbon Reduction Program – Large Urban (CRP-LU)	Projects in areas with populations between 50,000 and 199,999 designed to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from on-road highway sources.	Sidewalks, public transportation, and projects that reduce truck idling.	Generally, jurisdictions in the Nampa Urban Area
Carbon Reduction Program – Transportation Management Area (CRP-TMA)	Projects in areas with populations of 200,000 or more designed to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from on-road highway sources.	Sidewalks, public transportation, and projects that reduce truck idling.	Generally, jurisdictions in the Boise Urban Area
Competitive	Federal money allocated through the annual appropriations process, unlike mandatory spending, which is set by law and funded automatically.	Competitive grants	Any public agency
Early Development	State projects that are in line for state funding, but the funding source has not yet been determined.	Any ITD project	ITD
Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP)	Projects that enhance access to federal lands, with an emphasis on facilities in the national federal lands transportation inventory.	Build or maintain parking or trails in a national park.	Federal agencies



Funding source*	What it's used for	Example	Who can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
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 of 200,000 or more.	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 populations between 50,000 and 199,999.	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 of 200,000 or more.	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 populations 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 populations between 50,000 and 199,999.	Purchasing buses or vans for senior centers.	Public transportation providers in the Nampa Urban Area
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 (b)	Purchasing or constructing "Low or No Emission" vehicles or supporting facilities.	Purchasing electric buses.	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 populations of 200,000 or more.	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 populations of less than 50,000.	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 populations between 50,000 and 199,999.	Purchasing buses or building bus shelters.	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**
Freight	Improving freight movement on prioritized freight corridors.	Widening turning lanes at an intersection.	ITD, highway districts, or cities (must be on a prioritized freight corridor)
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (Local)	Improving safety on locally managed roadways.	Adding safety lighting along a corridor.	Highway districts or cities
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (State)	Improving safety on state-managed roadways.	Adding safety lighting along a corridor.	ITD
Interstate Maintenance (IM)	Resurfacing, restoring, rehabilitating, or reconstructing highway infrastructure on the Interstate system.	Replacing an interchange on Interstate 84.	ITD
Leading Idaho	Expanding or improving state or local highways.	Widening I-84 or replacing local bridges.	Any public agency
Local Participating	Any project where the sponsoring agency (and/or others) pays more than the minimum required match.	Any type of project.	Any public agency
Local (Regionally Significant)	Projects without any state or federal funds.	Adding lanes between two intersections on a major roadway, using local (not state or federal) funds.	Highway districts or cities
Metropolitan Planning	Metropolitan planning.	Developing a long-range transportation plan.	COMPASS
National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)	Constructing, restoring, rehabilitating, or preserving roads on the National Highway System.	Pavement restoration on I-84.	ITD
Private Developer	Transportation improvements funded by private developers.	Widening a roadway to provide better access to a new development.	Any public agency
Surface Transportation Block Grant – Large Urban (STBG – LU)	Mainly roadway and related projects in the Nampa Urban Area.	Widening a roadway or intersection.	Jurisdictions in the Nampa Urban Area
Surface Transportation Block Grant – Rural (STBG – R)	Mainly roadway and related projects in small towns and rural areas with populations under 5,000.	Pavement restoration on a major local road.	Jurisdictions in areas with populations under 5,000
Surface Transportation Block Grant – State (STBG – State)	Mainly roadways and related projects anywhere in the state.	Conducting a planning study for a potential road project.	ITD

Funding source*	What it's used for	Example	Who can use this funding in Ada/Canyon Counties**
Surface Transportation Block Grant – Transportation Management Area (STBG – TMA)	Mainly roadway and related projects in urban areas with populations of 200,000 or more.	Replacing a bridge.	Jurisdictions in the Boise Urban Area
Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation (TECM)	Expanding the existing system to relieve congestion on state highways.	Widening a highway.	ITD
Transportation Alternatives Program – Transportation Management Area (TAP – TMA)	Non-motorized and active transportation projects in urban areas with populations of 200,000 or more.	Installing pedestrian crossing signals.	Generally, jurisdictions in the Boise Urban Area and eligible non-profit organizations
Transportation Alternatives Program – Large Urban (TAP – LU)	Non-motorized and active transportation projects in urban areas with populations between 50,000 and 199,999.	Installing pedestrian crossing signals.	Generally, jurisdictions in the Nampa Urban Area 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.