

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Above Ground Historic Resource – A building, structure, site, district, or object which is significant in American history, architecture, engineering, and culture.

Agricultural Conservation Easements – US Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) works with eligible partners who purchase Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. The easements can help farmers and ranchers preserve their land for agriculture use. The program also protects grazing land by conserving grassland, rangeland, pastureland and shrubland. Eligible partners include Native American tribes, state and local governments, and nongovernmental organizations, such as Land Trusts that have farmland or grassland protection programs. USDA-NRCS does not work directly with landowners; instead NRCS provides financial assistance to entities that have existing land trust or protection programs. These entities include the Centre County Farmland Trust (private, non-profit), the ClearWater Conservancy (private, nonprofit), and the Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (public) in Centre County.

Agricultural Security Area (ASA) – Special areas created at the municipal level, comprising of at least 250 acres of viable agricultural land, which may include noncontiguous tracts that are at least 10 acres in size, or a farm parcel less than 10 acres that has an anticipated yearly gross income from agricultural production of at least \$2000. An ASA may exist in more than one local government unit for the same parcel. An ASA protects farmland by prohibiting municipalities from enacting laws or ordinances that would unreasonably restrict farm use.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) – The total number of vehicles, including both directions of travel, that use a roadway segment on a typical day. Expressed as vehicles per day (VPD).

Average Daily Truck Traffic (ADTT) – The total number of trucks, including both directions of travel, that use a roadway segment on a typical day. Expressed as vehicles per day (VPD).

B

Bicycle Level of Service (BLOS) – BLOS is measure of an on-road bicyclist's comfort level using a roadway's geometric and operational characteristics such as lane width, vehicle speed, and traffic volume.

Bike Lanes – A section of road marked off with painted lines, for use by cyclists.

C

Chapter 93 – Refers to 25 Pennsylvania Code of Regulations Chapter 93 which sets forth water quality standards for surface waters of the Commonwealth, including wetlands. These standards are based on water uses which are to be considered in order to protect surface water quality.

Cold Water Fishes (CWF) – Streams that support fish species that are indigenous to a cold-water habitat.

Community – A community is comprised of people having common interests, and the places where these people live, work, shop, socialize, conduct business, and recreate. Communities can be identified based on geographical, natural, physical, social, racial, ethnic, religious, economic relationships or characteristics that members have in common with one another.

Community Resource – A broad term used to identify facilities that are used by local communities and include schools, places of worship, emergency services facilities, libraries, parks and recreation facilities, and museums.

Congestion – The level at which transportation system performance is no longer acceptable due to traffic interference. The level of acceptable system performance may vary by type of transportation facility, geographic location (metropolitan area or subarea, rural area) and/or time of day.

Construction Phase – The last phase of PennDOT's Transportation Program Development and Project Delivery Process (encompassing Mitigation Follow-Through), in which a contractor selected by PennDOT constructs the improvement alternative selected in the Design Phase.

Cultural Resource - A broad term that is used to cover architectural, cultural, and archaeological resources. Cultural resources include bridges, buildings, archeological sites, cemeteries, sacred or religious landmarks, agricultural sites and landscapes, and historical objects such as sculptures and roadside markers.

D

Design Year – The future year specified and used by planners and engineers to assess the conditions (population, number of vehicles, etc.) which are to be the basis for the design of a proposed improvement. The design year of a transportation facility is typically 20 years after the facility has been opened for use. For this study, the design year is 2050.

E

Easement – A right, given to specific people or entities (easement holder), to cross or otherwise use someone else's land for a specified purpose.

F

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – An agency within the United States Department of Transportation that supports State and local governments in the design, construction, and maintenance of the Nation's highway system and various federally and tribal owned lands and roadways.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - An agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security that supports citizens and emergency personnel to build, sustain, and improve the nation's capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate hazards.

Final Engineering Design – The third of the five phases of Transportation Project Development Process. It includes the development of detailed plans, specifications, and estimates for approved transportation projects. This phase includes right-of-way property acquisition, utility relocation, and construction contract advertisement and award.

Floodplain – The area directly adjacent to and outside of the watercourse channel that conveys and attenuates flow associated with high-water flooding events (such as 1-, 10-, 100-, and 500-year storm events).

G

Geographic Information System (GIS) – A computer-based system that links the geographic location of map features to text information or databases.

H

Historic District - a concentration or group of sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are linked through shared history or aesthetics.

Highway Safety Manual (HSM) – The Highway Safety Manual, developed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), is the guidance document for incorporating quantitative safety analysis into the highway transportation project planning and development processes.

Horizontal Roadway Deficiency – Roadway features (including lane or shoulder width, cross slope, and curve radii) which do not meet current State and national design standards for the posted speed limit and classification of the highway.

I

Implementation Plan – A plan that identifies the priority of individual tasks, actions, or projects that can be advanced as a result of the PEL Study Results when funding is available.

Initial Study Area – A geographic area, selected and defined at the outset of the planning study, to evaluate any relevant factors that may influence the study needs; including the identification of logical project termini, range of alternatives, environmental impacts, potential mitigation, and associated project costs.

J

None identified to date

K

None identified to date

L

Level of Service (LOS) – A performance rating system for motorized vehicles that represents quality of service on an A to F scale. With “A” representing the best (free-flow) condition while “F” is the worst-possible (congested) condition.

M

Mitigation Measures – Measures taken to eliminate or reduce the negative impacts of a project. Specific to transportation projects, these commitments are made during the environmental evaluation and study process and serve to moderate or lessen impacts deriving from the proposed action. These measures may include planning and development commitments, environmental measures, right-of-way improvements, and agreements with resource or other agencies to effect construction or post construction action.

N

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) – The federal law that was created to ensure federal agencies consider the environmental impacts of their actions and decisions and requires the preparation of specific environmental documents for any undertakings that use Federal funds. To comply with NEPA, PennDOT has developed a process to address all potential environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of a proposed highway project before design decisions are reached. Public involvement is an integral component of the NEPA process.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) – The official national list of historic buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. It was established as part of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and is overseen by the National Park Service.

Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) – Sites that have been identified as areas that support rare plants or animals, exemplary ecological communities, and Pennsylvania’s native species biodiversity. PA Natural Heritage Program inventories and reports the critical biological resources found within each NHA and throughout each county in Pennsylvania.

Natural Resources – Land, fish, wildlife, air, water, and other natural assets belonging to, maintained by, or otherwise regulated by federal, state, or local governments.

O

Origin and Destination Study – A study used to determine travel patterns of traffic on a roadway network during a typical day providing valuable insight for assisting long-range traffic planning especially when there may be substantial changes anticipated within a region.

P

Peak Hour - A part of the day during which traffic congestion on roads and crowding on public transit is at its highest. Typically for one hour during the morning and one hour during the evening time periods.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) – PennDOT oversees transportation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For this study, PennDOT will act as the lead state agencies.

Planning and Environmental Linkage Study (PEL) – A PEL is a high-level, early-planning study process that represents an approach to transportation decision making that considers environmental, community and economic goals early in the planning stage (Pre-NEPA). Decisions made during the PEL study will be advanced through project development, including the NEPA, design and construction phases.

Potential for Safety Improvement (PSI) – Is a measure that is derived from the HSM analysis which predicts segments of roadway or intersections that may have a safety benefit if engineering adjustments are implemented.

Potters Mills Gap Project – A transportation improvement project located along Route 322 from the Centre County/Mifflin County line to west of the Route 322/Route 144 intersection at Potters Mills. The project is being advanced to improve safety, reduce congestion, and alleviate access concerns along the section of Route 322. The last section is currently under construction and is scheduled to be physically complete and fully open to traffic by the end of 2020.

Preliminary Engineering Phase – Preliminary engineering includes focused studies about traffic, safety, the environment, and the development of project alternatives. The information collected helps FHWA and PennDOT make decisions about the specific improvements that are needed to improve the transportation network. Assessments are also conducted to determine the benefits and impacts the alternatives would have on natural, cultural, and socio-economic environments. Public and agency involvement is conducted through this phase. The preliminary engineering/environmental studies phase ends with the selection of an alternative to advance into final design. Approval from FHWA must be received at the end of the preliminary engineering (PE)/ environmental studies phase prior to advancing into final engineering design.

Productive Agriculture – Any land used for commercial production of crops, livestock, and livestock products, including the processing or retail marketing of such crops, livestock, or livestock products, if more than 50 percent of such processed or merchandised products are produced by the farm operator.

Public Involvement – A process to ensure that citizens have a direct voice in public decisions. In this situation public involvement is focused on ensuring public input through the transportation decision-making process that will accompany this project. Public input can be gathered in many ways including in-person meetings, comment cards or letters, online surveys, websites, mailed newsletters, or email communications.

Public Meeting – An announced open meeting conducted by transportation officials designed to facilitate public participation in the decision-making process and to assist the public in gaining an informed view of a proposed study or project. Such a gathering may also be referred to as a Public Open House Meeting.

R

Range of Alternatives – Different transportation solutions that can be considered in environmental and engineering studies to address the transportation purpose and need within a defined geographic area.

Resource Agencies – Federal, state, and local agencies that have regulatory oversight of features (e.g. wetlands, farmland, zoning, historic structures).

Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition – The purchase of land from a private landowner by the state to build or maintain a public road.

Roadway Classification – The categorical classification of our nation's urban and rural roadways by road function, as determined by the U.S. DOT's FHWA. Each functional class is based on the type of service the road provides to the public. Each class has a range of allowable lane widths, shoulder widths, curve radii, etc. The roadway classification designation is used for data and planning purposes, with design standards also tied to functional class.

S

Study Area – A geographic area, selected and defined at the outset of planning, engineering, or environmental evaluations to address all pertinent project matters and impacts.

Study Need – The study needs are statements that identify and document specific transportation problems or issues within in defined area. The need statements provide the foundation for the study to identify potential alternatives that can be evaluated to address the transportation problems. The needs are typically based on technical information and analyses.

Study Purpose – A broad statement of the overall goals or objectives to be achieved by a proposed transportation improvement.

T

Trout Stream – Waters that have significant portions open to public fishing and are stocked with trout by the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

U

Vertical Grade Deficiency – Vertical grades (steepness) and vertical curves (crests and sags) which do not meet current State and national design standards for the posted speed and classification of the highway.

V

None identified to date

W

Watershed – An area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel.

Wetland – Areas inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency or duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

X

None identified to date

Y

None identified to date

Z

None identified to date