

<b>Acronym or Term</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Advance Construction</b>	A technique which allows NCDOT to finance a project using non-federal funds while preserving eligibility for future Federal-aid funds. Advance Construction has been used to advance STP-DA projects when funds were exhausted at the end of the Fiscal Year.
<b>CE</b>	Categorical Exclusion – a document that examines the environmental impacts of a project to a lesser extent than an EA or EIS.
<b>Conformity Analysis</b>	Demonstration that the area will not exceed allowable motor vehicle emissions budgets when the projects planned in the MTIP and LRTP are implemented.
<b>Conformity Finding</b>	A determination that the LRTP or MTIP is consistent with a valid conformity analysis.
<b>CMAQ</b>	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. A federal highway fund category for projects intended to improve air quality.
<b>CMP</b>	Congestion Management Process (formerly Congestion Management System). A program of strategies for monitoring, evaluating, and addressing traffic congestion. Required for Transportation Management Areas.
<b>CTP</b>	Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Identifies future multimodal transportation needs and proposes conceptual solutions. It is not financially constrained.
<b>DENR</b>	North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
<b>EA</b>	Environmental Assessment – a document that examines the environmental impacts of a project to a lesser extent than an EIS.
<b>EAC</b>	Early Action Compact. Allows areas to defer the impacts of air-quality determinations by agreeing to start reducing air pollution earlier than otherwise required.
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental Impact Statement. Technical review of a project's impacts on the environment. Required by NEPA.
<b>EPA</b>	United States Environmental Protection Agency.
<b>FHWA</b>	Federal Highway Administration (US Department of Transportation).
<b>FTA</b>	Federal Transit Administration (US Department of Transportation).
<b>HTF</b>	North Carolina State Highway Trust Fund.
<b>LRTP</b>	Long Range Transportation Plan. A federally required, fiscally constrained, multimodal transportation plan for at least 20 years into the future.
<b>MAB</b>	Metropolitan Area Boundary. The boundary of the area within the transportation planning jurisdiction of an MPO.
<b>Merger Process</b>	A state process for transportation project development in which multiple agencies meet to approve stages of project development and address permitting issues.
<b>MTIP</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. The official, fiscally constrained funding schedule for transportation projects in the metropolitan area.
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environmental Policy Act. Federal law that requires consideration of environmental impacts for all major expenditures of federal funds.
<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	Oxides of nitrogen. Produced during the combustion process and considered a precursor to PM 2.5.
<b>PDEA</b>	NCDOT's Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch.
<b>PM 2.5</b>	Particulate matter that is 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller. These fine particles are unhealthy to breathe and have been associated with premature mortality and other serious health effects.
<b>PTIA</b>	Piedmont Triad International Airport.
<b>RPO</b>	Rural Planning Organization. RPOs are partnerships among non-MPO counties, established to provide rural areas a greater voice in state transportation decisions affecting those areas.
<b>SAFETEA-LU</b>	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users. Current federal highway funding legislation. (TEA-21 and ISTEA are the acronyms for former legislation.)

<b>Section 4(f)</b>	Federal requirement for consideration of impacts to historic and natural areas for transportation projects.
<b>Section 104(f) PL</b>	Funds distributed through the Federal Highway Administration for transportation planning tasks.
<b>Section 5303</b>	Funds distributed through the Federal Transit Administration for conducting transportation planning activities.
<b>Section 5307</b>	Funds distributed through the Federal Transit Administration for public transportation capital assistance, operating assistance, and planning needs.
<b>SIP</b>	State Implementation Plan. The modeling analyses and the state and federal regulations demonstrating that the air in an area will meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
<b>STIP</b>	State Transportation Improvement Program
<b>STP-DA Funds</b>	Surface Transportation Program – Direct Apportionment funds, which MPOs may direct to priority projects.
<b>TMA</b>	Transportation Management Area: an urbanized area over 200,000 in population. The Greensboro Urban Area was classified as a TMA as a result of the 2000 Census.
<b>TPB</b>	The NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, formerly Statewide Planning Branch.
<b>UA or UZA</b>	Urbanized Area. The census-defined boundary that is the basis for establishing an MPO.
<b>UPWP</b>	Unified Planning Work Program, an accounting document for the use of planning grant funds. It lists approved activities that these funds may reimburse and guides transportation planning activities for the year.