GLOSSARY OF TRANSPORTATION TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

Transportation, like many other fields, has numerous uses of "jargon." These language short-cuts ease communication among professionals in the field, but can be confusing to everyone else. Here is an abridged list of commonly used transportation terms, abbreviations, and acronyms:

Arterial .................. Signalized streets that serve primarily through traffic and provide access to abutting properties as a secondary function.

Auxiliary Lane ....... An additional freeway lane between adjacent interchanges that improves the weaving conflicts between exiting and entering vehicles. The lane begins where an on-ramp enters the freeway and ends at the next off-ramp.

BRT ....................... Bus Rapid Transit:

A "Trolley-like" service with high frequency, enhanced vehicles and stations, and customer amenities.

Carpool .................. An arrangement in which two or more people share the use and cost of privately-owned automobiles in traveling together to and from prearranged destinations, typically between home and work or home and school.

Corridor Level Red Car Service ............ Provides rapid, relatively frequent transit services along the region’s major travel corridors, with average speed of 25 miles per hour. The San Diego Trolley is an existing example of Red Car service.

Freeway ................... Multilane divided roadway, grade separated from other roadways, with full control access and egress.

Heavy Rail ............... Railroad services that operate in a mixed-user environment on conventional railroad tracks. Heavy rail services include freight trains, Amtrak, Commuter Rail, and most conventional rail transit systems. Services operating in the mixed-user environment must meet federal signaling and crash (buffing) strength standards. The Coaster commuter rail system is an existing example of heavy rail.

Highway ................... A general term usually referring to a state or federally-designated urban or rural route, designed to accommodate longer trips in the region.

HOT Lane............... High Occupancy Toll Lane:

HOT lanes are limited access lanes in which carpools, vanpools, and buses travel for free, while other vehicles gain access by paying a fee.

HOV ....................... High Occupancy Vehicle:

A vehicle that carries more than one occupant. Examples include carpools, vanpools, shuttles, and buses.
HOV Lane ............. High Occupancy Vehicle Lane:
ExCLUSIVE road or traffic lane limited to HOVs that typically has a higher operating speed and lower traffic volumes than a general purpose or mixed flow lane. In California, vehicles that typically can use HOV lanes include carpools, vanpools, buses, other multi-passenger vehicles, and motorcycles and emergency vehicles.

Light Rail ............... A passenger transportation system of self-propelled vehicles which operate over steel rails located in the street, on an aerial structure, or on a separated right-of-way. Vehicles can operate as a one-car unit or in trains of up to four vehicles, and are powered by either diesel or electric motors.

LRT .......................... Light Rail Transit:
A type of transit vehicle and service that uses steel wheels and operates over railroad tracks. LRT systems generally serve stations averaging one-mile apart, are not remotely controlled, and can operate in a separated right-of-way or on public streets. The San Diego Trolley is a LRT system.

Managed Lanes ..... Freeway lanes on which the number of vehicles using the facility can be limited, and/or where the direction of the lanes can be changed. Carpools, vanpools, and transit vehicles as well as solo drivers who pay a fee typically use these lanes. The I-15 FasTrak™ Program is an example of Managed Lanes.

Park and Ride ........... A travel option where commuters park their personal vehicles in a publicly provided lot or other location, and continue their trip via carpool, vanpool, or transit.

Park and Ride Lot ............. Facilities where individuals can rendezvous to utilize carpools, vanpools, and transit for group travel to their destinations.

Public Transportation ...... Travel by bus, rail, or other vehicle, either publicly or privately owned, which provides general or specialized service on a regular or continuing basis.

Regional Yellow Car Service ............ Provides the fastest type of transit service and is designed to serve longer-distance regional trip making, with an average of 40 miles per hour travel speed. The Coaster commuter rail system is an existing example of Yellow Car service.

SOV .......................... Single-occupant vehicle:
A vehicle with one occupant – the driver. Also referred to as a "drive-alone."

Vanpool .................. A vehicle operating as a ridesharing arrangement, providing transportation to a group of individuals traveling directly between their homes and a regular destination within the same geographic area. Vanpool vehicles have a minimum seating capacity of seven passengers, including the driver.