

26.0 GLOSSARY/LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

This chapter provides brief definitions of some of the technical terms and abbreviations used in this FEIS.

26.1 Glossary

accessibility - A measure of the ability or ease of all people to travel among various origins and destinations.

air pollution - The presence of unwanted material in the air in sufficient amount and under such circumstances as to interfere significantly with human comfort, health, or welfare, or with full use and enjoyment of property. National and state ambient air quality standards identify pollutant concentrations not to be exceeded over a specified time.

alignment - A ground plan or route of a railroad, highway, or fixed guideway transit.

ambient air quality - A physical and chemical measure of the concentration of various chemicals in the outside air, usually determined over a specific time period (e.g., one hour, eight hours).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - A federal civil rights law enacted in 1990 that mandates the provision of access to public facilities for persons with disabilities. Title 2 of the law applies to transportation facilities and transit vehicles.

aquifer - A water-bearing underground layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel.

At-grade – Running on the ground level.

Automated Fare Control (AFC) - A system of fare control that utilizes machines to issue tickets in return for a specified fare, or to confirm validity of pre-purchased tickets.

A.M. Peak Period - Peak morning travel period (from 6:30 AM to 9:30 AM).

Base Year - The first year of a planning or forecast period. The base year of the Norfolk LRT planning period is 2001.

Build Year - also known as horizon year - The year for which traffic and population projections have been made and transportation needs analyzed; 2021 is the horizon year for the Norfolk LRT Project.

bus lane - A traffic lane for dominant or exclusive use by buses.

calibration - In travel demand modeling, the procedure used to estimate the parameters of a model in order to replicate actual measurements of travel behavior and conditions.

capital costs - The cost of designing, constructing, purchasing equipment (e.g., vehicles), and implementing a transit system.

catenary power system - An electric power system and overhead contact wire which is supported from one or more longitudinal wires or cables used to provide a power source for vehicles via a pantograph (contact mechanism) on the roof of the vehicle.

central business district (CBD) - The primary downtown area of a city, or an area of concentrated retail activity.

Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990 - A federal law enacted in 1990 that places new federal controls on all sources of air pollution including mobile sources (automobiles). The CAAA include an implementation strategy and establish air quality improvement requirements.

commuter bus - Bus service provided along major arterial roads with limited stops, accessing a major destination point with both pedestrian and automobile access.

commuter rail (high capacity rail) - A system of relatively long trains operating at high speed over long distances. This service can be both local and express, and may be accessed by both pedestrians and automobiles.

commutation - The act or process of commuting; making a regular trip (e.g., to the workplace).

consist - The make-up or composition of a train or number of cars and a specific type of vehicle.

determination of eligibility - The decision of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on whether candidate historic properties or resources are qualified for the State and/or National Register of Historic Places.

endangered species - A species whose prospects for survival within the region are in immediate danger based on a loss of habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition, or disease. An endangered species requires immediate attention or extinction will likely follow. (See **threatened species**)

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A comprehensive study of potential environmental impacts related to federally-assisted projects. Projects for which an EIS is required are defined in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Development of an EIS includes a Draft EIS, which analyzes all project alternatives, and a Final EIS, which analyzes only the Baseline Alternative and the Preferred Alternative.

environmental site assessment (Environmental Screening Analysis, Phase I) - The environmental screening analysis consists of a “windshield” survey of the proposed route to observe possible signs of contamination from past or present land uses on or near the route; an environmental database search of the corridor; and government agency contacts. Phase I assessment consists of inquiries and record searches concerning past and present uses of a property. Phase II involves sampling and testing of soil, water, and materials from the site for hazardous materials.

express service - Transit to/from a destination with limited or no stops along its route.

feeder service - A local transit service that collects or distributes riders and provides a direct transfer to other high-capacity transit modes.

floodplain - Land area likely to be submerged during a flood.

FTA - Federal Transit Administration of the US Department of Transportation.

fugitive dust - Airborne dust particles resulting from construction, demolition, and other induced activity, which can significantly impact air quality in the project area.

grade crossing - A crossing with roadways and/or railroads on the same level, resulting in an at-grade intersection.

grade separation - The construction of a roadway and/or railroad over or under an intersecting roadway or railroad.

headway - The scheduled time between transit vehicles operating on a particular transit route in the same direction.

heavy rail - An electric railway with high passenger carrying capacity, characterized by exclusive rights-of-way, multi-car trains, high speed and high-level platform passenger loading.

high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) - A vehicle carrying two or more individuals. HOVs are encouraged as a means of decreasing vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

household income - The total combined income of all members of a single household.

infill development - Real estate development on undeveloped property within a developed area.

infrastructure - The physical support network such as roads, railroads, and utilities, of a given geographical area.

intermodal transfer - The ability to move from one mode of transportation to another (e.g., bus to train) to complete a trip to a final destination site.

joint development - A shared effort on the part of two or more parties to develop the areas around proposed stations or adjacent to alternatives.

kiss-n-ride - A drop-off and pick-up area for transit users being driven by car to a transit station or transfer point.

level of service (LOS) - A set of descriptive characteristics used to indicate the quality of transportation service provided, including characteristics that are quantifiable (e.g., frequency, travel time, travel cost, number of transfers, safety) and those that are difficult to quantify (e.g., availability, comfort, convenience, modal image, and roadway conditions).

light rail transit (LRT) - An electric railway with a medium passenger capacity which can use exclusive or shared rights-of-way, or operate in mixed traffic with autos, high- or low-level platform passenger loading, and multi-car or single car trains. Light rail vehicles operate on steel wheels on steel rails and receive power from an overhead (catenary) wire. Also known as streetcar, trolley car, and tramway.

link - A section of a transportation system network which connects two nodes. It may be one way or two way.

Linked trips – A trip from the origin zone to the destination zone, regardless of the number of modes used.

local bus - Bus service with multiple stops along a fixed route.

low-floor vehicle - A transit vehicle that permits passenger boarding from low-level platforms. The proposed LRT vehicles would be approximately 14 inches above top of rail.

low-level platforms - Station platforms located at-grade or several inches above grade and approximately 14 inches above the top of rail.

mass transportation - Shared transportation services either publicly-or privately-owned, provided to the public on a regular and continuing basis (not including school bus, charter, or sightseeing service).

master plan - Public document adopted by a local government as a policy guide for decisions about the physical and/or economic development of the community.

mitigation - Measures designed to lessen or eliminate the impacts resulting from a proposed project or action.

mode - A form of travel (e.g., walking, automobile, bus, train).

mode split - The portion of total person trips generated for a region that are assigned to a specific type of transportation (i.e. transit, automobile, etc.) usually expressed as a percentage of total trips. This is often used in developing traffic volume and transit ridership forecasts.

National Register of Historic Places - The federal list of buildings and sites determined to have historical significance.

neighborhood cohesion - The common characteristics of members and elements of a neighborhood which affords them a unique sense of place and identity.

No-Build Alternative - Future conditions of an area in the absence of a proposed project; what would happen if the project were *not* built.

non-attainment area - A geographical region which fails to attain or conform to established environmental standards (e.g., air quality, water quality).

off-peak period - In transit, the base period or the hours between and after the morning and afternoon rush hours.

operating costs - The daily operating expenses for a transit system.

Ozone (O₃) - An unstable form of oxygen, O₃, formed by a photochemical reaction of atmospheric gases with solar ultraviolet radiation. Ozone is a harmful air pollutant in the lower atmosphere and contributes to the formation of smog.

park-and-ride - A parking area provided for commuters at the light rail transit station.

passenger miles (passenger kilometers) - The transportation of one passenger a distance of one mile (kilometer).

peak period - The period during which the maximum amount of travel occurs. It may be specified as the morning (a.m.) or afternoon/evening (p.m.) peak. It is the period when demand for transportation services is heaviest.

P.M. Peak Period - The afternoon rush hours - approximately 4:00 p.m., to 6:30 p.m.

per capita income - The total combined income of a household, block group, or census tract, divided by the total number of persons in that group.

Preferred Alternative - The alternative recommended by Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads which the agency feels best meets the needs of the region's transportation goals, is responsive to community concerns and input, and which has been considered in relation to the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives.

public transportation - Regular transportation service to the public using a route or routes from one fixed point to another. Routes and schedules of this service may be predetermined through a cooperative agreement. Subcategories include public transit service and paratransit services that are available to the general public.

rapid transit - A transit mode which operates on exclusive right-of-way; characterized by high speed, capacity, reliability, and safety.

Record of Decision (ROD) - A formal decision granted by the lead Federal Agency which provides a written record of the agency's decision on a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The ROD documents any conditions or mitigation measures committed to in the FEIS and must be made public.

response route - An established route regularly used by emergency vehicles (e.g., police, fire, ambulance) in traveling from their base or station to the location of a call.

response time - The time period between the placement of an emergency call and the arrival of emergency vehicle(s) at the location of the call.

right-of-way (ROW) - Parcel(s) of land intended to be utilized as a road, rail line, utility service, buffer, or similar use.

Scoping - The process of defining and refining alternatives for a major capital investment study DEIS. The scoping process provides opportunities for input from the public.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) - A state administrative agency responsible for compliance with historic preservation rules, laws and regulations.

Stream Encroachment Permit - A Federal and State ACOF permit required for projects placing fill within floodplains.

street car, trolley - A street transit mode consisting of electrically-powered rail vehicles, operating in traffic lanes with cars, trucks, and buses. Light Rail Transit (LRT) is the modern day version of streetcars and trolleys that operate in exclusive right-of-way.

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) – An Environmental Impact Statement that is required if changes occur to the proposed project that alters its environmental effects or if there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to the environmental concerns that bear on a proposed action or its impacts.

threatened species - A species that may become endangered if surrounding conditions begin or continue to deteriorate. (See **endangered species**)

Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) – A geographic area defined by the Metropolitan Planning Organization that is used to analyze traffic.

Transportation Management Plan - A comprehensive plan or program designed to more effectively use existing transportation resources or reduce the future need to expand transportation infrastructure.

travel time - The time it takes to travel from an origin to a destination.

trip - A single or one-way movement to or from a location.

trip ends - The total number of trips entering and leaving a specific location within a designated period of time. Each trip has two trip ends.

trip generation - The total number of trip ends (person trips or vehicle trips) produced by a specific land use or activity.

trip linking - The ability to visit several destinations during one journey.

USACOE Individual Permit - A US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) wetland fill permit that is required when a project exceeds the limitations outlined in the various Nationwide Permits or when there is no Nationwide Permit that applies to a project.

USACOE Nationwide Permit - A general wetland fill permit designed for projects resulting in minor disturbances to wetlands.

uplands - Land other than wetlands that are well-drained and rarely, if ever, inundated.

vehicle miles traveled (VMT) - An average that describes the total number of miles traveled in an automobile per individual for a specified area.

walk-on station - A type of transit stop, where the majority of users walk to the stop.

Water Quality Certificate - A permit required for all projects subject to federal permitting for discharge into state waters and/or wetlands to ensure that all such activities are consistent with Virginia water quality standards and management policies.

wetland transition area - The area between wetlands and surrounding uplands.

wetlands - Tidal areas or swamps with soil characteristics and vegetation that meet certain criteria on which filling and development are federally- and/or state-regulated.

zoning ordinance - A municipal ordinance which divides a municipality into districts and prescribes land use type, land use relationships, densities, height and setback, and related elements within a defined municipal boundary.

26.2 List of Abbreviations

AA	Alternatives Analysis
AC	Alternating Current
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AFC	Automated Fare Control
AGT	Automated Guideway Transit
AMSL	Above Mean Sea Level
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APS	American Physical Society
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
CBD	Central Business District
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability List
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	Carbon Monoxide
DC	Direct Current
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EMF	Electro-Magnetic Field
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FFGA	Full Funding Grant Agreement
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
HABS	Historic American Building Survey
HAER	Historic American Engineering Record
HOV	High-Occupancy Vehicle
HRT	Hampton Roads Transit
ISRA	Industrial Site Remediation Act
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991

LOS	Level of Service
LPA	Locally Preferred Alternative
LRT	Light Rail Transit
LRV	Light Rail Vehicles
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
µg/m ³	Micrograms per cubic meter
MIS	Major Investment Study
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NAS	Naval Air Station
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
NO _x	Oxide of Nitrogen
NPL	National Priorities List
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSN	Naval Station Norfolk
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O ₃	Ozone
pcph	passenger cars per hour
Ppm	Parts per million
PMSA	Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (US Census)
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RCRIS	Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System
ROW	Right-of-Way
RR	Rail Road
SDEIS	Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement
SEL	Source Exposure Level
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMSA	Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (US Census)
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office(r)
SWLF	Solid Waste Landfills (database)
TAZ	Traffic Analysis Zone
TCU	Transportation, Communication, and Utilities (land use category)
TDCHR	Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TSM	Transportation Systems Management
USC	United States Code
USACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USFWS	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
USNPS	United States National Park Service
UST	Underground Storage Tank
v/c	Volume to Capacity (ratio)
VDEQ	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VHT	Vehicle Hours Traveled
VMSF	Vehicle Maintenance and Storage Facility
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
vph	Vehicles Per Hour