

34. Glossary/List of Abbreviations

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

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.

AM Peak Period - Peak morning travel period (from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM; 7:30-8:30AM for Tenafly and Cresskill)

build year - The year for which traffic and population projections have been made and transportation needs analyzed; 2030 is the horizon year for the Northern Branch Light Rail Project.

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

cartway – the paved area of a roadway designed for vehicular traffic. The right-of-way may extend beyond the limits of the cartway.

Category one water (C1) – A designation made through NJDEP’s Surface Water Quality Standards, indicating that the surface water should receive protection from measurable changes due to their clarity, color, scenic setting, exceptional ecological significance, exceptional recreational significance, exceptional water supply significance, or exceptional fisheries resources

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 automobiles that includes an implementation strategy and establishes air quality improvement goals

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.

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 qualification of candidate historic properties or resources for the State and/or National Register of Historic Places.

Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) – A rail vehicle whose carriages have their own motors powered by a diesel engine.

endangered species - A species whose prospects for survival within the state 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.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A comprehensive study of potential environmental impacts related to federally-assisted projects. An EIS is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I, Phase II) - The investigation of a parcel with respect to the presence of environmental contaminants. A 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.

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

Freshwater Wetlands General Permit - A NJDEP permit designed for projects resulting in minor impacts to wetlands.

Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit - A NJDEP permit applicable to projects resulting in major disturbances to wetlands.

FRA – Federal Railroad Administration of the US Department of Transportation.

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

grade separation - The construction of a grade separated crossing of roadways and/or railroads.

headway - The scheduled time between transit vehicles operating on a particular transit route.

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-level platforms - Station platforms that allow users to enter or exit the vehicle at the same level as the train floor. High-level platforms are approximately four feet above rails.

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,

Letter of Interpretation (LOI) Presence/Absence Determination - The process utilized by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to determine whether or not wetlands are located on or adjacent to a project site.

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 conditions at roadway.

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 wire. Also known as streetcar, trolley car, and tramway with an operator in the vehicle.

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

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

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 to decisions about the physical and/or economic development of the community.

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

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

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

New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) - State enabling legislation authorizing municipalities to adopt master plans, and approve and administer zoning ordinances, site plan ordinances, and subdivision ordinances.

New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (NJSDRP) - A policy document which establishes a series of statewide planning objectives regarding land use, housing, economic development, transportation, natural resource conservation, agriculture and farmland retention, recreation, urban and suburban redevelopment, historic preservation, public facilities and services, and intergovernmental coordination.

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

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) - is the agency responsible for developing and maintaining the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

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

park-and-ride - A parking area provided for commuters to access transit to complete their trip.

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.

PM Peak Period - The afternoon rush hours - 5:00 p.m., to 6:00 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.

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.

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

right-of-way (ROW) - A corridor of land acquired by reservation, dedication, prescription, or condemnation, and intended to be utilized as a road, rail line, utility service, buffer, or similar use.

Riparian Zone - The area adjacent to a stream, between 50 and 300 feet, depending upon the streams classification, intended to protect the adjacent vegetation.

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

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan/Certification - A permit is required for any project that disturbs more than 5,000 square feet (465 square meters) of land surface area.

State Historic Preservation Officer - 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.

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 with-in 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.

USACE Individual Permit - A US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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.

USACE 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.

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 New Jersey 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. In New Jersey, zoning ordinances must conform to the requirements set out in the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ATR	Automatic Traffic Recorder
BTU	British Thermal Unit
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability List
CLC	Citizens Liaison Committee
CO	Carbon Monoxide
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CSX	CSX Transportation
CWA	Federal Clean Water Act
dBA	A-Weighted Decibel
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DMU	Diesel Multiple Unit
DPW	Department of Public Works
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	Electro-magnetic Field
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FHACA	Flood Hazard Area Control Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
GIS	Geographic Information System(s)
HABS	Historic American Building Survey
HBLR	Hudson Bergen Light Rail
HMD	Hackensack Meadowlands District
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
L _{dn}	Day-Night Sound Level
LRT	Light Rail Transit
LOS	Level of Service
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MIS	Major Investment Study
MLUL	Municipal Land Use Law (New Jersey)
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPT	Maintenance and Protection of Traffic (Plan)
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NJDOT	New Jersey Department of Transportation
NJMC	New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
NJTPA	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
NS	Norfolk Southern
NJSDRP	New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan
NPL	National Priorities List

NJ TRANSIT	New Jersey Transit Corporation
NO _x	Oxide of Nitrogen
NOI	Notice of Intent
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O ₃	Ozone
PATH	Port Authority Trans Hudson
Pb	Lead
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter
ppm	Parts per Million
RCRIS	Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System
ROW	Right-of-Way
SEL	Single Event Equivalent Noise Level
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office(r)
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SSPP	Safety and Security Program Plan
SWRPA	Special Water Resources Protection Area
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TIP	Transportation Improvement Plan
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
UST	Underground Storage Tank
VBF	Vehicle Base Facility
VdB	Vibration Decibels
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
Vph	Vehicle Per Hour