

What's in an Acronym?

The cheater's guide to sounding like an expert on making a more activity-friendly world.

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AASHTO	American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials www.transportation.org	A nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico. It represents all five transportation modes: air, highways, public transportation, rail, and water, with a primary goal to foster the development, operation, and maintenance of an integrated national transportation system. The AASHTO highway design guidelines, historically called the green book, has great influence over roadway design.
ADT	Average Daily Traffic	The average number of vehicles two-way passing a specific point in a 24-hour period
AIA	American Institute of Architects www.aia.org	A professional membership association for licensed architects, emerging professionals, and allied partners. The goal of AIA is to serve as the voice and to be a resource of the architecture profession.
ABW	Alliance for Biking and Walking www.peoplepoweredmovement.org	National non-profit advocacy and education group supporting bicycling and walking.
APA	American Planning Association www.planning.org	The professional organization representing the field of city and regional planning in the US.
AQMD	Air Quality Management District	The agency responsible for regulating air pollution in a defined area.
ASLA	American Society of Landscape Architects www.asla.org	A professional membership organization for landscape architects. ASLA's mission is to lead, educate, and participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artful design of America's cultural and natural environments.
ASTPHND	Assn. Of State & Territorial Public Health & Nutrition Directors. www.astho.org	A national nonprofit organization representing the public health agencies of the United States as well as the 120,000 public health professionals these agencies employ.
BRFSS	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	A national phone survey conducted by the CDC through state Departments of Health, collecting information on behavioral risk factors associated with human health

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CDC	Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov	A federal agency in the Department of Health and Human Services; investigates, diagnoses and works to control or prevent diseases. Allocates funding through state Departments of Health
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	Transportation funding focused on reducing traffic congestion & adverse air quality impacts.
CNU	Congress for a New Urbanism www.cnu.org	A professional membership organization that promotes walkable, mixed-use neighborhood development, sustainable communities and healthier living conditions.
COG	Council of Governments	Regional planning bodies that exist throughout the United States. A typical council is defined to serve an area of several counties, and addresses issues such as regional planning, water use, pollution control and transportation.
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design	A multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through infrastructure designs such as lighting, pedestrian features, and building design that puts “eyes on the street.”
CVD	Cardiovascular Disease	The class of disease that involves the heart or blood vessels
DNPAO	Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (of the CDC) http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/	DNPAO activities includes epidemiological and behavioral research, surveillance, training and education, intervention development, health promotion and leadership, policy and environmental change, communication and social marketing, and partnership development.
DOT	Department of Transportation www.dot.gov	The U.S government department that oversees the national transportation system.
ECGA	East Coast Greenway Alliance www.greenway.org	The ECGA is a non-profit organization spearheading the development of a 3,000 mile non-motorized trail connecting the cities of the eastern seaboard, from Calais, ME to Key West, FL.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov/smartgrowth	The agency of the US charged with protecting human health and the environment, by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress. EPA’s smart growth initiative includes partnership with Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U. S. Department of Transportation to help improve access to affordable housing, transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide.

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FHWA	Federal Highway Administration www.fhwa.dot.gov	The division of the United States Department of Transportation that oversees the process of planning, designing and constructing federally funded highway projects. It provides federal financial assistance to the States to construct and improve the National Highway System, urban and rural roads, and bridges.
ICMA -	International City/County Managers Association www.icma.org	A non-profit organization that provides training and education to professionals who work in local government.
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers www.ite.org	A professional membership organization for professionals working in the transportation field
LGC	Local Government Commission www.lgc.org	A non profit organization that assists local governments in establishing and nurturing livable communities.
LOS	Level of Service (e.g. roadways)	A measure used by traffic engineers to determine the effectiveness and performance of elements of transportation infrastructure; e.g. an intersection can provide LOS from A (good) to F (failing).
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization	A federally-mandated and funded transportation policy-making organization in the US that is made up of representatives from local government and governmental transportation authorities.
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices www.mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov	Defines the standards used by road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices, such as signs and signal lights, on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public traffic. The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration.
NACCHO	National Association of County and City Health Officials www.naccho.org	A national professional membership organization representing local health departments.
NCBW	National Center for Bicycling and Walking www.bikewalk.org	The Center provides support to communities, professionals, and advocates working to improve their walking and biking environments.
NCCDPHP	National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (of the CDC)	A Division of the CDC, the NCCDPH leads national efforts to promote health and well-being through prevention and control of chronic diseases. http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/index.htm

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NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration www.nhtsa.gov	NHTSA was established by the Highway Safety Act of 1970 to carry out safety programs in an effort to prevent motor vehicle crashes, injuries, and fatalities.
NPS	National Park Service www.nps.gov	The National Park Service is a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior with the purpose of protecting and preserving nearly 400 national parks across the U.S.
NPTS	(NHTS) – National Personal (Household) Transportation Survey www.nhts.ornl.gov	A national survey on the travel behavior of the American public. The dataset allows analysis of daily travel by all modes, including characteristics of the people traveling, their household, and their vehicles.
NSC	National Safety Council www.nsc.org	A non-profit organization devoted to improving workplace, home and road safety of the American people; often partners on local Safe Routes to School initiatives.
PBIC	Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (Univ. of North Carolina) www.pedbikeinfo.org	A national clearinghouse for information about health and safety, engineering, advocacy, education, enforcement, access, and mobility for pedestrians (including transit users) and bicyclists.
RTC	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy www.railstotrails.org	A nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., whose mission it is to create a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors to build healthier places for healthier people.
RTCA	Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program (of the NPS) www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/	The community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects with technical assistance to communities as they conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.
Sec 402	Section 402 Safety Funds safety.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/	Highway Safety Funds that are used to support state and community programs to reduce deaths and injuries on the highways.
STPP	Surface Transportation Policy Project www.transact.org	A national coalition working to ensure safer communities and smarter transportation choices that enhance the economy, improve public health, promote social equity, and protect the environment.

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TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century	TEA-21 authorized Federal funding of surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 6-year period from 1998 to 2003.
TIP	Transportation Improvement Plan	Typically a multi-year financial program that describes the schedule for obligating federal funds to state and local projects. The TIP contains funding information and priorities for all modes of transportation including highways, as well as transit capital and operating costs.
TDM	Transportation Demand Management	The application of strategies and policies to reduce travel demand (specifically that of single-occupancy private vehicles), or to redistribute this demand in space or in time.
TND	Traditional Neighborhood Design	Refers to the development of a complete neighborhood or town using traditional town planning principles. To qualify as a TND, a project usually includes a range of housing types, a network of well-connected streets and blocks, humane public spaces, and has amenities such as stores, schools, and places of worship within walking distance of residences.
ULI	Urban Land Institute www.uli.org	A non-profit research and education organization that focuses on emerging land use trends and issues, supported in part by business and land development interests.