

Transportation Terminology

Capital Investment Plan: The CIP lists all funded capital projects within the City over a five-year period, including bonded transportation projects.

Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS): Managed as a City department and governed by a County commission, CATS plans and operates transit for greater Charlotte area transit, including local and express bus routes, as well as the new LYNX light rail line. <http://www.ridetransit.org>

Connectivity: A network of intersecting streets that works to disperse traffic while linking and integrating neighborhoods with the existing community.¹

Farm-to-Market Program: Responding to changing land uses, upgrades rural roads within City limits by adding curb-and-gutter, turn lanes, medians, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, planting strips and/or street trees.

Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP): Updated every four years, the LRTP is the guiding document for federally funded surface transportation projects. Financially constrained, the Plan prioritizes identified projects for the next 20 years against expected revenues. The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is the corresponding short-range, implementation plan, where funds are actually programmed.

Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO): Serving the core of the Charlotte region, MUMPO oversees the development of the Mecklenburg-Union transportation system and prioritizes transportation projects for federal and state funding. <http://www.mumpo.org>

Thoroughfare Plan: A planning tool designed to provide for the orderly development of an adequate major street system as land development occurs or travel increases.
http://www.mumpo.org/PDFs/What_is_a_TFare.pdf

Traffic calming: Any number of techniques used to slow the speed of motor vehicle traffic, usually in areas of high pedestrian traffic. Such techniques may include the use of speed humps, stop signs, traffic circles, on-street parking, neck-downs, street tree planting and other landscaping, raised pedestrian crosswalks, etc.

Transportation Action Plan (TAP): A comprehensive multimodal transportation plan for the City, including development policy goals related to the Centers, Corridors and Wedges Growth Framework. Specifically, TAP Goal 1 calls for employment and multi-family developments to be concentrated in Centers and Corridors. Additionally, the TAP called for the development of Urban Street Design Guidelines. <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Transportation/Transportation+Action+Plan.htm>

Urban Street Design Guidelines: Newly adopted guidelines balance the needs of all users, including motorists, transit users, cyclists, and pedestrians, as well as respond to their surroundings, including land use and density. Specifically, the USDG include policies on preferred and typical block size, as well as creek-crossing intervals, both scaled to the primary land use of a development, be it new or retrofit, as well as its Center, Corridor or Wedge location.
<http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Transportation/Urban+Street+Design+Guidelines.htm>

Vehicle Miles of Travel: A common transportation measure for assessing trends and strain on road infrastructure, VMT sums the total miles of travel by vehicles without consideration of number of people or trips.

¹Adapted from the Town of Davidson's Planning Ordinance