



APPENDIX I

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



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- **Community of Potential Disadvantage:** A transportation analysis zone in which the percent of the population of meets the MPO’s regional thresholds for either 1) minority or low-income populations, OR 2) three other demographic indicators (LEP, elderly, female-headed households with children, people with disabilities, or zero-vehicle households). This categorization is used primarily to identify neighborhoods in which there are multiple overlapping factors of potential disadvantage, largely for public engagement purposes.
- **Disparate Impact/Disproportionate Burden (DI/DB) Policy:** A policy that sets thresholds for determining whether a collection of proposed projects in the Long-Range Transportation Plan or Transportation Improvement Program would cause disparate impacts or disproportionate burdens on minority or low-income populations, respectively. The policy contains thresholds for several metrics, each of which is analyzed separately for the presence of a disparate impact or disproportionate burden.
- **Disparate Impact:** The result of a facially neutral policy or practice that disproportionately affects members of a group identified by race, color, or national origin, where the recipient’s policy or practice lacks a substantial legitimate justification and where there exists one or more alternatives that would serve the same legitimate objectives but with less disproportionate effect on the basis of race, color, or national origin.
- **Disproportionate Burden:** The result of a facially neutral policy or practice that disproportionately affects low-income populations more than non-low-income populations.
- **Elderly Persons:** In the Boston Region MPO, persons who are 75 years of age or older.
- **Environmental Justice Populations:** Low-income and/or minority populations.
- **Equity Analysis:** A quantitative analysis used by the MPO to determine whether projects within a Long-Range Transportation Plan or a Transportation Improvement Program would, in the aggregate, cause a disparate impact for minority populations or a disproportionate burden for low-income populations.
- **Female-Headed Households with Children (FHWC):** Households that are headed by a female have at least one child, and in which no spouse is present.
- **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Person:** A person for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. It includes people who reported to the U.S. Census Bureau that they speak English “well,” “not well,” or “not at all.”
- **Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP):** States the MPO’s transportation policies and goals and lays out a program for preserving and expanding the region’s transportation system for the upcoming 20-year-plus period. It is fiscally constrained so the MPO selects projects that reflect the goals of the MPO and the transportation needs of the region.

- **Low-income Households:** The MPO defines a low-income household as one in which the annual income is \$45,624 or less (or less than 60 percent of the MPO area’s median household income).
- **Low-income Population:** A readily identifiable group of low-income persons who live in geographic proximity, and, if warranted, geographically dispersed or transient persons who will be similarly affected.
- **Minority Persons:** Persons who are American Indian/Alaska Native; Asian; Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino, regardless of race; and/or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.
- **Minority Population:** A readily identifiable group of minority persons who live in geographic proximity, and if warranted, geographically dispersed or transient populations who will be similarly affected.
- **People with Disabilities:** People who have cognitive or physical disabilities.
- **Protected Populations:** Populations covered by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, EJ EO 12898, and/or other federal non-discrimination laws.
- **Recipient:** Organization that receives funding directly from a federal agency.
- **Regional Threshold:** The MPO region-wide average for an equity population, or, for low-income, 60 percent of the median household income.
- **Subrecipient:** An organization that receives federal funding through a recipient. Subrecipients are subject to same Title VI reporting requirements as recipients; however, they submit documentation to recipients instead of directly to federal agencies. The Boston Region MPO is a subrecipient of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.
- **Title VI Population:** Minority or LEP populations.
- **Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ):** A geographic area, approximately the size of a Census block group, that is used in qualitative and quantitative transportation analyses at the Boston Region MPO.
- **Transportation Equity (TE) Populations:** General term used by the MPO to refer to any of the seven populations that are included in the MPO’s TE program: low-income, minority, and LEP populations, people with disabilities, the elderly, female-headed households with children, and zero-vehicle households. All of these seven equity populations are considered by the MPO to be particularly vulnerable to changes in the transportation system and to have been traditionally excluded from participating in the metropolitan transportation-planning process. Three of the “equity populations” are explicitly protected under Title VI and/or the Environmental Justice Executive Order (minority, low-income, and LEP). The term “other transportation equity populations” is used by the MPO to refer to the

four other demographic groups served by the TE program (people with disabilities, the elderly, female-headed households with children, and zero-vehicle households), which are protected through other non-discrimination laws.

- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):** Produced every year, the TIP allocates funding to projects within the MPO region during at least a four-year period. Projects that are selected for inclusion in the TIP reflect the MPO's vision, goals, and objectives, as identified in the MPO's LRTP.
- **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):** The UPWP identifies the projects, studies, and programs that the MPO will fund in the course of a year. It includes certification requirements, transportation studies that MPO staff conduct, and ongoing/continuing work programs.
- **Zero-Vehicle Households:** Households that do not have access to a leased or owned vehicle.



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