ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR THE RTA COOK DUPAGE CORRIDOR STUDY

February 13, 2008

**Acronyms**

AA - Alternatives Analysis

ADT – Average daily traffic

AGT - Automated Guideway Transit

ART - Arterial Rapid Transit

BNSF - Burlington Northern Santa Fe

BRT - Bus Rapid Transit

CAA – Clean Air Act

CAC – Citizen Advisory Committee

CATS – Chicago Area Transportation Study, now a part of CMAP

CDOT – Chicago Department of Transportation

CMAP – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

CNT – Center for Neighborhood Technology

COG – Council of Governments

COM – Council of Mayors

CPS – Corridor Planning Standards

CREATE Plan – Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Plan

CTA - Chicago Transit Authority

DATP – DuPage Area Transit Plan

DCDOT – DuPage County Department of Transportation

DMMC – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference

DMU - Diesel Multiple Unit, also Diesel Motive Unit

EJ&E – Elgin, Joliet and Eastern railroad

FHWA - Federal Highway Administration

FTA - Federal Transit Administration

HOT - High Occupancy Toll

HOV - High Occupancy Vehicle

HRT – Heavy Rail Transit

IDOT – Illinois Department of Transportation

IDOT – DPIT – IDOT Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation

IDOT – OPP – IDOT Office of Planning and Programming

IDOT – District 1 – IDOT regional office for the Chicago area

IEPA – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

IDNR – Illinois Department of Natural Resources

IHB - Indiana Harbor Belt freight railroad

ISTHA – Illinois State Toll Highway Authority

ITS – Intelligent Transportation Systems

LRT – Light rail transit

MD-W - Milwaukee District – West

MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization
**NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act
**NIPC** – former Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, now subsumed by CMAP
**O-D** – origin-destination
**PIP** – Public Involvement Plan
**PL** – Planning Liaison
**ROD** – Record of Decision
**ROW** – Right of Way
**RT** – Rapid Transit
**RTA** – Regional Transportation Authority
**RTP** – Regional Transportation Plan
**SAFETEA-LU** - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act--A Legacy for Users
**SRA** – Strategic Regional Arterials
**STAR Line** – Suburban Transit Access Route Line
**TDM** – Transportation Demand Management
**TSM** – Transportation System Management
**TSP** – Transit Signal Priority
**UP-W** – Union Pacific - West
**USDOT** – United States Department of Transportation
**USEPA** – United States Department of Transportation
**UWP** – Unified Work Program
**WCMC** – West Central Municipal Conference

**Glossary of Terms**

**Arterial** – A major roadway that primarily serves through traffic and is vital for moving people and goods; usually a continuous route that feeds into the interstate and freeway systems.

**Arterial Rapid Transit (ART)** – Arterial Rapid Transit (ART) is essentially a semi-express bus service operating on major arterial roadways that provides greater speed, higher reliability and lower travel times than traditional bus service. The high performance of ART is generally achieved through advanced technology, vehicle design and operating features, rather than separate right-of-way or guideway. Exclusive lanes may however be provided on a strategic basis – such as at intersections.

**Automated Guideway Transit (AGT)** – Guided transit vehicles operated singly or as multi-car trains with a fully automated system (no crew on transit units). Service may be on a fixed schedule or in response to a passenger-activated call button. Automated guideway transit includes personal rapid transit, group rapid transit and people-mover systems. (In our region, the Automated Transit System at O’Hare Airport that operates between the remote parking lots and the main terminal is such a system).
**Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)** - May refer to either the freight railroad or to the Metra commuter rail line operating between Aurora and Chicago on BNSF right-of-way, also sometimes further shortened to the Metra “BN”.

**Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** - BRT is a flexible form of rubber-tired public transit that can operate on guideways, dedicated rights-of-way, roadway shoulders or in regular traffic lanes. BRT vehicles are typically modern, comfortable and designed to handle a large number of passengers. BRT service is typically accessed by riders at high-quality stations that include amenities frequently associated with rail stations. There is no example of BRT in our region.

**Capital improvement** – A new or expanded facility, or other physical improvement, (in excess of $100 million) that is designed to become a long term asset of the transportation system.

**Capital investment** - The use of funds to purchase fixed assets (for example transportation facilities, land, or vehicles ) or funds invested with the understanding that it will be used to purchase such fixed assets, rather than used to cover operating expenses.

**Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)** – the operating entity of rapid rail (e.g., the “El”) and Chicago bus service in the Chicago metropolitan region.

**Commuter rail** - Urban/suburban transit service that runs on tracks of a traditional railroad system and consists of multiple passenger coaches and a locomotive or other control cab (e.g., Metra commuter rail).

**Concentric** – A series of arcs or circles arranged around or having a common center.

**Connector service** - New north-south and east-west bus service that runs primarily on arterials with limited stops. Connector service provides riders a basic grid of public transportation and an opportunity to access other transit services with which it intersects. Connector service is local terminology, first described in the DuPage Area Transit Plan (October 2002)

**Cook DuPage Corridor** – a geographic area in the west suburbs of the Chicago metropolitan area defined and currently under study by the RTA. The Cook DuPage Corridor study area boundaries are the Metra Milwaukee District West Line to the north, and the Metra Burlington Northern Santa Fe Line to the south, the Kane County/DuPage County border to the west and Cicero Avenue to the east.

**Corridor** – the geographic area that encompasses the origins, destinations, and paths of the majority of trips contributing to or affected by the identified transportation problem.

**Destination** – The end point or end location of a trip.
**Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU)** - self propelling train units capable of coupling with other units of the same or similar type and still being controlled from one cab. Diesel Multiple Units consist of multiple carriages powered by one or more on-board diesel engines.

**Direct** - A public transportation system where a transit service travels directly to a destination without requiring a transfer.

**Distribution/circulation service** - Local transit service at a major employment center to help transit users get from a major transit station or bus stop to the particular building in which they work.

**Employment Center** - a concentration of workplaces that constitutes a significant portion of the total number of jobs in a specific region, subregion, corridor or community, and consequently attracts a significant number of daily work trips.

**Facility** - The physical structure or capital investment on which a transportation service or activity is accomplished. For example, sidewalks are a facility that enables the activity of walking, a roadway is a facility that enables automobile, vanpool, bus and commercial vehicle (truck) travel and railroad tracks and stations enable travel by passenger train.

**Final Design** - the final phase of project development, and includes (but is not limited to) the preparation of final construction plans (including construction management plans), detailed specifications, construction cost estimates, and bid documents.

**Fixed guideway system** - a mass transportation facility which utilizes a separate right-of-way or rail line, or uses a fixed catenary system and a right of way usable by other forms of transportation. This includes, but is not limited to, rapid rail, light rail, commuter rail, automated guideway transit, people movers, and fixed-guideway facilities for buses (such as bus rapid transit) and other high occupancy vehicles.

**FHWA** - the Federal Highway Administration of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).

**FTA** - the Federal Transit Administration of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).

**Grid** - A transportation system based upon a checkerboard block pattern.

**Guideway** - a groove or channel that controls the direction in which a moving object travel
**High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane** - Exclusive or controlled access right-of-way (ROW) that is restricted to high occupancy vehicles (HOV) and premium-toll paying single occupancy vehicles for a portion or all of a day. HOT lanes may also incorporate variable pricing strategies to optimize travel demand and maintain free-flow travel.

**High occupancy vehicles (HOV)** - buses, passenger vans, and cars carrying multiple passengers.

**High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane** - Exclusive or controlled access right-of-way (ROW) that is restricted to high occupancy vehicles (HOV) for a portion or all of a day.

**Hub and spoke** - A public transportation system which derives its name from a bicycle wheel, in which a number of transit services extend outward from a central point or station.

**Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB)** – freight railroad that owns/operates a freight line in west cook county on which Metra passenger rail has been proposed, between O'Hare and Midway airports.

**Light Rail Transit (LRT)** Lightweight passenger rail cars operating singly (or in short, usually two-car, trains) on fixed rails in right-of-way that is not separated from other traffic for much of the way. Light rail vehicles are driven electrically with power being drawn from an overhead electric line.

**Main line** – The principal route of a transportation system.

**Major capital investment** – A transportation improvement requiring significant upfront cost for the construction of physical facilities and equipment. In the context of the Cook DuPage Corridor study, major capital investments generally are those with an estimated construction cost of $100 million or higher.

**Managed lane** - A lane or lanes designed and operated to achieve stated goals by managing access via user group or other criteria. A managed lane facility typically provides improved travel conditions to eligible users.

**Metra** – The operating entity of commuter rail in the Chicago metropolitan region.

**Milwaukee District – West Line (MD-W)** - refers to the Metra commuter rail line operating between Elgin and Chicago on the Milwaukee District railroad right-of-way.

**Modes** – Any means or method of travel, including automobile, airplane, ship, etc. Common types of public transportation modes include local bus, express bus, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Light Rail Transit (LRT), Heavy Rail Transit (HRT) and Commuter Rail.
NEPA process - those procedures necessary to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), at 23 CFR part 771; the NEPA process is completed when a Record of Decision (ROD) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued.

New start - a term or classification used by the FTA to indicate a proposed new fixed guideway system, or an extension to an existing fixed guideway system.

New Starts program – the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) fixed guideway capital investment program.

New use of existing system – the application of operational strategies to, and/or the provision of new and complementary transit services on, existing transportation facilities and/or to meet mobility goals.

Origin – the beginning point or starting place of a trip.

Pace – the suburban bus service operating entity in the Chicago metropolitan region.

Preliminary Engineering is the process by which the scope of the proposed project is finalized, estimates of project costs, benefits and impacts are refined, NEPA requirements are completed, project management plans and fleet management plans are further developed, and local funding commitments are put in place.

Queue By-pass Lanes – A special bus-only lane at an intersection or expressway ramp that allows buses to proceed ahead of other traffic waiting for a green signal.

Radial – Having parts that radiate from or converge to a common center; e.g., the transportation system in northeastern Illinois is essentially a radial system that has the Chicago central business district, or Loop as its center.

Ramp Meter (-ing) - A ramp meter is a traffic signal on an entrance ramp that controls and smoothes the flow of traffic entering an expressway, based on the number of vehicles or level of congestion already on the roadway.

Rapid rail system – An electrified, multi-car rail transit service operated on exclusive tracks that may be elevated, at grade level, or under ground (e.g, CTA rail).

Regional Transportation Authority – the budgetary and planning oversight entity of the primary public transit operating entities (CTA, Metra and Pace) in the Chicago metropolitan region.

Reverse commuter - A person who travels from their home in the city of Chicago to their job in the suburbs.

Right of way – 1. The strip of land on which facilities such as highways, railroads, or power lines are built, or is needed in order to be built. 2. The right to pass over property owned by another party. 3. The right of one vehicle to take precedence over another.
Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act--A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) – the current federal six-year transportation bill.

Shoulder Riding - The use of shoulder lanes by public transit to by-pass or avoid congested traffic. Shoulder riding for BRT vehicles may require shoulder improvement/reconstruction to accommodate daily or incidental use. Typically, shoulder riding is prohibited by users other than an emergency vehicle.

Small Starts - a discretionary grant program for public transportation capital projects that run along a dedicated corridor or a fixed guideway, have a total project cost of less than $250 million, and are seeking less than $75 million in Small Starts program funding. This Small Starts program is a component of the existing New Starts program, offers project sponsors an expedited and streamlined application and review process.

Smart corridor - Key arterial roadway where information technology, intersection improvements and traffic management strategies are applied to enhance traffic flow for the benefit of all users: autos, transit and commercial [truck].

Strategic (select) roadway improvements - Minor capital improvements (less than $100 million each) to the existing system that can significantly improve roadway connectivity and relieve traffic bottlenecks for all users of the roadway system.

Traffic Signal Pre-emption – a special transmitter on emergency vehicles that communicate with traffic signal devises at intersections to clear and halt traffic movement in order to allow an emergency vehicle to pass safely through, upon its approach. Pre-emption interrupts the normal traffic signal cycle and changes the light to red in all directions except for the direction of the on-coming emergency vehicle.

Transit Signal Priority (TSP) - special devices on buses to facilitate the movement of transit vehicles through traffic-signal controlled intersections. TSP devices give the bus priority by extending a green, shortening a red or providing queue jumps when buses are behind schedule.

Transportation system - A network of facilities and services that provide for the movement of passengers or goods.

Transportation System Management (TSM) - an alternative used for comparison when analyzing whether or not to build new roadways or mass transit links, such as busways, metros, and light rail lines. It is often compared with a No-Build approach.