



**CLIFTON CORRIDOR
TRANSIT INITIATIVE**

Clifton Corridor Alternatives Analysis Citizen's Guide

Alternatives Analysis (AA) – The key planning component of the Federal Transit Administration process for advancing fixed guideway transit projects, in which local agencies evaluate various transit technologies and alignment options for addressing mobility needs in a given corridor and select a locally preferred alternative (LPA) to implement. Federal regulations require that projects seeking New Starts funding be based upon the results of an alternatives analysis.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – Innovative bus transit service that mimics rail service. BRT is generally thought of as a fixed guideway transit concept that operates in an exclusive right-of-way and loads passengers at stations similar to rail stations.

Facility – The means by which a transportation mode is provided. For example, sidewalks are a facility serving the walking mode, a roadway is a facility serving the driving mode, and a heavy rail line is a facility serving the transit mode.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – The FTA is the division of the US Department of Transportation that provides financial support to public transportation systems, including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, and streetcars.

Fixed Guideway – Refers to any transit service that uses exclusive or controlled rights-of-way or rails. For example, all forms of rail transit operate on a fixed guideway. A fixed guideway transit service is meant to transport people efficiently and quickly from one area of the region to another and generally operates at a uniform, relatively high speed.

Heavy Rail Transit (HRT) – High capacity rail transit technology which utilizes an electrified third rail, and separate right-of-way either below or above ground, such as the MARTA rail system.

Historic Preservation – A comprehensive and inclusive planning tool dedicated to recognizing, protecting, using and appreciating our nation's diverse cultural resources. The preservation of those resources helps maintain the character and sense of place that define an area.

Infill Development – The reuse or change of use of a previously developed parcel or group of parcels, or the intensification of use or change of use by remodeling or renovating an entire structure.

Multimodal – Interconnectivity between various types of transportation modes.

Light Rail Transit (LRT) – LRT is a form of urban rail public transportation that generally has a lower capacity and lower speed than heavy rail transit. Because of their design, light rail systems typically operate mostly in private rights-of-way separated from other traffic but sometimes, if necessary, mixed with other traffic in city streets.

Mixed-Use Development – A single building or development containing more than one type of land use, where the different types of land uses are in proximity, planned as a unified complementary whole, and functionally integrated to the use of shared vehicular and pedestrian access and parking areas.

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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – An environmental law enacted in 1969. It applies only to projects and programs that are federally funded. The law requires that agencies must consider the environmental impacts of proposed projects or actions prior to taking any significant steps leading to project implementation. The fundamentals of the NEPA decision making process include: consideration of alternatives, examination of potential environmental impacts and mitigation, interagency coordination, public involvement and documentation.

New Starts Funding Program – The New Starts program is the FTA grant funding process that provides financial resources for implementation of major capital transit investments. The program provides funds for construction of new fixed guideway systems or extensions to existing fixed guideway systems. These investments can include light rail, heavy rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit projects. Projects seeking New Starts funding, like all federally-funded transportation investments, must emerge from a locally-driven, multimodal transportation planning process and follow FTA's New Starts Planning and Project Development Process.

Preliminary Engineering (PE) – The portion of the project development process where project costs, benefits, and impacts are refined; federal environmental studies are completed; and local funding commitments are secured.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) – A strategy of planning land use and organizing development to allow people to easily use public transit or other alternative means of transportation (bicycles, etc.) to get to places where they live, work and play. This generally involves concentrating a higher density mix of residential and commercial development in areas near transit stops or routes.

Transit Circulator – A transit circulator is a bus or other vehicle on a route designed to move people within an activity center. A transit circulator can take any number of forms, such as a shuttle bus, van, monorail, trolley or other mode of transportation. The transit circulator is meant to eliminate the need for the use of a car within an activity center.

Transportation Management Association (TMA) – An organization that addresses the transportation needs of a particular service area (e.g., Clifton Corridor Transportation Management Association). TMAs are often started as public-private partnerships in response to business concerns with mobility or accessibility. TMAs may provide vanpool or carpool formation, transit discounts, bicycle and pedestrian programs or shuttle services.

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