

# 11 Glossary

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## A

1        **Accessibility:** The ease with which a site or facility may be reached by passengers and others  
2        necessary to the facility’s intended function. Also, the extent to which a facility is usable by  
3        persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users.

4        **Acela:** High-speed trains operated by National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak).

5        **Action Alternative:** An alternative that proposes some Federal action, in contrast to the No-  
6        Action Alternative. See also **No-Action Alternative**. Action Alternatives must be rigorously  
7        explored and objectively evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

8        **Adverse Effect:** (1) National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)—An effect that may  
9        cause unfavorable or undesirable outcomes to the natural or human environment. In this  
10       sense, synonymous with “Adverse Impact.” (2) National Historic Preservation Act of 1966—  
11       The diminishment of a historic property’s integrity, with respect to its location, design,  
12       setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. The term is applied by Federal  
13       agency officials, in consultation with the State (or Tribal) Historic Preservation Office, as part  
14       of the Section 106 process. See also **Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of**  
15       **1966** and **Historic Property**.

16       **Affected Environment:** Existing environment, resource conditions, and trends that may be  
17       affected by the alternatives under consideration. Includes the physical, biological, social, and  
18       economic setting potentially affected by one or more of the alternatives.

19       **Air Pollution:** A general term that refers to one or more chemical substances that degrade  
20       the quality of the atmosphere.

21       **Air Rights:** Property interest in space above the ground surface.

22       **Alignment:** The horizontal and vertical route of a transportation corridor or path.

23       **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990:** Federal regulation establishing legal requirements  
24       for accessibility for persons with disabilities. Codified at 42 United States Code 12101 *et seq.*

25       **Anthropogenic:** Relating to, or resulting from the influence of, human beings on nature.

26       **Aquifer:** Subsurface geologic unit (rock or sediment) that contains and transmits  
27       groundwater.

28       **Archeological Site:** A place (or group of physical sites) in which physical remains of past  
29       human activity that are at least 50 years old are preserved, and which has been, or may be,

30 investigated using the discipline of archaeology and represents a part of the archaeological  
31 record. The archaeological record consists of artifacts, features, and ecological evidence  
32 along with their preserved positions in or on the earth.

33 **Area of Potential Effects (APE):** In the context of the Section 106 process, the geographic  
34 area or areas within which a project may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the  
35 character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. See also **Section 106 of**  
36 **the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Historic Property.**

37 **At-Grade:** At ground surface level. Used to describe roadways, track alignments, and road-  
38 track intersections.

39 **Attainment:** An Attainment area is a geographic area that meets the national ambient air  
40 quality standards defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the  
41 Clean Air Act. See also **Maintenance** and **Nonattainment.**

42 **A-Weighted Sound Level (dBA):** A measure of sound intensity that is weighted to  
43 approximate the response of the human ear and describe the way sound will affect people  
44 near a noise source.

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## B

45 **Baseline:** Foundation or basis used for comparison purposes.

46 **Beneficial Effect:** Effects or impacts resulting in positive outcomes to the natural or human  
47 environment.

48 **Best Management Practices (BMPs):** Methods designed to minimize adverse effects to the  
49 environment. Examples of BMPs include watering for dust control, perimeter silt fences, rice  
50 straw bales, and sediment basins to minimize soil erosion during construction.

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## C

51 **Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>):** A colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally in the atmosphere,  
52 produced by burning carbon and organic compounds, and by respiration. Fossil fuel  
53 combustion emits significant quantities of CO<sub>2</sub>.

54 **Carbon Monoxide (CO):** A colorless, odorless, toxic, and flammable gas formed by the  
55 incomplete combustion of carbon. CO gas generated in the urban environment is primarily  
56 due to the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels in motor vehicles.

57 **Catenary:** System of overhead wires supplying electricity to trains.

58 **Census Block:** The smallest geographic unit for which the United States Census Bureau  
59 tabulates 100-percent data (data collected from all houses, rather than sample houses). In  
60 urban areas, many census blocks correspond to individual city blocks bounded by streets.

61 **Clean Air Act of 1970:** Federal law that defines the United States Environmental Protection  
62 Agency's responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality and the  
63 stratospheric ozone layer. The Clean Air Act of 1970 protects the public from exposure to  
64 airborne contaminants that are known to be hazardous to human health and requires that  
65 the EPA rate Environmental Impact Statements (EISs). Codified at 42 United States Code 7401  
66 *et seq.*

67 **Clean Water Act of 1972:** Federal law protecting the quality of the nation's surface waters,  
68 including wetlands. The Clean Water Act of 1972 regulates discharges and spills of pollutants,  
69 including hazardous materials, to surface waters and groundwater. Codified at  
70 33 United States Code 1251 *et seq.* See also **Waters of the United States.**

71 **Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e):** Unit representing how much a given amount of a  
72 particular greenhouse gas may contribute to global warming, expressed in terms of the  
73 equivalent amount of carbon dioxide. See also **Greenhouse Gas.**

74 **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980:** Also  
75 known as Superfund, this Federal law provides for broad Federal authority to respond  
76 directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public  
77 health or the environment. Codified at 42 United States Code 9601 *et seq.*

78 **Consist:** In rail transport, a lineup of railroad cars and locomotives that form a train unit.

79 **Consulting Party:** Individual or organization with a role in the National Historic Preservation  
80 Act of 1966, Section 106, consultation process. Consulting parties include the relevant State  
81 or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s); Native American tribes and Native Hawaiian  
82 organizations; representatives of local governments; applicants for Federal assistance,  
83 permits, licenses, and other approvals; and persons or groups with a demonstrated interest  
84 in the undertaking (project). Consulting Party members are invited to participate in the  
85 Section 106 process for a project by the lead Federal agency.

86 **Cooperating Agency:** In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), any  
87 Federal, state, or local agency, or Indian Tribe, that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise  
88 with respect to any environmental impacts involved in a proposed action and was invited by  
89 the lead Federal agency, and has agreed, to participate in the NEPA process.

90 **Corridor:** A geographic belt or band that contains the route of a linear transportation facility  
91 such as highway or railroad.

92 **Criteria Pollutants:** Pollutants for which Federal and state air quality standards have been  
93 established under the Clean Air Act: carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), nitrogen  
94 oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometer or less (PM<sub>10</sub>),  
95 particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometer or less (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and lead (Pb).

96 **Cultural Resources:** Sites, structures, buildings, districts, or objects associated with or  
97 representative of people, cultures, and specific human activities and events that are valued  
98 by a given community or contain information about the culture that produced them.

99           **Cumulative Impact:** In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act, impact on the  
100 environment that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to those of  
101 other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

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D

102           **Decibel (dB):** A logarithmic measurement of noise intensity.

103           **De Minimis:** In reference to impacts or effects, sufficiently small to be disregarded; lacking  
104 significance or importance.

105           **Demographics:** Quantifiable statistics of a given population such as race, age, sex, income,  
106 etc.

107           **Direct Effect or Impact:** In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act, a  
108 consequence to the environment caused by a proposed action that would occur at the same  
109 time and place as the action.

110           **Disproportionately High and Adverse Effects:** An Environmental Justice term used to  
111 describe the unequal treatment to low-income and minority populations because of a  
112 proposed project or action. Executive Order 12898 directs each Federal agency to identify  
113 and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of  
114 its projects and actions.

115           **Disturbance:** A discrete natural or human-induced event that causes a change in the  
116 condition of an ecological system.

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E

117           **Ecosystem:** An interconnected network of living organisms, including people, and their local  
118 physical environment; often viewed as an ecological unit.

119           **Effect:** A change in the condition or function of an environmental resource or environmental  
120 value due to human activity. Synonym of **Impact**.

121           **Environmental Impact Statement:** Documentation required by the National Environmental  
122 Policy Act of 1969 for certain actions “significantly affecting the quality of the human  
123 environment.” An Environmental Impact Statement is a decision-making tool that presents  
124 detailed analysis of a proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action. The  
125 Environmental Impact Statement presents the project’s potential effects—both beneficial  
126 and adverse—and any mitigation measures to reduce adverse effects. See also **National  
127 Environmental Policy Act of 1969**.

128 **Environmental Justice:** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people  
129 regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development,  
130 implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

131 **Environmental Site Assessment:** An analysis that identifies potential or existing  
132 environmental contamination liabilities. Phase I and Phase II investigations assess whether  
133 identified historic on-site or off-site hazardous uses have impacted the soil or groundwater  
134 conditions beneath a property, as necessary.

135 **Erosion:** Process by which earth materials are worn down by the action of flowing water, ice,  
136 or wind.

137 **Ethnicity:** A grouping or categorization of people based on shared cultural traits such as  
138 ancestral origin, language, custom, or social attitude.

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## F

139 **Federal Railroad Administration:** An agency within the United States Department of  
140 Transportation that administers financial assistance programs and regulates the operation  
141 and safety of freight and passenger railroads throughout the United States. The Federal  
142 Railroad Administration is the owner of Washington Union Station.

143 **Footprint:** The area covered by a facility or affected by a given action or activity.

144 **For-Hire Vehicles:** Licensed taxicabs, livery cars, and transportation networking companies  
145 such as Uber and Lyft.

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## G

146 **General Conformity Rule:** The requirement that Federal, state, tribal, and local governments  
147 in air quality nonattainment or maintenance areas ensure that Federal actions conform to  
148 the initiatives established in the applicable state implementation plan or tribal  
149 implementation plan.

150 **Geographic Information System:** An information management system designed to store and  
151 analyze data referenced by spatial or geographic coordinates.

152 **Grade Crossing:** The intersection of a railroad and a highway at the same elevation (grade);  
153 an intersection of two or more highways; an intersection of two railroads.

154 **Grade-Separated:** At different elevations; on separate levels.

155 **Greenhouse Gases:** A class of air pollutants believed to contribute to the greenhouse global  
156 warming effect, including nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), hydrocarbons (HC), and carbon dioxide  
157 (CO<sub>2</sub>).

158 **Ground-borne Noise:** A low-frequency rumble that can radiate from the motion of room  
159 surfaces even when the motion itself cannot be felt.

160 **Groundwater:** Water contained and transmitted through open spaces within rock and  
161 sediment below the ground surface.

162 **Groundwater Recharge:** Hydrologic process where water moves downward from the ground  
163 surface into underlying groundwater by deep drainage or percolation.

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## H

164 **Habitat:** An environment where plants or animals naturally occur; an ecological setting used  
165 by animals for a particular purpose (for example, roosting habitat or breeding habitat).

166 **Hazardous Materials:** Any material that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical or  
167 chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and  
168 safety, or the environment, if released.

169 **Hazardous Waste:** A hazardous material that is no longer of use and will be disposed of.  
170 Hazardous waste is regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under  
171 the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. See also **Resource Conservation and  
172 Recovery Act of 1976.**

173 **Headway:** The time between buses, trains, or other transit vehicles at a given point (for  
174 example, a 15-minute headway means that one bus or train arrives every 15 minutes).

175 **Historic Property:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object  
176 included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. The term  
177 includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or  
178 Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria. See also **National  
179 Register of Historic Places.**

180 **Hydrocarbons:** Various organic compounds, including methane, emitted principally from the  
181 storage, handling, and combustion of fossil fuels.

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## I

182 **Impact:** A change in the condition or function of an environmental resource or  
183 environmental value due to human activity. Synonym of **Effect.**

184 **Impervious Surface:** Surface covered by impenetrable materials, such as parking lots and  
185 buildings that increases the potential for water runoff and reduces the potential for  
186 groundwater recharge.

187 **Indirect Impact:** Reasonably foreseeable indirect consequences to the environment caused  
188 by a project that would occur either in the future or near to, but not in the same location as,  
189 the direct impacts associated with a project. Synonym of **Secondary Impact**.

190 **Induced Growth:** An indirect impact of a project triggering community growth (increases in  
191 population, development, etc.) that is influenced and stimulated by a project.

192 **Infrastructure:** The facilities required for a societal function or service (such as transportation  
193 and utility infrastructure—roads, bridges, railroads, pipelines, power lines, etc.).

194 **Interested Agency:** Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies, as well as organizations with a  
195 special interest in a project.

196 **Interlocking:** An arrangement of train signal apparatus that prevents conflicting movements  
197 through an arrangement of tracks such as junctions or crossings.

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L

198 **Land Use:** The activities that occur on land and in the structures that occupy it.

199 **Lead (Pb):** A stable element that can have toxic effects and that persists and accumulates in  
200 the environment, humans, or animals.

201 **Lead Agency:** The Federal agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or  
202 approving a project or action and is responsible for preparing environmental review  
203 documents in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and National  
204 Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

205 **L<sub>dn</sub>:** Day-night average sound level; the average noise level over a 24-hour period.

206 **L<sub>eq</sub>:** A measure of the average noise level during a specified period of time.

207 **L<sub>eq</sub>(h), dBA:** Equivalent or average noise level for the noisiest hour, expressed in A-weighted  
208 decibels.

209 **Level of Service:** A rating used to characterize and compare operational conditions within a  
210 traffic stream as experienced by motorists or passengers.

211 **Limits of Disturbance:** The boundary within which a project's construction and associated  
212 physical activities (such as land clearing and excavation) would occur.

213 **Logarithm:** A number that shows how many times a base number (such as 10) is multiplied  
214 by itself to produce a third number (such as 100). The exponent that indicates the power to  
215 which a base number is raised to produce a given number (for example, the logarithm of 100  
216 to the base 10 is 2).

217 **Low-income population:** A person whose median household income is at or below the  
218 Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines. A low-income population is  
219 any readily identifiable group or groups of low-income persons who live in geographic

220 proximity, and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed or transient persons who  
221 will be similarly affected by a proposed Federal program, policy, or activity.

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## M

222 **Maintenance:** (1) The process of maintaining or preserving something to keep it in safe and  
223 operable condition; (2) under the Clean Air Act, an air basin that was formerly in  
224 nonattainment for a pollutant, but now meets the established standards for that pollutant.  
225 See also **Attainment** and **Nonattainment**.

226 **Mesoscale:** Describes an air quality analysis at the regional level.

227 **Microscale:** Describes an air quality analysis for a localized area such as an intersection.

228 **Minimization:** Measures developed during the planning and project development phase of a  
229 project to reduce potential impacts to a resource.

230 **Minority Population:** Readily identifiable group or groups of minority persons who live in  
231 geographic proximity and, if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed or transient  
232 persons, such as migrant workers or Native Americans, who would be similarly affected by a  
233 proposed project. Minority population includes persons who are American Indian or Alaskan  
234 Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, African American (not of  
235 Hispanic Origin), and Hispanic or Latino.

236 **Mitigation:** Action or measure undertaken to minimize, reduce, eliminate, or rectify the  
237 adverse impacts of a project, practice, action, or activity.

238 **Mobility:** Movement of people across areas.

239 **Multimodal:** Transportation that involves more than one mode (for example, walking, biking,  
240 auto, transit, taxi, train, bus, and air) during a single journey.

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## N

241 **National Ambient Air Quality Standards:** Federal standards stipulating the allowable  
242 ambient concentrations of specific criteria pollutants.

243 **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969:** Federal law that establishes national policies and  
244 goals for the protection of the environment. The National Environmental Policy Act requires  
245 Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of major Federal projects or  
246 decisions; share information with the public; identify and assess reasonable alternatives;  
247 identify appropriate measures to mitigate potential impacts; and coordinate efforts with  
248 other planning and environmental reviews taking place. Codified at 42 United States  
249 Code 4331 *et seq.*



250 **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966:** Federal law intended to preserve the nation's  
251 historic properties. The act created the National Register of Historic Places, the list of  
252 National Historic Landmarks, and the State Historic Preservation Offices. Codified at  
253 54 United States Code 300101 *et seq.* See also **Section 106 of the NHPA**, and **National**  
254 **Register of Historic Places.**

255 **National Register of Historic Places:** The official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of  
256 preservation, maintained and approved by the National Park Service. Codified at 54 USC  
257 302101 *et seq.* For a property to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic  
258 Places, it must meet the National Park Service's National Register Criteria for Evaluation. See  
259 also **Historic Property.**

260 **Nitrogen Oxides (NOx):** A class of pollutant compounds that include nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)  
261 and nitric oxide (NO), both of which are emitted by motor vehicles. See also **Criteria**  
262 **Pollutants.**

263 **No-Action Alternative:** Refers to an alternative under which no Federal action would be  
264 taken (for example, no infrastructure would be built). Evaluation of a No-Action Alternative is  
265 required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This analysis provides a  
266 benchmark, enabling decisionmakers to compare the magnitude of environmental effects of  
267 the Action Alternatives. It is also an alternative within the range of reasonable alternatives  
268 that must be analyzed.

269 **Nonattainment:** An air basin that exceeds Federal or state standards for a criteria pollutant.  
270 See also **Attainment** and **Maintenance.**

271 **Nonpoint Source Pollution:** Pollution that collects from a wide area and cannot be traced to  
272 a single source. Examples include pesticides or fertilizers that wash into rivers or percolate  
273 through the soil into groundwater.

274 **Notice of Availability:** Formal notice published in the *Federal Register* announcing the public  
275 availability of a draft or final Environmental Impact Statement.

276 **Notice of Intent:** Formal notice published in the *Federal Register* announcing that an  
277 Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for a proposed project.

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O

278 **Official with Jurisdiction:** The legal representative of the agency owning or administering a  
279 Section 4(f) resource, unless the agency has delegated or relinquished this authority via  
280 formal agreement. For historic properties, the Official with Jurisdiction is the State or Tribal  
281 Historic Preservation Office. Some Section 4(f) properties, such as an historic park, may have  
282 multiple Officials with Jurisdiction.

283 **Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>):** A photochemical oxidant that is a major cause of lung and eye irritation in urban  
284 environments.

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P

285        **Particulate Pollution:** Air pollution such as dust, soot, and smoke that is irritating but usually  
286        not poisonous. Particulate pollution also can include bits of highly toxic solid or liquid  
287        substances. Of particular concern are particulate matter smaller than, or equal to, 10  
288        micrometers (PM<sub>10</sub>) or 2.5 micrometers (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in size.

289        **Point Source Pollution:** Pollution that can be traced to a single source (for example, a  
290        smokestack at a factory).

291        **Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs):** Chemicals used in electrical transformers, hydraulic  
292        equipment, capacitors, and similar equipment.

293        **Poverty Level:** The income at which a family or individual is considered poor.

294        **Practicable:** Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing  
295        technology, and logistics considering overall project purposes.

296        **Preferred Alternative:** The alternative identified as preferred by the lead agency or project  
297        proponent (the applicant's preferred alternative).

298        **Programmatic Agreement:** An agreement between agencies that specifies the terms of  
299        compliance with one or more Federal laws. A project-specific PA describes the actions that  
300        will be taken by the parties to meet their environmental compliance responsibilities for a  
301        specific project. A procedural PA establishes a process through which the parties will meet  
302        their compliance responsibilities for an agency program, a category of projects, or a  
303        particular type of resource.

304        **Project Proponent:** An entity that will advance the Washington Union Station Expansion  
305        Project through final design and construction, including compliance with mitigation  
306        measures.

307        **Proposed Action:** A proposal for a Federal agency to authorize, recommend, or implement an  
308        action that addresses a Purpose and Need. See **Purpose and Need**.

309        **Public Easement:** Any interest in land that is not possessory and that may be owned by  
310        another person. It is reserved by the department or granted to the state for use by or the  
311        benefit of the public, including an access easement, survey easement, and utility easement.

312        **Publicly Owned:** Property that is owned by a government authority via either fee simple  
313        ownership or permanent easement.

314        **Public Transportation:** Includes bus, trolley bus, streetcar or trolley car, trams or light rail,  
315        transit, passenger railroad, ferryboat, and for-hire vehicle.

316        **Purpose and Need:** The reason(s) why a project or action is undertaken and the need(s) it is  
317        intended to meet or fulfill. See also **Proposed Action**.

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R

318           **Rail Terminal:** In this DEIS, refers to the area occupied by railroad infrastructure between the  
319           Claytor Concourse and K Street NE.

320           **Real Property:** Land and any improvements thereto, including but not limited to, fee  
321           interests, easements, air or access rights, and the rights to control use, leasehold and leased  
322           fee interests.

323           **Reasonably Foreseeable Future Action:** Those future actions that are likely to occur or  
324           probable, rather than those that are merely possible. Used in determining indirect and  
325           cumulative impacts for a Proposed Action.

326           **Record of Decision:** The final step in the Environmental Impact Statement process under the  
327           National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The ROD explains the agency’s decision, describes  
328           the alternatives the agency considered, and discusses the agency’s plans for mitigation and  
329           monitoring, if necessary.

330           **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976:** Federal law that creates the framework  
331           for the proper management of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste. The law describes  
332           the waste management program mandated by Congress that gave the United States  
333           Environmental Protection Agency authority to develop the Resource Conservation and  
334           Recovery Act program. Codified at 42 United States Code 6901 *et seq.*

335           **Ridership:** The number of people who ride a transportation system.

336           **Right-of-Way:** A legal right of passage over a defined area of real property. In transit usage,  
337           the corridor along a roadway or railway that is controlled by a transit or transportation  
338           agency or authority.

339           **Rolling Stock:** Locomotives, carriages, wagons, or other vehicles used on a railroad.

340           **Runoff:** The draining away of water and substances carried in it from the surface of an area  
341           of land, a building, or structure.

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S

342           **Scoping:** A process used under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to determine  
343           the range of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the  
344           proposed action or project to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement.

345           **Secant Piles:** Individually drilled holes filled with concrete and steel, reinforced, and installed  
346           adjacent to one another to form a continuous wall.

347           **Secondary Impact:** Reasonably foreseeable indirect consequences to the environment  
348           caused by a project that would occur either in the future or near, but not the same location  
349           as, the direct impacts associated with a project. Synonym to **Indirect Impact**.

350 **Section 4(f) of the United States Department of Transportation Act of 1966:** Provisions  
351 codified in 49 USC Subtitle I, Section 303(c). Section 4(f) addresses the potential for  
352 conflicts between transportation needs and the protection of land for recreational use and  
353 resource conservation by providing protection for publicly owned parkland, recreation areas,  
354 and historic sites from use. Specifically, the provisions prohibit the Secretary of  
355 Transportation from approving any program or project that would require the use of any  
356 publicly owned land from a public park, recreation area, wildlife or waterfowl refuge, or land  
357 of an historic site of national significance as determined by the Official with Jurisdiction over  
358 these lands unless there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the use of these lands.

359 **Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964:** Prohibits the conversion  
360 of property acquired or developed with funds granted through the act to a nonrecreational  
361 purpose without the approval of the National Park Service. Section 6(f) directs the United  
362 States Department of the Interior to ensure that replacement lands of equal value  
363 (monetary), location, and usefulness are provided as conditions to such conversions.

364 **Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966:** Section of the National  
365 Historic Preservation Act that requires Federal agencies to account for the effects of their  
366 undertakings on historic properties, and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic  
367 Preservation with a reasonable opportunity to comment. In addition, Federal agencies are  
368 required to consult on the Section 106 process with State Historic Preservation Officers,  
369 Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations. The  
370 Section 106 process is defined in 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800, Protection of Historic  
371 Properties. Codified at 54 United States Code 306108.

372 **Sensitive Receptors:** Locations considered more sensitive to adverse effects from air  
373 pollution (for example, residences; preschools and kindergarten through grade 12 schools;  
374 daycare centers; health-care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes, and nursing  
375 homes; and parks and playgrounds).

376 **Sheet Piles:** Steel sheet sections with intersecting edges that are installed in the ground to  
377 form a barrier.

378 **Significant:** In Council on Environmental Quality usage, describes an impact that is sufficiently  
379 adverse, intense, or prolonged to require mitigation. In National Environmental Policy Act of  
380 1969 usage, to determine an impact is significant the context and intensity (the degree to  
381 which the effects on quality of human environment are controversial, whether the action  
382 threatens a violation of Federal, state, or local law, and others) of the action must be  
383 considered.

384 **Sound Exposure Level:** A time-integrated metric (that is, continuously summed over a time  
385 period) that quantifies the total energy in the A-weighted sound level measured during a  
386 transient noise event. Sound Exposure Level accounts for both the duration and the loudness  
387 of a noise event.

388 **Spoils:** Excavated rock and soil.

389 **State Implementation Plan:** Statewide plan for complying with the Clean Air Act of 1970. A  
390 State Implementation Plan consists of guidance, rules, and agreements that the state will use  
391 to clean up polluted areas.

392 **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan:** A plan that specifies site management activities to be  
393 implemented during site development, including construction stormwater best management  
394 practices, erosion and sedimentation controls, dewatering (nuisance water removal), runoff  
395 controls, and construction equipment maintenance.

396 **Study Area:** A defined area or distance that is established to determine potential effects  
397 associated with the proposed action. Study areas vary in size and distance depending on the  
398 type of effects being considered. The Local Study Area is generally proximate to the proposed  
399 action, while the Regional Study Area encompasses a larger area.

400 **Substructure:** The abutment, piers, and other support structures of the superstructure that  
401 transfer the structural load to the foundations.

402 **Sulfur Oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>):** Sulfur-oxygen compounds that include the important criteria pollutants  
403 sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and sulfur trioxide (SO<sub>3</sub>).

404 **Support of Excavation:** Temporary earth-retaining systems intended to provide a safe and  
405 efficient space for excavation and construction.

406 **Surficial Aquifer:** The surficial aquifer system includes any otherwise undefined aquifers that  
407 are present at land surface. The surficial aquifer is mainly used for domestic, commercial, or  
408 small municipal supplies.

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## T

409 **Threat, Vulnerability, and Risk Assessment:** An analysis conducted during Project  
410 Development to identify and analyze security risks associated with design alternatives and  
411 propose strategies to mitigate risk.

412 **Transportation Networking Companies:** Ride-sharing companies such as Uber and Lyft.

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## U

413 **Underpinning:** A process in which the existing structural support of a building or structure is  
414 stabilized or reinforced from below to permit construction underneath.

415 **Undertaking:** A project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part by a Federal agency,  
416 including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency, those carried out with  
417 Federal financial assistance, and those requiring a Federal permit, license, or approval.

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V

418 **V/C Ratio:** Volume to capacity ratio; describes the relationship between the amount of traffic  
419 a roadway was designed to carry and the amount of traffic it actually carries. Related to the  
420 Level of Service the roadway can provide.

421 **Ventilation Shaft:** Vertical shaft connected to a tunnel that serves as an emergency exit and  
422 air shaft between the tunnel and the surface.

423 **Viewshed:** The total area visible from a single observer position, or the total area visible from  
424 multiple observer positions. Viewsheds include scenes from highways, trails, campgrounds,  
425 towns, cities, or other viewer locations.

426 **Visual Quality:** The character or inherent features of a viewshed.

427 **Visual Resources:** The natural and artificial features of a landscape that characterize its form,  
428 line, texture, and color.

429 **Volatile Organic Compounds:** Colorless gaseous compounds originating, in part, from the  
430 evaporation and incomplete combustion of fuels. In the presence of sunlight Volatile Organic  
431 Compounds react to form ozone, a pollutant regulated by the Clean Air Act Amendments.

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W

432 **Waters of the United States:** The Clean Water Act of 1972 defines waters of the United  
433 States as (1) all waters that are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be  
434 susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters subject to the ebb  
435 and flow of the tide; (2) all interstate waters including interstate wetlands; and (3) all other  
436 waters, such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats,  
437 sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds,  
438 the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce  
439 (33 Code of Federal Regulations 328.3[a]). See also **Clean Water Act of 1972**.

440 **Watershed:** The area that contributes water to a drainage system or stream.