

Appendix H - Acronyms and Glossary

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APPENDIX H – ACROYNMS AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acronyms

µg	Microgram
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ABI	Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.
ACM	Asbestos Containing Materials
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADA	Atlanta Development Authority
ADAC	Atlanta Decorative Arts Center
AECOM	AECOM (name of project consultant, not an acronym)
AHERA	Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act
AIRS	Permitted Facility & Emissions Listing
ARC	Atlanta Regional Commission
ASAP	Atlanta Strategic Action Plan – (City of Atlanta’s Comprehensive Plan)
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
AUDC	Atlanta Urban Design Commission
BACT	Best Available Control Technologies
BAHAB	BeltLine Affordable Housing Advisory Board
BOCA	Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc.
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
BTU	British Thermal Unit
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990
CBD	Central Business District
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDP	Comprehensive Development Plan
CEF	Community Engagement Framework
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System
CESQG	Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	Carbon monoxide
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program
CORRACTS	Corrective Action Report
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
CTP	Comprehensive Transportation Plan
CSX	CSX railroad
CSXT	CSX Transportation
dBA	A-weighted decibel

DCA	Georgia State Department of Community Affairs
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DERA	Diesel Emissions Reduction Act
DNR	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
DMU	Diesel Multiple Unit
EDR	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
ERNS	Emergency Response Notification System
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act
FINDS	Facility Index System/Facility Registry System
FLUM	Future Land Use Map
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FRA	Federal Rail Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FTTS	FIFRA & TSCA Tracking System
GA	State of Georgia
GADNR	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
GDOT	Georgia Department of Transportation
GEPA	Georgia Environmental Protection Act
GEPD	Georgia Environmental Protection Division
GHBS	Georgia Historic Bridge Survey
GIS	Geographic information system(s)
GRHP	Georgia Register of Historic Places
GRTA	Georgia Regional Transportation Authority
HABS	Historic American Building Survey
HAER	Historic American Engineering Record
HBW	Home-Based Work Trips
HIST FTTS	FIFRA/TSCA Tracking System Administrative Case Listing
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HMIRS	Hazardous Materials Information Reporting System
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle
HRSR	Historic Resources Survey Report
ICIS	Integrated Compliance Information System
IESNA	Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
LBP	Lead-based paint
LCI	Livable Centers Initiative
LD	Landmark District
LIENS	CERCLA Lien Information
LOS	Level of Service

LQG	Large Quantity Generator
LRT	Light Rail Transit
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MARTA	Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority
MLRA	Major Land Resource Area
MMPT	Multi-Modal Passenger Terminal
N/A	Not applicable
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHRGIS	Natural, Archaeological and Historic Resources Geographical Information System
NE	Northeast
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAPS	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NFRAP	No Further Remedial Action Planned
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NonGen	Non Generator
NO _x	Nitrogen oxides
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NS	Norfolk Southern Corporation
NW	Northwest
O ₃	Ozone
PA	Preferred Alternative
PADS	PCB Activity Database System
Pb	Lead
PCBs	Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyls
PIAC	Public Involvement and Agency Coordination
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers and smaller
PM _{2.5}	Particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers and smaller
ppm	Parts per million
RCRA	Resource Conservation Recovery Act
RDP	Regional Development Plan
REC	Recognized Environmental Condition
ROW	Right-of-Way
RMS	Root mean square
RTD	Regional Transportation District (Denver, CO)
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
SAC	Stakeholder Advisory Committee
SAC	Steering Agency Committee

SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
SC	Streetcar
SE	Southeast
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SHWS	State Hazardous Site Inventory
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO _x	Sulfur oxides
SO ₂	Sulfur dioxide
SPI	Special Public Interest District
SPILLS	Spills Information Oil or Hazardous Material Spills or Releases
SQG	Small Quantity Generator
SR	State Route
SSMP	Safety and Security Management Plan
SSTS	Section 7 Tracking System
SW	Southwest
SWF/LF	Solid Waste Disposal Facilities/Landfill
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TAD	Tax Allocation District
TADAC	Tax Allocation District Advisory Committee
TIP	Transportation Improvement Plan
TIB	Transit Implementation Board
TIER 2	A listing of facilities which store or manufacture hazardous materials and submit a chemical inventory report
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TPB	Transit Planning Board
TRIS	Toxic Release Inventory System
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
TSDF	Transporters, Storage and Disposal Facility
TSM	Transportation Systems Management
UGPM	Urban Growth Policy Map
UP	Union Pacific Railroad
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tank
V/C	Volume-to-Capacity Ratio
VdB	Vibration decibel

VOC	Volatile organic compounds
VHT	Vehicle Hours Traveled
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled

Glossary of Commonly Used Terms

100-year floodplain – The area that will be inundated by the flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. In this document the 100-year floodplain refers to designated areas established by Flood Insurance Rate Maps produced by the National Flood Insurance Program.

303(d) List – See *Section 303(d)*.

abandoned right-of-way – Railroad right-of-way that is no longer used by a railroad operator. The Federal Surface Transportation Board reviews and approves requests for railroad right-of-way abandonment.

accessibility – A measure of the degree of difficulty in reaching other locations, goods, services or activities from a given site. It is influenced by changes in travel time, safety, vehicle operating costs, transportation mode, and local and regional land use conditions.

adverse effect – In the context of cultural resources reviewed in this report, the term is defined in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.5(a)(1)). An adverse effect to a historic property occurs when the project under consideration would potentially alter any characteristic that qualifies the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property.

affected environment – Ambient conditions of the relevant study area at the time an Environmental Effects Report is prepared.

alignment – The ground plan of a railway, trail, roadway or other fixed route.

ambient air – A physical and chemical measure of the concentration of various chemicals in the outside air, usually determined over a specific time period (e.g., one hour, eight hours).

at-grade – Occurring at the same ground-level elevation, especially in reference to a crossing point or intersection of two separate transportation facilities (e.g. road, sidewalk, bicycle path, railroad, etc.).

attainment area – An area where the quality of air is as good as or better than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards that are defined in the Federal Clean Air Act. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a non-attainment area for others.

BeltLine Tax Allocation District (TAD) – A special tax district created in 2005 by the Atlanta City Council, the Atlanta Public School Board, and the Fulton County Commission. It comprises a 6,500-acre area along the BeltLine corridor. Subsequent growth in property tax revenue above the 2005 revenue from the area will be used to fund public improvements within the TAD. The majority of the BeltLine TAD funds will be used to invest in land acquisition, multi-use trails, greenspace, transit, transportation improvements, and affordable workforce housing and Atlanta Public Schools projects. Some BeltLine TAD funds will be used for developer infrastructure, primarily for environmental brownfield cleanup, or to jump-start development in underdeveloped areas. The TAD will expire in 2031.

boardings, passenger – The count of passengers embarking onto a transit vehicle or route for the purposes of measuring ridership or fare revenue.

British Thermal Unit (BTU) – The amount of heat energy required to raise the temperature of one pound of liquid water by one degree from 60° to 61°Fahrenheit at a constant pressure of one atmosphere

brownfield – Real property, of which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

bus rapid transit (BRT) – A local or regional bus transit line that operates on a fully or partially exclusive lane from other traffic. It may also utilize other measures such as priority traffic signals to avoid delays from traffic lights and congestion. BRT systems typically have stops that are more widely spaced than local bus routes and that may incorporate more amenities such as covered stations, boarding platforms and off-board payment.

carbon monoxide (CO) – A colorless and odorless gas that is a product of incomplete combustion. In most areas, motor vehicles are responsible for the major portion of ambient CO levels. CO is absorbed by the lungs and reacts with hemoglobin to reduce the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood. At low concentrations, CO has been shown to aggravate the symptoms of cardiovascular disease. It can cause headaches and nausea, and at sustained high concentration levels, can lead to coma and death.

centerline – The line corresponding to the central geometric axis of a railroad track, road, trail or other transportation corridor. It is typically used as the reference point for measurements of track dimensions and location.

channel, stream – An open conduit either naturally or artificially created which periodically or continuously contains moving water.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 – Title VI of this federal act provides that that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin and sex, be discriminated against in federally funded programs or activities. Environmental impact statements are required to demonstrate consideration of project compliance with Title VI.

Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) – A strategy by the Federal government to address the problem of urban smog. It requires states and the Federal government to reduce emissions from automobiles, trucks, buses, ships, barges, and consumer products, and to meet air quality standards. It particularly addresses the urban problems of ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM-10). It established a process for the designation of “attainment” and “nonattainment” areas by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The CAAA also required that official regional transportation plans “conform” to the State Implementation Plan (see definition below) for federal air quality standards. The USDOT reviews regional transportation plans and makes a conformity determination.

clear-span – A bridge span that does not have any physical obstructions such as support columns underneath.

community facility – Public or publicly-funded facilities, such as police and fire protection facilities, emergency medical response facilities, hospitals, schools, and libraries, as well as private facilities such as hospitals and schools.

conformity determination – See *Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990*.

Connectivity Alternative – An alignment option considered in the Tier 1 EIS in a location identified as having critical design options. In these locations, the Tier 1 EIS Build Alternative includes multiple connectivity alternatives. These are different from the *Transit Concepts* (see below), which are alignment alternatives for the overall BeltLine loop.

contributing property/structure – A property or structure which contributes to the historical integrity of a designated historic district or property.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) – The federal office that oversees implementation of the Federal *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (see below) and coordinates other federal environmental efforts.

critical habitat – Defined under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 as areas within a listed species' current range (at the time of listing) that contain the physical or biological features that are essential to that species' conservation or that for some reason require special management and areas outside the species' current range that the Secretary of the Interior determines to be essential to its conservation.

cross-section – The cross-sectional configuration of a transportation corridor (railway, trail, roadway, etc.) that specifies typical widths for tracks/travel lanes, related facilities, buffer areas and total right-of-way.

cultural resource – Defined as both architectural and archaeological resources and typically including resources such as buildings, structures, religious properties, cemeteries, and Native American tribal areas. The historic significance of these types of resources is determined by applying the criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places Evaluation Criteria.

cumulative impacts – Changes to the environment that are caused by an action in combination with other past, present and future human actions. In simplest terms, analyzing cumulative effects means considering and accounting for the impacts of a proposed action in the context of the existing transportation system and improvements to it that are reasonably foreseeable in the vicinity. Also referred to as incremental effects.

de minimis – See Section 4(f).

determination of eligibility – Decision made by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding whether a historic building or district is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

designated use (waterway) – In accordance with the Federal Clean Water Act, the State of Georgia classifies all waters into categories of intended use, which accordingly have different water quality standards. Examples of designated uses include drinking water supply, fishing, and recreation.

effects – Synonymous with impacts of a proposed action; includes both beneficial and detrimental outcomes.

endangered – A species whose prospects for survival within the state are in immediate danger based on a loss of habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition, or disease. An endangered species requires immediate attention or extinction will likely follow. The Federal government maintains a list of designated endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

environmental impact statement – A document required by the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (see below) for any proposed major federal action that may significantly affect the environment (defined as a Class III action). The purpose of the EIS is to provide full and open evaluation of environmental issues and alternatives, and to inform decision-makers and the public of reasonable alternatives that could avoid or minimize adverse impacts and enhance the quality of the environment.

environmental justice – Executive Order (EO) 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” provides for equal protection from environmental hazards and fair treatment for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment implies that no population of people bear an unequal share of negative environmental impacts of pollution or environmental hazard resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, or local policies.

ephemeral stream – A stream that has flowing water only during, and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year. Ephemeral stream beds are located above the water table year-round. Groundwater is not a source of water for the stream. Runoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.

fixed guideway transit – An exclusive travel way used by a particular mode of public transportation.

floodplain – A nearly flat plain along the course of a stream or river that is naturally subject to flooding. In this document, the term floodplain generally refers to one of the Flood Hazard Areas defined by the National Flood Insurance Program and mapped in a Flood Insurance Rate Map.

fugitive dust – Dust that leaves a property during construction, demolition, or other induced activity and that can alter the air quality at a given location.

geographic information system(s) (GIS) – A computerized mapping system that includes database and analytical capabilities.

Georgia Ambient Air Quality Standards – See *Georgia Air Quality Control Act of 1967*.

Georgia Air Quality Control Act of 1967 – An act of the Georgia General Assembly that together with the Federal Clean Air Act, provides the basis for state air quality programs as implemented by the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. It established the Georgia Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Georgia Environmental Policy Act of 1991 – An act of the Georgia General Assembly that establishes a process for environmental review and disclosure of potential environmental impacts by proposed state actions.

Georgia Register of Historic Places – The Georgia Register is the state's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that provides recognition of a property's architectural, historical, or archaeological significance to the state. The Georgia Register program is administered by the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Department of Natural Resources. It identifies properties for planning purposes and ensures that these properties will be taken into account in the planning of state assisted projects and preservation efforts.

grade crossing – An intersection where a roadway crosses a railway at the same elevation.

greenway – A linear corridor of parkland, open space or other type of natural or vegetated land that usually contains a trail or pathway. Greenways can have different functions, including open space, recreational corridor, wildlife corridor or natural buffer.

groundwater recharge area – An area with a critical replenishing effect on groundwater aquifers, especially those used for drinking water.

habitat – The area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs.

hazardous material – Any toxic substance or explosive, corrosive, combustible, poisonous, or radioactive material that poses a risk to the public's health, safety or property.

headway – The scheduled time between transit vehicle runs operating on a particular transit route.

heavy rail – An electric railway with capacity for a heavy volume of traffic and characterized by exclusive rights-of-way, high speed and rapid acceleration. The existing MARTA rail system comprises heavy rail lines. Heavy rail is different from commuter rail and light rail systems.

Historic District – A concentration of sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are listed or eligible for listing on the National and Georgia Register of Historic Places.

hydric – Having high water content.

hydrocarbon (HC) – A type of chemicals that belongs to a larger group of chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOC), which include a wide variety of organic compounds emitted principally from the storage, handling and use of fossil fuels. HC are compounds of hydrogen and carbon only, while VOC may contain other elements. Hydrocarbons contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone. See also *Volatile Organic Compounds*.

hydrophytic vegetation – Plant life growing in water or in earth that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content.

impaired stream – A stream with water quality that does not support its designated use as defined by the State of Georgia in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act.

indirect effects – Effects that would be caused by a Proposed State Action but that would occur later in time or farther removed in distance but that are still reasonably foreseeable.

interlocking – An arrangement of railroad signals and switches with special operating procedures, typically located at critical sites such as a crossing of two railroads, drawbridge, junction, or entrance/exit to a terminal or yard.

intermittent stream – A stream that has flowing water during certain times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent streams may not have flowing water. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

intermodal – Referring to connections between or integration of two or more transportation modes (e.g., bus, train, automobile, etc.).

invasive species – A species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health.

jurisdictional wetland – A wetland that is regulated by Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act.

jurisdictional stream – A stream that is regulated by Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act.

land use – Classification providing information on land cover and the types of human activity occurring on a parcel of land, such as “commercial,” “industrial,” “residential,” or “open space.”

level of service (LOS) – A letter grade designation used to describe given roadway conditions with “A” being at or close to free-flow conditions and “F” being at or close to over-saturation of the roadway; usually based on the progression of vehicles through the green phase of a signal, driver discomfort/frustration, lost travel time, and fuel consumption.

Light Rail Transit (LRT) – An electric-powered rail system characterized by its ability to operate single- or multiple-car trains along exclusive rights-of-way, in subways, on aerial structures, or on streets with mixed traffic. It is able to board and discharge passengers at station platforms or at street, track, or car floor level. Some types of light rail transit systems may be referred to as streetcar, trolley, or tramway systems.

Limits of Disturbance (LOD) – The likely “footprint” or physical extent of the proposed project.

Locally Preferred Alternative - A transit alternative that is technically feasible and supported by local residents, stakeholders, and elected officials. It is determined through a detailed technical study and comments received through the associated public involvement process.

low-income – Any household with income at or below the U.S. Bureau of the Census poverty thresholds.

Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) – A classification of a geographic area of the United States based on its physiographic geologic, climatic, water, soil, and land use characteristics. The MLRA geographic database is maintained by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

migratory birds – bird species that embark on regular seasonal journeys on an annual basis for purposes such as breeding or feeding or in response to weather conditions. Migratory birds are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

minority – As recognized by Federal law, a member of one of the following races: (1) Black or African American, (2) American Indian or Alaska Native, (3) Asian, (4) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, (5) Hispanic or Latino Origin.

mitigation – Action necessary to reduce, minimize or eliminate an impact to the affected environment by the proposed project.

mixed-use – Combination of land uses, such as residential uses combined with office, retail, public, entertainment, or even manufacturing uses.

mobility – The degree to which a person is able to move about; it is determined by a person's economic situation in addition to any physical disabilities she or he may possess.

multi-use trail – A trail designed for a variety of non-motorized transportation modes and recreational uses, including walking, jogging, bicycling, and in-line skating as permitted by the facility's design and regulations.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) – Nationwide air quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 that apply to six principal types of pollutants.

National Flood Insurance Program – A program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that provides flood insurance to participating communities, issues floodplain management regulations, and identifies and maps floodplains

National Historic Landmark – A place that is designated by the US Department of the Interior as possessing exceptional value or quality in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the United States. The National Park Service administers the National Historic Landmarks program for the Secretary of the Interior. Only 3% of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are designated as National Historic Landmarks.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) – Federal legislation that establishes an umbrella process for coordinating compliance with each law through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all major federal actions significantly affecting the environment. Other special purpose statutes and procedures may apply as well, depending on specific circumstances, e.g., protective measures for historic properties, wetlands, floodplains, etc. If related environmental review requirements apply, they are to be undertaken as part of the NEPA compliance process. NEPA is the primary law governing the environmental protection process undertaken by the sub-agencies of the US Department of Transportation in reviewing federally funded transportation projects.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP or National Register) – A federal list of buildings, sites, districts or other properties that have a historic significance. The National Register of Historic Places is maintained by the Keeper of the National Register.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) – A geospatial database of wetlands maintained by the Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

neighborhood – A contiguous residential area with distinct characteristics or boundaries.

nitrogen oxides (NO_x) – When combustion temperatures are extremely high, as in motor vehicle engines, atmospheric nitrogen may combine with oxygen to form various oxides of nitrogen. These pollutants, generally referred to as NO_x, are inorganic gases formed by combination of oxygen with nitrogen from the air. Of these, nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) are the most significant compounds. Nitric oxide is a colorless and odorless gas. It is relatively harmless to humans and quickly converts to NO₂. NO₂, like VOCs, is of concern primarily because of its role in the formation of ozone. NO is produced in much greater quantities than NO₂, but oxidizes to NO₂ in the atmosphere. NO₂ causes detrimental effects to the bronchial system.

No Build Alternative – The future condition of the study area in the absence of the proposed project. The No Build Alternative serves as a benchmark against which the potential impacts of other alternatives can be compared. It assumes that no improvements will be made with the exception of

other committed projects and periodic maintenance and minor enhancements needed to maintain safe operation.

non-contributing – See “*contributing resource*.”

ozone (O₃) – A gas found in two different layers of earth's atmosphere: in the stratosphere (beginning seven to ten miles above earth's surface) and the troposphere (beginning at earth's surface and extending up to the stratosphere). In the stratosphere, ozone occurs naturally and provides a protective layer shielding earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. In the troposphere, ozone is a major component of photochemical smog and can harm the respiratory systems of humans and other animals. It is a prevalent and widespread criteria pollutant that is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the Clean Air Act. Ozone in the troposphere is produced by complex chemical reactions involving nitrogen oxides, which are among the primary pollutants emitted by combustion sources; hydrocarbons, released into the air through the combustion, handling and processing of petroleum products; and sunlight. This report is concerned with potential effects of the proposed state action on tropospheric ozone emissions and ambient levels.

palustrine – Relating to a system of inland, nontidal wetlands characterized by the presence of trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation (vegetation that is rooted below water but grows above the surface). Palustrine wetlands range from permanently saturated or flooded land (as in marshes, swamps, and lake shores) to land that is wet only seasonally (as in vernal pools).

particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) – Particle pollution is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. Particle pollution is made up of a number of components, including acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles. The US Environmental Protection Agency regulates two categories of particle pollution: *fine particles* (PM_{2.5}), which are 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller; and *inhalable coarse particles* (PM₁₀) which are smaller than 10 micrometers. (A micrometer is 1/1000th of a millimeter; there are 25,400 micrometers in an inch.)

peak period – The primary morning and afternoon/evening commute periods, the hours of which are defined differently according to the agency or study purpose.

perennial stream – A stream that has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

Phase I Archaeological Survey – The first step in a cultural resource archaeology investigation. The Phase I Survey assesses the potential presence and locations of potential archaeological sites within a study area using background research and field reconnaissance.

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) – Generally considered the first step in the process of environmental due diligence to identify potential or existing environmental contamination. The Phase I ESA typically addresses both the underlying land as well as physical improvements to the property and primarily examines potential uses, activities, and/or structures that can generate soil and groundwater contamination. Standards for performing a Phase I ESA have been promulgated by the USEPA and are based in part on ASTM Standard E1527-05. Actual sampling of soil, air, groundwater and/or building materials is typically not conducted during a Phase I ESA.

Phase II Environmental Site Assessment – The collection of soil, air, groundwater and/or building material samples to further identify site conditions and to better quantify the potential contamination

that may exist at a site, right-of-way, or area of concern based upon the findings of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment or other sources of suspected or known contamination. Work would be completed in conjunction with local, State of Georgia, and USEPA regulatory requirements and agencies.

Piedmont Physiographic Province – The physiographic province in which the study area is located. A physiographic province is a region in which the landforms are similar in geologic structure and differ significantly from the landform patterns in adjacent regions. The Georgia Piedmont is characterized by a rolling surface with slopes of minimal relief and stream valleys of greater depth and steeper slopes.

project sponsors – The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) and the Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) are the project sponsors for the BeltLine project environmental study being conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

protected species – An organism that is legally protected because it is considered endangered or threatened to become endangered, or one of special concern. Protection may be granted at the federal, state or local levels.

Public Involvement and Agency Coordination (PIAC) Plan – Section 6002 of Public Law 104-59, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, mandates the development of a coordination plan for all projects for which an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared under National Environmental Policy Act. It stipulates that the planning process provide opportunities for involvement by the public and agencies. For the BeltLine project, the PIAC plan describes how the public, local and state government agencies, and decision-makers will take part in the identification, development, and implementation of the proposed transit and multi-use trails system.

Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) – A term defined by ASTM International, originally known as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). It is defined under ASTM E1527 - 05 Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process. “The presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products on a property under conditions that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of a release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products into structures on the property or into the ground, ground water, or surface water of the property. The term includes hazardous substances or petroleum products even under conditions in compliance with laws. The term is not intended to include de minimis conditions that generally do not present a material risk of harm to public health or the environment and that generally would not be the subject of an enforcement action if brought to the attention of appropriate governmental agencies. Conditions determined to be de minimis are not recognized environmental conditions.”

ridership – The number of people using a public transportation system during a given time period.

right-of-way (ROW) – A public or private area that allows for passage of people or goods, including, but not limited to, railways, freeways, streets, bicycle paths, alleys, trails and walkways. A public right-of-way is dedicated or deeded to the public entity for use under the control of a public agency.

riparian buffer – A strip of naturally vegetated land along a stream. The vegetation along the banks and in the adjacent floodplain area is characterized by plants that associate with waterways and nearby moist soils. Riparian buffers protect water quality and other natural functions of the stream by filtering storm water runoff, stabilizing stream banks, moderating water temperatures, and providing habitat for wildlife.

runoff – The part of precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams and lakes. It can carry pollutants from the air and land into receiving waters.

Safety and Security Management Plan (SSMP) – A plan required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for major capital transit projects as a condition for Federal financial assistance. The SSMP explains how the funding recipient will perform safety and management activities defined in FTA guidelines.

Scoping Process – Scoping is the first step in the environmental review process and involves using public and agency participation to develop possible solutions and identify issues regarding a proposed project. Scoping also helps determine needs, objectives, resources and constraints within the study area. The formal Public Scoping Process for the BeltLine Corridor Environmental Study began with the publication in the Federal Register of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on July 24, 2008 (Volume 73, No. 143). The *Scoping Summary Report* summarized the initial public and agency input that was gathered during the project scoping period from July 24, 2008 through September 22, 2008.

secondary effects – Effects which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Secondary effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and on other natural systems, including ecosystems. Also referred to as indirect effects.

Section 4(f) – A provision of the Department of Transportation Act (DOT Act) of 1966 which stipulates that DOT agencies cannot approve the use of land from publicly owned parks, recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or public and private historical sites unless the following conditions apply: there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of land, and the action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from use. In 2005, the provision was modified so that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) may determine that certain uses of Section 4(f) land would have *de minimis* impacts and would have no adverse effect on the protected resource. When this is the case, and the responsible official(s) with jurisdiction over the resource agrees in writing, compliance with Section 4(f) is greatly simplified.

Section 106 – A provision of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that requires consideration of historic and archaeological properties and resources in Federal actions. Section 106 requires Federal agencies to assess potential effects of proposed actions on historic resources and provide opportunity for comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Section 303(d) – A provision of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 that requires states to assess the conditions of their waters to determine where water quality is impaired (does not fully meet standards) or threatened (is likely to violate standards in the near future). The result of this review is the 303(d) list of impaired waters within the state, which must be submitted to the EPA every other year. Section 303(d) also requires states to prioritize and target water bodies on their list for development of water quality improvement strategies.

Section 404 – A provision of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 which establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Proposed impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, streams and other open water bodies, are regulated by this provision.

Section 404 Permit – A permit issued in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977. The permitting program is administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

sensitive receiver / receptor – A land use that would receive noise or vibration caused by a project. The type of the land use in question (e.g., residences, schools, libraries, laboratories, etc.) is generally sensitive to noise and vibration effects.

sensitive view – An outdoor area that is visible by *sensitive viewers* (see below).

sensitive viewer – A person who may be impacted by a change in the local outdoor visual and aesthetic environment at a given location.

siding – A length of railroad track parallel to the main track that has a switch at both ends to allow trains to enter at one end and exit at the other. Sidings function to allow trains to pass one another or to access adjacent facilities such as industrial operations.

significant – Term used regarding the magnitude of potential effects or impacts of projects regulated by the Georgia Environmental Policy Act. A proposed action is considered in both context and intensity to determine whether or not the action would likely significantly impact a habitat, neighborhood, species or other resource in the study area.

sole source aquifer – An underground water supply designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the "sole or principal" source of drinking water for an area.

station platform – The area where passengers board and disembark from a train or subway vehicle.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) – A state administrative agency responsible for carrying out consultation in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and other state historic preservation regulations.

State Implementation Plan (SIP) – A state plan for the establishment, regulation, and enforcement of Federal air pollution standards. It is reviewed and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

storm water – Runoff water that is generated by a rain event. Storm water discharges include runoff from land, pavements, building rooftops and other surfaces. Storm water runoff can accumulate a variety of pollutants such as oil and grease, chemicals, nutrients, metals, and bacteria as it travels across land before discharging into surface and other receiving waters. Heavy surges in storm water runoff can cause other negative effects, including flooding and erosion, to streams and adjacent low-lying areas, especially in urbanized watersheds.

Stream Buffer Variance – A variance granted to the stream buffer requirements of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975. In certain circumstances, when encroachment on a required stream buffer cannot be avoided, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) may grant a variance permitting construction to encroach into the stream buffer. Provisions of the variance require documentation of erosion control measures and mitigation practices to minimize buffer impacts.

streetcar – A streetcar is a form of rail transit that generally refers to a type of light rail transit which uses smaller vehicles than typical light rail transit systems and generally operates as single-car trains. Modern Streetcars are capable of operating in mixed traffic and along exclusive fixed-rail guideways.

sulfur oxides (SO_x) – A class of compounds of which sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and sulfur trioxide (SO₃) are of great importance. The health effects of SO_x include respiratory illness, damage to the respiratory tract, and aggravation of respiratory diseases such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. Additionally, atmospheric reactions of SO₂ generate sulfuric acid, which is the main constituent of acid rain. Motor fuels, particularly diesel fuel, contain small amounts of sulfur that are oxidized and emitted in vehicle exhaust.

Tax Allocation District (TAD) – See *BeltLine Tax Allocation District*.

terminus/termini – The end points of a transportation line or the districts/towns in which they are located.

Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A written statement, required by Section 102 (2) (C) of the NEPA for projects that involve a federal action such as funding. The Tier 1 EIS serves to provide information about significant environmental impacts and informs decision-makers and the public of practical alternatives that would prevent or minimize adverse impacts or improve the quality of the human environment.

Title VI – See *Civil Rights Act of 1964*.

transit-dependent population – Defined by the Federal Transit Administration as persons in one or more of the following categories: 1) without private transportation, 2) elderly (over age 65), 3) youths (under age 18), or 4) persons below poverty or median income levels defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Transit Concept – One of the two overall transit alignment alternatives being studied as part of the Build Alternative of the BeltLine project. These are different from *Connectivity Alternatives* (see above), which are alternative transit alignment segments in specific locations.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – A prioritized list of regional transportation projects and proposed funding to be implemented in stages over several (3 to 5) years. The projects are selected from those proposed in the systems management element and the long-range element of the regional transportation planning process. This program is required as a condition for the region to receive federal transit and highway grants.

transportation systems management (TSM) – Different actions and activities designed to make an existing transportation system more efficient.

turbidity – A cloudy water quality condition due to suspended silt or organic matter.

underground storage tank (UST) – A tank located at least partially underground and designed to hold gasoline, other petroleum products or chemicals.

uplands – Land that is well-drained and rarely, if ever, inundated.

vegetated buffer/vegetative buffer – A vegetated upland or wetland area next to rivers, streams, lakes, or other open waters which separates the open water from developed areas and agricultural land. Vegetated buffers provide a variety of aquatic habitat functions and help improve or maintain local water quality. A vegetated buffer can be established by maintaining an existing vegetated area or by restoring a cleared or degraded area. See also *riparian buffer*.

vehicle miles traveled (VMT) – The number of miles traveled by an automobile per individual within a given area.

visual resource – A local resource, such as a structure or outdoor setting, valued for its visual or aesthetic qualities.

volatile organic compound (VOC) – A wide variety of organic compounds emitted principally from the storage, handling and use of fossil fuels. They are produced by incomplete combustion of hydrocarbon fuels and also by their evaporation. Because there are many hundreds of different compounds, VOC display a wide range of properties. Some, such as benzene, are carcinogenic while others are harmless to health. VOC contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone.

volume-to-capacity ratio (V/C) – A conventional measure for comparing roadway demand (traffic volumes) with roadway carrying capacity, which is based on the number of lanes, road speed and other aspects of the roadway's design.

waste water – The water and wastes from homes, businesses, institutions and infrastructure facilities that enter pipes and are transported to treatment plants for treatment and disposal.

Waters of the United States – All waters defined under the Clean Water Act 40 CFR 230.3(s) and subject to US Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. Waters of the United States include those which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. The definition includes all impoundments, tributaries of and wetlands adjacent to such waters.

wetland – Tidal area or swamp with water saturated soil characteristics and associated vegetation that meets certain criteria. Filling and development of such areas are regulated by federal and state agencies. The Clean Water Act defines the term wetlands as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas."

wye – A "y"-shaped segment of railroad track that allows trains to turn around.

zone – A division of the study area used for analysis purposes in the BeltLine environmental study. The study area is divided into four zones in this report: southwest, southeast, northeast and northwest.