Glossary

The following glossary provides an explanation of some of the terms used throughout the report.

Animated Street Wall refers to the creation of a continuous façade with active uses such as retail or commercial establishments, rather than blank walls or large gaps created by parking lots.

Athletic Club Block is the block bounded by Fifth, Cedar, Fourth and Minnesota Streets and is called such because of the location of the Lifetime Fitness club.

Bio-Swales are a method of collecting, storing and infiltrating stormwater; they are planted with native vegetation that enhance filtration and cleansing, which improves water quality.

Bump-outs are an extension of the pedestrian realm, typically at corners/intersections, that make it easier to cross the street by reducing the crossing distance and forcing cars to slow down as the lane narrows next to the bulb-out.

Character Districts are areas that have the potential to, or already do, capitalize on a particular strength or arrangement of goods and services. For example, the Midway Shopping District is an area known for its concentration of retail.

Community Benefits Agreement is an agreement made between the community and a developer to negotiate items that benefit the surrounding community such as living wage jobs, apprenticeships, and the creation of opportunities for disadvantaged or women-owned businesses. In exchange for these benefits, the community will offer support for a particular project.

Community Controlled Set Aside Funds are funds collected through area development or activities (taxes, transit fares, parking, etc.) with the intention that they are reinvested in the community in the form of a Community Development Restoration Program.

Co-op (or cooperative) is an arrangement where parties jointly own and manage residential or business establishments.

Density is a way to measure concentration of development. Residential density is usually measured by dwelling units per acre and commercial density is measured by square feet or employees per acre.

Developer Exactions are fees that developers are required to pay to offset the impact of their development. These exactions can be used for parks, schools, roads, water, waste disposal or other municipal purposes.

Dog-legs are used when a road cannot remain straight and is forced to jog in one direction or another to prevent dead ends and maintain circulation.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is a document that details the purpose and need of the proposed action, a description of the affected environment, the range of possible alternative and an analysis of environmental impacts. The DEIS is required by the National Environmental Protection Act when federal funding is involved in a project.

Environmental Justice is a holistic approach to the environment, which is often seen as an all-encompassing place to “live, work and play.” Environmental justice is concerned with the unequal distribution of environmental burdens and access to environmental goods (parks, recreation, safety, healthcare, education, jobs, clean air & water, etc.).

Final Design follows preliminary engineering and includes the preparation of final plans and construction drawings, updated cost estimates and preparation of the bid for construction.

First Source Hiring refers to the identification of entry level positions in order to properly allocate training resources, and the employment opportunities available for those who have completed said training programs. The system is essentially a way to identify a “source” of employment and preparing them to be the “first” considered for employment.

Floor-to-Area Ratio (FAR) is the ratio of gross floor area of a building (the sum, in square feet, of the gross horizontal areas of all floors of a building) to the total area of the lot. The FAR is used to measure the density of a project.

Gateway is a physical element that gives one a sense of arrival or departure from an area.

Gentrification is characterized by the purchase, upgrade or redevelopment of property that is deteriorating or in need of repair by parties who are wealthier than those who live or own businesses in the area. This action can attract more of the same activity, which can increase property values and taxes in the area, oftentimes forcing original tenants to leave.

Green Building is a way to increase the efficiency of a building in terms of the energy used, management of stormwater, use of materials etc., which effectively reduces the human and environmental impact.

Height:
- Low-rise buildings are typically 1 or 2 story structures, or a maximum of 30 feet
- Mid-rise buildings are typically 3 to 6 story structures, or between 30’ and 75’
- High-rise buildings are typically 7+ story structures, or at least 75 feet

Hide & Ride refers to those who park on residential streets in station areas and ride the train, rather than using a designated Park & Ride facility or using transit to get to the station.

Inclusionary Housing
- Inclusionary Housing Program can be either a mandatory requirement on developers to create a certain percentage of units that are affordable to low- and moderate income households. Inclusionary Housing Program can be either a mandatory requirement on developers to create a certain number of units, or a voluntary goal with built in incentives to encourage developers to include affordable units in their developments.
- Incubator services are typically referred to in terms of businesses and assist entrepreneurs, small and startup businesses to establish themselves, grow and become successful.
- Infill development takes place within the existing urban fabric and can be thought of as “filling in” a city’s gaps. Infill typically takes place on vacant lots or in the form of redeveloping an existing structure.
Smart Card Technology is a card imbedded with a computer chip that allows the user to pay for a train or bus ride, for example.

Stay in Place and Thrive is the idea that a place offers enough opportunities in terms of housing, amenities and services that one does not need to move from the area as business, housing and family-oriented needs change.

Storefront Glazing is an energy-efficient glass treatment technique that allows for larger, open windows that can make storefronts seem more inviting and provide greater visual interest for passing pedestrians.

Sustainable Development is a method of development that serves the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

Transit Opportunity Zone (TOZ) is a defined area that focuses on transit-supportive planning regulations, infrastructure investments, economic development initiatives and financial and policy incentives.

Transit-Oriented Development is commonly described as a community or development that mixes residential, office, commercial and open space, and allows for convenient or direct access to public transportation, eliminating the need to own a car. The design of TOD is specifically influenced by transit and focuses on walkability and connections to other sites as well as transit.

Phased Construction refers to timing construction processes at certain locations or sections of the line. Using a phased approach allows construction to be limited to a certain area for a certain period of time rather than construction taking place along the full length of the corridor, in all sections, at the same time.

Podiums The podium or base of a building helps to integrate a taller element such as a point tower with existing lower scaled development and provides definition to surrounding streets and open spaces. Podiums can provide an opportunity to create a pedestrian scaled environment at street level and can be used to mitigate the impacts of site servicing and vehicular access.

Point Towers are slender apartment buildings with a small floor plate of generally 6,000 - 7,000 sq ft. In comparison with typical boxier slab styled buildings, point towers generally help to preserve views and result in fast moving shadows with reduced impact upon their surroundings.

Pooled Resource Approach (to parking) refers to the shift from parking lots or facilities that serve only one business to lots that serve several businesses, creating a more efficient use of available parking facilities.

Preliminary Engineering (PE) is the phase where the more technical aspects of LRT are detailed. PE will include the design and location of tracks and platforms, the design and location of streetscape improvements, determining construction phasing opportunities and approaches, and the determination of costs and sources of financial contributions.

Residential Permit Parking is a method of controlling parking in a residential neighborhood by requiring vehicles to have a permit sticker in order to park in a particular location. This ensures that only those living on the block (and their visitors) are allowed to park there, eliminating parking for proximate uses.

Setback is the distance required by the zoning code that a building must be from front, side and rear lot lines.

Light Rail Transit (LRT) Light rail is a mode of transit that is often powered by electricity; trains operate on rails, either in the street or in a dedicated right of way. The term light rail is used because light rail vehicles tend to be physically lighter and have less carrying capacity than a heavy or commuter rail system. Light rail vehicles are more compatible with urban environments.

Live-Work Unit is a type of development that allows for a residential and commercial use, within the same unit. The most common arrangement is a first floor business that is connected to the owner’s second floor living space.

Mode refers to the actual method of transportation and can indicate walking, biking, driving, and riding the LRT. The Modal Split is a term that describes how many people use what form of transit and is often used to describe the percentage of people who use private automobiles in comparison to the percentage who use alternate forms of transit.

One-Window Approach refers to a simplified method of communication between the community and the City and suggests the need to only go to one place (window) to discuss issues and concerns with LRT.

Outpost Buildings are smaller buildings, located along the corridor, that are perhaps not the primary use on site. An example would be the Target store (primary building) and the Blockbuster store (outpost building).

Parkettes are mini parks, or pocket parks, that can be part of a green connection or simply to provide a respite or green space where one may be lacking.

Parking Decks are also known as parking ramps.

Pedestrian Boulevards/Park Streets/Green Boulevards/Green Streets are all methods of improving the pedestrian realm by adding green spaces, plantings or trees.