

# Glossary

**Aggregate:** Sand and gravel.

**Aquifer:** Any saturated permeable geologic unit that under normal conditions can transmit significant quantities of water.

**A-weighted decibels:** The weighted decibel scale that best approximates the response of the human ear to noise.

**Backfill:** The material used to refill a ditch or excavation, or the process of doing so.

**Bed:** The smallest division of a stratified geologic series, and marked by a plane from its neighbors above and below. Generally these are regional in scale and will have similar physical properties throughout their extent.

**Capacity:** The maximum sustainable flow rate of persons or vehicles that can reasonably be expected to travel through a segment of roadway or other facility in a specified time period. Typically stated in persons per hour (pph), vehicles per hour (vph), or passenger car equivalents per hour (pcph).

**Decibels:** Unit on a scale used to measure noise.

**Delay:** Additional travel time experienced by a driver or passenger while traveling at speeds below the posted speed. Freeway delay comprises traffic delay (including mainline and ramp meter delay) and incident delay. Surface street delay typically comprises traffic delay and signal delay.

**Ephemeral stream:** Any stream which can vary from dry to running with the seasons.

**Facies:** The physical appearance of a geologic unit used to describe its origins in relation to other units.

**Fluvial:** Derived from or pertaining to rivers and their processes.

**Fugitive dust:** Dust emissions caused by dispersion of dust particles by prevailing winds and/or the turbulence caused by moving machinery and trucks.

**Glacial:** Pertaining to or characteristic of, produced by, or derived from a glacier.

**Hydrogeologic unit:** A single continuous geologic layer with similar physical properties throughout.

**Incident Delay:** Additional travel time experienced as a result of a breakdown, crash, or other occurrence that impedes the flow of traffic.

**Lacustrine:** Derived from or pertaining to lake environments.

**Lens:** A discontinuous hydrogeologic unit.

**Level of service:** A measure of the quality of traffic flow based on speed and travel time, freedom to maneuver, and traffic interruptions. Level of service (LOS) is rated from A to F, with A being the best (free-flow) conditions and F being the worst.

**Limnetic:** Pertaining to or inhabiting fresh water.

**Littoral:** Pertaining to or existing on or near shore.

**Mode:** A particular variety or form. In this EIS, usually a particular form of transportation such as automobile, bus, carpool or bicycle.

**Off-Peak:** Any time during the day outside the peak travel period, typically when traffic flows are not constrained by roadway or facility capacity.

**Peak Direction:** Direction of maximum traffic flow during the peak hour. For I-90, this is westbound during the AM peak hour and eastbound during the PM peak hour.

**Peak Hour:** The hours within the day during which the maximum volume of traffic passes a defined roadway point: one hour in the morning (AM) and one hour in the afternoon (PM). The peak hour typically correlates to “rush hour.”

**Peak Period:** A time period during which the maximum volume of traffic passes a defined roadway point. In the DEIS, both three-hour and six-hour periods are considered.

**Person-Hour:** A measure of travel time and delay derived by multiplying the number of persons traversing the facility by travel time experienced by each person, including delays.

**Queuing:** In the context of traffic analysis, vehicles lined up awaiting a turn or change of traffic signal.

**Recharge:** The entry into the saturated zone (i.e., aquifers) from surface water infiltration.

**Reverse-Peak Direction:** Direction of lower traffic volumes during the peak period. For I-90, this is currently eastbound during the AM peak period and westbound during the PM peak period.

**Riparian:** Pertaining to the banks of a body of water.

**Slough:** A place of deep mud or mire; an inlet on a river; or a creek or marsh in a tide flat.

**Traffic Delay:** Reduction in speed below free-flow conditions as a result of vehicle interaction.

**Viewscape/viewshed:** The area visible from a designated viewpoint.

**Water table:** The point at which the zone of saturation meets the zone of aeration, or the point at which hydraulic pressure equals atmospheric pressure. This corresponds to the top of an unconfined or perched aquifer.