

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Calibration: The act of checking or adjusting (by comparison with a standard) the accuracy of a measuring instrument.

Obstruction: Any object that blocks a driver's sight line of approaching conflicting vehicles.

School route plan: A map showing the school, nearby streets, existing traffic controls, and the suggested school route for children to follow.

Sight distance: The maximum distance of unobstructed vision in a horizontal or vertical plane from within an automobile located at any given point on a roadway.

Horizontal sight distance: The driver's vision may be limited by buildings, hedges, vehicles, trees, bushes, tall crops, walls, fences, etc.

Vertical sight distance: The driver's vision may be limited by the vertical curvature of the roadway.

Sight triangles: Specified areas along intersection approach legs and across their included corners.

Approach sight triangle: A sight triangle that provides the driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection, a clear unobstructed view of any approaching conflicting vehicles.

Departure sight triangle: A sight triangle that provides sufficient sight distance for a stopped vehicle on a minor road to depart from the intersection and enter or cross the major road.

Speeding: Exceeding the posted speed limit or driving too fast for conditions.

Speed percentiles: A tool used to determine effective and adequate speed limits.

50th percentile of speed: Median speed of the observed data set.

85th percentile of speed: Speed at which 85% of the observed vehicles are traveling at or below.

Traffic control device (TCD): Signs, signals, markings, and devices placed on, over, or adjacent to a street or highway by an authority of a public body having jurisdiction to regulate, warn, or guide traffic.

Traffic volume: Amount of traffic that travels any given roadway during any given time period.

Average daily traffic (ADT): The total volume during a given time period (in whole days), greater than one day and less than one year, divided by the number of days in that time period.

Annual average daily traffic (AADT): A general unit of measure for traffic, which represents the annual average traffic per day.

DEV: Daily entering volume.

Off-peak flow traffic: A time period during any given day when the traffic volume is normally the least.

Peak-flow traffic: A time period during any given day when the traffic volume is normally the heaviest. Peak-flow traffic may last up to two hours in some locations and is normally for the a.m. commute to work and the p.m. commute home from work.

COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AASHTO:	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
CTRE:	Center for Transportation Research and Education
DOT:	Department of Transportation
FHWA:	Federal Highway Administration
ITE:	Institute of Transportation Engineers
ITSDS:	Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service
MUTCD:	<i>Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices</i>
NCHRP:	National Cooperative Highway Research Program
TEAP:	Traffic Engineering Assistance Program
TRB:	Transportation Research Board