

Glossary of Infrastructure Terms

Arterial Street

A street used primarily for fast or heavy traffic and designated in the major thoroughfare plan as a primary arterial street, secondary arterial street or express way. Connects two or more sub regions; provides secondary connections outside of cities and complements freeway in high volume corridors. Daily traffic volumes greater than 10,000 vehicles per day.

Average Daily Traffic

Abbreviated **ADT**, is a term used primarily in transportation planning. It is the total volume of vehicle traffic in both directions of a highway or road for a 24 hour period. ADT is a useful and simple measurement of how busy the road is.

Capacity – Drainage

The measure of water capable of flowing through a channel, measured in cubic feet per second (CFS). Also the measure of how much water a storm water detention facility holds, usually measured in acre-feet.

Capacity – Street

Projects which call for widening of streets to accommodate existing and anticipated growth in traffic volumes.

Channel

A course or passage through which storm water may move or be directed. It is a generic term in reference to ditches, bayous, creeks or other smaller tributaries. A channel can vary in shape and size, and can be either natural or man-made.

Collector Street

A street which provides some access to abutting property and connects with the major system of arterials and highways. Connects neighborhoods within and between sub regions. Daily traffic volumes range from 8,000 – 10,000 vehicles per day.

Concrete Channel

Constructed adjacent to a neighborhood, business, or industrial park and is designed to accommodate water flow (more than 6 cubic feet per second) from any rain event. The entire design of channel construction incorporates concrete armoring of side banks, floors and low flow pilot channel. No vegetation is established.

Constructed Channel

Constructed adjacent to a neighborhood, business, or industrial park and is designed to accommodate water flow from a rain event. Constructed channels can either be a concrete channel (designed for water flow greater than 6 cubic feet per second) or a trapezoidal earthen channel (designed for water flows less than 6 cubic feet per second).

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Detention (Basin)

An area of land, usually adjacent to a channel, that is designed to receive and hold above-normal storm water volumes. The detained storm water then slowly drains over time out of the detention basin as the flow in the channel and associated water surface elevations recede. (also Storm water Detention)

Local Street

Streets routes that provide access to local property owners and which connect property to the major thoroughfare or other collector street networks. There are 2 types of local streets:

Local A: Daily traffic volumes range between 500 – 1000 vehicles per day (vpd).

Local B: Daily traffic volumes range from 1,000 – 4,000 vehicles per day (houses fronting) and 4,000 – 8,000 vehicles per day (no houses fronting).

Multi Modal

Projects which contain multiple traffic elements (i.e. traffic lanes, bike lanes, bus lanes, sidewalks, bus pads, bus pull outs).

Natural Waterway

Limited construction has occurred within these natural channels. Channel typically consists of heavy vegetation of grasses and trees. Limited excavation or grading maintenance might be done within these natural waterways. Silt and gravel is removed on a very limited basis from the waterway.

Outfall

An outfall is simply the pipe, channel, or opening where water "falls out" and then into another body of water, typically a drainage channel. In a typical storm water detention basin, the outfall is at or connected to the lowest point of the basin so that detained water drains completely.

Preservation

Projects which focus on preserving the system by reconstructing streets and are coordinated with the Street Maintenance Program.

Riprap

Rocks or broken pieces of concrete often placed in areas where the flow of storm water is expected to cause erosion. The riprap serves as "armor" for areas of channels and detention basins to minimize the occurrence of erosion.

Runoff

The storm water from rainfall not absorbed by the ground that flows in to the local drainage system, and ultimately, streams and bayous.

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Storm water Detention (Basin)

An area of land, usually adjacent to a channel, that is designed to receive and hold above-normal storm water volumes. The detained storm water then slowly drains, over time, out of the detention basin as the flow in the channel and associated water surface elevations recede. (also Detention)

Trapezoidal Earthen Channels

Constructed adjacent to a neighborhood, business, or industrial park and is designed to accommodate water flow (less than 6 cubic feet per second) from a rain event. Channel is constructed of earthen materials. Limited concrete armoring is used. The design of channel construction incorporates establishment of vegetation on banks and floors.

Watershed

A geographical region of land or "drainage area" that drains to a common channel or outlet. Drainage of the land can occur directly into a creek, or through a series of systems that may include storm sewers, roadside ditches, and/or tributary channels.