

APPENDIX H: GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

Glossary

Best Management Practices: Methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of meeting their intended goal or outcome.

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS): Collaborative, interdisciplinary process that involves all stakeholders to design a transportation facility that fits its applicable setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources while maintaining safety and mobility. CSS respects design objectives for safety, efficiency, capacity and maintenance while integrating community objectives and values relating to compatibility, livability, sense of place, urban design, cost and environmental impacts. (from *Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities*. Institute of Transportation Engineers.)

Critical Mass: The scale or volume at which processes become self-perpetuating. In this context, the number of visitors necessary that allows a place to become self-sustaining in terms of commerce, civil activity and interpersonal engagement.

Geometric Design: The highway, vehicle, and individual users are the three integral parts of transportation safety and efficiency. The "Geometric Design" program area investigates, incorporates and promotes tools to improve safety performance and cost-effectiveness into the conventional transportation planning and design process. (Federal Highway Administration).

Human Scale: How humans perceive the size of their surroundings and their comfort with the elements of the natural and built environment relative to their own size. In urban areas, human scale represents features and characteristics of buildings that can be observed within a short distance and at the speed of a pedestrian, and sites and districts that are walkable. In contrast, auto scale represents a built environment where buildings, sites, signs, etc. are designed to be observed and reached at the speed of an automobile. (from *Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities*. Institute of Transportation Engineers.)

Level of Distress: A qualitative measure describing the physical condition of a road surface. Conditions such as cracking and fault formation are taken into account in order to arrive at an overall level of distress for pavement segments.

Level of Service: A qualitative measure describing the operational conditions within a traffic stream and their perception by motorists and/or passengers and other transportation users. Conditions such as speed, travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, and comfort and convenience are used to describe levels of service. Levels of service are characterized as ‘A’ (free flow, little delay) through ‘F’ (breakdown, forced flow), with ‘E’ representative of operation at capacity.

Mixed-Use: The combining of, or zoning for, retail/commercial and/or service uses with residential or office use in the same building or on the same site either vertically (with different uses stacked upon each other in a building) or horizontally (with different uses adjacent to each other or within close proximity). (from *Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities*. Institute of Transportation Engineers.)

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Outdoor Room Concept: This concept stresses the creation of an outdoor environment using built and natural forms (buildings, trees, benches, landscaping, etc.) to provide individuals with a sense of comfort and safety in the outdoor environment as well as focal points of interest that captivate or encourage interpersonal contact.

Pattern Language: A structured method of describing good design practices within a particular domain. Styles in architectural and urban design that display similar characteristics reflect a distinct pattern language. North American main streets are an example of a distinct pattern language; several distinct patterns in building materials and design can be found within such spaces.

Pocket Parks: Small green spaces accessible to the general public that are often of primarily environmental or aesthetic importance rather than recreational

Sense of Place: While there are many intricacies to this concept, *sense of place* may best be defined within the present context as “defining oneself in terms of a given piece of land...Landscape acts as teacher in shaping our perceptions of place. Analysis suggests that four major components contribute to a sense of place...[including] (1) toponymic – related to naming places; (2) narrative – involving personal or group stories or legends; (3) experiential – associated particularly with dependence and survival; and (4) numinous – spiritual. Definition adapted from Yan Xu’s essay “Sense of Place and Identity.” (citation provided on page 3.

Traffic Calming: The combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users. (ITE State of the Practice, 1999)

Walkable/Walkability: Streets and places designed or reconstructed to provide safe and comfortable facilities for pedestrians, and are safe and easy to cross for people of all ages and abilities. (from *Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities*. Institute of Transportation Engineers.)

Walkable Communities: Desirable places to live, work, learn and play, and therefore a key component of smart growth. Their desirability comes from two factors. First, locating, within an easy and safe walk, goods (such as housing, offices and retail) and services (such as transportation, schools, libraries) that a community resident or employee needs on a regular basis. Second, by definition, walkable communities make pedestrian activity possible, thus expanding transportation options and creating a streetscape that better serves a range of users – pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and drivers. To foster walkability, communities must mix land uses and build compactly, and ensure safe and inviting pedestrian corridors. (from *Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities*. Institute of Transportation Engineers.)

Acronyms

AASHTO: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

ITE: Institute of Transportation Engineers

CBD: Central Business District

G/FLRPC: Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

GTC: Genesee Transportation Council

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DOT: [New York State] Department of Transportation

UPWP: Unified Planning Work Program

TIP: Transportation Improvement Project

LRTP: Long Range Transportation Plan