



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VA GLOSSARY OF PLANNING TERMS

NOTE: This glossary is an informal resource for the community. Definitions were gathered through a variety of sources. Corrections or additions may be suggested by contacting the Department of Planning and Zoning, 301 King Street, 2100, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703.746.4666, www.alexandriava.gov.

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ACRONYMS FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

- City of Alexandria, Virginia (COA)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- U.S. National Park Service (NPS)
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

TERMS

- **Action Items:** A high level list highlighting (some, not all) major staff work adopted by City Council (Source: City of Alexandria Office of Performance and Accountability).
- **Accessible Housing:** Housing designed or modified to accommodate individuals with physical disabilities so they may live independently. Mandatory requirements for accessible housing vary widely and are found in state, local and model building codes, as well as in agency regulations such as HUD's Section 504 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act requirements. Examples of accessible features include wide doors, low countertop segments, grab bars in bathrooms and switches and controls in easy-to-reach locations (Source: COA Housing Master Plan, 2014).
- **Adaptable Housing:** An adaptable unit has features that a fixed accessible unit has but allows some to be omitted or concealed, until needed, so that the dwelling unit looks the same as others and is matched to individual needs when occupied. Adaptable features can be readily adjusted in a short time by unskilled labor without involving structural or finished material changes (Source: COA Housing Master Plan, 2014).
- **Area Median Income:** Income levels, by geographic and/or urban areas, that are annually established by HUD for households of various sizes, where half of the households in the area earn more and half earn less (Source: COA Housing Master Plan, 2014).
- **Art and Cultural District:** Any locality may, by ordinance, establish within its boundaries one or more arts and cultural districts for the purpose of increasing awareness and support for the arts and culture in the locality. The locality may provide incentives for the support and creation of arts and cultural venues in each district. The locality may also grant tax incentives and provide certain regulatory flexibility in each arts and cultural district. The tax incentives for each district may be provided for up to 10 years and may include, but not be limited to: (i) reduction of permit fees; (ii) reduction of user fees; (iii) reduction of any type of gross receipts tax; and (iv) rebate of real estate property taxes. The extent and duration of such incentive proposals shall conform to the requirements of the Constitutions of Virginia and of the United States. Each locality may also provide for regulatory flexibility in each district that may include, but not be limited to: (i) special zoning for the district; (ii) permit process reform; (iii) exemption from ordinances; and (iv) any other incentive adopted by ordinance, which shall be binding upon the locality for a period of up to 10 years. (Source: Commonwealth of Virginia Code § 15.2-1129.1.)
- **Baseline:** Base level of previous or current performance that can be used to set improvement goals and provide a basis for assessing future progress (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit).
- **Best Management Practice (BMP):** A BMP is "a practice or combination of practices that are determined to be the most effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional...considerations) means of controlling point and nonpoint source pollutants at levels compatible with environmental quality goals." (Source: EPA online vocabulary catalog. Epa.gov)

- **Best Management Practice for Storm Water Management (Storm Water Management BMP):** Storm water management BMPs are control measures taken to mitigate changes to both quantity and quality of urban runoff. Generally these BMPs focus on water quality problems caused by increased impervious surfaces. These BMPs are designed to reduce storm water volume, peak flows, and/or non-point source pollution through evapotranspiration, infiltration, detention, and filtration or biological and chemical actions. These BMPs also can improve receiving-water quality by extending the duration of outflows in comparison to inflow duration in order to dilute the storm water discharged into a larger volume of upstream flow. (Source: US Geological Survey)
- **Bicycle Facility:** A general term denoting infrastructure improvements and provisions that accommodate and/or encourage bicycling. Some examples include bicycle racks, bicycle lanes, trails and shared lane markings (“sharrows”). (Source: COA Transportation Master Plan, Pedestrian and Bicycle Chapter)
- **Building:** A structure (such as a house, hospital, school, etc.) with a roof and walls that is used as a place for people to live, work, do activities, store things. (Source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary)
- **Building Envelope:** The volume of space for a building as defined by the minimum setbacks and the maximum allowable height. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Building Footprint:** The outline of the total area covered by a building or structure's perimeter at the ground level. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Building Mass:** The three-dimensional bulk of a building: height, width, and depth. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Capital Goods:** Long-lived assets that have a useful life of two or more years, can be identified permanently as a separate item, and cost over \$10,000.
- **Capital Improvement Program:** A ten-year plan of approved capital expenditures for long term improvements to the City's public facilities and public works, as well as to Alexandria City Public School capital projects.
- **Case Study:** A study containing qualitative data (such as observations and information drawn from interviews) about one subject. These studies are typically based on what is termed anecdotal evidence. A series of case studies can provide useful information that something of significance is happening that may merit further study. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit).
- **Certificate of Appropriateness:** This is a term used throughout the United States for the type of approval necessary for exterior architectural work that must be reviewed and approved by a local government’s architectural review board or historic preservation commission as permitted by the locality’s local zoning ordinance. Specifically, in the COA, a Certificate of Appropriateness is what the two Boards of Architectural Review (BARs) approve for any project that requests any exterior architectural alteration, restoration, addition to an existing building or new construction. The BARs must consider established preservation and architectural standards in determining whether a project is *appropriate* by being consistent and

compatible with the standards and the overall historic district. For requests to move, remove, capsculate, demolish or partially demolish, the BARs require a separate Permit to Demolish. The approval and issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness and/or a Permit to Demolish are required before any of the above construction or work may commence in the locally designated historic districts. (Source: COA Planning and Zoning Department)

- **Charrette:** A Charrette is a design-based, accelerated, collaborative project management system. It is a flexible, three-stage process that can be customized for a given project. Stage 1 – Research, Education, and Charrette Preparation; Stage 2 - Charrette; and Stage 3 – Post Charrette Activities. (Source: National Charrette Institute)
- **Citizen Participation:** The process through which citizens who live, work, invest or spend time in an area are actively involved in the development of plans and recommendations for that area. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **City Strategic Plan:** Alexandria’s Strategic Plan is a tool to guide the City and community toward a future we collectively envision for our city. City staff and officials consider the Strategic Plan when developing, implementing or reviewing programs and services, and in considering requests for fiscal resources (Source: City of Alexandria Office of Performance and Accountability).
- **Collaboration:** To work together sharing ideas and resources, especially in a joint intellectual work effort. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit).
- **Combined Sewer Outfall (CSO):** There are two types of storm sewer systems in the COA, a Separate Sanitary Sewer System (SSSS), and a Combined Sewer System (CSS). An SSSS consists of two pipes: one pipe conveys storm water runoff (rain water) from storm drains to local waterways with little or no treatment to remove pollutants. The other pipe conveys sanitary sewage to the local wastewater treatment plant operated by Alexandria Renew Enterprises. A CSS has only one pipe which conveys both sanitary sewage and storm water to a local wastewater treatment plant. During dry weather, all raw sewage flows to the treatment plant. When significant rainfall occurs, the pipe can become overloaded with polluted storm water. This mixture of storm water (about 90%) and sewage may overflow into local streams through the end of the pipe, or the CSO. (Source: COA Department of Transportation and Environmental Services)
- **Committed Affordable Units (CAUs):** Housing units that are available to income-eligible households through rent and/or occupancy restrictions imposed as a condition of assistance under federal, state or local programs. Targeted income levels vary by program. (Source: COA Old Town North Project Brief, 2015)
- **Demographics:** The characteristics of human populations and population segments, especially when used to identify consumer markets. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Density:** Density is expressed as dwelling units per acre or per net acre. (Source: American Planning Association)

- **Density Bonus:** Section 7-700 of the City's Zoning Ordinance, which requires provision of some on-site affordable units when bonus density or height is granted through the special use permit process. Bonus density under Section 7-700 consists of increases above what is allowed with a Development Special Use Permit in a given zone of up to 20 percent in additional density or up to 25 feet in additional height. (Source: COA Zoning Ordinance, COA Housing Master Plan, 2014)
- **Development Incentive:** A measure that can be taken, usually by a governing agency, to encourage certain types of developments. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Development Site Plan (DSP)** – A DSP is required in all zones for any development that: contains three or more dwelling units; is a building or addition that is 3,000 square feet or larger; provides a parking lot with five or more parking spaces; is a building addition that is 1/3 or more of the existing gross square feet of the building; and falls under other criteria listed in the COA Zoning Ordinance. (Source: COA Zoning Ordinance, refer to Section 11-400)
- **Development Special Use Permit with Site Plan (DSUP):** A DSUP is required in all zones for any development that requires a site plan and is requesting approval of a special use permit for the following: a modification of the parking ratios; a modification to the yard, landscape or open space requirements; increased building height; increased Floor Area Ratio; affordable housing bonus density; and other special requirements listed in the applicable zone in the COA Zoning Ordinance. (Source: COA Zoning Ordinance, refer to specific zone sections)
- **EcoDistrict:** A district (more than a building, less than the town) in urban planning that seeks to integrate the objectives of sustainable development and reduce ecological footprints, improve social equity and create a sustainable economy by designing systems to achieve ambitious targets. (Source: EcoDistricts: Pathway to a Resilient Community, Seminar, March 2, 2016)
- **Facilitator:** A person who makes it easier for other people to accomplish objectives by offering advice and assistance in solving problems, either with technical issues or with other people. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Feasibility:** Capability of being accomplished or brought about; possibility. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Fiscal:** Related to finance or finances. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Floor Area Ratio:** The floor area ratio of the building or buildings on any lot or tract or tract of land is the total aggregate floor area of such building or buildings divided by the area of that lot or tract or tract of land. (Source: COA Zoning Ordinance)
- **Goal:** A goal means a desired state of affairs to which a planned effort is directed. (Source: American Planning Association)
- **Grant:** A transfer of State or federal monies to the City, usually for specific programs or activities. (Source: City of Alexandria Office of Management and Budget)

- **Green Building:** Structures that incorporate the principles of sustainable design—design in which the impact of a building on the environment will be minimal over the lifetime of that building. Green buildings incorporate principles of energy and resource efficiency, practical applications of waste reduction and pollution prevention, good indoor air quality and natural light to promote occupant health and productivity, and transportation efficiency in design and construction, during use and reuse. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Green Infrastructure (GI):** GI is “an adaptable term used to describe an array of products, technologies and practices that use natural systems—or engineered systems that mimic natural... processes—to enhance overall environmental quality and provide utility services. As a general principal, GI techniques use soils and vegetation to infiltrate, evapotranspire, and/or recycle storm water runoff. When used as components of a storm water management system, GI practices such as green roofs, porous pavement, rain gardens, and vegetated swales can produce a variety of environmental benefits. In addition to effectively retaining and infiltrating rainfall, these technologies can simultaneously help filter air pollutants, reduce energy demands, mitigate urban heat islands, and sequester carbon while also providing communities with aesthetic and natural resource benefits.” (EPA online vocabulary catalog EPA.gov)
- **Gross Floor Area:** Gross floor area is floor area within the perimeter of the outside walls of a building as measured from the inside surface of the exterior walls without reduction for hallways, stairs, closets, and thickness of the walls. (Source: The Free Dictionary)
- **Guideline:** A guideline is an agency statement or a declaration of policy that the agency intends to follow, which does not have the force or effect of law and that binds the agency but does not bind any other person. (Source: American Planning Association)
- **Historic Preservation:** Historic preservation is one important way to transmit an understanding of the past to future generations. It begins as a discussion about what is significant in our past and what can be saved and interpreted. Cultural resource professionals, such as archaeologists, architects, curators, historians, and landscape architects, work with the public to understand what is significant on national, state and local levels—highlighting and celebrating accomplishments in our history as well as recognizing some aspects that are painful to remember. Preservation actions include the designation, recognition and interpretation of historic sites; documentation through written reports, technical reports, and photography; and physical preservation through stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. (Source: NPS)
- **Housing Affordability:** Housing is considered affordable when the occupying household is paying no more than 30% of its gross income on housing-related expenses (rent or mortgage, plus utilities). (Source: COA Office of Housing)
- **Impervious Surface:** Any hard-surfaced (e.g. asphalt, concrete, roofing material, brick, paving block, plastic), man-made area that does not readily absorb or retain water, including but not limited to building roofs, parking and driveway areas, graveled areas, sidewalks, and paved recreation areas. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Indicator:** A measure that tracks performance data. (Source: City of Alexandria Office of Performance and Accountability)

- **Infrastructure:** Facilities and services needed to sustain industry, residential, commercial, and all other land-use activities, including water, sewer lines, and other utilities, streets and roads, communications, transmission lines, and public facilities such as fire stations, parks, schools, etc. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Innovation District:** Innovation districts represent a radical departure from traditional economic development. Unlike customary urban revitalization efforts that have emphasized the commercial aspects of development (e.g., housing, retail, sports stadiums), innovation districts help their city and metropolis move up the value chain of global competitiveness by growing the firms, networks, and traded sectors that drive broad-based prosperity. Instead of building isolated science parks, innovation districts focus extensively on creating a dynamic physical realm that strengthens proximity and knowledge spillovers. Rather than focus on discrete industries, innovation districts represent an intentional effort to create new products, technologies and market solutions through the convergence of disparate sectors and specializations (e.g., information technology and bioscience, energy, or education). (Source: The Brookings Institution)
- **Jurisdiction:** The limits or territory within which authority may be exercised. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED):** A certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Legislation:** A proposed or enacted law or group of laws. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Liner Building Uses:** Buildings specifically designed to mask parking lots or garages from street frontage. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Linear Path or Park:** A park or parkway that is a lot longer than it is wide. Linear parks are often created from strips of public land next to rivers, creeks, canals, easements for electrical lines, former rail corridors, scenic highways, and shorelines. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Live/Work Space:** Buildings or spaces within buildings that are used jointly for commercial and residential purposes where the residential use of the space is secondary or accessory to the primary use as a place of work. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC):** The federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) program was established under the Tax Reform Act of 1986 to encourage private investment in affordable housing. LIHTC is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in tax liability to the owner of qualified low-income housing development for the acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction of low-income rental housing units. While the LIHTC is a federal credit, the LIHTC program is administered by state housing finance agencies in each state. In Virginia, the Virginia Housing Development Authority is responsible for administering the LIHTC program. (Source: Virginia Housing Development Authority)

- **Market Affordable Housing:** Rental housing that is affordable to households earning 60% of Area Median Income (AMI) without any restrictions or subsidies. Usually the housing is affordable due to its age, location, amenities, and/or design. The City considers market affordable sales housing as homes that are affordable to households earning up to 100% of AMI. (Source: OTN Project Brief, 2015)
- **Market-Rate Housing:** Housing that is produced or provided in response to market demand. It is without federal, state, or local subsidies or income restrictions. (Source: OTN Project Brief, 2015)
- **Master Plan:** The COA's Master Plan is made up of Small Area Plans (SAPs) covering Alexandria's 18 neighborhoods, plus chapters on key topics, such as Historic Preservation, Transportation, and Open Space. The Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 1992, and chapters are updated on an ongoing basis through Master Plan Amendments (Source: COA Planning and Zoning Department).
- **Mixed-Use:** Mixed-use development is development of a tract of land or building or structure with two or more differing uses such as residential, office, retail, service, public, or entertainment, in a compact urban form. These types of developments can result in measurable reductions in traffic impacts. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Mission Statement:** A brief, comprehensive statement of purpose of an agency or program. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Needs Assessment:** A structured process to determine the needs of a designated survey field, i.e., individuals, and agency, a system, etc. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Neighborhood Bikeway:** Primarily located in residential areas, neighborhood bikeways are designed to encourage slow vehicular traffic and to be comfortable for people walking and bicycling. These streets may feature design elements such as curb extensions and roundabouts, "calming" traffic and giving priority to local vehicle trips over cut-through traffic. As an important part of the citywide bicycle network, neighborhood bikeways may also feature bicycle facilities such as shared lane markings or bike route signage. (Source: COA Transportation Master Plan, Pedestrian and Bicycle Chapter)
- **Net Area:** The total area of a site for residential or nonresidential development, excluding street rights of way and other publicly dedicated improvements such as parks, open space, and storm water detention and retention facilities. Net area is expressed in either acres or square feet. (Source: American Planning Association)
- **Objective:** Objectives define strategies or implementation steps to attain a stated vision and goals; they are generally measurable and have a time element. (Source: COA Department of Planning and Zoning).
- **Operating Costs:** Expenses associated with the maintenance and administration of a business on a day-to-day basis.

- **Parking Standard/Parking Requirement:** The amount of parking that a use is required or recommended to provide. Typically these parking spaces are provided on the same property as the use. This could be a minimum or maximum requirement/standard. (Source: COA Department of Transportation and Environmental Services)
- **Park Typology:** Park typology categorizes the COA’s open spaces into groups based on their sizes and uses, allowing for development plans for parks that share similar characteristics and improvement needs.
 - **Citywide Parks:** Contains multiple uses within a park boundary; attracts visitors from all over the City.
 - **Neighborhood Parks:** May include multiple uses within park boundary; attracts nearby residents.
 - **Pocket Parks:** Small open space; mainly single use attracting nearby residents.
 - **Natural Resource Areas:** Includes open spaces that are primarily passive-use or preservation areas.
 - **Shared Use:** Includes parks that share facilities with schools and recreation centers
 - **Destination/Historical:** Attracts users from beyond the region because of unique features.
 - **Regional:** Includes lands or facilities administered by other regional entities.
 - **Corridors/Linear Parks/Trailways:** Includes trailways, corridors and linear parks that serve primarily as linear bikeway corridors; may include right-of-ways. (Source: COA Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities)
- **Pilot Study:** A “scaled down” version of a major effort conducted before a larger study to test feasibility. For example, a pilot test might test proposed measurement instruments, hone the research methodology, or see if there is a preliminary basis for supporting the hypothesis. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit).
- **Placemaking:** Creating squares, plazas, parks, streets, and waterfronts that attract people because they are pleasurable or interesting. Landscape plays an important role in the placemaking design process. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Policy:** A policy means a general rule for action focused on a specific issue, derived from more general goals. (Source: American Planning Association)
- **Principle:** A fixed or predetermined policy or mode of action. (Source: The Free Dictionary)
- **Public Access Easement:** Privately owned property that is available for public use, all or some parts of the day. (Source: COA Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities)
- **Public Housing:** Income-restricted housing units that are targeted to extremely low- to low-income families. Residents pay 30% of their adjusted income as rent, and HUD provides the local housing authority with subsidies to maintain the units and the developments in which they are located. (Source: COA Housing Master Plan, 2014)
- **Publicly-Assisted Housing:** Rental units available to income-eligible households through rent and/or occupancy restrictions imposed as a condition of assistance under federal, state, or local program. Targeted income levels vary by program, and may be as high as 80% of AMI. (Source: COA Housing Master Plan, 2014)

- **Public Open Space:** The City’s Zoning Ordinance includes a Public Open Space (POS) zone which is restrictive to recreational and/or natural resource uses. Along with the Zoning Ordinance definition, the term public open space is synonymous with any park, plaza, recreation area, etc. that is open to the public, either publicly or privately owned. (Source: COA Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities)
- **Rails to Trail:** Former rail corridors that have been converted to paths designed for pedestrian, bicycle, skating, equestrian, and occasionally light motorized traffic. Most are multi-use trails offering pedestrians and cyclists recreational access (hike and bike trails) and right-of-way to these routes. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Remediation:** Remediation is the action or measure taken, or to be taken, to lessen, clean-up, remove, or mitigate the existence of hazardous materials existing on the property to such standards, specifications, or requirements as may be established or required by federal, state, county, or city statute, rule, or regulation. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Residential Permit Parking Districts:** An area that may have parking restrictions for non-permit holders (i.e. non-residents of the district). (COA Zoning Ordinance and Permit Parking District Map, refer to Section 5-8)
- **Retail Focus Areas:** A Retail Focus Area (RFA) is a location where retail and personal service uses are viewed as vital to the neighborhood. For example, in those locations designated as RFAs (See Map on page 46 of the 1992 OTN SAP), 1/12 of the site area multiplied by the allowable Floor Area Ratio for the site must be devoted to uses specified in the 1992 OTN SAP on page 47. (Source: 1992 OTN SAP)
- **Request for Proposals (RFP):** All documents, whether attached or incorporated by reference, used to solicit proposals for professional services, non-professional services, and other complex requirements where specifications are not well-defined and price is not the sole factor in determining award. (Source: COA Purchasing Manual)
- **Resource Allocation:** The distribution of resources—usually financial—among competing groups of people or programs.
- **Rezoning (Map Amendment):** A rezoning is a change to the boundaries of the zones established by the official zoning map, initiated by City Council, Planning Commission, or an applicant who has a legal interest in the property. The Planning Commission recommends approval or denial and City Council determines final action. (Source: COA Zoning Ordinance, refer to Section 11-800)
- **Sense of Place:** The characteristics (constructed and natural landmarks, social and economic surroundings) of a location, place, or community that make it readily recognizable as being unique and different from its surroundings and that provide a feeling of belonging to or being identified with that particular place. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Setback:** A minimum distance required by zoning to be maintained between two structures or between a structure and property lines. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)

- **Shared Parking:** The use of a parking space to serve two or more individual land uses without conflict or encroachment. The ability to share parking spaces is the result of two conditions: (1) variations in the accumulation of vehicles by hours, by day, or by season at the individual land uses, and (2) relationships among the land uses that result in visiting multiple land uses on the same auto trip. (Urban Land Institute)
- **Small Area Plans:** COA's Master Plan consists of 18 Small Area Plans (SAP), each setting a vision and goals for its community's future over a designated period of time. With strong citizen participation, an SAP typically addresses the economic, physical (all land uses and infrastructure), social and environmental elements of a community, taking into account anticipated growth in population, employment and overall development over the designated timespan of the SAP, generally 15-20 years. The SAP is formatted with text, graphics and maps and includes objectives, strategies and recommendations to accomplish the vision and goals. (Source: COA Planning and Zoning Department)
- **Special Use Permit:** Typically, a [Special Use Permit \(SUP\)](#) is required for businesses such as restaurants, beauty salons, fitness studios, dry cleaners, or other businesses that need special review because they have the potential to create noise, odors, fumes, pollution or significant parking impacts. The process is designed to ensure that potentially affected neighbors are both informed of and are provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed business. The City Zoning Ordinance regulates the location of various uses. (Source: COA Zoning Ordinance, refer to Section 11-500)
- **Stakeholder:** Any person or group with a vested interest in the outcome of a project or plan (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit).
- **Standard:** A standard is a criterion that defines the meaning of a policy by providing a way to measure its attainment. (Source: American Planning Association)
- **Streetscape:** The treatment of space between buildings and street that defines the public realm. Streetscape elements may include building frontage/facade, public art, outdoor cafes, transit stops or shelters, landscaping (trees, planters, fountains, etc.), sidewalk pavers, special embedded street paving, street furniture (benches, kiosks, etc.), signs, awnings, and street lighting. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Streetwall:** The wall or part of the building nearest to the street or property line. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Street Classifications:** Street Classification (also referred to as Functional Classification) is best defined by connectivity. Roadways that provide the greatest reach of connectivity are the highest level facilities. All streets within a city's transportation network serve a particular function. These functions can vary from providing access to a person's home to providing residents the ease of accessibility in traveling outside the city to reach their destination. The functional classification is important for the city to qualify for state and federal transportation funds. There are five categories of functional classification that are generally recognized by the FHWA and the VDOT. The City of Alexandria adopted a classification system that is slightly different, but its characteristics are generally the same. The classifications of the City of Alexandria's streets include primary arterials, secondary arterials, primary collectors, residential collectors, and local streets. (Source: COA Department of Transportation and

Environmental Services)

- **Subdivision:** The division of a lot, parcel or tract of land into two or more lots, plots, sites, parcels or other divisions for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of sale or building development. This includes the resubdivision of existing lots, parcels, tracts or other divisions of existing and duly recorded subdivisions. Any tract of land upon which a street, alley or public right-of-way is dedicated shall be considered a subdivision. (Source: COA Zoning Ordinance, refer to Section 9-24)
- **Survey:** A study where data are collected by way of questionnaires or interviews. Surveys can either be observational, if no intervention or treatment occurred, or can be used as pre-test and post-test measures before and after some intervention or treatment. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **SWOT Analysis:** An abbreviation used to denote analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses and Opportunities and Threats of a site, location, or organization. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Theme:** One of ten areas of focus for the City Government detailed in the City Strategic Plan. (Source: City of Alexandria Office of Performance and Accountability)
- **Transit Oriented Development (TODs):** TODs focus redevelopment and new construction around transit nodes, enhancing access to mass transit options and helping curb car usage and encourage mixed-use neighborhoods. (Source: American Planning Association)
- **Transitions and Buffers:** Urban design tools that provide architectural solutions and buffers such as landscaping and screening to appropriately transition between larger and lower-medium scale uses and between areas of different uses. (Source: 1992 OTN SAP)
- **Transportation Management Plan (TMP):** A TMP is a site-specific plan of transportation demand management strategies to encourage residents and employees to take public transportation, walk, bike or share a ride, as opposed to driving alone. The TMP is required by ordinance through the City's development review process, depending on the size of the development. (Source: Section 11-700 of the [Zoning Ordinance](#))
- **Universal Design:** Universal Design, also called barrier-free design, focuses on making houses safe and accessible for everyone, regardless of age, physical ability, or stature. This is accomplished through thoughtful planning and design at all stages. (Source: COA Housing Master Plan, 2014)
- **Urban Design:** The attempt to impose a rational order or to give form, in terms of both beauty and function, to selected urban areas or to whole cities. Urban design is an effort to make an urban area or whole city comprehensive, functional, and aesthetic through the articulation of its parts. (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms)
- **Urban Tree Canopy:** The layer of leaves, branches and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above. (Source: COA Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities)

- **Vision Statement:** A narrative description of a future state; a concise statement of what needs to change; a compelling, conceptual image of the desired future. (Source: OVC-TTAC Strategic Planning Toolkit)
- **Vision:** A general description of the desired result of the planning process (Source: Quizlet Glossary of Urban Planning Terms).
- **Zoning Ordinance (City of Alexandria):** COA's Zoning Ordinance contains regulatory controls for the City covering use (residential, commercial, mixed use), density, height, historic preservation, development approvals, parking, non-complying and non-conforming uses, environmental management, signs, and zoning map amendments. (Source: COA Zoning Ordinance)
- **Zoning Text Amendment:** A zoning text amendment entails a process for changing language in the Zoning Ordinance. The city council may by ordinance supplement, change, modify or repeal any provision of this ordinance or of the boundaries of the zones established by the official zoning map. Such action by the city council shall constitute a zoning amendment. A proposal to supplement, change, modify or repeal the provisions of the text of this ordinance shall be referred to as a text amendment. (Source: COA Zoning Ordinance, refer to Section 11-800)