

# English–Chinese and Chinese–English Glossary of Transportation Terms

标准英汉, 汉英交通词汇

*Highways and Railroads*

公路与铁路



Edited by  
Rongfang (Rachel) Liu, Ph.D., P.E., AICP  
Eva Lerner-Lam, F.ITE

刘荣芳  
林意华

**ASCE**



TRANSPORTATION  
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刘荣芳

**Eva Lerner-Lam, M.ASCE, F.ITE**  
林意华

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## PREFACE

A commonly accepted glossary of transportation and development terms in both English and Chinese languages is becoming increasingly important. Western enterprises, governments, and academic institutions are interested in China because of its promising markets and state-of-the-art technologies. China's transportation professionals are interested in publishing in English language professional journals and presenting technical papers at English language conferences in order to exchange ideas and promote professional excellence. Without a dependable glossary of terms, education, training, research and development work of Western and Chinese transportation professionals will be hampered by poor quality translations at best, and at worst, no translations at all.

This *English-Chinese and Chinese-English Glossary of Transportation Terms* is a first effort to build such a glossary of terms in both American English and Simplified Chinese. It is the product of a collaboration between the Transportation and Development Institute (T&DI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the North American Chinese Overseas Transportation Association (NACOTA). T&DI sponsored the translation work and ASCE is the publisher of the finished Glossary. NACOTA provided the bilateral working platform for the work to be accomplished, recruited the translators and volunteer reviewers from its extensive network of members and supporters, and managed the overall project under contract to T&DI.

An Expert Panel was established in early 2007. It was comprised of distinguished transportation experts in China, representing a broad spectrum of government, academic and commercial organizations. The Panel met in conjunction with the 7th NACOTA China Conference held in Shanghai in May 2007 to discuss strategies for scoping, translating and editing the Glossary. The Panel recommended that the effort begin with an American glossary of commonly used transportation terms that would be translated into Chinese. It also recommended dividing the task into various subject areas and publishing individual glossaries in separate volumes. Subject areas would include, but not be limited to:

- Highways
- Railroads
- Urban Transportation
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- Aviation
- Freight Logistics

After some rigorous searching, it was determined that one of the most mature and complete transportation glossaries in the English language was *Glossary*

of *Transportation Expressions*, produced and maintained by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, US Department of Transportation (1996). With assistance from Dr. Kumares Sinha of Purdue University, the US Department of Transportation granted T&DI/ASCE permission to translate and publish *Transportation Expressions* into the Chinese language. Adhering to the recommendation of the Expert Panel to focus on one or two subject areas as a first effort, this publication is a collection of highway and railway expressions contributed to the BTS Glossary by four industry and governmental organizations: the American Trucking Association (ATA), the US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the US Federal Railway Administration (FRA) and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Under the supervision of several academic scholars and faculty members, students enrolled in graduate transportation programs in China and the US completed the initial translation of *Transportation Expressions* from English to Chinese. The translations were edited by the group supervisors and submitted for review and approval by NACOTA volunteers. Three or more experts reviewed each section, and revisions were synthesized and forwarded to the Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) Committee.

Led by Dr. Xiaoduan Sun, a transportation expert with extensive experience both in China and in the US, the QAQC Committee was comprised of three NACOTA members, later expanded to four. Each member of the Committee had extensive transportation experience in both Chinese and English language speaking environments. The QAQC Committee reviewed the glossary terms to ensure that the translations not only reflected the original meaning of the English terms but that they also followed native Chinese semantics. ASCE Publications staff handled the formatting so that the text would appear in a clear and easy-to-read manner. Jonathan Esslinger, Director of T&DI, provided institutional support, guidance and encouragement throughout the process.

It is our hope that this first volume of the T&DI/ASCE – NACOTA Transportation Glossary will be useful to the many transportation professionals in both China and the West who seek better interaction and engagement in highway and railway subject areas, across English-Chinese language barriers. We thank the leaders and members of T&DI and NACOTA for their support and encouragement of this endeavor.

Rongfang (Rachel) Liu, 刘荣芳, and  
Eva Lerner-Lam, 林意华

## EXPERT REVIEW PANEL

Fang, Shouen  
General Secretary, Professor,  
College of Transportation,  
Tongji University, Shanghai

方守恩  
书记，教授  
交通学院  
同济大学

Gao, Li  
Chair,  
Department of Transportation Engineering,  
Beijing Institute of Technology.

高利  
系主任  
交通工程系  
北京理工大学

Guan, Hongzhi  
Professor,  
Transportation Research Center, Beijing  
University of Technology.

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交通研究中心  
北京工业大学

Guo, Zhongyin  
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College of Transportation,  
Tongji University,

郭中印  
院长  
交通学院  
同济大学

Hong, Yan  
Deputy Director and Professor,  
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Ministry of Railways

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建设部

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College of Logistic,  
Southwest Transportation University

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物流学院  
西南交大

Zhou, Wei  
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Institute of Transportation Research,  
Department of Transportation

周伟  
所长  
交通研究所  
交通部



## TRANSLATORS

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