Glossary of Terms

Active Transportation
Any form of human-powered, non-motorized transportation.

Automated vehicles
Human-driven vehicles with automated safety features like parking and braking assist and lane departure correction.

Autonomous vehicles (Avs)
Completely "driverless" vehicles capable of driving themselves without human intervention.

AV truck platoons
Lines of autonomous trucks separated by as little as 30 feet, likely with a human driver in the first truck. These can improve fuel efficiency, and may initially run during off-peak hours, possibly in a separate dedicated lane.

Bi-national Autonomous Green Freight Corridor
Supports autonomous freight vehicles, alternative fuels, green infrastructure, and faster border crossings between the US and Canada.

Communities of Concern
Areas with significant concentrations of residents with low incomes, people of color, foreign born residents, individuals with disabilities, senior citizens and children, and limited English proficiency (LEP) speakers.

Coordinated and priority traffic signals
Signals that are coordinated along corridors and across jurisdictions using real-time traffic information to limit stop-and-go traffic, and give priority to buses and other mass transit vehicles. speakers.

Electric vehicles (EV)
Vehicles powered by electricity (rather than an internal combustion engine).

Flexible curb space
Allows curbs to be used differently at different times of the day, including for passenger pick-up/drop-off, deliveries, and special events.

Green infrastructure
Cost-effective, resilient approach to managing stormwater that uses vegetation, soils, and other elements to minimize water run-off from paved surfaces into sewer systems and waterways.

Integrated traffic management
Strategically manage traffic in order to ease congestion and alert drivers to traffic incidents through signs and in-vehicle messaging.

Microtransit
Shared vehicles to transport multiple commuters in one vehicle, limiting the number of cars on the road. These may be on-demand (via a smartphone) or on a set route, and work in conjunction with transit buses and trains.

Mobility as a service (MaaS)
Provides a platform that treats transportation as a customizable, on-demand service with "à la carte" mobility, real-time travel information and smart payment systems across transportation options.

Mobility hub
Designated location that offers connections to and from transit buses, transportation network companies, carshare, bikeshare, real-time travel information, and other services and amenities.

Next Generation Freeways
The traditional "ring" of freeways circling the City of Buffalo and the first-ring suburbs with technology upgrades to make travel safe, timely and efficient.

On-demand trip planning
The ability to schedule travel as needed, usually via a smartphone app. May be through a private transportation provider or public transit agency.

Ramp metering
Signals control the frequency of cars entering highways to help balance the flow of traffic and minimize congestion.

Shared vehicles and shared mobility
Transportation services that are shared among users, including public transit, taxis, bikesharing, carsharing, carpooling, and shuttle services.

Smart cities and smart region
Electronic data collection sensors supply information to efficiently manage assets and resources, and ultimately improve the quality of life for residents. Includes traffic sensors, public wi-fi, energy grids, and gas leak detection.

Smart corridors
Select roads that use new technologies like sensor, coordinated signals, smart lighting, upgraded street features and emerging transportation services.

Smart ecosystem of data
The ability to securely acquire and share data among public agencies, residents, and trusted private sector entities.

Smart lighting
Energy efficient, cost-effective lighting that improves visibility.

Smart pavement
May be embedded with fiber-optic cable for high-speed Internet, sensors to count vehicles, technology to support connected and autonomous vehicles, or electromagnetic coils to charge electric vehicles as they drive.

Smartly Enhanced Multi-modal Arterials (SEMAs)
Select radial roads and other corridors designed to efficiently move people and goods using new technologies, upgraded street features and emerging transportation services.

Traffic incident management

The coordination of resources to detect, respond to, and clear vehicle collisions, disabled vehicles, and other incidents.

Transportation network companies (TNCs)

Typically use smartphone apps to quickly connect drivers with people who need a ride. TNCs can include shuttle vans and carpools, and could eventually use autonomous vehicles.

Variable speed limits

Speed limits are adjusted based on traffic and weather conditions to improve traffic flow and safety, and are displayed on digital signs.

Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I) communications

Exchange of information between vehicles and road infrastructure.

Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communications

Exchange of information between vehicles.

MOVING FORWARD 2050 UPDATE