GLOSSARY

DEFINITIONS

Alidade - The part of a surveying instrument that consists of a sighting device, an index, and reading or recording accessories.

Azimuth - A horizontal angle, measured clockwise, between north and a line to an observed or described point.

Azimuth Mark - A marked point, visible from a survey station, to which the azimuth has been determined.

Bearing - The acute angle formed by a line and the north-south line through an occupied point.

Borrow Pit - An excavated area whose material is used as fill at another location.

Chord - A straight line joining two points on a curve.

Closed Traverse - A traverse that starts at a point and ends at the same point or at a point whose relative position is known.

Compound Curve - Two simple curves joined together and curving in the same direction.

Easting - One of the two values (the other being northing) indicating the position of a point on a grid system.

External Distance - The distance from a curve's point of intersection to its midpoint.

Invert Curve - See Sag Curve.

Long Chord - The chord from the point of curvature to the point of tangency.

Loop Traverse - A traverse that starts and ends at the same point and does not cross itself.

Middle Ordinate - The distance from the midpoint of the curve to the midpoint of the long chord.

Northing - One of the two values (the other being easting) indicating the position of a point on a grid.

Open Traverse - A traverse that starts at a point of known or assumed position and ends at a point whose relative position is unknown.

Overt Curve - See Summit Curve.

Parabolic Curve - See Vertical Curve.

Point of Compound Curvature - The point at which two curves connect.

Point of Curvature - The point where a circular curve begins.

Point of Intersection - The point where the back and forward tangents of a curve intersect.

Point of Tangency - The end of a curve.

Reverse Curve - Two simple curves joined together but curving in opposite directions.

Sag Curve - A vertical curve which connects a descending grade with an ascending grade, or with one descending less sharply; also called an invert curve.

Simple Curve - A horizontal curve which is the arc of a circle; the most common curve.

Spiral Curve - A curve of varying radius used to gradually increase the curvature of a road or railroad. Also known as a transition curve or transition spiral.

Summit Curve - A vertical curve which connects an ascending grade with a descending grade, or with one ascending less sharply; also called an overt curve.

Vertical Curve - A curve used to produce a more gradual direction change when two grade lines intersect; also called a parabolic curve.

Wing Walls - In bridge construction, an oblique retaining wall.

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AE	Allowable Angular Error
Az	Azimuth mark
A.R.E.A	American Railway Engineering Association
℄	Centerline
D	Degree of Curve
DMD	Double Meridian Distance
E	External Distance
HI	Height of Instrument
I	Intersecting Angle
L	Length of Curve
LC	Long Chord
M	Middle Ordinate
PC	Point of Curvature
PI	Point of Intersection
PRC	Point of Reverse Curvature
PT	Point of Tangency
PVC	Point of Vertical Curvature
PVI	Point of Vertical Intersection
PVT	Point of Vertical Tangency
R	Radius
SI	Station Interval
TS	Traverse Station