Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
POB 1505, 401 E. Water St, Charlottesville, VA 22902
www.tjpdc.org ● (434) 979-7310 phone ● info@tjpdc.org email

Memorandum

To: Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CA-MPO) Committees
From: Christine Jacobs, Executive Director, TJPDC/CA-MPO
Date: October 15, 2024
Reference: Federal Functional Classification – VDOT Culpeper District

Background:

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is conducting a major statewide update to the Federal Functional Classification (FFC), which historically has occurred following a decennial Census. The most recent update, the 2010 Functional Classification for Virginia, was approved in 2014 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In March 2022, the US Census released the 2020 Census data, which serves as the basis for the current statewide update.

Per VDOT's Open Data Portal, Virginia Roads, *"Functional classification is the process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes, or systems, according to the character of service they are intended to provide. Basic to this process is the recognition that individual roads and streets do not serve travel independently in any major way but serve as part of an overall network. Most travel involves movement throughout the network of roadways. It becomes necessary to determine how this travel can be channelized within the network in a logical and efficient manner. Functional classification defines the nature of this channelization process by defining the part that any particular road or street should play in serving the flow of trips through a highway network. The Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Transportation and Mobility Planning Division (TMPD) is responsible for maintaining the Commonwealth's official Federal Functional Classification System. TMPD determines the functional classification of the road by type of trips, expected volume, what systems the roadway connects and whether the proposed functional classification falls within the mileage percentage thresholds established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)."*[i]

Discussion:

VDOT District Staff coordinated the review of the proposed functional classifications with Virginia's MPOs. At the conclusion of the MPO review process, VDOT requested that each MPO approve a resolution acknowledging the coordination effort within Virginia on the FFC update. The resolution will serve to document VDOT's cooperation with local officials to FHWA on the effort. Following the MPO reviews throughout the state, VDOT will submit the updated functional classification to FHWA for their review and approval. The effort is anticipated to be finalized by October 2024.

In May, CA-MPO staff presented the topic to the CA-MPO Technical and CA-MPO Policy Board meetings as an informational item. CA-MPO staff then forwarded a request for a review for local staff and technical committee members. Stakeholders had until Monday, June 17th to provide any comments.

CA-MPO staff received additional suggested revisions from technical staff and locality staff which were in turn forwarded on to VDOT District staff. At the time of the August 20, 2024, CA-MPO Technical Committee and the August 28, 2024, CA-MPO Policy Board meetings, VDOT's Transportation and Mobility Planning Division (TMPD) had not yet conducted a full review of the proposed revisions, and a revised draft map was not available for the Technical Committee and Policy Board to review. As such, the CA-MPO staff and the Technical Committee recommended that the CA-MPO Policy Board defer a decision to adopt the Resolution approving the proposed updates to the Highway Systems Federal Functional Classification.

Following the August 28, 2024, Policy Board meeting, CA-MPO staff received notice from VDOT staff that TMPD had responded to the requested changes to the Functional Classification system. There were a few items they did not recommend including, but they did move forward with most of the local staff's recommendations. VDOT staff reviewed the recommended changes as well as the final draft FFC map to ensure the inclusion of the changes. CA-MPO staff then forwarded TMPD's response to local staff for a final review.

The updated FFC is now before the CA-MPO Technical Committee and the CA-MPO Policy Board committee in their October meetings for final review and consideration for approval. Included in the meeting materials is a draft resolution approving the proposed updates to the Highway Systems Federal Functional Classification. Included as an attachment to the Resolution is a copy of the recommended staff changes and TMPD's response. Finally, a link to the final draft map of the FFC can be found at: ArcGIS - Culpeper Functional Classification - Proposed Changes, 2024.

Following the Policy Board's final consideration of a Resolution of Support for the statewide FFC map that incorporates the revisions as attached, the state will send the statewide FFC map recommendations to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review. At the end of this process, FHWA will complete a final review of the statewide map and finalize the functional classification (FFC) updated map.

Recommended Action:

MPO Technical Committee Recommendation: In their October 15, 2024, meeting, the CA-MPO Technical Committee voted to recommend that the CA-MPO Policy Board adopt a Resolution to approve the proposed updates to the highway systems functional classifications presented in the accompanying summary map.

MPO Policy Board: The CA-MPO staff recommends that the Policy Board moves to adopt a Resolution to approve the proposed updates to the highway systems functional classifications presented in the accompanying summary map.

[i] https://www.virginiaroads.org/maps/VDOT::functional-classification-web-map-1/about