

Memorandum

To: Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CA-MPO) Committees
From: Christine Jacobs, Executive Director, TJPDC/CA-MPO
Date: August 20, 2024
Reference: Federal Functional Classification – 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 Highways 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 class with Virginia's MPOs. At the conclusion of the MPO review process, VDOT requests 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 review 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 September 2024.

The following materials are included in the August CA-MPO committee meeting packets (via hyperlink in the meeting agenda) so that all stakeholders have access to the proposed changes and supporting

documentation. Additionally, CA-MPO staff forwarded the materials to locality planning staff for their detailed review.

1. Culpeper Functional Classification GIS Map, Proposed Changes, 2024
2. Functional Classification Comprehensive Guide (2014)
3. Functional Classification Review and Update Methodology – Local Review
4. Resolution of Support from the MPO (draft provided by VDOT)

CA-MPO staff initially presented this topic at the May CA-MPO Tech and CA-MPO Policy Board meetings as an informational item. Stakeholders had until Monday, June 17th to provide any comments. MPO staff received additional suggested revisions from MPO technical staff and locality staff which were forwarded on to VDOT district staff.

The updated FFC is now before the MPO Committees in their August meetings for final review and consideration for approval by the Policy Board.

Recommended Action:

MPO Technical Committee: The MPO staff recommends a motion to recommend that the Policy Board adopt the resolution approving the proposed updates to the Highway System Federal Functional Classification with the acknowledgement that additional revisions are being suggested.

MPO Policy Board: The MPO staff recommends a motion to adopt the resolution approving the proposed updates to the Highway System Federal Functional Classification with the suggested additional revisions attached to the resolution.

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