

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD**  
**777 North Capitol Street, N.E.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE HIGHWAY SYSTEMS FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION FOR  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA**

**WHEREAS**, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), as the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, reauthorized November 15, 2021 when the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law, for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of the Census March 17, 2022 Notice issued decennial 2020 urbanized area information, and each State is federally directed (FHWA 23 CFR 450.312, 470.105 and 109, and guidance) to use the information and undertake a thorough update, as appropriate, of urban/urbanized area boundaries and/or highway system functional classifications in cooperation with Metropolitan Planning Organizations and/or localities; and

**WHEREAS**, functional classifications of highway systems affect transportation planning in that the categories (local, minor collector, major collector, minor arterial, principle arterial, principle arterial freeway, or principle arterial interstate) are used with highway design standards, highway construction funds or maintenance payments, access management standards, traffic calming eligibility, statistical reporting, and certain outdoor advertising controls; and

**WHEREAS**, periodic reviews and, as appropriate, updates of urban/urbanized area boundaries and/or functional classifications of highway systems generally are warranted in concert with U.S. Census updates for urbanized areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Transportation has proposed updates to the functional classification of highways that reflect the 2020 Census information for the entire Northern Virginia area, and the TPB staff has reviewed and recommended approval of these updates.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board approves the proposed updates to the Virginia highway system functional classifications presented in the attached materials.



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1401 EAST BROAD STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 2000

**Stephen Brich**  
Commissioner

**September 26, 2024**

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board  
**CC:** VDOT Northern Virginia District Planning Manager  
**From:** Marsha C. Fiol, Transportation and Mobility Planning Director  
*Marsha C. Fiol*  
**Subject:** Federal Functional Classification Update – MPO Resolution

I recently sent an email to all Virginia MPO Directors, dated April 9th, sharing the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) plans to conduct a major statewide update to the federal functional classification system (FFC). As part of that effort, we've asked that each MPO approve a simple resolution acknowledging the coordination effort within Virginia on the FFC Update. This memo is intended to supplement the information that was shared earlier, providing additional information to support your adoption of the requested resolution.

The FFC system is managed in accordance with 23 CFR 470.105 (b) Highway functional classification.<sup>1</sup>

(1) The State transportation agency shall have the primary responsibility for developing and updating a statewide highway functional classification in rural and urban areas to determine functional usage of the existing roads and streets. Guidance criteria and procedures are provided in the FHWA's Functional Classification Guidelines. The State shall cooperate with responsible local officials, or appropriate Federal agency in the case of areas under Federal jurisdiction, in developing and updating the functional classification.

(2) The results of the functional classification shall be mapped and submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval and when approved shall serve as the official

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-23/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-470/subpart-A/section-470.105>

record for Federal-aid highways and the basis for designation of the National Highway System.

As noted above, the process for managing the FFC system is set forth in the FHWA's Functional Classification Guidelines<sup>2</sup>, which stipulate that state DOTs should engage with a variety of partners during the FFC revision process and recognize MPOs as the primary local contact for the DOTs in Urbanized Areas. As part of their involvement in the FFC revision process, MPOs are expected to submit their recommendations for approval or disapproval to the state DOT.

The FFC Guidelines also stipulate that, as a best practice, states should review their FFC systems every 10 years to coincide with the decennial census. In March 2022, the USDOT released the 2020 Census data. FHWA subsequently released the latest version of the FFC Guidelines in February 2023. VDOT district staff have been engaged with each MPO in the FFC revision process since April, and we have asked that each MPO provide the approved resolution for the agreed upon FFC revision by October 31<sup>st</sup>. VDOT will include those resolutions in the final FFC update package that will be submitted to FHWA by the end of this year.

The existing and proposed Functional Class designations for your area can be found on our ArcGIS online portal: <https://arcg.is/104LCv0>

If you have specific questions, contact Robert Williams at [RobertJ.Williams@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:RobertJ.Williams@vdot.virginia.gov).

Thank you in advance for your coordination.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/hwy-functional-classification-2023.pdf>