



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** FHWA Functional
Classification Guidelines, 2013 Edition – Your
Further Distribution To States And MPOs Is
Requested

Date: OCT 04 2013

From: Gloria M. Shepherd 
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In Reply Refer To:
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The 2013 edition of the FHWA Functional Classification Guidelines is now online at www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/highway_functional_classifications. This edition updates the 1989 edition, the 1991 addendum, and the October 14, 2008, memorandum, “Updated Guidance for the Functional Classification of Highways,” which provided interim guidance and recommendations for further study.

The new document incorporates the results of a detailed study on the state of the practice, the classification of Principal Arterial – Other Freeways and Expressways in rural areas, the distinction between Major and Minor Collectors, target percentages for system extent and travel, and the adjustment of Census urban area boundaries (urbanized areas and small urban areas).

The attached outline depicts the changes between the 2013 edition and the 1989 edition section by section. For further information contact Spencer Stevens (Office of Planning) at 202-366-0149 spencer.stevens@dot.gov or Joseph Hausman (Office of Policy) at 202-366-5047 joseph.hausman@dot.gov.

Attachment

Outline of changes from the 1989 edition to the 2013 edition of *Highway Functional Classification: Concepts, Criteria and Procedures*:

Section 1 – Introduction

- Background and introduction of the seven functional classes

Section 2 – Concepts

- Functional classification concepts
- Other important factors related to functional classification
- Importance of system continuity

Section 3 – Criteria

- Definitions and characteristics
- A real world example
- Revised VMT and mileage guidelines

Section 4 – Procedures

- Identifying the functional classification of a roadway network
- Good practices
- Geographic information systems (GIS)
- Partners in the functional classification process
- Suggested procedural tasks

Section 5 – Applications

- Secondary functional classification uses
- Relationship between functional classification and design
- Emerging/other functional classification systems

Section 6 – Urban Boundaries

- Defining urban and rural
- Relationship to functional classification
- Developing adjusted urban area boundaries
- Procedural tasks for adjusted urban area boundaries