



MPO Staff Report
Technical Advisory Committee:
March 13, 2024
MPO Executive Board:
March 20, 2024

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Preliminary Approval of Functional Classification Changes.

TAC RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Matter of approval of the discussion of the functional classification.

Background:

In 2023, MPO staff worked with all our partners to adjust the Census defined Urbanized Area to an Urbanized Area that reflects the urban area we live and work in every day. The next step is for roadway functional classification to match the new urban boundary.

On January 8, 2024, North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) sent a letter requesting that Forks MPO begin the update of the roadway functional classification. NDDOT asks for a preliminary review to be submitted by April 1, 2024. Once NDDOT reviews and comments, the MPO has until July 1, 2024 to submit the final functional classification system.

After discussion with our partners, the only changes will be to designate functionally classified road way urban that was previously rural. This only affects the pots of funding that can be used on the roadways.

Findings and Analysis

- The changes are only to functionally classified roadway that are now in the adjusted urbanized area.
- When NDDOT reviews and sends comments, staff will update and bring forward for final approval.

Support Materials:

- Map of functional classification changes.
- Table of functional classification changes.
- Mileage tables.
- NDDOT Letter

The map illustrates the proposed light rail network in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. The main line is shown in red, running from the airport area through the city center to the south. The Green Line (green) branches off to the north, passing through the airport and downtown. The Purple Line (purple) branches off to the west, connecting to the airport and downtown. The Yellow Line (yellow) branches off to the east, connecting to the airport and downtown. Key stations and transfer points are marked, including Gateway Dr, Valley Cir, University Ave, DeMers Ave, and various numbered streets. The map also shows the locations of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America.

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ID	Road	From	To	Changes From	Final Classification	Surface	Justification	Jurisdiction	Segment Length (In Miles)
1	US-2/Gateway Dr	N 83rd St	Airport DR	Principal Arterial	Principal Arterial	Paved	This section is now in the urbanized area.	State	1.02
2	US-2/Gateway Dr	Airport Dr	0.42 mi East of 17th St NE	Principal Arterial	Principal Arterial	Paved	This section is now in the urbanized area.	State	0.58
3	US-2/Gateway Dr	73rd Cir N	15th St NE	Principal Arterial	Principal Arterial	Paved	This section is now in the urbanized area.	State	0.71
4	US-2/Gateway Dr	N69th St	73rd Cir N	Principal Arterial	Principal Arterial	Paved	This section is now in the urbanized area.	State	0.29
5	S Columbia Rd	62nd Ave S	69th Ave S	County Major Collector	Collector	Paved	This section is now in the urbanized area.	County	0.47
6	S Washington St	62nd Ave S	69th Ave S	County Major Collector	Collector	Paved	This section is now in the urbanized area.	County	0.48
7	US-81B/N Washington St	40th Ave N	Mill Rd	Minor Arterial	Minor Arterial	Paved	This section is now in the urbanized area.	State`	0.57

System Mileage by Functional Classification 2024 (miles)

Classification	North Dakota MPA	Percent in ND MPA	Minnesota MPA	Percent in MN MPA	Total MPA	Percent for MPA
Interstate	16.2	4.1%	0.0	0.0%	16.2	3.0%
Principal Arterial	24.4	6.2%	8.2	5.7%	32.6	6.1%
Minor Arterial	31.8	8.1%	15.9	11.1%	47.7	8.9%
Collector/Major Collector	62.9	16.1%	16.1	11.3%	79.0	14.8%
Minor Collector	0.0	0.0%	8.5	6.0%	8.5	1.6%
Local	255.8	65.4%	94.0	65.9%	349.8	65.5%
All Road Total	391.1	100.0%	142.7	100.0%	533.8	100.0%

Note: MPA= Metropolitan Planning Area

From: FHWA Highway Functional Classification Concepts, Criteria, and Procedures 2023 Edition

Classifications in MPO Area	Percent Range*
Interstate	1% - 3%
Other Principal Arterials	4% - 9%
Minor Arterials	7% - 14%
Collector/Major Collector	3% - 16%
Minor Collector	3% - 16%
Local	62% - 74%

* We are using the definition of rural state based on our lead being North Dakota.

Note: The review was based on an urban system for the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks Adjusted Urban Area.

Grand Forks Change in Urban Mileage by Functional Classification

Classification	2021	2024	Change
Interstate	10.0	10.0	0.0
Principal Arterial	21.4	24.0	2.6
Minor Arterial	30.9	29.8	-1.1
Collector/Major Collector	39.8	40.5	0.7
Minor Collector	0.0	0.0	0.0
Local	171.0	191.0	20.0
All Road Total	273.1	295.3	22.2

January 8, 2024

Stephanie Halford
Executive Director
Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MPO
P.O. Box 5200
Grand Forks, ND 58206-5200

Dear Mrs. Halford:

SUBJECT: ROADWAY FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION UPDATES TO ADJUSTED URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARY

Thank you for your efforts to complete the Adjusted Urbanized Area boundary before the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) deadline of December 29, 2023. The next step in the update process related to the 2020 US Decennial Census is for the MPO to update the roadway functional classification to match the new boundary.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is requesting that you begin the update to the roadway functional classification system. The functional classification system identifies the roadways that will qualify for federal funding within various NDDOT funding programs. The functional class system needs to be well defined and make sense for the context of the roadway being classified. Roadway classification will consider various criteria such as, lane and shoulder widths, daily traffic volumes, access control, facility type, roadway function and any other contextual items relevant to the classification.

FHWA has prepared a guidance document for reference in updating the functional classification system. The document is called *Highway Functional Classification Concepts, Criteria and Procedures*, 2023 Edition. Here is a link to the document:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/hwy-functional-classification-2023.pdf>. This document provides real world examples as well as detailed information on each roadway classification. Please utilize this reference in your update process. There are a couple of exceptions to the guidance:

1. NDDOT will only recognize one classification of Principal Arterials.
2. NDDOT will only recognize one classification of Collectors.
3. NDDOT will recognize the design characteristics as desired for new functional classification requests, but they will not be a requirement for previously approved classifications.

After the MPO has prepared a draft functional classification map, please submit the information to NDDOT for a preliminary review no later than April 1, 2024. NDDOT will review the submittal and provide comments back to the MPO, as necessary. The MPO's submittal must be a cooperative and coordinated effort with its member jurisdictions.

Stephanie Halford

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Once all comments have been addressed, the MPO must submit their final functional classification system via electronic copy no later than July 1, 2024. Submittals shall include a letter requesting approval of the functional classification updates, a breakdown of roadway mileage between classes, a map of the updated system and GIS files. All correspondence for submittals may be made to the following:

Sengaroun Marohl
Local Government Division
NDDOT
smarohl@nd.gov
701-328-4448

Please note that unless other arrangements have been made with NDDOT, failure to meet the June 1, 2024 final submittal date will result in NDDOT making functional classification changes on the MPO's behalf.

If you should have any questions during the updating process, please contact Seng or Michael E. Johnson at 701-328-2118.

Thank you for your work in responding to changes necessitated by the 2020 US Census release.

With gratitude,



Paul M. Benning
Local Government Engineer

38/mej

c: Ed Pavlish, Grand Forks District
Al Grasser, City of Grand Forks
Erika Shepard, MnDOT