

## Memorandum

**To:** Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CA-MPO) Committees  
**From:** Christine Jacobs, Executive Director, TJPDC/CA-MPO  
**Date:** May 21, 2024  
**Reference:** Federal Functional Classification – Culpeper District

### Background:

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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)."*<sup>i</sup>

### Discussion:

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VDOT District Staff are coordinating 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 FCC 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 May CA-MPO committee meeting packets (via hyperlink in the meeting agenda) so that all stakeholders have access to the proposed changes and supporting

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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. Draft Resolution of Support from the MPO (draft provided by VDOT)

CA-MPO staff will initially present this topic at the May CA-MPO Tech and CA-MPO Policy Board meetings as an informational item. Stakeholders will then have until Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> to provide any comments. The updated FCC will then go before the MPO Committees in their July meetings for final review and consideration for approval by the Policy Board.

Please note, CA-MPO staff is already aware of one error in the FCC proposed changes (the 250 Corridor from Shadwell to Zion Crossroad should be a Minor Arterial, which was a previously approved change).

**Recommended Action:**

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*This is an informational item only. No action is recommended at this time.*

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