

Roadway Functional Classification Metro Review



December 2025 TAC Planning Committee



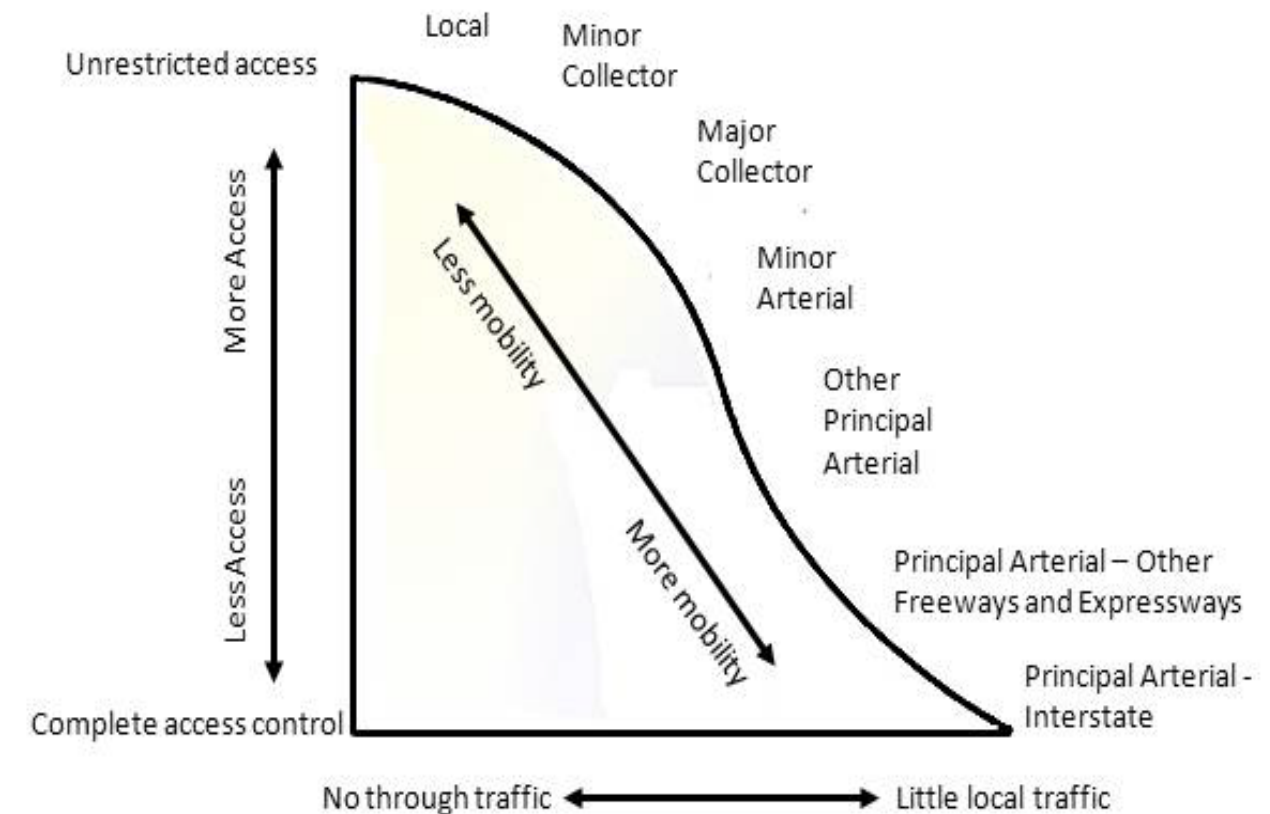
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Overview

How is a roadway's functional classification determined and why does it matter?

- Access versus mobility
- Four main roadway classifications:
 - Principal Arterials
 - Minor Arterials
 - Collectors
 - Local Roads
- Roadway classification is based on/affects characteristics such as:
 - Speed limit
 - Traffic volume
 - Shoulder/lane width
 - Parking
 - Pedestrian/bicycle accommodations
- A roadway's functional classification impacts eligibility for Regional Solicitation funds and is also instrumental for local planners for long-term planning



2021 MnDOT Statewide Review

- While the Council helps determine the region's roadway functional classification and serves as the primary contact, MnDOT, in coordination with FHWA, approves all changes and is charged with ensuring the network is up-to-date
- 2020 census: new urban area boundaries
- Last Metro District update occurred in 2021, resulting in many changes that ensured consistency throughout the region and within the state
- MnDOT is conducting a review and update of the Metro District in 2026

Functional Classification Update Study

- Study served as another update of the region's functional classification network
- Project team met with local stakeholders from counties and cities to discuss and finalize changes to the network
- Result: update of process; better adherence to federal guidelines; removal of “other arterial” category
 - “Other arterials” were reclassified as minor arterials, with a sub-designation of:
 - Augmentor
 - Connector
 - Expander
 - Reliever

Review/Update Process

- Due to the timing of the MnDOT-led update in 2021 and the 2023 Functional Classification Update Study, the system has been examined and updated significantly in the last five years
- As such, the 2026 MnDOT Metro District review will be more of a refinement; fewer changes are anticipated
- Maps released in the system statements (September 2025) reflect changes made over the past five years; communities can review these maps to ensure accuracy and consistency with local roadway planning initiatives
- No in-person meetings as part of this effort

Review/Update Process

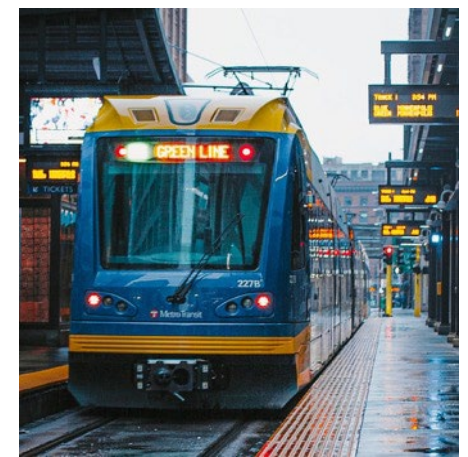
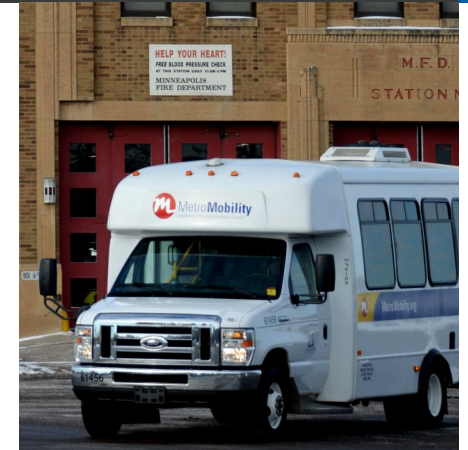
Change Request Process and Timeline

For changes needed for the 2026 Regional Solicitation:

- Contact Council staff right away to discuss request
- Change requests due by **January 16**
- February 12: TAC Planning review
- March 4: TAC review/approval
- March 18: TAB review/approval (only applies to Principal Arterial requests)

For 2026 MnDOT Metro District review changes:

- Update will take place in conjunction with 2050 comprehensive plan review
- Information webinar/virtual meeting Q1 2026
- Council/MnDOT staff will work with individual communities on possible changes late spring/early summer of 2026
- Summer 2026: update of maps and submittal to MnDOT
- Summer/Fall 2026: MnDOT and FHWA approval



Questions?

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