



WILDWOOD

Department of Public Works

MEMORANDUM

To: Pond-Grover Loop Road Committee Members

From: Rick C. Brown, Director of Public Works

Date: April 22, 2016

Re: Functional Classification of Roadways

At the March meeting of the Pond-Grover Loop Road Committee, a question was raised regarding the functional classification of roads. To help further address this question, I have provided the following summary.

Transportation planners classify roadways based on a functional classification system. Within the functional classification system, roads are assigned to one of several possible functional classifications according to the character of travel each roadway provides. Generally the main classifications are local road, collector road and arterial road; however, a distinction is also made between rural and urban arterials and collectors. The two primary considerations made when classifying roads are mobility and access.

Local Roads – The primary purpose of a Local road is to provide access to homes). They emphasize high access (i.e. they have driveways), but low mobility. Typically they are lower volume, lower speed roads which are used for short trips – generally only to connect a home to the nearest collector road. They are not intended for through or regional travel.

Collector Roads - As their name implies, collectors “collect” traffic from local roads and connect traffic to arterial roadways. Collector routes are typically shorter than arterial routes but longer than local Roads. Traffic speeds and traffic volumes will be medium (higher than local roads but less than arterial roads). Collectors often provide traffic circulation within residential neighborhoods as well as commercial, industrial or civic districts.

Arterial Roads – These are roads whose primary purpose is regional mobility (I-64, Route 141 or Route 109). They emphasize high mobility, and higher speeds, with generally less emphasis on access to local properties. These roads are used for longer trips to regional destinations and typically have higher traffic volumes. Arterial roadways sometimes feature full or partially controlled access with no or few intersecting roadways to hinder traffic flow (i.e. Route 100 west of Old State Road to Franklin County). Arterial roads are further defined as either Principal or Minor depending on

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further details. Principal arterial roads would include freeways and interstate routes with access control designed to serve the highest traffic volumes and longest trips.

For more information, please refer to the following:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/highway_functional_classifications/fcauab.pdf

Also, here is the current Functional Classification map for St. Louis County:

<http://www.ewgateway.org/trans/funcclass/stlCountyMap/StLCountyMap-2015.pdf>

RCB