

WILMAPCO Council

Action Item Summary Sheet

Meeting Date: July 9, 2026

Action Item #10: To Adopt the Decennial Functional Classification Update for Cecil County.

Description/Summary of Item:

To review and update (where appropriate) the roadway functional classification system in Cecil County, MD. The network is updated every 10 years to coincide with decennial census and release of updated Urbanized Areas. Maryland DOT staff received input from local officials and MPOs in developing and updating classifications

Summary of Action Taken by PAC: The PAC did not take action on this item.

Summary of Action Taken by TAC: At their June 18 meeting, the TAC recommended Council adoption of the functional classification changes in Cecil County.

Summary of Action Taken by Subcommittee/Task Force (if applicable):
No subcommittee acted on this item.

WILMAPCO Staff Recommendations:

The WILMAPCO staff recommends that Council adopt the functional classification changes in Cecil County.

Wilmington Area Planning Council

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Cecil County Executive

Kelly A. Benson, Mayor
Cecil County Municipalities
Representative

Kenneth Branner, Mayor
New Castle County
Municipalities Representative

WILMAPCO Executive Director
Tigist Zegeye

DRAFT
RESOLUTION

**BY THE WILMINGTON AREA PLANNING COUNCIL (WILMAPCO)
TO APPROVE THE DECENNIAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION UPDATE FOR CECIL
COUNTY, MARYLAND**

WHEREAS, the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) has been designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Cecil County, Maryland and New Castle County, Delaware by the Governors of Maryland and Delaware, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Highway Administration has requested approval by the MPO of the decennial functional classification update for Cecil County; and

WHEREAS, these changes have been reviewed and recommended for approval; and

WHEREAS, these changes stay within the functional classification mileage guidelines set by the FHWA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilmington Area Planning Council does hereby approve the update to the Functional Classification System in Cecil County, Maryland

Date:

Stephanie Johnson, Chairperson
Wilmington Area Planning Council

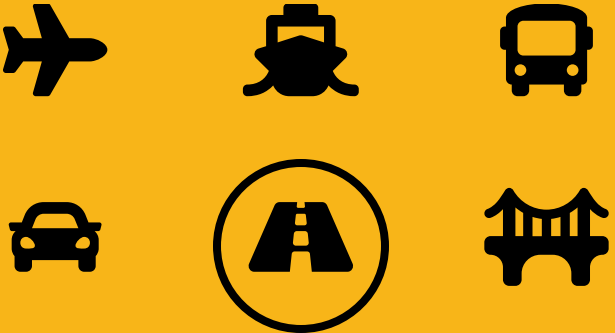


Partners with you in transportation planning



Functional Classification Decennial Update Process

Nate Evans & Darren Bean
Regional & Intermodal
Planning Division



Purpose

- Federally required evaluation of the state's functional classification system based on 2020 U.S. Census

Overview

- FHWA Urban Boundaries are redefined based on Census urban areas
- With the urban and rural areas designated, roadway classification changes are requested by local jurisdictions in coordination with SHA.
- Functional classification changes are reviewed and approved by MPOs and FHWA.



Change Request Process

- Preliminary Analysis of boundary changes
- SHA District Office Inputs and Dashboard Testing
- Local, MPO Kick-Off Meeting
- County Inputs – 6 – 8 months
- SHA Review and Prepare Package
- County Sign-Off
- MPO Approval



Functional Classification Change Factors

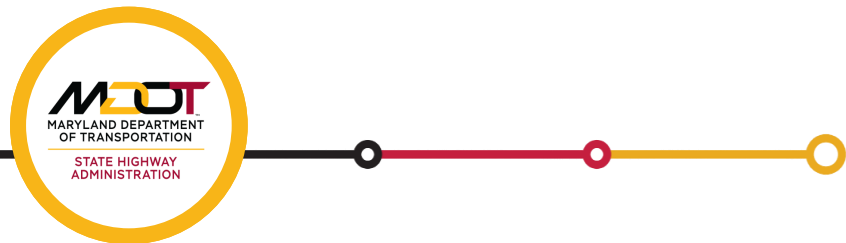
Urban Area Changes

Quantitative Data

- Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)
- Lane Widths

Qualitative Data

- Residential, Commercial, Industrial areas
- Major Traffic Generators



Functional Classification System Balance

- As an Urban State, Maryland aims to adhere to the FHWA-defined system balance

Functional Classification	% Urban	% Rural
Principal Arterial- Interstate	1- 2 %	1 – 2 %
Principal Arterial-Freeways & Expressways	0 – 2%	0 – 2 %
Principal Arterial-Other	4 – 5 %	2 – 5 %
Minor Arterial	7 – 12 %	3 – 7 %
Major Collector	7 – 13 %	10 – 17 %
Minor Collector	7 – 13 %	5 – 13 %
Local	67 – 76 %	66 – 74 %

Benefits and Implications

- Federal aid highway program funding
- Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) federal reporting
- Roadway Design – provides guidance on standards based on a road's functional class

Federal-Aid Eligibility	Urban	Rural
Interstate	Yes	Yes
Principal Arterial – Other Freeways and Expressways	Yes	Yes
Principal Arterial – Other	Yes	Yes
Minor Arterial	Yes	Yes
Major Collector	Yes	Yes
Minor Collector	Yes	No
Local	No	No



Map Editor

- Reclassification Example:
- **Road Name:** MD 273 (Telegraph Road)
- **Current Functional Class:** Minor Arterial
- **Proposed Functional Class:** Principal Arterial
- **Justification:** Regional Significance
- **Justification Description:** Balance county's system while recognizing roadway's importance

The screenshot shows a map editor interface for Cecil County, Maryland. The map displays various roads and geographical features. The 'Smart Editor' panel on the right is titled 'Functional Classification Review' and contains the following information:

- Functional Class:** Minor Arterial
- Road Name:** TELEGRAPH RD
- Route ID:** 07000MD00273--1-----
- From-Measure:** 12.87
- To-Measure:** 13.65
- Cardinality:** INVENTORY
- County:** CECIL
- Municipality:** 000 - NONE
- Functional Class (Proposed):** Principal Arterial (Other)
- Justification:** Changes in Traffic Conditions
- Justification Desc:** same
- Username:** Darren
- User Email:** dbean@mdot.maryland.gov

Buttons for 'Close' and 'Save' are visible at the bottom of the panel.

Schedule

- January 2025: FHWA approves Urban Area Boundary Adjustment
- Spring 2025: RIPD conducts preliminary analysis of boundary adjustments and potential upclass candidates
- Summer 2025: SHA and local coordination on roadway changes with [Functional Classification Editor](#)
- Fall 2025: SHA provides assistance to local jurisdictions
- Winter 2026: Local approvals
- Spring 2026: MPO approvals
- Summer 2026: FHWA approval

Questions

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