

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LOCATION AND DESIGN DIVISION

INSTRUCTIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER: IIM-LD-132.4
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION AND GEOMETRIC DESIGN STANDARDS	DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2005
	SUPERSEDES: IIM-LD-132.3
DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR APPROVAL: Mohammad Mirshahi, P.E. State L&D Engineer Approved: December 1, 2005	

Changes are shaded.

CURRENT REVISION

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- Updated for current Division Administrator Approval.
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EFFECTIVE DATE

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- This memorandum will become effective with all projects beginning with the September 1991 Advertisement.
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BACKGROUND

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- All roadways are classified as to how the facility functions in accordance with Federal guidelines.
 - The Geometric Design Standards in Appendix A of VDOT's Road Design Manual are divided by Functional Classification (FC).
 - The terms "Urban" and "Rural" used in the FC do not necessarily coincide with the terms as applied to highway systems in Virginia.

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION (FC)

- Urban - Urbanized areas within set boundaries having a population of 5,000 or more. This may include areas outside of incorporated cities and towns.
- Rural - Areas not designated as Urban. Includes incorporated cities and towns with populations less than 5,000.
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VIRGINIA HIGHWAY SYSTEMS

- Urban - Roadways within the boundaries of incorporated towns and cities with a population of 3,500 or more plus eight other designated urbanized areas (Bridgewater, Chase City, Elkton, Grottoes, Narrows, Pearisburg, Saltville and Woodstock). The urban program is administered by the Local Assistance Division.
- Primary - Primary Roadways
- Secondary – All secondary roadways except those in Arlington and Henrico Counties. Projects are administered by the Local Assistance Division.

- A project classified as Urban in FC may be part of the Interstate, Arterial, Primary, or Secondary System and will be administered as such. This applies also to projects classified as Rural.
- The Functional Classification block on the title sheet is to show the Geometric Design Standard used.

If more than one standard is used in the design, it will be necessary to set up two Functional Classification blocks since in most cases there would be a change in traffic volumes and scope of work.

EXAMPLE

- When the Functional Classification for a project would normally warrant either Geometric Design Standard GS-1, GS-2, GS-3, or GS-4 and Geometric Design Standard GS-5, GS-6, GS-7 or GS-8, respectively, is used then it will be necessary to show the standard used in the design on the title sheet under the Functional Classification.

- If the normal Geometric standard would be GS-3 and Geometric Standard GS-7 is used, the title sheet is to show:

RURAL COLLECTOR-ROLLING-DIVIDED (Urban St'd. GS-7 was used)