

## Roadway Functional Classification System

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County Commissioner:

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### Policy Statement:

Sturgeon County's Roadway Functional Classification System is based on criteria outlined in the Transportation Association of Canada's (TAC) Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads and the US Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Highway's Functional Classification – Concepts, Criteria and Procedures Guideline and consists of roadways identified as Arterials, Major Collectors, Minor Collectors, Local Roads and Access Roads.

Some factors that influence the functional classification of a roadway include:

- traffic volume;
- vehicle type (passenger vehicles, buses, trucks, agricultural equipment, etc.);
- population density;
- trip length;
- network continuity / traffic characteristics;
- level of service for specific roadway (travel mobility – operating speed freedom from speed changes, riding comfort, etc.);
- trip purpose (commuter, business, recreational, industrial, etc.);
- nature of adjacent land use / access requirements;
- trip generating or attracting power of a place (population centers, shopping centers, schools, recreational / sports facilities, etc.); and
- geographic conditions.

Normally all factors that influence the functional classification of a roadway are considered when a roadway is classified, however, in order to eliminate isolated gaps in the network system, a roadway may be classified solely on the basis of retaining network continuity.

**Purpose:**

Sturgeon County's Roadway Functional Classification System is the orderly grouping of roadways into systems according to the type of service they are intended to provide to the public. Classification assists in establishing the geometric design features for each group of roadways, consistent with the short and long term operational needs of that particular group. The functional classification system is to be used as a technical tool for planning and programming future roadway improvements.

**Definitions:**

Sturgeon County has slightly modified the definitions of the three functional roadway classifications (Arterials, Collectors and Locals) found in the US Federal Highway Administration's Guideline, to make them more applicable for a rural municipality.

Under Sturgeon County's Roadway Functional Classification System, the definition of each functional classification is as follows:

- 1. Arterials** - Arterials serve movements between population centers within Sturgeon County and those from other jurisdictions. This classification accommodates inter-jurisdictional travel demands. Arterials typically connect other jurisdictions' population centers to provincial highways.

Arterials carry large volumes of traffic at medium to high speeds and attempt to provide a route where, other than at intersections, there is minimal interference to the through movement of traffic.

- 2. Collectors** - Collectors are divided into two sub-classifications:

- i. Major Collectors**

Major collectors serve as the more important intra-county travel corridors that typically connect two or more arterials or provincial highways.

Major collectors are gathering and distribution roads that provide connection between the municipal roadway system and the provincial highway system for intra-county traffic generators. Major collectors provide network connections for the larger, more densely populated areas of the county.

Major collectors carry significant volumes of through traffic, with origin and destination points outside the general area traversed (beyond this classification), at

medium speeds.

**ii. Minor Collectors**

Minor collectors are gathering and distribution roads that provide connection between the local or access roads and collectors or arterials. Minor collectors provide network connections for the smaller, less densely populated areas of the county.

Minor collectors carry relatively smaller volumes of through traffic, as compared to major collectors, at medium speeds.

**3. Local Roads**

Local roads are the grid roads that primarily serve to provide land access. Although they may directly or indirectly connect two or more roads with a functional classification of minor collector or greater, they are not intended to service any through traffic.

They typically have significantly smaller volumes of traffic, as compared to minor collectors, carry traffic at medium speeds and can be subject to frequent interruptions at intersections and access points

**4. Access Roads**

The access road classification includes; access roads, low volume roads, and dead end roads. These roads serve to provide land access only and are not intended to service any through traffic.

Access roads carry a very low volume or traffic at low to medium speeds.

The roadway functional classifications are shown on the attached map. Roadways on the map not designated as being arterials, major collectors or minor collectors are considered to be local or access roads.

Roadway functional classification systems should be revised periodically as traffic patterns or other considerations change.

**INSERT CLASSIFICATION MAP**  
**HERE**