



# 2021 Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Roads Plan

## What is functional classification?

**Functional classification** is *grouping streets and highways into categories according to the type of service they provide*. All roads help the traveler move across the network, called *mobility*, and reach specific destinations, referred to as *access*.

## What are the functional class categories?

The three standard road categories are *arterial*, *collector*, and *local*. Arterials and collectors are also often broken down into *major* and *minor* subcategories, with different implications for roadway design. For example, direct lot access is limited on major collector and higher roads.

**Arterial.** The highest category, these roads are designed to move travelers quickly and efficiently with higher mobility and speeds, and with few stops, turns, and intersections.

*Example: The Johansen Expressway in Fairbanks.*

**Collector.** The middle category, these roads strike a balance between moving travelers quickly and providing access to adjacent destinations via driveways and intersections.

*Examples: Goldhill Road in Fairbanks and Bradway Road in North Pole.*

**Local.** The lowest category, these roads typically have slower speeds and capacity since their main purpose is to provide access to properties such as homes and businesses.

*Examples: Your friendly neighborhood streets.*

## Who determines functional classification?

*Transportation agencies and governments* carry out the process of functional classification. Some examples include the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and local governments such as the FNSB and cities of Fairbanks and North Pole.

## What is the purpose of functional classification?

The broad purpose of functional classification is *to develop an orderly road network, balancing the needs for access and mobility to promote safe and efficient travel*. At a more detailed level, different functional classification systems serve slightly different purposes. The purpose of the FNSB functional classification system is to guide the design of subdivision streets and access to local properties.

## How are functional classifications updated?

FNSB functional classifications are *currently being updated through the Roads Plan*. A steering committee of local business owners, developers, transportation providers, emergency responders, and community representatives are guiding the update process with technical support from borough staff, planners, and engineers.



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