

**PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION REVIEW FOR
CDTC'S PLANNING & PROGRAMMING AREA**

Roadway functional classification is the process by which streets and highways are grouped according to the character of service they provide, ranging from high degree of travel mobility to land access functions. It is a hierarchal system that helps ensure logical connectivity and continuity throughout the region, state, and country. Here in New York, these classifications are determined by the New York State Department of Transportation in cooperation with metropolitan planning organizations, such as CDTC, and other local officials, based on criteria established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA ultimately approves the classifications.

The functional classification of the region's streets and highways affects funding allocations, funding eligibility, safety assessments, and design standards.

Functional classification must be updated every ten years to coincide with decennial census and approval of revised urban area boundaries. Policy Board action on September 5, 2013 sent the proposed urban area boundary changes to NYSDOT and FHWA for approval. At this time, NYSDOT is revising existing functional classifications to both reflect the new urban area boundary (changes from rural to urban categories) and new HPMS (Highway Performance Monitoring System) requirements promulgated by FHWA (changes in the number of classification categories).

Other changes related to changing travel patterns, land use development, or construction of new roads may be warranted. The staff believes a comprehensive review of possible changes should coincide with the update of the New Visions Plan, and that Planning Committee and other regional stakeholders should be given the opportunity to actively participate in the process. The staff, with the help of the NYSDOT, will compile mapping and other information over the coming months to help members in the process, which we would like to begin later in the year.

At this time, we are asking Planning Committee members to start thinking about changes in functional classification that should be considered, especially those that surfaced from various Linkage Study recommendations. The Town of Colonie's request to change the functional class of Railroad Avenue, along with previous (unresolved) requests, will be considered during the comprehensive review. Members should be aware that changing functional class of a facility may require stricter design standards when pursuing federal aid. Proposed changes should be submitted to Dave Jukins.