

# Functional Classification

“Functional classification” groups streets and highways into classes, or systems, according to the characteristics of the roadway and the level of service provided (local access, regional, and intra-regional). A roadway’s functional classification is based upon daily traffic volumes, purpose, design characteristics, and location. It should be used as a general guide for roadway design and access control, along with measured traffic volumes, speed, and engineering factors. Not all roadways of the same functional classification designation will have the same design. Rapid population growth and traffic volume increases, along with land use changes, can influence the functionality of any roadway or intersection. The functional classification system includes the following hierarchy of roads:

**INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS:** The Interstate System consists of all presently designated freeway routes meeting the Interstate geometric and construction standards for future traffic. The Interstate System is the highest classification of arterial roads and streets and provides the highest level of mobility, at the highest speed, connecting large population centers for a long uninterrupted distance with limited access. There are no Interstate Highways in Adams County.

## **FREEWAYS/ EXPRESSWAYS/ OTHER**

**PRINCIPAL ARTERIALS:** This classification includes limited access freeways, multi-lane highways, and other important highways supplementing the Interstate System that connect, as directly as practicable, the nation’s principal urbanized areas, cities, and industrial centers; serve the national defense; and connect at suitable border points with routes of continental importance.

**MINOR ARTERIALS:** Minor arterials provide for a lower level of mobility than principal arterials while placing emphasis on access to land rather than to other arterial roadways. These roads typically provide

links to a collector roadway and connect small population centers to the overall arterial system.

**RURAL MAJOR COLLECTORS:** Major collector roadways provide land access and movement within residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas, and agricultural areas. Major Collector roads provide service to specific areas and to and from other important traffic generators such as school and parks. They connect local roads and streets with arterials and provide less mobility than arterials at lower speeds and over a shorter distance.

**RURAL MINOR COLLECTORS:** Minor collector roadways serve remaining, smaller rural and urban traffic generators. These roads connect residents, businesses, and agricultural activities to major collector or arterial roads.

**LOCAL:** The local roads and streets provide a direct access to individual properties and land uses. They are not intended to accommodate through-traffic, and they are typically low volume roadways. Municipal owned and maintained roads and streets are typically included in this classification.