

**Overcoming Barriers**

**Strengthening Connections**



**Ensuring Opportunities**

**Planning One Community**

## **MPO Staff Report**

**Technical Advisory Committee: May 15, 2019**

**MPO Executive Board: May 22, 2019**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Update on Functional Re-Classification**

Matter of the Functional Re-Classification.

**Background:** FHWA updated its guide on functional classification in Fall of 2013. Together with this major update, the 2010 Census changed the urbanized area geography which typically created need to make changes to roadway functional classification. Lastly, MAP-21 automatically converted all existing principal arterials to the National Highway System; continued with FAST. This NHS designation may be significant due to the fact that the majority of funding in FAST is focused towards the NHS routes.

The MPO, working with our partners, updated the urbanized area boundary in 2012 and then updated the functional classification that were necessary due to the boundary changes. Minnesota completed a statewide functional re-classification in 2015 that ended with the MPO and its partners updating the Minnesota side of our MPO Study area's functional classification.

For the North Dakota side, there has been identified necessary changes to the functional classification throughout the recent years; however, the general agreement was to wait until after the 2045 MTP was completed. In addition, NDDOT has adopted a policy on how to consider functional classification.

Therefore, the Work Program identified that we would complete a review of our functional classification in 2019.

### **Findings and Analysis:**

- The functional classification needs to be reviewed and updated.
- FHWA updated their guidance in functional classification and this will be the primary guide used. Each state has promulgated state specific guides that will be followed.
- The Minnesota side was recently updated so the review will be more limited.
- The North Dakota side will require more review due to this is the first update under the new guides.
- The Work Program has identified this activity being done this year.

### **Support Materials:**

- Information on current functional classification and the guide