

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Introductory Note: For more detailed information on the background, methodology, and reasoning behind the development of Transportation Planning Policy: TP 1 / 98 (Functional Classification of Rural Provincial Highways) refer to the Transportation Systems Planning & Development Branch's "*A Functional Highway Classification System for Rural Provincial Highways in Manitoba - July 1997 Report*".

A classification system provides guidance to the highway authority in the following areas:

- ▶ to establish logical, integrated systems composed of all roads and streets, which because of their service, should be administered by the same jurisdiction;
- ▶ to provide a basis for assigning the responsibility for each class of road to the level of government with the greatest interest; and
- ▶ to group roads and streets that require the same quality of construction

(a) Administration:

Road classification is used in the areas of strategic planning and policy development. The grouping of roads with similar construction, maintenance and operational needs provides a basis for assigning statutory and departmental responsibility. Road classification also serves as a criterion for the allocation of resources. (eg: programming and expenditure control).

(b) Planning, Environmental and Design Considerations:

The classification of roads allows highways to be built to consistent standards. It also facilitates the use of a systematic approach to the development of design standards while considering the impact to the natural environment and road service.

A systematic approach can also be used for controlling land use, access, subdivision, and other developments adjacent to highways to ensure public safety, mobility and to protect costly highway investment.