

VDOT DEPARTMENT MEMORANDA (DM) MANUAL

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Approved: Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E., Commissioner

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CRITERIA FOR TRANSFERRING SECONDARY ROADS TO THE PRIMARY SYSTEM

Introduction Recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for transfers from the Secondary System to the Primary System will be based upon this policy's criteria.

TERM	MEANING
Activity Center	An area that has a concentration of activities that generate significant vehicular traffic such as central business districts, towns, urban development areas, major commercial centers, airports, military bases, and tourist sites.
Arterial	A highway which carries trips of longer length and generally higher speed than other highways. In federal functional classification terms, for the purposes of this memorandum, this is a Rural Minor Arterial, Rural Other Principal Arterial, Urban Minor Arterial, Urban Other Principal Arterial, or Urban Freeway and Expressway.
Bus	All vehicles manufactured and utilized as traditional passenger-carrying buses with two axles and six tires or three or more axles. This category includes only traditional buses (including school buses) functioning as passenger-carrying vehicles.
Tractor-trailer	All vehicles consisting of two or three units, one of which is tractor or straight truck power unit.

Criteria Roads may be recommended by the Virginia Department of Transportation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for transfer from the Secondary System to the Primary System if:

- The road connects to an existing Primary or Interstate Highway and
- The road meets a majority of the following criteria:
 - Provides a reasonably direct connection between activity centers that are not already connected by existing primary or Interstate highways;
 - Carries at least 10,000 vehicles per day;
 - Carries at least 200 tractor-trailers and buses per day;
 - Is classified in the federal functional classification system as an arterial;
 - Is designated as a National Highway System (NHS) facility; and
 - Meets the lane width and shoulder width design standards for a highway of its current functional classification and traffic volume.

Reference

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- Code of Virginia, § [33.1-34](#).
 - Commonwealth Transportation Board Minutes, 12/17/98, 2/20/13.
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