

Summary of Changes and Purpose of this Document

The GIS and Road Inventory and Classification Services (RICS) unit has updated how we maintain the codes representing Federal Functional Classification (FFC) in our database and data products. In 2010, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) directed states to adopt a simplified set of codes (Table 1), eliminating the Federal Aid Urban/Rural distinction embedded in the legacy codes (Table 2). While the simplified codes were implemented in the Transinfo database, legacy codes have remained in use in the HTDR1 database, TransViewer Highway Reports, and other data products.

Following the 2020 Census review, changes to Federal Functional Classification and Federal Aid Urban boundaries have created inconsistencies between some roads and the legacy FFC framework. Although we previously used workarounds (e.g., Legacy Code 18), we have decided to discontinue maintaining the legacy codes, as they no longer support all classification scenarios.

This document will explain why we are discontinuing maintenance of the legacy codes, outline the changes to data products, and highlight the effects on our databases and applications.

Current FFC Codes

Current FFC Codes	Current FFC Descriptions
1	Interstate
2	Freeway and Expressway
3	Other Principal Arterial
4	Minor Arterial
5	Major Collector
6	Minor Collector
7	Local

Table 1: Current Functional Classification Codes and Descriptions with no Rural/Urban Distinction.

Legacy FFC Codes

Legacy FFC Codes	Legacy FFC Descriptions
01	Rural Interstate
02	Other Rural Principal Arterial
06	Rural Minor Arterial
07	Rural Major Collector
08	Rural Minor Collector
09	Rural Local
11	Urban Interstate
12	Other Urban Freeway and Expressway
14	Other Urban Principal Arterial
16	Urban Minor Arterial
17	Urban Major Collector
18	Urban Minor Collector (<i>Workaround code created by RICS</i>)
19	Urban Local

Table 2: Legacy Functional Classification Codes and Descriptions Including Rural/Urban Distinction.

Discontinuing Maintenance of Legacy Codes

Over the past 15 years, new road construction, FFC updates, and shifting Federal Aid Urban boundaries have caused some roads to fall out of alignment with the legacy Federal Functional Classification (FFC) code framework. For example, there is no legacy FFC code for roads classified as Freeway and Expressway in rural areas, or roads classified as Minor Collector within urban areas—cases where workaround code 18 (created by RICS) has been used.

Since FHWA no longer supports legacy FFC codes that combine urban/rural designations with functional class, we must transition all users to the current FFC codes. Doing so will help avoid ongoing gaps in classification as urban boundaries and functional classifications continue to evolve.

We will fully phase out legacy FFC codes as part of the Migration from TransInfo (MTI) Project, which includes new tools and updated processes. We strongly encourage all data users to begin transitioning to the current FFC codes as soon as possible.

Changes to the TransGIS and FACS-STIP Layers

You will see some minor changes to layers in the TransGIS and FACS-STIP applications beginning in the summer of 2025:

- **Federal Functional Class – State**

- Symbology: There is no distinction in line weight and color between state and nonstate roads.
- Historic Functional Classification Code fields: You will still see the historic FFC Code where applicable, but you will no longer see the historic classification description. For roads where the current FFC codes do not have legacy FFC code equivalents, this field will be null even if a road has a current federal functional classification.
- Urban field: To help users quickly determine whether a classified road is urban or rural, there is a new field called “Urban” that describes whether a road is in a Federal Aid Urban area or not. “Y” = Inside a Federal Aid Urban Area, “N” = Not inside a Federal Aid Urban Area.

- **Federal Functional Class – Nonstate**

- Symbology: There is no distinction in line weight and color between state and nonstate roads.
- Historic Functional Classification Code fields: You will still see the historic FFC Code where applicable, but you will no longer see the historic classification description. For roads where the current FFC codes do not have legacy FFC code equivalents, this field will be null even if a road has a current federal functional classification.
- Urban field: To help users quickly determine whether a classified road is urban or rural, there is a new field called “Urban” that describes whether a road is in a Federal Aid Urban area or not. “Y” = Inside a Federal Aid Urban Area, “N” = Not inside a Federal Aid Urban Area

- **Federal Aid Eligible Road Network**

- Symbology: No Change
- Historic Functional Classification Code fields: You will still see the historic FFC Code where applicable, but you will no longer see the historic classification description. For roads where the current FFC codes do not have legacy FFC code equivalents, this field will be null even if a road has a current federal functional classification.
- Urban field: To help users quickly determine whether a classified road is urban or rural, there is a new field called “Urban” that describes whether a road is in a Federal Aid Urban area or not. “Y” = Inside a Federal Aid Urban Area, “N” = Not inside a Federal Aid Urban Area

Effects on the HTDR1 Database and TransViewer Reports

The HTDR1 database and the data products generated from it, primarily the TransViewer State Highway Reports, use only the legacy FFC codes. As gaps in legacy FFC code coverage arise from boundary and classification changes, we will not modify the database schema or create workarounds.

As users continue to access the HTDR1 database and TransViewer reports, they may encounter issues in the legacy FFC codes in the database or reports:

- Missing functional class information for classifications that don't fit the legacy FFC framework, specifically Rural Freeway and Expressway.
- Workaround legacy FFC code 18, which was created by RICS to represent Urban Minor Collectors, another scenario not covered by the legacy code framework.

If you're experiencing issues with the data in the HTDR1 database, there are several alternative data sources available. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the GIS or RICS Units and we'll make sure you get the data you need.

We will phase out the HTDR1 database and associated reports as we update our systems and processes through the Migration from TransInfo project ([MTI Project](#)). We will work with users of the HTDR1 database and its reports as we deprecate this legacy database.

Contacts

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