Functional Classification Definitions for Maps

Functional classification is a method of classifying roads by the service they provide as part of the overall highway system. Most travel involves movement through a network of roads. Functional classification defines the nature of traveling within a network in a logical and efficient manner by defining the part that any particular road or street should play in serving the flow of trips through the entire highway network.

Urbanized Area Boundary –
Area with population over 50,000 as designated by the Bureau of the Census.

Small Urban Boundary –
Area with population greater than 5, 000 and not within any Urbanized Area boundary.

Interstate –
Routes designated as the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. Primary travel routes with the longest trip lengths connecting metropolitan areas, cities, and industrial centers. Does not provide land access and interconnects primarily with other higher classifications of routes.

Other Freeways/Expressways –
This classification is only present within Urbanized Areas. Interstate type route not designated as Interstate. Primary travel route that serves metropolitan cities and industrial areas. Does not provide land access and interconnects primarily with other higher classifications of routes.

Other Principal Arterials –
Provides an integrated network of routes that serve major centers of activities and urban areas. They are the highest traffic volume corridors with long trip lengths and are a link between the higher and lower classifications. Land access is not prohibited.

Minor Arterials –
Routes that interconnect Other Principal Arterials and provide access to smaller developed areas; links cities and towns. More emphasis is placed on land access than Other Principal Arterials.

Major Collector –
Known as just 'Collectors' in Urban Areas. Routes that provide service to important travel generators (i.e. county seats, towns, schools, recreational and agricultural areas) that are not served by higher classifications. Provides land access and collects traffic from lower classifications, channeling them to the higher classifications.

Minor Collector –
Only present in Rural Areas. Routes that service local traffic generators, smaller towns, and communities. Provides land access and provides link for traffic from local roads to the higher classifications.

Locals –
Routes that provide direct access to land and links to the higher classification routes. Locals have the lowest volumes of traffic and short trip lengths. Consists of all roads not designated as higher classifications.

New Castle County **Kent County** **Sussex County**