

# Transportation System Classifications

The City of Kalispell's transportation system is broken into four main classifications: Principal Arterial, Minor Arterial, Collector, and Local streets. Principal arterials are at the highest level of the transportation hierarchy and provide the highest capacity for vehicular traffic volumes. Principal arterials provide for major traffic movements through the city at the highest efficiency possible, with right-of-way typically yielded by roadways of lower hierarchy. They promote connectivity to other arterials, serve the longest trips, and carry the major portion of trips entering and leaving the overall area. Principal arterials provide the highest level of access control, making access to abutting land subordinate to the provision for vehicular travel. Examples of Principal Arterials include Highway 93, Highway 2, and the Highway 93 Bypass. **All Principal arterials in the City of Kalispell are under the jurisdiction of the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT).**

Minor arterials are at the second highest level of the transportation hierarchy. The primary role of minor arterials is to connect principal arterials to collector streets. Minor arterials provide intra-community continuity, provide for trips of moderate length, and provide a somewhat lower level of capacity and efficiency than principal arterials. Providing service to the abutting land should be subordinate to the provision of travel service. Examples of Minor Arterials include Meridian Road, Airport Road, and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave West. **Reserve Drive, Three Mile Drive, and Farm to Market are examples of Minor Arterials under the Jurisdiction of MDT.**

Collector streets are at the second lowest level of the transportation hierarchy. The primary role of collector streets is to collect traffic from neighborhood streets and channel the traffic to the arterial network. Conversely, collector streets also serve to accept traffic from arterial roads and distribute it among final destinations via local street connections. Collector streets usually serve a moderate sized neighborhood or a combination of small developments, and provide a moderate level of access control. Examples of collector streets include: Stillwater Road, 1st Ave E, and 1st Ave W.

Local streets are at the lowest level of the transportation hierarchy and provide the lowest level of service. All streets or parts of streets not designated as principal arterials, minor arterials, or collectors are classified and designated as local streets. The primary role of local streets is to provide direct access from abutting properties to the collector street. Local streets do not promote through traffic, have the lowest speed limit, carry the lowest volume of traffic, and provide the lowest level of access control.

Use this [link](#) to access an interactive map which shows which roads MDT is responsible for. Click on individual roads to see the attribute information pertaining to the road.