

3.1 A New Approach to Road Characterization

The development of six Regional Road Typologies provides a new characterization system for roads in York Region, in line with Official Plan directions

The Regional Road Typologies identified in these guidelines present a new approach to road characterization for York Region, in line with what is encouraged in the York Region Official Plan. This road typology system is intended to meet the mobility needs of communities in the Region, while responding to and supporting adjacent land uses, natural heritage and built form.

In response to existing policies and technical best practices, this document identifies six new Regional road typologies that characterize conditions found in York Region:

1. City Centre Street
2. Avenue
3. Main Street
4. Connector
5. Rural Road
6. Rural Hamlet Road

For each road typology, a brief description, key design opportunities and challenges, urban design and operational attributes and sample plans and sections are provided.

These typologies replace the current system of roadway classification used by the Region and updates to policies and guidelines such as the [Regional Official Plan](#) and [Access Guidelines for Regional Roads](#) will need to be updated.

As described in Section 2.2, in addition to identifying planned right-of-way widths, the Regional Official Plan states that street hierarchy should support the Region's proposed urban structure as well as active modes of transportation and compact mixed-use urban forms that can more readily support higher levels of transit service.



Regional roads vary in context between more urban corridors (such as Davis Drive above) and rural corridors