

Road categorisation

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Road categorisation

In The Netherlands we have three types of roads:

- through roads,
- distributor roads and
- access roads.

Different use and behaviour

Functions: to flow and to exchange

Road categorisation

Through roads

to enable traffic **to flow** as much as possible and are designed in such a way that traffic can move safely from A to B at high speed.

Road categorisation

Access roads

to provide access to destinations. On these roads, fast traffic mixes with vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

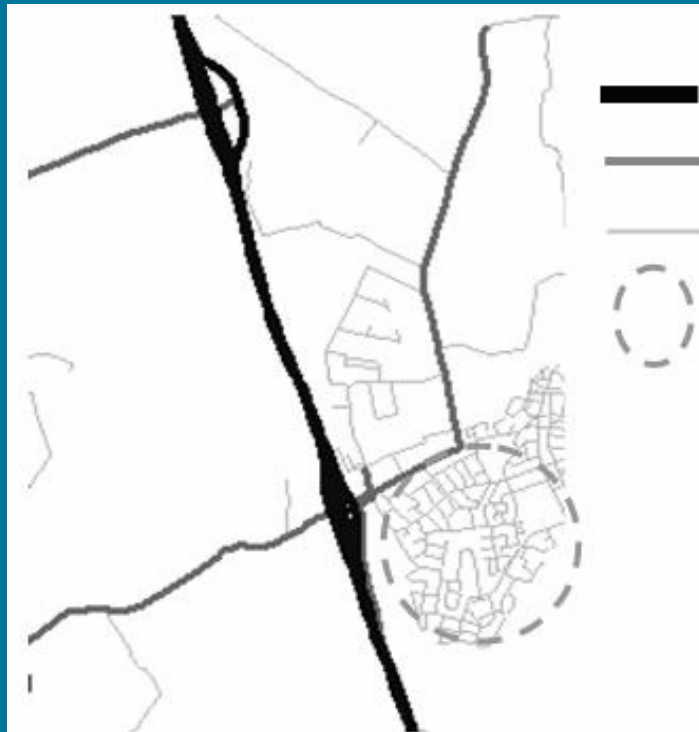
Residence is the main function here and motorized vehicles are guests.

Road categorisation

Distributor roads

This road type has a **flow function** on road segments and an **exchange function** at intersections, and connects through roads with access roads, as well as through roads and access roads among each other.

Road categorisation



Through road
Distributor road
Access road
Residential area

Road categorisation

Recognizable road design is of major importance

Look for Essential Road Characteristics

Only road markings

Road categorisation






| Essential recognizability characteristics | Through road | | Distributor road | | | Access road | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | SW120 | SW100 | GOW80 | GOW70 | GOW50 | ETW60 | ETW30 |
| Zone sign | Motorway sign  | Trunk road sign  | Sign n.a. (general speed limit) | Speed limit sign  | Sign n.a. (general speed limit) | Zone sign  | Regulation or zone sign  |
| Edge marking | Continuous marking | Continuous marking | Broken marking | Broken marking or kerb | Broken marking or kerb | None or broken marking | None or broken line, or kerb |
| Driving direction separation | Vehicle barrier or wide median | Double axis line with green 'filling', barrier, or median | Double axis line or median | Double axis line or median | Double axis line or median | None | None |

Figure 2. Essential Recognizability Characteristics according to CROW guideline (2004a).

Through roads



Outside build up areas

Distributor roads



Outside build up areas

Access roads



Outside build up areas

Road categorisation

communication to all car drivers

Nieuwe strepen op de weg buiten de bebouwde kom



- **Dubbele middenstrepen met groen**
Dit is een autoweg; je mag 100 km/uur, tenzij verkeersborden anders aangeven.
- **Doorgetrokken middenstrepen**
Inhalen is verboden.
- **Doorgetrokken kantstrepen**



- **Dubbele middenstrepen zonder groen**
Je mag 80 km/uur, tenzij verkeersborden anders aangeven.
- **Doorgetrokken middenstrepen**
Inhalen is verboden.
- **Onderbroken kantstrepen**



- **Geen middenstrepen**
Dit is een 60 km-zone; je mag 60 km/uur, tenzij verkeersborden anders aangeven.
- **Onderbroken kantstrepen**

(Brom)fietsers op de weg of op een vrijliggend fietspad. Wegen zijn soms voorzien van (rode) fietsstreken.



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(Brom)fietsers op de weg.



Road categorisation

It looks simple: three types of roads, three types of road markings

BUT: what happens if a road has the function of distributor road, and it is used as an access road

For example: a distributor road with several farms who connect directly onto the distributor road between the intersections

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What to do?

Make it an access road (downgrading).

This will disturb the network and send traffic to another distributor road: more miles travel.

Make it a distributor road (upgrading).

Make a parallel route (access road) along the distributor road and connect all farms on this parallel route. Exchange of traffic can be arranged at the intersections.

Both have there disadvantages.

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Another possibility is: to leave the road as it is.

It can be a 'Grey road' it has one function and is used as another.

We are looking for examples to describe them and to find some uniformity in design of gray roads.

In 2010 a CROW publication on this topic will be published

Road categorisation

Questions

- Do you have experiences with grey roads?
- What have you done to make them clear to the road user?
- Which choices have been made and why?