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Data collection, methodological development and harmonization of transport statistics

Definitions for state roads, provincial roads and communal roads

Submitted by the secretariat

The hierarchy of roads is different from one country to another.

In the United States and Canada for instance, there is the following classification: freeways or motorways, arterials, collectors and local roads

In France, the classification is: motorways, national roads (comparable to British Primary Routes), “routes départementales” (including overseas territory) and communal roads (local roads maintained by a “Commune”)

In several countries, state highway, state road (and the equivalent provincial highway, provincial road) can refer to several different concepts:

- A "state road" usually refers to either a road numbered or maintained by the state or province. Depending on the state, state highway may be used for one meaning and state road or state route for the other.
 - In some countries, a state highway is a road maintained and numbered by the national government rather than local authorities.
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