## Road Surface Width

The surface width of a roadway may have a profound effect on motorists. The comfort level experienced by a driver may be enhanced by the knowledge that the lane in which he or she is driving is wide enough to comfortably accommodate the driver's vehicle. Further, on two-lane roads, a driver may be less anxious if the traveled way is wide, especially when passing vehicles approaching from the opposite direction. Surface width should be based on present or anticipated traffic volume of a roadway. Due to various constraints, however, the lane width of a roadway may not be as broad as desired; as a result, lane widths vary from eight to twelve feet. The surface width of a paved roadway is found by adding the width of each lane, from edge line to edge line; for unsurfaced roads, surface width is that width from shoulder to shoulder. Figure 2.10 provides an illustration of the State system mileage, classified into seven surface width categories.

Figure 2.10

**West Virginia Highways under WVDOT Jurisdiction**
**by Total Pavement Width**
**As of June 30, 2000**