



1.0 Program Administration

Under Section 84.07, Wisconsin Statutes, the state trunk highway system shall be maintained by the state at state expense. The department may contract with any county highway department for this work. The state highway maintenance program shall be administered to direct the affairs of the principal organizations involved and the public being served.

2.0 Principal Organizations

The Wisconsin approach for administration of the state highway maintenance program is internationally unique and no other model exists for comparison. For program administration, the following hierarchical structure is in place:

1. State Bureau (1 organization): The State Maintenance Engineer for Highways, Bureau of Highway Maintenance shall be the program administrator. This bureau shall formulate policies, procedures, and definitions to manage the program, coordinate the program on a statewide basis, plus allocate funds and formulate recommendations for the biennial budget. This bureau shall also be available to provide advice to the regions.
2. Regional Operations (5 organizations): The Regional Chief Maintenance Engineer shall be the contract administrators. This may include using the county highway departments as members of the management team for planning, setting priorities and monitoring work done under county highway department contractual agreements.

This organization shall formulate and administer contracts, perform program activities best done by state employees, plus justify district budgets and control agreement costs. This organization shall coach and counsel the County Highway Commissioner on state and federal rules and regulations, plus provide assistance, upon request, to train county highway superintendents and foremen.

3. County Highway Departments (72 organizations): The County Highway Commissioner shall be expected to have qualified and trained staff to perform the routine maintenance program on state trunk highways. This organization shall have the equipment, materials and personnel to accomplish the work required in the annual agreement for state highway maintenance.

3.0 Other Contractors

When needed the department may contract with any municipality or private contractor for this routine maintenance work.