



Traffic Engineering, Operations & Safety Manual

Chapter 13 Traffic Regulations

Section 11 Survey Permits

13-11-1 Policy

May 1990

(The following was contained in a memorandum of April 4, 1974, instituting the issuance of permits for surveying and related activities.)

From time to time private land surveyors, utility company surveyors, and others doing similar work are on highway right-of-ways for the purpose of making land surveys, locating landmarks or monuments, surveying for utility lines, etc. The work may take place wholly on or above the highway surface as is the case in measuring distances and courses or establishing elevations, or it may include excavation, for example to locate monuments. For the safety of both highway traffic and persons making these surveys, it appears desirable to re-emphasize the requirements for such operations.

It is recognized that such private survey work on or along a highway is accomplished in a short time and does not involve any significant interference with traffic or hazard to either traffic or the survey crew. In such cases, the survey personnel have the same status as any pedestrian upon the highway, although unlike persons engaged in highway construction or maintenance they are not exempt from the provisions of the Rules of the Road. Such survey personnel *should* be strongly encouraged to wear high-visibility clothing. Whether or not they *should* place advance warning signing will depend somewhat upon whether the work is near or across the roadway, or if it is done well away from traffic.

A permit is required whenever the survey activity will necessitate actual closure of a portion of the roadway for more than a very brief period such as when an isolated measurement is made across the road. The attached permit format *should* be used. The Region *should* add special conditions necessitated by the specific situation. When the highway is heavily traveled it may be desirable to require that a uniformed police officer be provided to direct traffic.

Permits for surveys and other similar operations not requiring an excavation on highway right-of-ways will normally be issued by the Regional Traffic Section and a copy **shall** be sent to the Central Office Traffic Section.

Whenever it is necessary to cut into the roadway surface, to use mechanized equipment or to make any substantial excavation elsewhere in the highway right-of-way to locate a monument or for any reason, a permit is required from the Maintenance Section.

E.T-613-74

State of Wisconsin / Department of Transportation

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO CONDUCT
PRIVATE LAND SURVEY ON STATE HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY**

To the District Engineer - Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation - Division of Highways

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

The undersigned hereby requests permission to temporarily close a portion of the roadway of the state trunk highway indicated below for the purpose of making a land survey which cannot be safely and expeditiously conducted without such closure. The undersigned applicant certifies that he has read and will comply with the conditions of this application including any conditions which may be imposed by the Division of Highways prior to issuance of a permit.

Date of Application	APPLICANT	By
Address		Date of Closure
		Hours
Highway to be closed	County	Location Description
USH _____ STH _____		
Description of closure (lane, width, etc.)		

CONDITIONS FOR A PERMIT

1. The permittee shall minimize as much as practicable the duration of work on the highway right of way.
2. Adequate standard warning signs (SURVEY CREW AHEAD; FLAGMAN AHEAD; ONE LANE ROAD; RIGHT or LEFT LANE CLOSED AHEAD; etc. as appropriate) shall be used at and in advance of the work. Traffic cones or barricades shall be provided and used as needed or as required by the district engineer.
3. Survey crew members, including flagmen, shall wear high visibility vests.
4. Flagmen, when required by this permit (see below), shall use either a red flag at least 18" x 18" in size in good condition on a 3' staff or alternatively a sign paddle with the words STOP, SLOW or GO as appropriate.
5. This permit does not authorize disturbance of highway surfacing or excavation elsewhere in the highway right of way.
6. Survey crew vehicles shall be parked in a safe location where they will not interfere with visibility or operations for traffic on the highway.
7. In applying for and accepting this permit, the permittee agrees to hold the Division of Highways and its employees harmless from any claim which may arise as a result of operations under the permit.
8. No trees, brush or shrubs shall be cut in the course of work under this permit.
9. Additional conditions:

PERMIT

Permission is hereby granted to the above applicant and his employees to temporarily close the indicated part of the state trunk highway roadway for the requested period of time as set forth in the application, subject to the conditions stated above.

PERMIT NO. _____ DATE ISSUED _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ APPROVED BY _____