



FDM 21-20-1 Relationship of Highway Projects

June 19, 2013

The WisDOT Bureau of Aeronautics is under the environmental direction of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and coordinates its documents with WisDOT's for review and approval. The FAA is the federal regulatory agency responsible for ensuring that airports receiving federal funding comply with national environmental laws. Like the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), FAA has developed its own environmental policies and procedures that will be followed whenever an environmental impact statement (EIS), environmental assessment (EA) or environmental report (ER) is prepared for an airport receiving federal funds.

In addition to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190), Section 509(a)(5) of the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970 applies to the preparation of environmental documents. All environmental documents will be prepared in accordance with FAA Order 5050.4A, October 8, 1985, Airport Environmental Handbook. Refer to specific FAA Advisory Circulars (AC) for detailed advisory information regarding different aspects of an airport, such as runway design, lighting, clear zones, etc.

When a proposed highway project that would change the horizontal or vertical alignment of a highway is within five miles of a public use or military airport, the Bureau of Aeronautics is notified of the project to ensure that applicable airway-highway clearances will be maintained. The Bureau of Aeronautics must also be notified of all highway projects within two miles of a public use or military airport (see [FDM 5-10-25](#)).

Similarly, when any federal aid highway project is within two miles of a public use or military airport, the project details should be documented and the FHWA notified. The FHWA shall also be notified of any federal aid project within five miles of a public use or military airport that proposes to change the horizontal or vertical alignment of a highway. The FHWA will determine if there is a possibility for conflict and if further coordination with the FAA is required. If deemed appropriate, the FHWA will notify the FAA with supporting data supplied by the Transportation Region.

Documentation of coordination with the FHWA (and FAA) should appear in the environmental document, that is, coordination must take place in the early stages of project development (see [FDM 5-5-15](#)).