

Environmental Considerations for Locally Let Transportation Projects

This document provides a summary of environmental considerations, focused on agency coordination related to wetlands and waterways, for locally let transportation projects. This document is not comprehensive.

Early Coordination

- a) WisDOT encourages early coordination with DNR Transportation Liaisons to identify potential environmental issues early in design and avoid late “surprises” that may impact project design, schedules and budgets.
- b) DNR Transportation Liaisons are assigned by county. Contact information is available here: [Liaisons.pdf](#)
- c) DNR has resources available for municipalities on their website: [Transportation projects | | Wisconsin DNR](#) (refer to the “Municipal Roads” tab).

Wetlands and Waterways

- a) Impacts to wetlands and waterways may require DNR and US Army Corps of Engineer permits.
- b) DNR’s Surface Water Data Viewer can be a helpful tool to identify potential waterways and wetlands. Note: this is a desktop tool that may be used for planning purposes; additional field reviews may be required.
 - a. Refer to the “mapped wetlands” and “surface waters” layers within the tool) - [Surface Water Data Viewer | | Wisconsin DNR](#)
 - b. Certain waterways and wetlands have specific designations and may have additional requirements (for example, “areas of special natural resource interest” listed under the “priority navigable waters” layer on the tool linked above).
- c) The US Army Corps of Engineers has a streamlined permitting mechanism for common transportation activities, referred to as the “transportation regional general permit” - [Transportation clarified 1.pdf](#)

Additional Considerations

- a) Transportation projects may require additional environmental investigations, coordination and permitting/approvals to comply with various state and federal environmental regulations related to endangered species, cultural resources, hazardous materials and stormwater.
- b) Please refer to [WisDOT Facilities Development Manual](#) (chapters 20-26) and [WisDOT’s Environmental webpages](#) for additional information on environmental compliance requirements.