



# Railroad Coordination for Locally Let Road Improvement Projects

Some locally let road improvement projects may intersect or affect a railroad corridor, railroad crossing, railroad right of way, or railroad warning devices. When this occurs, the local sponsor is responsible for coordinating directly with the railroad early in project planning and development and before construction.

Projects with a railroad within 1,000 feet of a project shall be reviewed by the WisDOT Regional Railroad Coordinator (RRC) for potential railroad coordination requirements. Railroad cooperation is necessary to accommodate road improvement projects that require changes to or on railroad facilities in a timely manner.

## Coordination may be needed when:

- Paving or reconstructing a roadway through an existing railroad crossing
- Changes to roadway profile, thickness, lane widths or shoulder widths, drainage, or approaches near the crossing
- Work affecting crossing surfaces or railroad warning devices
- Projects within railroad right of way
- Widening or other changes that may affect railroad operations or crossing safety

## Coordination steps to follow:

### 1. **Consider railroad impacts during project planning**

Before applying for state funding, project sponsors should determine whether the project is located within 1,000 feet of a railroad corridor or railroad crossing, or whether the project may affect railroad right of way, crossing surfaces, warning devices, or railroad operations.

Potential railroad coordination and requirements should be considered during project planning and included in the project cost estimate provided within the project application submitted to WisDOT.

## 2. **Contact the WisDOT Regional Railroad Coordinator**

If the project is located within 1,000 feet of a railroad corridor or crossing, sponsors should contact the appropriate WisDOT Regional Railroad Coordinator early in project development for guidance and assistance regarding potential railroad coordination requirements. The Region Railroad Coordinator will provide advice regarding necessity for early direct coordination with the railroad, what reviews are required, and any necessary OCR approvals.

Reach out to the appropriate regional office that has jurisdiction in the county where the proposed Railroad work will take place. Refer to the Regional Railroad Coordinators (RRC) map for contact information: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Documents/doing-bus/real-estate/permits/contact-rrc.pdf>

## 3. **Coordinate with the project engineer and program manager**

Sponsors should work with their engineer (if applicable) and contact the ARIP or LRIP program manager if they have questions related to eligibility, reimbursement, or program requirements.

**Important:** Municipalities who do not pre-coordinate with the appropriate parties are at risk of being ordered to provide any necessary changes as deemed by the railroad or OCR at their own cost and additionally run the risk of drawing out project completion.

## Related Resources

- Wis. Stats. 86.13  
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/86.13>
- Wis. Stats. 195.28 and 195.29  
<https://ocr.wi.gov/Pages/PetitionGuidelines.aspx>
- Office of the Commissioner of Railroads Petition Guidance  
<https://ocr.wi.gov/Pages/PetitionGuidelines.aspx>
- WisDOT Facilities Development Manual – Railroad Coordination  
<https://wisconsindot.gov/rdwy/fdm/fd-17-01.pdf>
- WisDOT Railroad Coordination Schedules  
<https://wisconsindot.gov/rdwy/fdm/fd-17-20.pdf>