



FDM 2-5-1 Definition and Relationship

February 15, 2023

1.1 Overview

The mission of the Division of Transportation System Development (DTSD) to “provide leadership in the development and operation of a safe and efficient transportation system” is achieved through good program and project management.

Program management is the process of managing a group of related projects in a coordinated way. Program management provides well defined system goals that are met through the completion of a group of projects. Through oversight of the related projects, program management ensures the overall program goals are met.

DTSD uses the term “program” to identify a group of related projects. Specifically, the “program” is a collection of projects that individually have a cost estimate and an encumbrance date. As the statewide program is sliced into manageable pieces other programs are created: each region has a program, different types of similar projects make up sub-programs.

Project management is using established standards, procedures, and policies to manage a project from conception through completion. A project is a well-defined sequence of activities that, when completed, result in a tangible product - a highway safety improvement, for example. Projects that are managed well are delivered on time, within budget, and meet quality requirements. A group of well managed projects create a program that is easier to manage, increasing program stability. Projects that are not delivered on time create a hole in the program that may or may not be filled by another project. Program goals may be jeopardized when projects are not delivered. Program management also relies on good communication. Program managers and functional areas rely on timely, accurate project information to make program and resource adjustments.

The relationship between Program Management and Project Management is tracked by the Performance Management and Change Management processes.

Each functional area also has a program to manage. Functional areas include utilities, railroads, environmental, structures, survey, mapping, geotechnical, traffic operations, maintenance, consultant contracting, and real estate. Functional areas have either direct delivery responsibilities, deliver products for a project, or assist the project delivery team. The functional area programs may consist of separate projects (e.g., real estate, utility, or railroad IDs) or pieces of many projects.

The Division of Transportation Investment Management (DTIM) has oversight responsibility on several programs and works closely with the DTSD to accomplish program goals. Although the programs have the same general goals and objectives, how they are managed can differ. Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) highway programs include:

- Local Highway Programs - Bureau of Transit and Local Roads (BTLR)
- State Highway Programs - Bureau of State Highway Programs (BSHP)
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

The goals of Program Management and Project Management are the same. The primary difference between program management and project management is in the number of projects considered in measuring success of each of the goals.

Performance measures are used throughout WisDOT to help us meet program and project goals.