



## Highway Maintenance Manual

Bureau of Highway Maintenance

### Chapter 07 Roadside Management

July 2015

### Section 20 Miscellaneous Parcels and Easements

### Subject 05 Corridor Preservation and Surplus Lands

#### **1.0 Authority**

[s. 84.09 Wis. Stats.](#), governs the acquisition and sale of land for transportation purposes.

[s. 85.09\(2\) Wis. Stats.](#), gives the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) the first right to acquire railroad property that has been abandoned.

#### **2.0 Background**

Corridor preservation properties are properties purchased by the department for the purpose of constructing a new highway or relocating an existing one. At times, construction may be delayed beyond the planned construction date. When this happens, the department is responsible for performing any necessary maintenance on those properties. Typically, little maintenance is required except for mowing and snow removal in more urbanized areas.

Surplus lands are properties, usually small in size, which remain unused as part of the highway right of way after highway construction has been completed. The department is responsible for performing necessary maintenance on these properties until ownership is transferred to another party. Again, little maintenance is usually required.

Some corridor preservation and surplus lands contain agricultural cropland leased to nearby farmers who also take care of maintenance as part of their agricultural practices.

The department also owns railroad rights of way as part of the state's transportation system. Those railroad rights of way with active tracks have been leased to private railroad companies, with the leases requiring the railroad provide the necessary maintenance. If the tracks are inactive, ownership of the right of way may have been transferred to the Department of Natural Resources to be used as part of their State Recreational Trails Network or an independent trail commission may have been granted a revocable permit to maintain a recreational trail.

#### **3.0 Coordination**

The regional real estate property manager is responsible for managing corridor preservation and surplus lands in accordance with the Real Estate Program Manual property management guidelines. This includes coordinating maintenance activities typically accomplished by private contractors. If the services of the county highway department are required for any of the maintenance needs, the real estate property manager should coordinate the arrangements with the regional maintenance supervisor.

#### **4.0 Payment**

Typically, funds for maintaining these properties are provided under specific real estate projects if the project is still open, or under a general real estate ID number for closed projects. Therefore, when the work is performed by the county, payment should be handled by the regional real estate staff.