



### ***1.0 Program Administration***

Under [Section 84.07 \(1\), Wisconsin Statutes](#), “the state trunk highway system shall be maintained by the state at state expense... the department may contract with any county highway department for this work.”

The state highway maintenance program is administered by the department to direct the affairs of the principal organizations involved and the public being served.

### ***2.0 Principal Organizations***

The Wisconsin approach for administration of the state highway maintenance program is internationally unique and no other model exists for comparison. For program administration, the following hierarchical structure is in place:

1. State Bureau: The State Maintenance Engineer for Highways, in Bureau of Highway Maintenance is the program administrator. This bureau formulates policies, procedures, and definitions to manage and coordinate the program on a statewide basis. The bureau allocates funds and formulates recommendations for the biennial budget. This bureau provides advice and guidance to the regions.
2. Regional Operations: Five regions (with eight offices) are included in the regional operations. The Regional Chief Maintenance Engineer is the contract administrator. Regions may include county highway departments as members of management teams that plans, sets priorities, and monitors work done under county highway department contractual agreements.

Regions formulate and administer contracts, perform program activities best done by state employees, plus justify region budgets and control agreement costs. Regions provide counsel to County Highway Commissioners on state and federal rules and regulations, plus provide assistance, upon request, to train county highway superintendents and foremen.

3. County Highway Departments: County Highway Commissioners ensure that counties have qualified and trained staff to perform the routine maintenance program on state trunk highways in Wisconsin’s 72 counties. Counties are required to have the equipment, materials, and personnel to accomplish the work required in the annual agreement for state highway maintenance.

### ***3.0 Other Contractors***

When needed, the department may contract with any municipality or private contractor for maintenance work.