



## Highway Maintenance Manual

### Chapter 02 Administration

#### Section 15 Agreements/Contracts

##### Subject 01 Maintenance at Interchanges

Bureau of Highway Maintenance

April 2013

### 1.0 Authority

1. Under Sections 84.29 and 84.295, Wisconsin Statutes, the department has broad power over the orderly operation of freeways, expressways and the interstate highway. Both sections read similarly: "... in the absence of mutual agreement to the contrary, such relocated or altered highway shall be maintained by the unit of government having jurisdiction thereof before it was so relocated or altered, except any parts thereof which the department determines to be useful in the operation of or for access to the interstate highway, which parts shall be maintained by the state as part of the interstate highway."
2. Under this authority, the department deems it necessary and desirable to specifically define the maintenance responsibility as between the state and local unit of government for all situations involving alterations, relocation, separation or interchange with local roads and to include such definition in their "Finding, Determination and Order."

### 2.0 Guidelines for "Finding, Determination and Order"

1. For grade separations of local roads with a freeway system at locations where there is no interchange or ramps, the policy shall be to require the local unit of government to maintain and provide traffic service on the local road as reconstructed. Any physical maintenance of the bridge structure itself, not including beam guard and approaches, shall be done by the state.
2. For grade separations of local roads involving interchange with a freeway system, the policy shall be for the state to maintain and provide traffic service for the local road over or under the freeway system. The traffic service and maintenance shall be performed on the connecting roadways between the ramp connections with the local road.
3. When local roads are diverted from crossing a freeway route or when they are diverted for other reasons, the policy shall be to require the local unit of government to maintain the relocated road after completion. The local unit of government shall also maintain frontage roads constructed on a freeway system right of way.

### 3.0 General Guidelines

1. The department has determined that the useful operation of and the need for access to freeway systems requires the state to assume responsibilities for traffic service and maintenance for local roads between ramp connections, unless there is an agreement to the contrary on file.
2. When an agreement with a local unit government for maintenance of local roads between ramp connections or in the vicinity of ramp termini is contrary to the usual policy, such agreement shall be placed on file with the State Engineers for Maintenance, Traffic and Design.
3. When the department initiates an improvement project which includes that portion of a local road between ramp termini at an interchange, the responsibility for financing, designing and constructing the entire project rests with the state.
4. When a local unit of government initiates such a project, similar responsibilities for that portion of roadway between ramp termini will generally be borne by that unit of government, subject to overall review by the state to insure continued operational efficiency at the interchange.