



## **1.0 Definition**

Weather data service is defined as weather information available from an outside provider. Examples include weather radar displays, weather satellite imagery, reports from other sources such as airports, and forecasts produced by the National Weather Service. This does not include customized weather and pavement forecasts contracted for by Wisconsin Department of Transportation or displays of Wisconsin RWIS information. Information is usually available for a fee from a vendor, but some information can also be obtained free via the Internet.

## **2.0 Requirements**

The winter maintenance service providers may require a weather data service in order to provide them a tool to effectively manage anti-icing and de-icing programs. In particular, use of weather radar is highly recommended so that winter maintenance forces can better time the onset of approaching storms.

## **3.0 Responsibilities**

### **1. Bureau of Highway Maintenance (BHM)**

- Research weather data services provided by vendors and make recommendations to the winter maintenance service provider based on the cost effectiveness of various services. All recommendations will be based on input from the county highway departments and Wisconsin Department of Transportation region personnel.
- Provide the regions and county highway departments with information on available sources of weather information, including Internet links.
- Provide training on proper use of the current weather data service.
- Annually, provide the regions information regarding the maximum amount of money for which the winter maintenance service provider will be allowed to invoice the state for the purchase of weather data services. Information will be provided to the regions not later than July 1 each year.

### **2. Regions**

- Approve payment on county requisitions submitted, but for amounts no larger than the maximum amount announced by BHM.
- Monitor winter maintenance service provider use of weather data services and notify BHM when additional training or alternate service is required.

### **3. Winter Maintenance Service Provider**

- Select a weather service provider based upon recommendations of the Bureau of Highway Maintenance.
- Submit, on an annual basis, a requisition for weather data services for payment by WisDOT. The maximum dollar amount allowable will be provided by BHM not later than July 1 of each year.

Use the weather data service to enhance winter operations decision making. Specifically, weather radar should be used to better estimate the onset and cessation of precipitation so that anti-icing strategies can be employed. Data from airports should be used to gain a clearer understanding of the current conditions across Wisconsin.