



Highway Maintenance Manual
Chapter 07 Roadside Management
Section 30 Specific Management Plans
Subject 05 Highway Corridors

Bureau of Highway Maintenance
July 2015

1.0 Authority

[s. 66.1037\(1\), Wis. Stats.](#) states “The [highway] authority shall remove, cut or trim...any tree, shrub or vegetation in order to provide safety to users of the highway.”

[s. 66.0407\(3\), Wis. Stats.](#) requires the highway patrolman on federal and state highways destroy all noxious weeds on that portion of the highway which that patrolman patrols.

[s. 84.07\(1\), Wis. Stats.](#) states “General maintenance activities include... the care and protection of trees and other roadside vegetation and suitable planting to prevent soil erosion or to beautify highways...”

2.0 Background

Chapter 7 of the Highway Maintenance Manual (HMM) provides statewide guidelines for the management of roadside vegetation along state trunk highways. These guidelines are intended to provide consistency in the way roadside vegetation management activities are carried out by each person in each county in each Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) region in the state. This consistency means travelers in the state will know what to expect from one area to the next. It also provides regional maintenance staff the assurance that the various activities are being interpreted and applied the same way throughout the state. This also aids in the budgeting process, with budget allocations being assigned equitably based on consistent statewide application of the guidelines.

Furthermore, vegetation management decisions should be consistently based on the uniformly applied principles of the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) process. In that case, each road segment would be identified by an easily identifiable termination point at each end and evaluated individually. A maintenance program would then be developed for that particular segment optimizing the health of the vegetation and take into account traveler safety and the preservation of the highway structure itself. The IRVM process also involves periodic evaluations of the management techniques applied, with revision as necessary. This allows for the testing and evaluation of new methods, equipment and materials as appropriate.

3.0 Corridor Management Issues

The following is a list of issues that should be considered when preparing a corridor management plan:

- Aesthetics
 - View from the roadway
 - View to the roadway
 - View from scenic overlooks and other roadside sites
 - Historical viewsheds as mandated by the State Historical Society
- Rural vs. Urban areas
- Mowing
 - Shoulders
 - Medians
 - Ditches
 - Clear zone
- Guardrails
 - Mow
 - Herbicides
- Woody plant control
 - Species present

- Number of cycles
- Clear zone
 - Beyond the clear zone
- Herbicide treatments
- Foliar
- Cut stump/stubble
- Basal bark
- Weed control
- Clearing
 - Preserve/restore/enhance scenic views
 - Icing (sunlight/shading)
- Snowdrift control
 - Location
 - Living vs. man-made snowfence
 - Species
 - Rejuvenation
- Erosion control
- Maintenance of special plantings
 - Watering
 - Weeding
 - Pruning
 - Prescribed burning
 - Replacing
- Native plant communities
 - Preserve/restore/enhance
- Driveways
 - Access control
 - Vision
- Billboards
- Junkyards
- Specially designated roadways
- Remnant parcels
- Wetland mitigation sites