

Chapter 02 | Policies & Procedures

02.19 Long Term Parking/Abandoned Vehicle Policy

Wisconsin Department of Transportation roadside facilities are provided for the safety, comfort, convenience, and enjoyment of the traveling public. Long-term parking at highway rest areas is not allowed, as it is not consistent with the purpose and design of the facilities and can cause problems relative to the use and maintenance of the site.

Long-term vehicles would be considered those parked at a roadside site for more than a 24-hour continuous period, whether occupied or not. If a vehicle is parked at a roadside facility for more than this time, it may be reported to the State Patrol, and the procedure for removal will begin.

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If problematic parking becomes site-specific, the department reserves the right to develop more restrictive parking limits. The following Wisconsin Statute supports this policy:

a. Wisconsin Statute 346.55(4) Other restrictions on parking and stopping. Owners or lessees of public or private property may permit parking by certain people and limit, restrict, or prohibit parking as to other persons if the owner or lessee posts a sign on the property indicating for whom parking is permitted, limited, restricted, or prohibited. No person may leave or park any motor vehicle on public or private property contrary to a sign posted thereon.

The Department has instructed that any vehicle left unattended for 24 hours or more at a roadside facility property should be immediately reported to the Regional State Patrol Office as abandoned.