



PennDOT Maintenance Business Model

Commonly known as “oil and chip” or “sealcoat”, this operation is a preservation strategy used to maintain mainly low-traffic-volume roads for a 5 to 7-year period. It is also used on high-volume roads to extend pavement life between resurfacings.

This activity is performed when temps are greater than 60 degrees, generally from April through September. Surface treatment requires a sweeper, oil distributors, a stone chipper, rollers, dump trucks and a crew comprise of approximately 21 crew members.

The operation begins with the roadway being swept clean of debris. Then, emulsion oil is applied with a layer of stone immediately placed on top. It is rolled into place and any loose aggregate is swept from the roadway once cured.

Generally, it takes about two days for the stones to fully bond in the hardened asphalt. Motorists should reduce their speed on these roads until the stone and the asphalt fully adhere.

This maintenance treatment seals the road surface to keep water out, restores the friction of the surface to enhance traction and is very cost effective.

SURFACE TREATMENT

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Although Pennsylvanians see PennDOT crews on the roads year-round, they may not always realize the scope or importance of the work we do.

Common maintenance activities may not receive as much public attention as building new bridges or highways, but they are integral to the maintenance of the state's 40,000 roadway miles and 25,400 bridges. Core maintenance operations are planned on reoccurring cycles to effectively manage and preserve our assets.

Activities such as crack sealing, patching, surface treatment, shoulder cutting and side dozing; in addition to keeping our drainage systems functional through pipe replacement, flushing and ditch cleaning are key components of the maintenance business model. These ensure that we are effectively managing and preserving our assets, while also dedicating resources to system improvements.

Combined with other activities such as successful winter maintenance, line painting, vegetation management, signing, bridge maintenance and litter cleanup, PennDOT is making improvements, enhancing equity in our organization and transportation systems for all people, and –as always—aiming at a safer, more connected Pennsylvania.

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