



PennDOT Maintenance Business Model

Winter operations include the removal of snow and ice, as well as applying deicing materials on all state highways and bridges. The heart of winter operations involves a skilled operator and a dump truck equipped with a salt spreader, snow plow, and often, a wing plow. PennDOT also schedules mechanics at each garage site to take care of any equipment failures or breakdowns.

Each storm is different and varies, even from region to region. PennDOT staff review weather reports and on the ground conditions to plan how to manage each storm.

To prevent ice from building up on the road surface, PennDOT trucks spread a mixture of salt to melt the ice and anti-skid to provide traction. On higher volume roadways, salt is the primary winter material used through a storm. On lower volume roadways the amount of salt will be reduced and anti-skid will be used more as salt is most effective with higher traffic. PennDOT also applies salt-brine to salt and anti-skid to reduce waste of solid materials and help the materials begin to work quicker melting ice and snow.

During a storm, PennDOT will plow and salt major highways first before moving to the less-traveled rural roads. During severe winter storms, equipment is often redirected from assigned rural routes to assist with plowing heavily traveled roads first. While snow is falling, roads will NOT be free of ice and snow.

WINTER-DURING A STORM

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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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www.PennDOT.pa.gov.

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