



PennDOT Maintenance Business Model

Pennsylvania has some of the oldest bridges in the country, with their average age over 50 years. Preventive maintenance is extremely important in extending the life of structures.

PennDOT inspects most state bridges at least once every two years. Based on inspection results or structural needs, PennDOT crews do bridge replacements or structural repairs to steel or concrete components. Some PennDOT districts cast and build their own beams in the winter so they can use them for bridge projects in the summer.

PennDOT performs bridge deck patching and structural repairs. The repair of the surface of the bridge superstructure are typically potholes that form on the deck surface. Structural repairs take place on the bridge substructure (abutments, piers, etc.) on deficiencies that are noted in the bridge inspection reports.

Bridge cleaning is an important element of the state's Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program. The deck and substructure must be kept clean, with the drainage systems free of debris. Every spring, all chloride residue from winter salt applications is removed. This may be done by any combination of sweeping, flushing and debris removal depending on the type of bridge deck surface and if drainage systems are present. PennDOT cleans over 16,000 bridges annually.

BRIDGE MAINTENANCE & CLEANING

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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.

For more information please visit our website:
www.PennDOT.pa.gov.

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