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# moving FORWARD

FALL 2006

A quarterly review of news and information about Pennsylvania local roads.

## Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...



roadway assets, we can't lose track of the fact that winter operations are a year round activity. The first snowstorm leaves a lasting impression with your residents and sets the tone for how they perceive your winter maintenance operations. Proper planning and preparation now can go a long way in making your operations a success and ensuring that you come out on top in your first fight with Mother Nature.

So what should we be doing now? The obvious is preparing bids for material and equipment purchases. But what else should we be working on? For starters, as major roadway maintenance projects wind down you should be fixing the items that caused you grief last winter. Minimal effort now can eliminate a lot of headaches this winter. Hopefully your winter plan contains a wrap up meeting from the spring. Dust off the notes and review the areas that gave you problems last winter. Schedule drainage repairs that caused ice problems last winter. What about the trees that needed to be trimmed or removed to keep from damaging your equipment? Is this work being scheduled?

Review the concerns that were expressed by residents. Do any driveways need attention to keep from icing up your roadways? What about mail boxes? Can they be set back or altered in any way to keep from getting knocked down? A little community work now will make your job easier once the action starts.

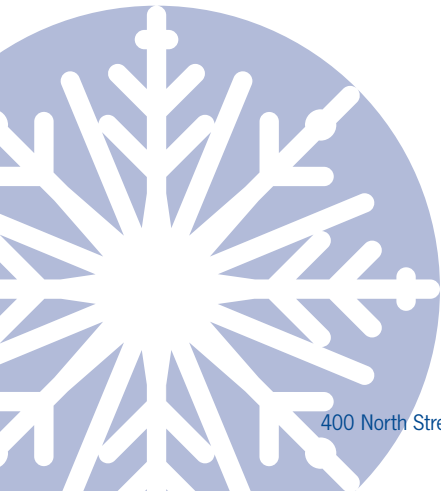
Take a few minutes the next time you are at your stocking area or garage. Do your plows need to be sandblasted or repaired? What about your material spreaders? Late summer and early fall is

### Winter Maintenance Preparation

One way to keep cool when the temperature reaches the 90's is to think cool thoughts. Many of us have just returned from our annual summer vacation or are enjoying the beautiful summer weather. However, before we know it and much before we want it, the warm summer breeze will turn cooler and fall will be upon us. We all know what happens next; snow and winter maintenance operations will be here.

Though public works officials and employees think of late summer and fall as the season to fix

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## Road Crews Get a Lesson in Applying Superpave

Municipal road crews traveled to Montoursville in Lycoming County earlier this summer, where representatives from PennDOT LTAP demonstrated how to use Superior Performing Asphalt Pavement (*Superpave*).

Superpave is an asphalt mix designed to stand up to local climate and traffic volumes at lower long-term costs. When it was first introduced to Pennsylvania municipalities last January, classroom training was provided statewide. However, PennDOT believed that local officials would benefit from hands-on field training, too.

After Montoursville Mayor John Dorin, a member of the LTAP Advisory Committee, volunteered a street for the training, Tom Lyons, District 3-0 Municipal Services supervisor, and Mark Murawski, a transportation planner with the Lycoming County Planning Commission, began coordinating the event. More than 100 people attended.

Lyons divided the training into three parts: paperwork, paving, and rolling. Once attendees learned how to properly perform the paperwork, they followed a paver and a roller to get the full experience of a Superpave application.

Before Superpave was introduced, the same asphalt mixes were applied on all state roads. Now, Superpave allows users to design an asphalt mixture for specific types of roads based on such things as the type and amount of traffic and the area's average temperature. Designing a mix that is compatible with these characteristics enhances a road's durability and prevents rutting, as well as low-temperature and fatigue cracking.◆



The Municipal Services Bureau of PennDOT is offering training on the Liquid Fuels Web site. For dates, locations and registration information visit [www.ltap.state.pa.us](http://www.ltap.state.pa.us) or call your district municipal services representative.



### 2006 Annual Conference

### Pennsylvania Association of Asphalt Material Applicators (PAAMA)

November 2, 2006

Atherton Hotel, State College

Municipal officials are invited to attend the 2006 PAAMA Conference in State College on November 2, 2006.

Registration for municipal officials is \$125 per person. For details, visit [www.paama.org](http://www.paama.org) or call 717-903-1130.



## Let it snow

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the time to thoroughly inspect all equipment and order parts. Start making the repairs and plan to calibrate the spreaders.

Check out your building and grounds facilities. Are the material storage buildings in need of repair? Do mixing and loading areas need to be paved? These areas must be addressed now before the material starts rolling in.

Schedule a fall meeting for the entire team. The meeting can serve as a refresher for experienced employees and an introduction to winter maintenance for new hires. Set an atmosphere that allows for an open exchange of information. Discuss what worked last season and what needs to be changed to improve services for your customers.

Review routing of the equipment. Can any deadheading be avoided by changing routes? With the cost of fuel escalating, be as efficient as possible with equipment and manpower. Set up routes that bring the equipment back to the storage areas as they empty out. Pick a date to schedule dry runs to familiarize operators with routes.

Meet with representatives of other agencies to discuss winter maintenance plans and ways to work together. Include members of the local police and fire departments, emergency management officials, and school transportation personnel. Encourage feedback and consider developing an advisory committee to meet periodically. Publicize the meeting with your local media to ensure positive coverage up front.

As the weather changes and routine maintenance cannot be performed, start marking structures. Use this time to mark inlets, catch basins, ends of curbing and guide rail, and fire hydrants. Once covered with snow they can make snow removal operations a nightmare for your operators.

Last but certainly not least is training. Working safely is a priority for every operation performed by maintenance personnel. Properly training your personnel can go a long way to ensuring a safe and efficient work force. Be sure to include training in your winter maintenance preparation planning.

Use the following checklist as a guide for planning the upcoming winter season. Be prepared for that first storm and have a safe and successful winter operation.

## Summer:

- ☼ Complete drainage repairs;
- ☼ Complete equipment repairs;
- ☼ Remedy accident-prone areas;
- ☼ Review changes in equipment and personnel;
- ☼ Review existing and potential snow agreements;
- ☼ Train and retrain operators; and
- ☼ Prepare bids for material and equipment.

## Fall:

- ☼ Place first order for material;
- ☼ Finalize rental agreements;
- ☼ Finalize snow agreements with neighboring agencies;
- ☼ Obtain weather service;
- ☼ Meet with local advisory committee;
- ☼ Finalize snow map and make necessary revisions;
- ☼ Inspect and calibrate winter equipment;
- ☼ Meet with crew to schedule and conduct training;
- ☼ Mark all obstacles;
- ☼ Trim trees;
- ☼ Install snow fence;
- ☼ Prepare news releases;
- ☼ Meet with the media;
- ☼ Meet with the police, fire, and emergency management personnel; and
- ☼ Conduct dry runs.

For a comprehensive look at winter maintenance operations covering these topics and more, register for an LTAP Winter Maintenance workshop in your area. ♦

## 2006-2007 Sodium Chloride Contract

The Sodium Chloride (road salt) Contract for the fiscal year 2006-2007 was awarded effective August 1, 2006. To be eligible for these rates, municipalities must have enrolled previously. Enrollment for 2007 opens in January. For contact information and tonnage cost, please visit [www.dgs.state.pa.us/costars](http://www.dgs.state.pa.us/costars) and log in using your COSTARS Membership information. Select Sodium Chloride Contract in the Newflash located on the right.

***\*\*Please print a copy of the contract for your records and for auditing purposes\*\****



(L to R) Ed Knittel, formerly with Keystone Municipal Services and now with the State Association of Boroughs; Tab Fyock, North Huntingdon Township, Westmoreland County; and Mike Fleming, Chair of the LTAP Advisory Committee and Fairview Township, York County. Knittel and Fyock recently completed their terms as members of the PennDOT LTAP Advisory Committee.

