



PennDOT Snow Plow Tracker Now Available *By State Rep. Rosemary M. Brown (R-Monroe-Pike)*

With winter fully upon us, I want to share with you an initiative that allows Pennsylvania motorists to check online to see when a state-maintained roadway was last plowed. The more than 2,000 PennDOT-owned and rented plow trucks are equipped with the Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) system, which uses in-truck technology to log and share data in real time for that truck. This allows motorists to see if a road they plan to travel has been plowed, and is also expected to save millions based on a combination of reduced salt usage and better use of equipment.

PennDOT uses AVL to monitor vehicle movement and plow-route coverage; monitor the system during winter storms or emergencies and, if needed, see the closest truck to an area that needs additional service and direct trucks to that location; review data on effectiveness in returning traffic to pre-storm conditions; review usage of materials, such as salt and anti-skid through the various stages of a weather event; and interface with other department technology to combine real-time weather and road conditions with corresponding material-usage rates. The information will be posted on the “plow trucks” section of www.511pa.com.

PennDOT deploys about 4,800 on-the-road workers and has more than 652,000 tons of salt on hand across the state. The agency operates 2,200 plow trucks each winter that are responsible for maintaining 40,000 miles of roadways, which translates into 96,000 snow-lane miles, enough miles to circle the globe nearly four times!

For more information about PennDOT’s winter services and winter-driving resources, visit www.penndot.gov/winter. The site also has a complete winter guide with detailed information about winter services in each of PennDOT’s 11 engineering districts.

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