



MDOT SHA Tow Plow

What is the tow plow?

The tow plow is a steerable trailer-mounted plow that is pulled behind a tandem axle snowplow truck and can swing out to one side, which doubles the plow width of a tandem-axle snowplow truck. It is equipped with a snow plow and either a granular spreader for salt, or a tank for dispensing liquids for snow and ice control.

How is the tow plow different from the regular plow on a truck?

The tow plow has the capability of clearing two lanes of travel instead of the standard one lane. It is equipped with a salt spreader and/or attachment to spray salt brine for pre-treatment. It does not have a motor and is attached behind and to the side of a standard plow truck.

How does the tow plow increase efficiency?

The tow plow improves efficiency by replacing a truck that would normally be in the plow train formation. It also does not use fuel so there are no vehicle emissions.

Have tow plows been utilized in other nearby states, or is this a totally new process?

Yes. Tow plows are being used in Missouri, Iowa and Pennsylvania, among other locations.

What sparked the decision to begin utilizing tow plows?

MDOT SHA is always seeking to pilot new snow clearing techniques and equipment. The tow plow was researched by AASHTO's TIG (Technology Implementation Group). See link here - <http://tig.transportation.org/Pages/TowPlow.aspx>.

How many tow plows will be used in the state? In which counties will they be used?

MDOT SHA has two tow plows. One is located at the Dayton Maintenance Facility in Howard County (used on I-70) and the other in the Keyser's Ridge shop in Garrett County (I-68).

How much does a Tow Plow Cost? How much is a MDOT SHA dump truck with plow?

Tow plows are \$86,000 each (2011 price) and a standard dump truck with plow is \$150,000.

(Over for photos of tow plows)

