



## **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)**

