



PennDOT Maintenance Business Model

Shoulder cutting removes excess material and debris from unpaved shoulder areas. Shoulder grading involves the shaping and stabilizing of those same areas. Both operations improve drainage, allows water to leave the roadway, and eliminates shoulder drop-offs.

Shoulder cutting and grading requires equipment such as graders, trucks, brooms, belt loaders or wheel loaders, and rollers and typically 12 crew members. The grader cuts excess material from the shoulder and places it in a pile to be picked up by a belt loader. It is deposited into a truck and hauled away to an approved fill site. Any shoulder drop-offs are corrected by adding material. Any remaining material on the roadway is swept clean and the roller compacts the disturbed soil to prevent erosion.

These are important highway maintenance operations. When drainage systems do not function properly, water collects on the roadway, creating potential icing conditions in the winter and weakening pavement, causing potholes.

SHOULDER MAINTENANCE

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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.

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