

## MDOT SHA Tow Plow Fact Sheet

### 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, doubling the plow width of a tandem-axle snowplow truck. It is equipped with a snowplow and either a granular spreader for salt or a tank for dispensing salt brine over snow and ice.



*The truck above can plow two lanes of traffic using a tow plow. Drivers: Use extra caution behind all plows. **It is dangerous** to pass a plow truck and a plow truck equipped with a tow plow.*

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

The tow plow has the capability of clearing two highway lanes of travel instead of the standard one. It is equipped with a salt spreader and/or attachment to spray salt brine for anti-icing operations. 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 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 piloting new snow clearing techniques and equipment. The tow plow was researched by the AASHTO Technology Implementation Group (TIG).

**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.



*The tow plow unfolds to the side, allowing the driver of a single truck to plow two lanes.*