



Innovation in Motion

A newsletter with highlights from the STIC

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This edition of the *Innovation in Motion* e-Newsletter highlights several winter innovations the [State Transportation Innovation Council \(STIC\)](#) Maintenance Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is currently piloting to help make roads safer for equipment operators and motorists alike. Read more about these innovations and how they are already showing some promising results.

Innovating Winter Maintenance

The STIC's Maintenance TAG is currently piloting several innovations including snowplow cameras, lighted plow whips and air foils, aimed at improving PennDOT's winter operations and assisting approximately 4,700 on-the-road workers, braving the worst of winter to keep roadways passable and safe.

The **Snowplow Cameras and Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL) System** innovation aims to enhance PennDOT's existing (AVL) system with the integration of forward-

facing plow cameras to give maintenance and traffic operations personnel, and the public, better situational awareness of actual road conditions during winter storms. The initial pilot in PennDOT Districts 10 and 11 has since been expanded to include all trucks in District 11 due to its success. In addition to increasing operator awareness during winter events and helping to manage traffic incidents, the cameras can also be used as evidence in claims against PennDOT. Use of the cameras has already helped to resolve accident and line painting disputes.

The Maintenance TAG is also piloting innovations aimed at increasing visibility during winter weather events. The **Air Foil** innovation mounts to the back of the plow trucks to redirect air flow and helps clear snow from the rear of the vehicle, resulting in increased visibility of the lights and reflective material. Additionally, it decreases the need for an operator to get out of the truck to clean it. The **Lighted Plow Whips** innovation is designed to increase operator and motorist awareness during snowstorms and nighttime operations, by increasing visibility of the plow during whiteout conditions. The TAG is currently working with a vendor to update the lighting colors of the plow whips to optimize the effectiveness of the innovation.



If you are interested in learning more about these innovations, stay tuned for the release of this year's **Focus on Innovations** online publication. In addition to updates on the winter maintenance innovations above, the publication will feature updates on several STIC and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Every Day Counts innovations along with a variety of homegrown innovations that have been implemented across Pennsylvania. Some of the highlights include pavement solutions helping to improve performance and sustainability, advances in traffic operations and incident management and updates to PennDOT's continued effort to modernize its project delivery processes to incorporate digital data.

Looking Ahead



Want to learn more about innovative initiatives happening across PennDOT? Join us for our 2024 *Innovation in Motion* Webinar Series to hear about innovative practices, tools, and technologies being used to help move transportation forward in Pennsylvania. All webinars will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- **March 12** - [Transformational Transportation Applications](#)
- **June 11** - [Modernizing Technology: Creating Efficiencies and Exceeding Expectations](#)
- **Sept. 10** - [Innovating Winter Maintenance](#)
- **Dec. 10** - [PennDOT's Digital Transformation](#)

If you missed any of our 2023 Innovation in Motion webinars, they are now available for viewing at www.penndot.pa.gov/innovation. Select the blue "Innovation in Motion Webinar Series" tile on the right-hand side of the page.

Did You Know?

100th Innovator Issue Now Available!

The 100th issue of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) *Innovator* newsletter is now available, marking 16 years of sharing innovation news and resources. Published bimonthly, the newsletter chronicles innovation success stories, highlighting notable practices and the implementation of innovative technologies and processes from across the United States.

The *Innovator* is accessible from your computer, tablet or mobile phone to optimize your reading experience! Read past issues and sign up to receive *Innovator* by email [here](#), or text "FHWA Innovation" to 468311 to get the *Innovator* on your smartphone.

For more information on these and other STIC innovations, email penndotstic@pa.gov.

State Transportation Innovation Council | Keystone Building, 400 North St., Harrisburg, PA 17120