



Tow Plow Discussion

Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota DOT



Tow Plow Discussion

2013 Northeast/Midwest Region Joint Equipment Management Meeting

Sonja J. Scheurer, Administrator
D. Scott Ratterree, Manager
Daniel E. Smith, Fleet Specialist
Andrew W. Bannasch, Analyst

Tow Plow – General Information

- Purchased and built-up one unit in 2012
- Utilized (total of 115 hours) during FY 2013 winter season at various locations throughout the State of Michigan
- Commissioned 18-month funded research project (comprehensive cost-benefit analysis) by MDOT Research Administration
- Contract in place soon to purchase additional units
- Statewide training program developed

Tow Plow - Cons

- ❑ Horsepower concerns in areas with steep grades (currently using 430hp -- could increase to 475hp)
- ❑ In some areas snow banks too high to throw snow over (tow plow can be modified)
- ❑ Needs additional lighting and conspicuity tape to improve visibility
- ❑ Size makes parking in garages difficult
- ❑ Difficulty unhooking the equipment/attachments and unloading materials once operations are complete

Tow Plow - Pros

- ❑ Ramps easier to clear
- ❑ Unit easy to operate/operators adapted quickly after minimal use
- ❑ Responds quickly to driver input
- ❑ Hydraulic system functions exceptionally well
- ❑ Public reaction thus far not out of the ordinary
- ❑ Initial reaction = positive/more pros than cons

Question & Comments