

News and Notes

January 2021

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Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Secretary Leslie S. Richards recently outlined the agency's plans for winter services and encouraged drivers to be prepared as well.

This winter, all of the more than 2,200 PennDOT-owned and rented plow trucks will be equipped with automatic vehicle location (AVL) technology – meaning the public can view the trucks on interstates and expressways this winter at www.511PA.com.

PennDOT started the AVL program in 2014 in 119 plow trucks and expanded it to more than 700 trucks last winter. The AVL unit in each truck sends a cellular signal through the system showing where a truck is located and whether or how much material is being spread from the truck.

Richards noted that PennDOT has compiled all of its information about winter series into a special page on the web site at www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Winter/Pages/default.aspx.

The site also has a complete winter guide with detailed information about winter services in each of PennDOT's 11 engineering districts.

With \$205 million budgeted for statewide winter operations, PennDOT deploys about 4,800 on-the road workers and has more than 768,000 tons of salt on hand across the state. The state's snow plow trucks are equipped with computerized salt spreaders that allow operators to calibrate the exact amount of salt to be distributed regardless of the speed of the truck.

For more information on PennDOT's winter preparations and additional winter-driving resources for motorists, visit www.PennDOT.gov/winter.

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles, including color-coded winter conditions on 2,900 miles, by visiting www.511PA.com.

The 511PA service, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information, and access to more than 800 traffic cameras. 511PA is also available through a smart-phone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website. 