

LEAD STATES TEAM SYNOPSIS

TowPlow Team

LST Members

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Activity Period

2010-2012

Cost of LST Effort

\$24,800

Proven Benefits of TowPlows:

- Creates a host of operational improvements such as:
 - decreased plow truck cycle time due to one pass clearing and wider clearing path,
 - potentially higher operating speeds, and
 - ability to quickly reposition or relocate snow removal equipment in preparation for an event.
- Has the potential to increase both operator and motorist safety as compared to traditional plowing methods.
- Improves mobility by clearing more lanes in less time.
- Allows for a reduction in the number of vehicles required to clear a roadway, resulting in lower fuel consumption and a lower carbon footprint.

What the LST Did

The TowPlow is a steerable trailer-mounted plow that is pulled behind a tandem axle snowplow truck and is able to swing out to one side, which doubles the plow width of a tandem-axle snowplow truck. The TowPlow is equipped with a 26-foot moldboard and either a granular spreader or a tank for dispensing liquids for snow and ice control. The TowPlow has been used successfully in Missouri since 2005.



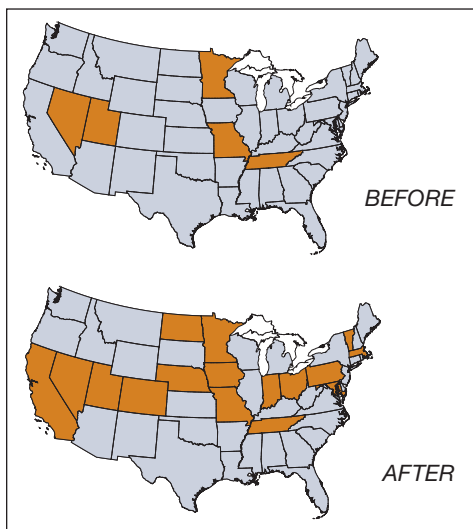
The clearing width of a TowPlow is evident in the above photo.

In 2009, TowPlow was selected as a focus technology by the AASHTO Technology Implementation Group Executive Committee. In a two-year period, the LST gave presentations at conferences and workshops, provided information on the AASHTO TIG website, distributed marketing materials, and submitted articles for trade journals.

Informational materials provided to the State DOTs included a brochure, PowerPoint presentations, video clips, and equipment operator training materials. These materials remain available at <http://tig.transportation.org/Pages/TowPlow.aspx>.

What the LST Accomplished

The number of TowPlows in operation increased from 76 to 113 in less than two years, and a number of additional states have indicated plans to make purchases.*



The orange states on the BEFORE map are the lead states and represent most of the states with TowPlow experience at the time the project began. States in orange on the AFTER map are known to have at least experimented with TowPlow use by the time of the final LST state survey. Other states may have obtained initial experience or made purchases since that survey.

*According to LST surveys from 2010 and 2012.