

# S.E. Michigan Municipalities Collaborate to Advance Direct Liquid Application Strategies

#### **Michigan's Local Technical Assistance Program**

LTAP - Bridging the gap between research and practice

3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Winter Operations Conference GAYLORD, MICHIGAN October 16-17, 2013





## **Direct Liquid Application (DLA) Project Goals**

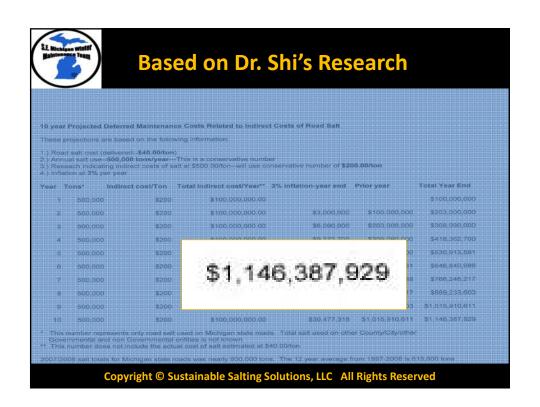
- Expand on previous efforts conducted by ClearRoads- 2010
- Determine what percentage of events could be successfully handled with DLA (original conjecture—40-50%)
- Improve service levels
- Reduce cost
- Reduce impact to infrastructure and environmental resources through improved salt use efficiency







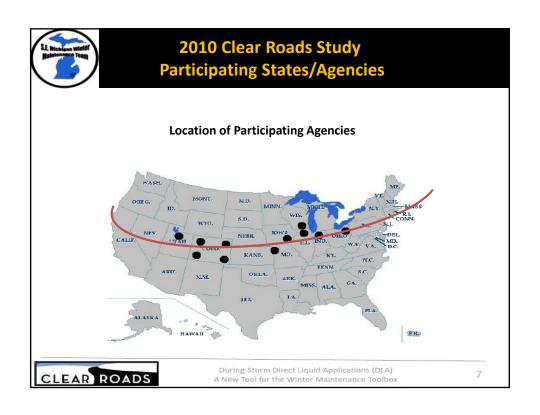
Prepared for the 2005 ITE District 6 Annual Meeting, Kalispell, MT The Use of Road Salts for Highway Winter Maintenance: An Asset Management Perspective Program Manager, Weather & Winter Mobility Western Transportation Institute Montana State University P.O. Box 174250, Bozeman, MT 59717-4250 Phone (406) 994-6486 Fax: (406) 994-1697 ABSTRACT The corrosion and environmental costs pertinent to road salts amount up to at least \$469 per ton on average, and they are often ignored in formulating highway winter maintenance strategies. The However, there are growing concerns over negative impacts that road salts pose on motor vehicles, the transportation infrastructure, and the environment. The corrosion and environmental costs pertinent to road salts amount up to at least \$469 per ion on average, and they are often ignored in formulating highway winter maintenance strategies. The magnitude of such hidden costs is significant compared with the nominal cost of using road salts for snow and ice control (approximately three times). Some products for snow and ice control may cost less in regard to materials, labor and equipment, but cost more in the long run as a result of their corrosion and environmental impacts. Therefore, an asset management perspective should be utilized to ensure that any cost savings of winter maintenance practices would not be at the price of deteriorated infrastructure. impaired environment, or jeopardized traveler safety. The crux is to strike the right balance in meeting multiple goals of the highway agency, including safety, mobility, environmental stewardship, infrastructure preservation, and economics. Considerable amount of research is still needed in order to fill the knowledge gap and establish a scientifically robust, defensible decision-making process for highway winter maintenance.











Identifying the Parameters for Effective Implementation of Liquid-Only Plow Routes  EVS. Inc.  CLEAR ROADS  research for winter highway maintenance  Direct Liquid Application Guidelines						
Parameter	Most Favorable For DLA	Consider DLA	Notes			
Pavement Temperature <sup>1</sup>	25°F or above	20°F or above	Trends 🚺			
Storm Intensity (inches/hour)	0.5 inches/hour or below	1.0 inches/hour or below	Cycle Times-1.5-2 hours Best			
Moisture Content	Ordinary	Dryer Snowfall	Dry/powder snow - consider plow only Wet snow - can dilute chemical quickly "Ordinary" approx. 10:1 snow/liquid ratio			

Implement	LEAR	Liquid-	) OS	ffective Routes EVS, Inc.			
Example During-Storm l	Direct Appl	ication Rate	es for Salt Bri	ne (NaCl) <sup>2,5</sup>			
Illustration Only (adjust based on local factors and experience)							
Gallons Per Lane Mile (gplm)							
Pounds Per Lane Mile (pplm) shown in parentheses							
	Pavement Temperature						
Event Type	32-30°F	29-27°F	26-24°F	23-21°F			
Light St (less that							
Light St Application	rates va	ried from	30-90 G/L	.M			
Light S <sub>1</sub> Application	rates va	ried from	30-90 G/L				
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Light Si (less tha Medium Snow <sup>1</sup>	rates va	ried from	1 30-90 G/L				
Light St (less that Medium Snow (0.5"/hour to 1.0"/hour)	rates va	ried from	1 30-90 G/L				
Light St (less that Medium Snow (0.5"/hour to 1.0"/hour)  For 3-Hour Cycle Time (1.5)	rates va	ried from	1 30-90 G/L				



### **Clear Roads Study "Success Stories"**

#### **Success Stories**

(examples from agencies)



- Used 15,000 tons less salt relative to adjacent maintenance areas (approx \$750,000)
- Application rates reduced by 33% for their most common application scenarios
- Used 50% less material (per road mile) than adjacent area
- Granular reduced from 8,000 to 40 tons/season



#### How was DLA utilized?

- Anti-icing (in conjunction with plow/additional DLA)
- Direct application on snowfall events less than 1"
- Post plow operations
- Black ice/frost treatment



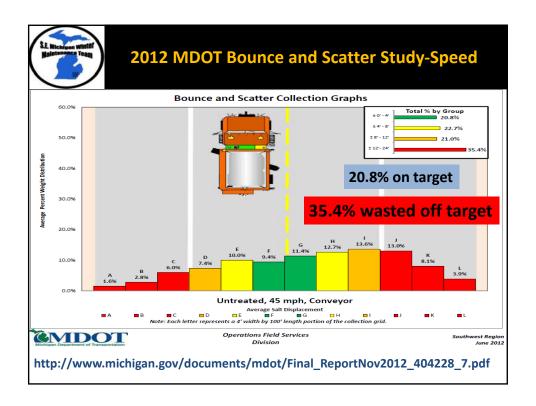
### **Could DLA Improve Applied Material Retention?**

Granted, not all liquid applied in DLA will be retained. BUT.....

Assumption: A significantly higher percentage of chemical will be retained on the pavement in the liquid form rather than as a solid.

Conclusion: Research is needed to compare retention of liquid versus solids





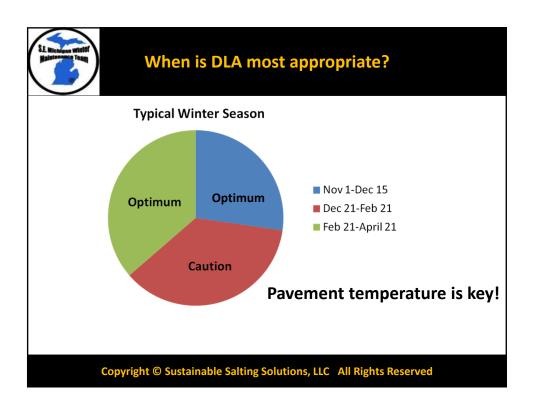


#### How much \$ was saved utilizing DLA?

Purdue Road School-2013-Learned of a county and city whom saved nearly 49% utilizing DLA

Wixom, Farmington Hills, and Novi will continue to test in 2013/14







### 2012/2013 Winter Season in S.E. Michigan

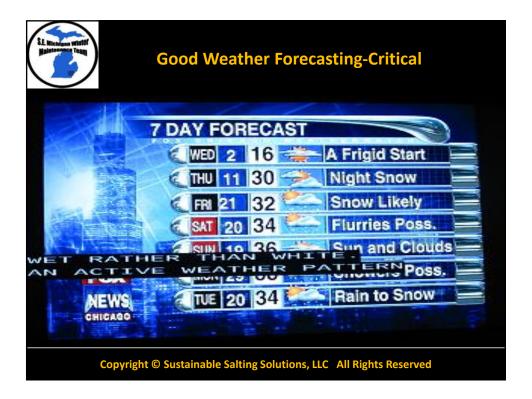
#### **Another Strange One Here!**

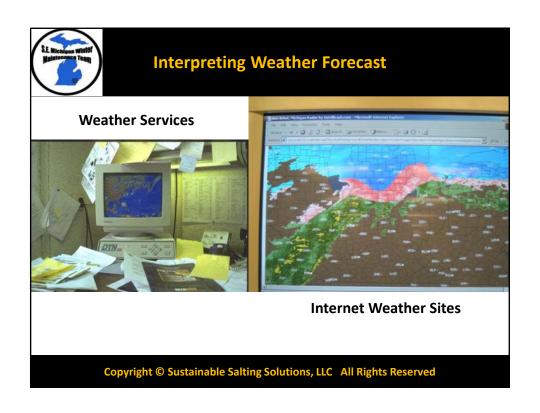
Typical average events/season---45

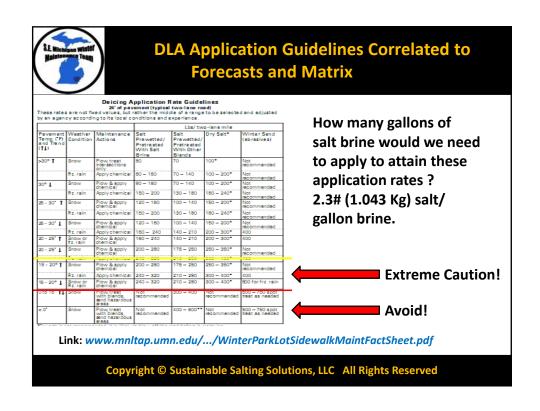
Event average was 27 ('12-'13)

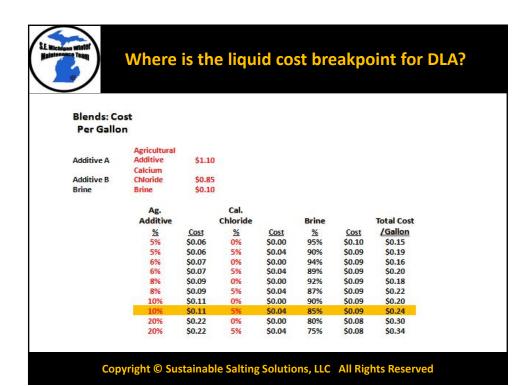
First event—December 24, 2012

Cumulative temp for months of Nov-April has risen nearly 4 degrees F. since 1980 (based on 1940-1980 National Weather Service data from Detroit)











#### **Questions**

As the next three speakers share their communities experiences with DLA, please write down any questions you have and submit at the end. We will do our best to answer them.



# **Wixom Facts**

- Maintains 51 lane miles of major and local roads (clears all streets curb-to-curb)
- Clears 9 miles of safety paths
- Clears all municipal parking lots (including the downtown)
- Fleet consists of 5 dump trucks, 3 pick-up trucks and 2 tool-cats
- In last 8 yrs, Wixom reduced salt use by +40%



# Wixom's DLA Program

- Began anti-icing (DLA) in 2007 with limited tank capacity (360 gal/truck) and 30 gallons/lane mile
- In 2013, added a truck-mounted (1,000 gallon) tank

=> 50 to 60 gallons/lane mile.





# Wixom's DLA Program

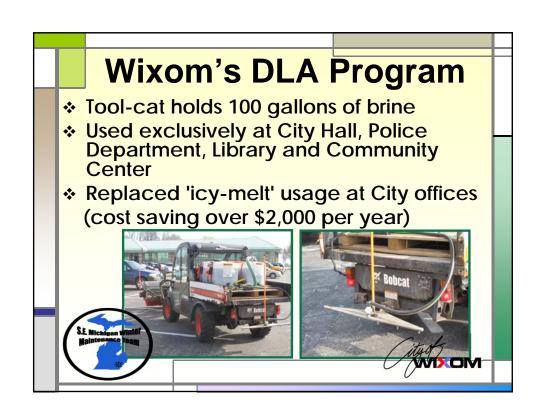
- Anti-icing / DLA Process:
  - Apply brine to surfaces prior to snow storms to prevent bonding of ice to road
  - DLA used post-storm events in place of salt

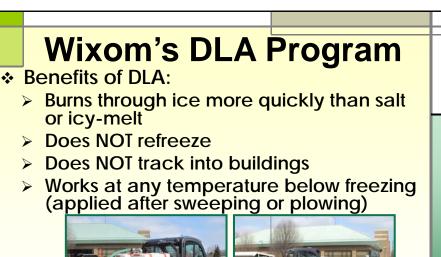
Note: Ineffective results if storm comes in as rain or freezing rain.

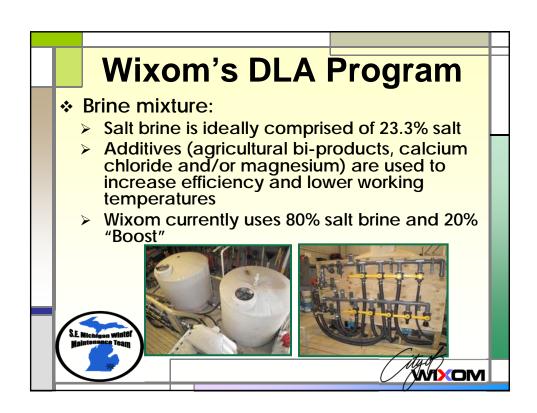
















### 2013 LTAP WINTER OPS CONFERENCE

S.E.MI.Wint.Maint.Team-DLA PROJECT Farmington Hills, MI - Findings







- Area residents and businesses have high expectations for the City's public services LOS (Level Of Service)
- Division of Public Works (DPW) maintains a network of more than 58 miles of major roads and 243 miles of paved and unpaved local roads (centerline)
- <u>160 Major Rd. Lane miles</u> (some are 5 + lanes wide)
- 9<sup>TH</sup> largest municipal street network in the state of Michigan and the largest in Oakland County
- APWA 2011 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award







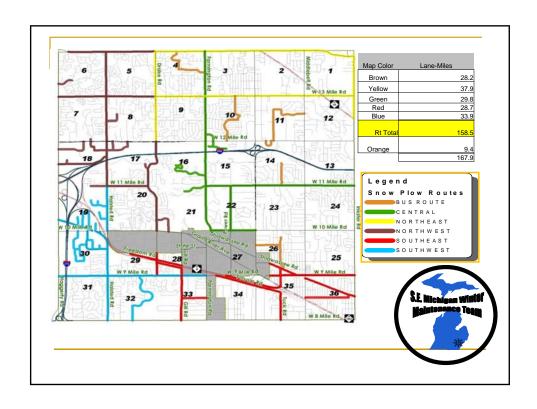
#### Road Maintenance Supervisor City of Farmington Hills, MI Division of Public Works

- 22 years as an employee of the City beginning as a Laborer in 1991, moving up through the ranks to Equipment Operator III/Crew Leader in 2001, and then promoted to Road Maintenance Supervisor in 2004
- 2009 graduate of Michigan APWA's Michigan Public Service Institute

#### **Current Responsibilities:**

Snow and Ice control, Liquids production, Storm water drainage maintenance, Forestry operations, Landscape & ROW mowing maintenance, Irrigation, Gravel road and shoulder maintenance, Street sweeping and various other in-house & contracted services.





## TRAINING-EQUIPMENT

**READINESS** 

- Calibration of granular equipment. (Utilizing "catch" tests and scales)
- Pre-winter meeting: procedures and "game plan" for the winter DLA research, including operator input & expectations.
- Training of personnel (Controllers, goals, etc.)

Do your best to get BUY IN...







# TEST MATERIALS – RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT – LIQUIDS

- Do research (APWA, Clear Roads, DOT websites, etc.)
- Use a hand sprayer, existing equipment
- Start "small", network, consider Shared Services (different materials etc)



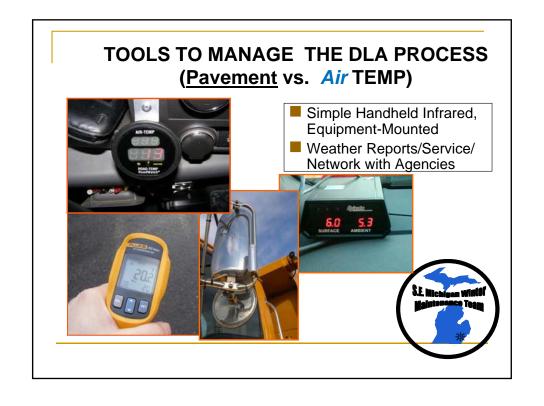


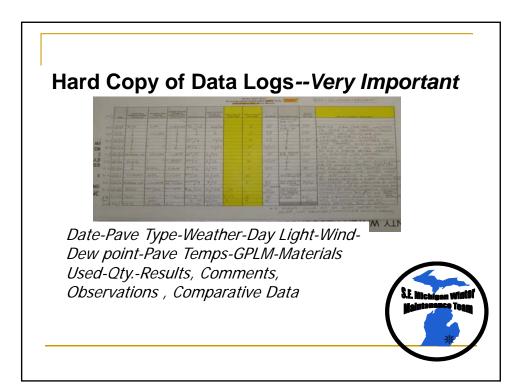


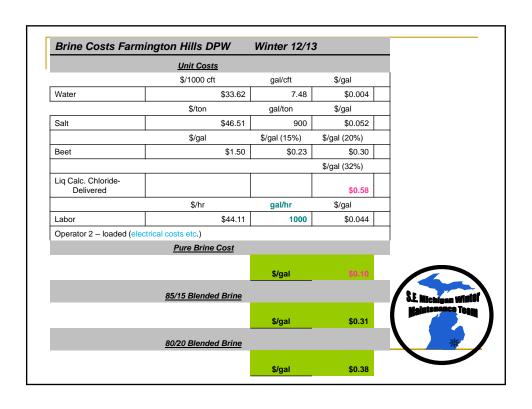


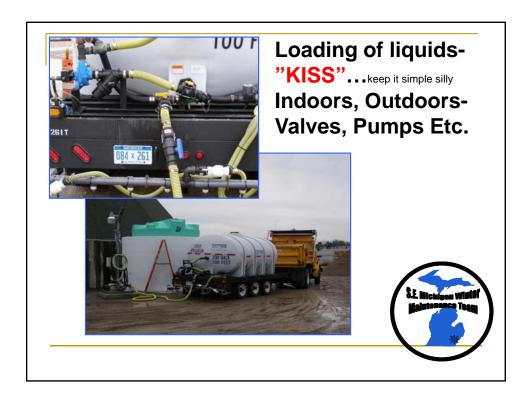










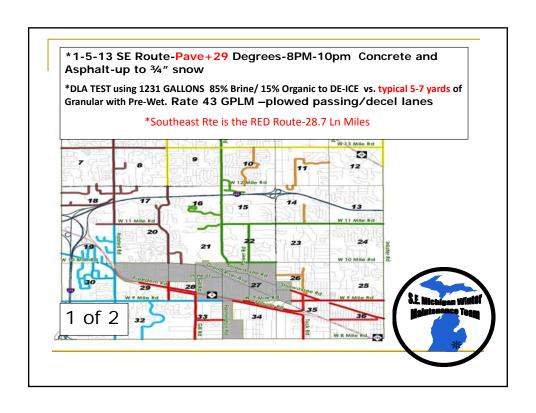










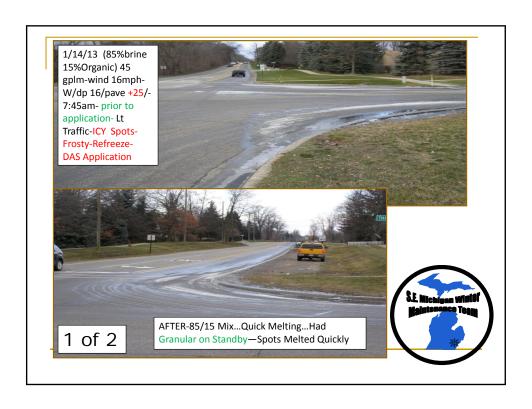




1335 Gallon "Slip-In" Single Axle Truck Used on the DLA Test-South East Route

2 of 2









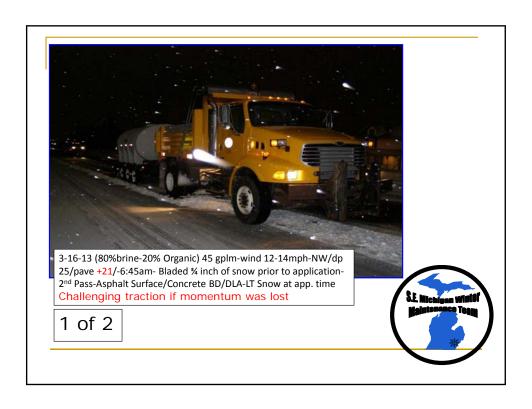


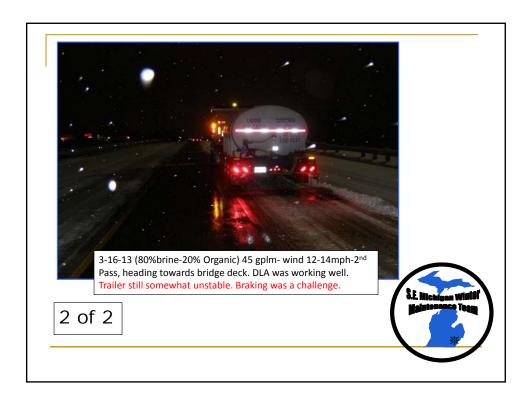


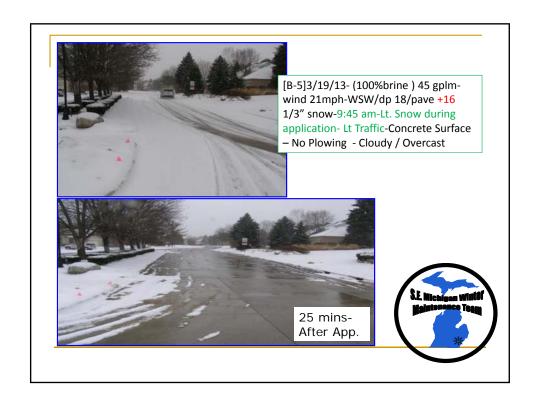












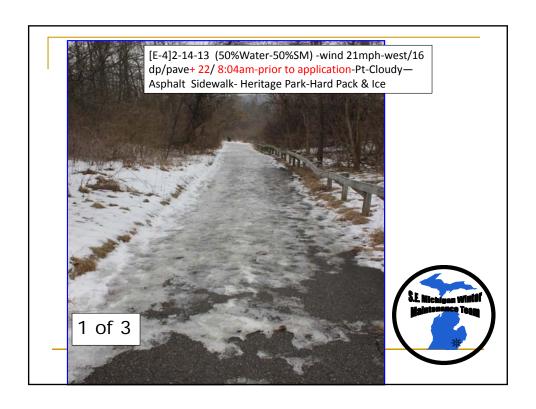




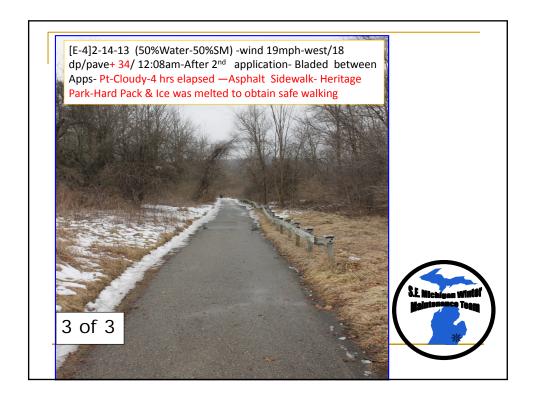
















# DLA BENEFITS – Learned thus far...

- Liquids already "in solution"
- Achieve Faster Level Of Service
- Another "Tool " in the toolbox
- No waiting on "Brine" process
- Less chlorides used (Tons of Granular vs. Liquids) 1 ton salt + water = 900 gals of Brine
- Mats, loading time etc. used for De-Icing
- Visually "placing" the liquid where it's needed
- Equipment in fleet, can be used for Multi-Seasons (Dust Control, ROW Spraying etc.)
- Moisture Content of Snowfall-Sun, Shade, Night, Traffic all affect performance





# DLA CHALLENGES - Learned thus far...

- BUY IN
- Make time to Evaluate and Collect Data (Staff)
- Equipment in fleet (GVWR), downtime etc.
- Loading of liquids efficiently (Fast) (GPM/ # of Pumps)
- Fear of co-efficient of friction (tools to measure)
- Residuals (liquids vs. granular)
- Having enough Events / Weather /Fair Analysis
- Tanker Endorsements (1K + in MI)
- Taking Pic's @ nighttime (snowing etc.)
- 28 events FH's- 10+ started out as rain





# S.E. Michigan Winter Maintenance Team

The City of Farmington Hills formed a local Winter Maintenance Team made up of representatives from southeast Michigan communities to network, collaborate, and learn about new techniques. The Committee meets regularly to hear from vendors and private contractors about new products and methods. It gives participants the chance to see what is working for other communities, establish goals, view research, and collect data. The team moves the meeting site to different facilities each time.





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#### Novi - Who, What, Where?

- City Located in southeastern Michigan (25 miles northeast of Detroit).
  - 25 minutes north from the University of Michigan and 45 minutes east from Michigan State University
- 31-square miles, located in Oakland County.
- Population of approximately 56,000 Residents
- Well-connected to highway, rail and air transportation routes offering accessibility second to none.
- Novi takes great pride in having superior parks, wetland and woodland protections and recreation centers.
- Additionally, in Novi, we are extremely proud of our cultural diversity. More than 65 businesses based in Japan and at least 14 businesses based in Germany call Novi "home" in the United States.

83



#### **Department of Public Services - Field Operations Division**

- The Department of Public Services includes:
  - Field Operations Division, Engineering Division, and the Water & Sewer Division.
    - 175 Centerline Miles of City neighborhood and major streets
      - All regulatory, street and informational signage
    - 45 Centerline miles of County primary
    - 2,100 Traffic Control Signals
    - 165 Miles of multi-use pathways
    - 4 major bridges
    - 300 miles of water main
    - 4,000 fire hydrants
    - 13,500 water service connections
    - 250 miles of sanitary sewer
    - 1200 acres of parkland
    - 280 vehicles and major pieces of equipment





#### **Novi's Road Network**

- Winter Maintenance Responsibilities
- Approximately 220 Centerline Miles of Roadway
  - 145 Lane Miles of County Primary
  - 110 Lane Mile of City Major
  - 300 Lane Miles of City Local
  - 20 miles of pathways and sidewalks
  - 15 municipal parking lots

#### Why use Lane Miles?

- Simply a More Accurate Representation of what is Maintained
  - Labor Allocations
  - Material use
  - Equipment Requirements



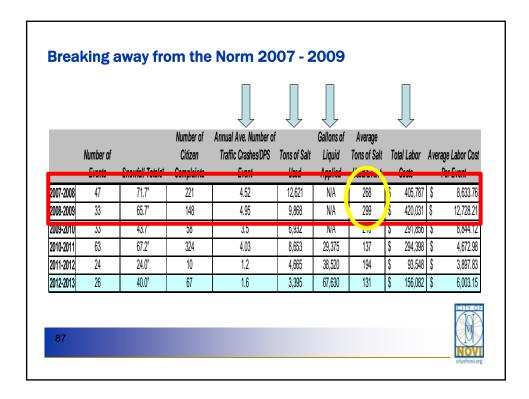


85

#### Winter Equipment and Labor Resource Overview

- 15 plow trucks
- 3 two yard dump trucks (1-tons)
- 2 utility vehicles
- 29 operators (18 parks and roads, 8 water and sewer, 3 mechanics)
- 6 auxiliary out of department operators
- 1,500 tons of rock salt storage
- 15,000 gallons of liquid





## Level of Service (LOS)

#### QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ASK

- What do your elected officials want?
- What does your community really expect (Vocal few or majority)?
- What can your current resources do for you?

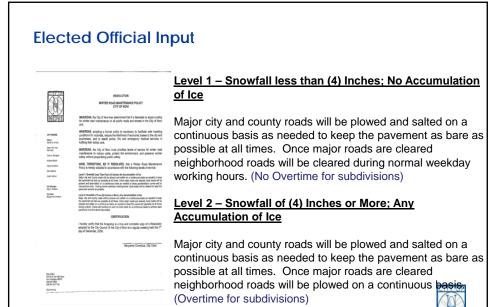
#### RESEARCH YOU NEED TO DO

- Service provided by similar road agencies
- · Get out and talk with the community
- What technology fits your budget



Policy Discussion/Adoption... Public Communication





# Liquid Program Upgrades - Step 1



#### **Basic Operations**

- Brine Maker
- Storage Tanks
- Salinity Testing Method
- Application Tools
- Application Equipment



# Liquid Program Upgrades - Step 2



# Incremental UpgradesSecondary

- Containment
- Operator Friendly Filling System
- Secondary Pump for Mixing



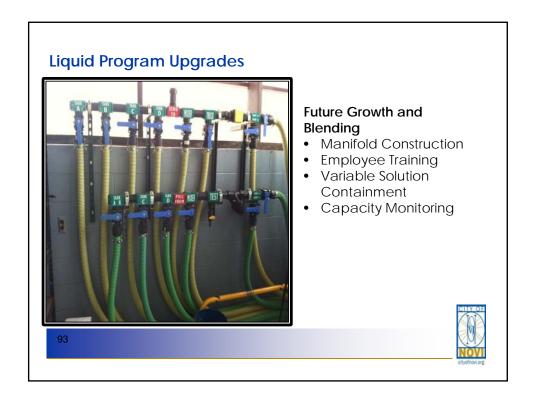
# **Liquid Program Upgrades - Step 3**



#### "Additional" **Labor and Resource** Dedication

- Space Dedication
- Increased Capacity
  Team Monitoring and Documenting
- Electrical Upgrades





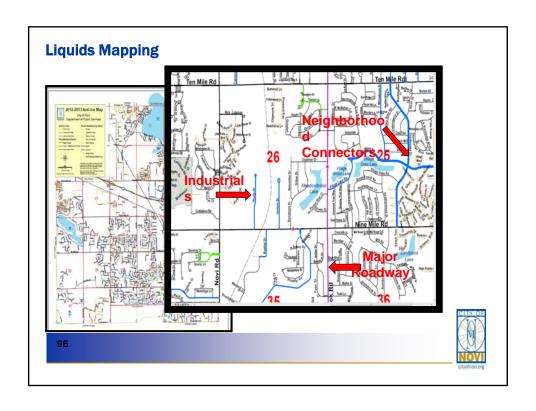


# **Route Selection – Key Points**

- What are your existing routes
- Which routes make sense
- Match routes with liquid capability
- Initially find a route that has a low ADT..... just in case things don't work out the way you planned.
- Check with the owning road agency to see if they endorse your maintenance procedure

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#### **Communication Tools - Social Media**

- Agency Website
- Newsletters
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Nixle
- Local Access (SWOCC)
- Local Media





nixle



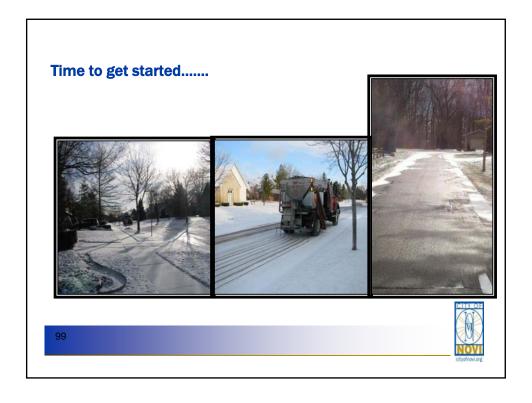
Neighborhood meetings - Don't lose the personal touch with your residents



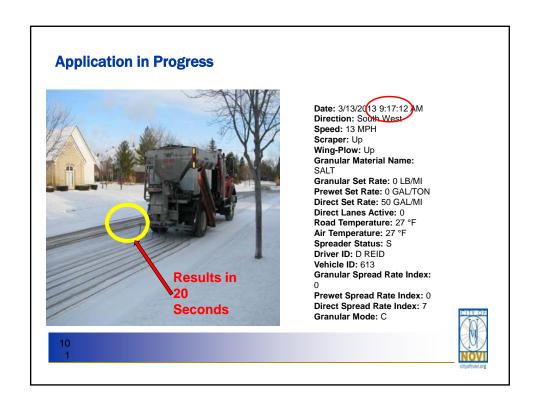
#### **Social Media**

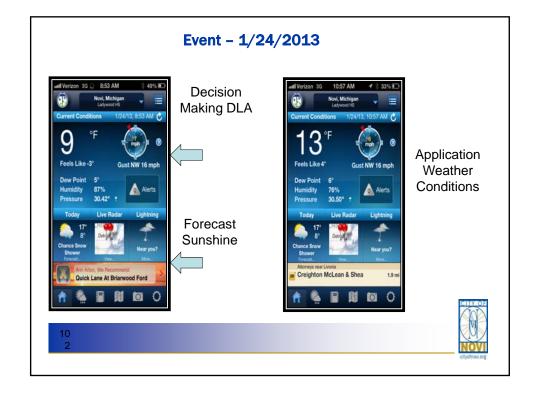


One winter maintenance tool that DPS uses, even if snow isn't in the forecast, is a solution of saltwater (or brine) and de-sugared beet extract. This liquid is applied to roads when the dew point approaches air temperatures below 32°F – a condition that creates black ice. So if you see trucks applying liquids on a nice sunny day, we're just taking precautionary measures to address roads that may become slippery later.



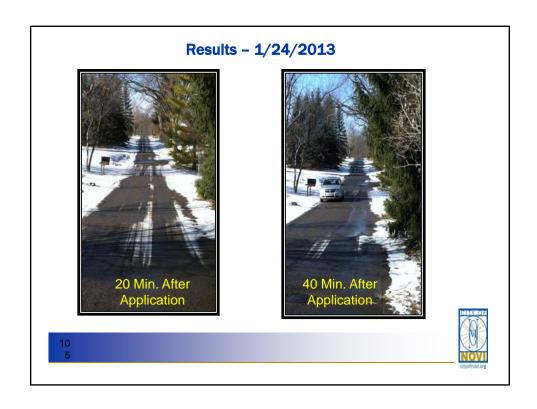




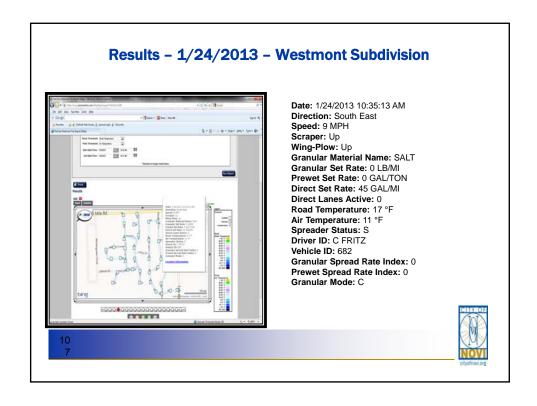


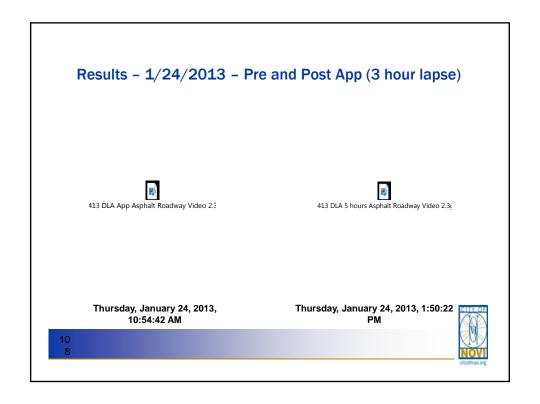
















## Results - 1/31/2013 - 10 Minutes after application



Date: 1/31/2013 10:19:55
AM
Direction: West
Speed: 13 MPH
Scraper: Up
Wing-Plow: Up
Granular Material Name:
SALT
Granular Set Rate: 0
LB/MI
Prewet Set Rate: 0
GAL/TON
Direct Set Rate: 60
GAL/MI
Direct Lanes Active: 0
Road Temperature: 29 °F
Air Temperature: 29 °F
Spreader Status: 5
Driver ID: D REID
Vehicle ID: 613
Granular Spread Rate
Index: 0
Prewet Spread Rate
Index: 0
Direct Spread Rate Index: 9
Direct Spread Rate Index: 9
Granular Mode: C



Thursday, January 31, 2013, 10:29:01 AM

Thursday, January 31, 2013, 10:31:45 AM Thursday, January 31, 2013, 10:31:45 AM 10:29:01 AM

111



## Results - 1/31/2013 - 20 Minutes after application



Intermittent Snow Squalls

Approximatel y 1/2 inch of Accumulatio

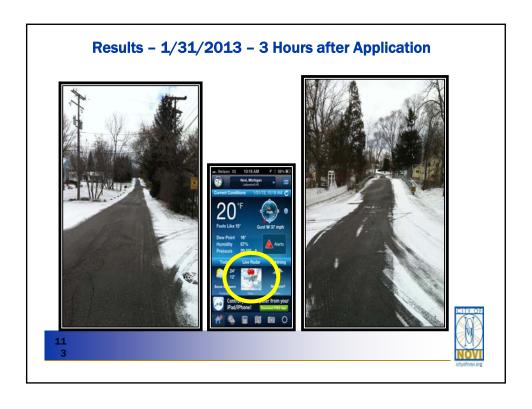
Did not reapply

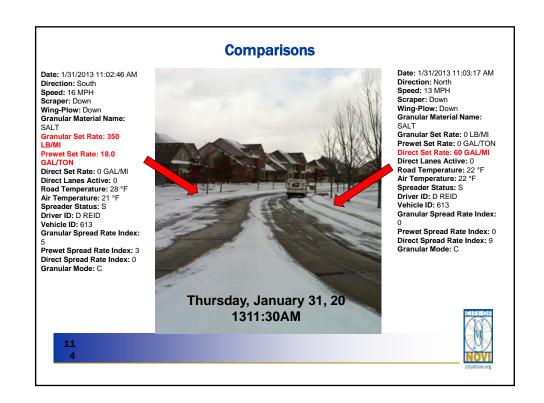


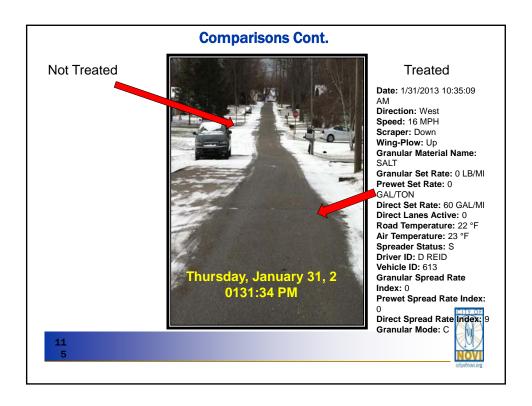
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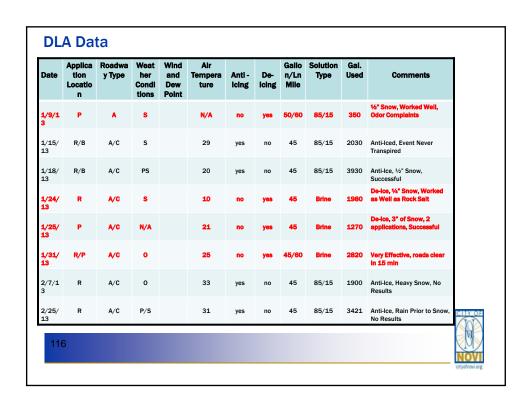


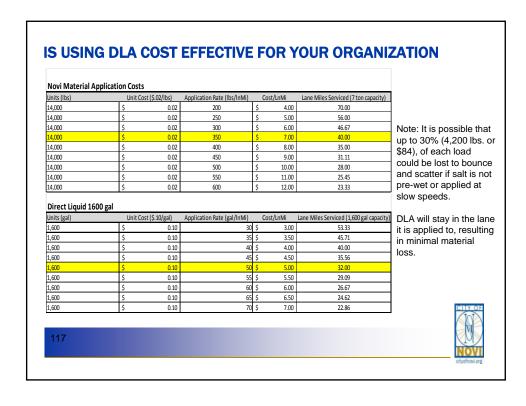
Thursday, January 31, 2013, 10:42:41

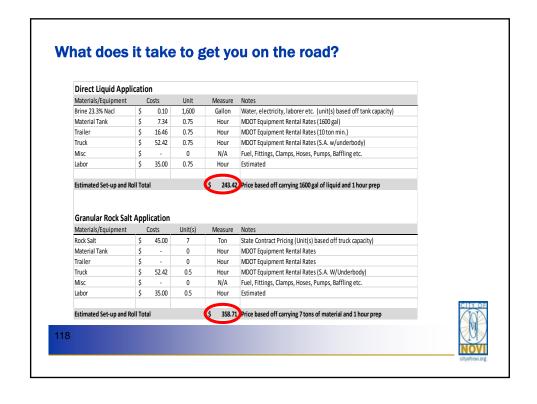












#### **NOVI'S POTENTIAL SAVINGS PER EVENT**

Financial Summary							
Material Type	Lane Miles Serviced	Set-up/Fill Cost	Material Cost/Lane Mile	Lane Miles Complete/Fill	Total Truck Fill Cost(s)	Total Material Cost(s)	Overall Total
Brine	555	\$ 243.42	\$ 5.00	32	\$ 4,221.82	\$ 2,775.00	\$ 6,996.82
Rock Salt	555	\$ 358.71	\$ 7.00	40	\$ 4,977.10	\$ 3,885.00	\$ 8,862.10

#### \$1865.28 SAVINGS/EVENT

# \$55,958.40 POTENTIAL SEASONAL SAVINGS

119



# **DLA Challenges to Consider**

- Do you have and/or are you willing to invest??
  - Liquid Manufacturing System
  - Storage and Containment
  - Equipment
    - Versatility  $\implies$  Can your equipment be used for multiple application types (Granular/Liquid/Both)?
    - Capacity 

      How much material can you produce/transport/apply?
    - Efficiency ⇒ Can you meet service level expectations?
  - Staff buy-in
  - Community Awareness



# **THANK YOU**



#### Contact Information

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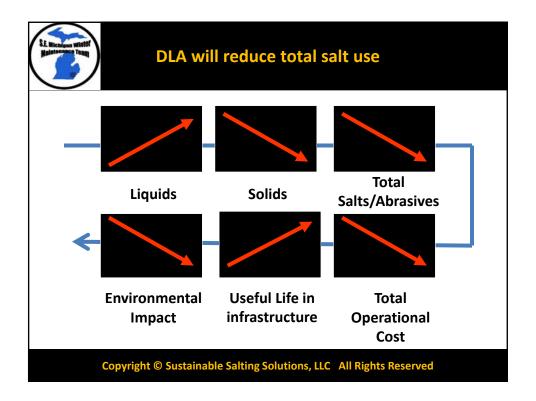






#### **Conclusions**

- DLA another "tool in the toolbox "
- Know your forecasts and pavement temps
- Understand moisture content of snow
- Combine Forecast with Operations Matrix in the Decision Process
- Examine route lengths for liquid capacity
- Proceed with caution, have contingency plans, and expand only when complete comfort levels assured
- DLA may be a break even proposition but reduced salt reduces infrastructure and environmental damage
- Level of service attainment, in many instances, will be quicker than solids
- MORE research and experience is still needed





# **Evaluate your Liquids**

- A 23.3% Sodium Chloride brine is the most cost effective and considered the safest to use
- Q.C. in brine manufacture is a must
- Additives to brine appear to be effective-continue testing.
   TRB Report <a href="http://docs.trb.org/prp/12-2283.pdf">http://docs.trb.org/prp/12-2283.pdf</a>
- Co-efficient of friction information needed for various liquid deicers and or blends. Understand their properties and proper application protocols



# **Equipment Challenges**

Because your solid spreaders will still do most of the work.....

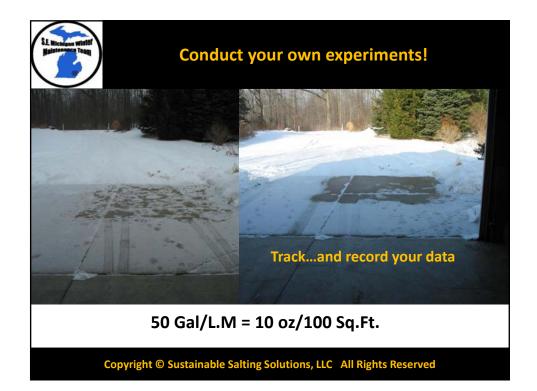


**Tanks on trailers** 

**Hook Lift Systems** 

**Combi Systems** 

... Easy on/easy off and versatility is a must!





# **References**

Peterson, Gary, P. Keranen, and R. Pletan, "Identifying the Parameters for Effective Implementation of Liquid-Only Plow Routes", Clear Roads 09-02, 2010.

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