



# Economic Benefits of Winter Maintenance



# Agenda

Clearly it costs us money to conduct winter maintenance

What benefits might accrue to agencies and society for doing this?



## Costs

FHWA estimates that agencies in the US spend more than \$2 Billion each year on winter maintenance

For many agencies, it is the largest part of their maintenance budget

One estimate suggests private side costs are even higher (about \$17 Billion per year)

# What Do We Gain?

Two substantial benefits

Safety

Mobility





## Safety Benefits

Reduction in Crashes by between 85 and 88%

Still have 1,300 fatalities and 116,800 injuries

Avoided about 7,400 deaths and 662,000 injuries



## Mobility Benefits

If roads are closed by bad weather...

Commerce is stopped

People cannot get to work so cannot get paid

Essential Services are curtailed

IHS Global Insight study for AHUA examined  
these factors

# Losses due to Snowstorms

Substantial

Varied according to population of  
State/Province

And somewhat according to nature of  
workforce

Most losses were not recoverable



## Dollar Amounts

For one day shut down

High of \$700 million (New York)

Low of \$66 million (Utah)

“The economic impact of snow-related closures far exceeds the cost of timely snow removal”

Factors in excess of 100:1





# Disparate Impacts

Not only are economic losses substantial

They also impact the poor (hourly wage earners) much more so than other economic groups



## Conclusions

Indisputable that appropriate winter maintenance provides substantial benefits to society

Safety is drastically improved

Because mobility is protected, economic losses are essentially avoided