PennDOT Maintenance First

The most important way in which roadway safety and information is relayed to our customers is through roadway signs.

Most PennDOT county operations have a single sign crew — a sign foreman and assistant — that install signs along state roads; a few larger county operations have additional crews. PennDOT is responsible for reviewing installed signs and determining if, because of age, vandalism, damage or other reasons, a sign needs to be replaced. Work is identified, signs are produced at the state’s sign shop and, once completed, signs are scheduled for installation.

There are approximately 1.3 million state-owned signs in Pennsylvania. PennDOT’s Sign Shop produces around 85,000 signs each year. Signs are made using aluminum sign blanks which are covered with high intensity retro-reflective sheeting. After the sheeting is applied, either silk-screened or cut-out characters are applied for the sign’s message.

The vast majority — 95 percent — of sign orders are filled within 14 days of receiving the order.
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Although Pennsylvanians see PennDOT crews on the roads year round, they may not always realize the scope or importance of all of the work we do.

More common maintenance activities such as Signing don’t receive as much public attention as building new bridges or highways, but they are integral to the maintenance of the state’s 40,000 roadway miles and 25,000 bridges.

For more information, or for additional copies of the Maintenance First cards, please contact PennDOT’s Press Office at 717-783-8800 or your local PennDOT District Press Office.

The Maintenance First Series was developed to help educate our customers about our more common maintenance operations.