



# inroads

February 2012

## CONTACT US:

### Administration

Frank Sanzo, *Director*  
(860) 713-5155  
Jim Palmer, *Asst. Director*  
(860) 713-5153  
Mike Gosselin (860) 670-4744  
Pam Bowe (860) 713-5157  
Yanira Segarra (860) 713-5158

### Wethersfield Repair Facility

60 State Street (rear)  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
**860-529-0500**

### Norwich Repair Facility

171 Salem Turnpike  
Norwich, CT 06360  
**860-885-2153**

### New Haven Repair Facility

140 Pond Lily Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06515  
**203-397-4590**

### After Hours Emergencies

Call **1-877-454-4204** (toll-free)  
Your call will be answered through the Department of Environmental Protection Dispatch Office, which will assist you.

### Online

Go to:  
<http://das.ct.gov> and click on **FLEET OPERATIONS** for additional information on fueling locations, accident forms and mileage reports.

We always encourage agencies to remind employees about the importance of clearing snow and ice off of their state vehicle before beginning a trip.

## Clearing Snow From Vehicles

Soon this will be more than a recommendation as Connecticut has a new law concerning snow removal on motor vehicles. Passed by the legislature on June 8, 2010, this new law will go into effect December 31, 2013.

### An Act Concerning the Removal of Snow and Ice from Motor Vehicles (*Public Act No. 10-182*) reads, in part:

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective December 31, 2013) (a) The operator of any motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1 of the general statutes, shall remove any accumulated ice or snow from such motor vehicle, including the hood, trunk and roof of such motor vehicle, so that any ice or snow accumulated on such vehicle does not pose a threat to persons or property while the vehicle is being operated on

any street or highway of this state. Any operator who fails to remove accumulated ice or snow that poses such a threat shall be fined seventy-five dollars.

(b) If the operator of a noncommercial motor vehicle violates the provisions of this section and snow or ice is dislodged from such vehicle and causes personal injury or property damage, the operator shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars but not more than one thousand dollars for each offense.

Let's encourage **all drivers of state-owned vehicles** to follow this practice from this point forward so we are fully compliant when the law goes into effect.

As you may be aware, the State of Connecticut uses public auctions as the primary method for disposal of unwanted assets including cars, trucks and police cruisers that have reached the end of their useful life in state service. Vehicle auctions are held periodically throughout the year at the Wethersfield garage (right behind DMV.)

## Auction Time

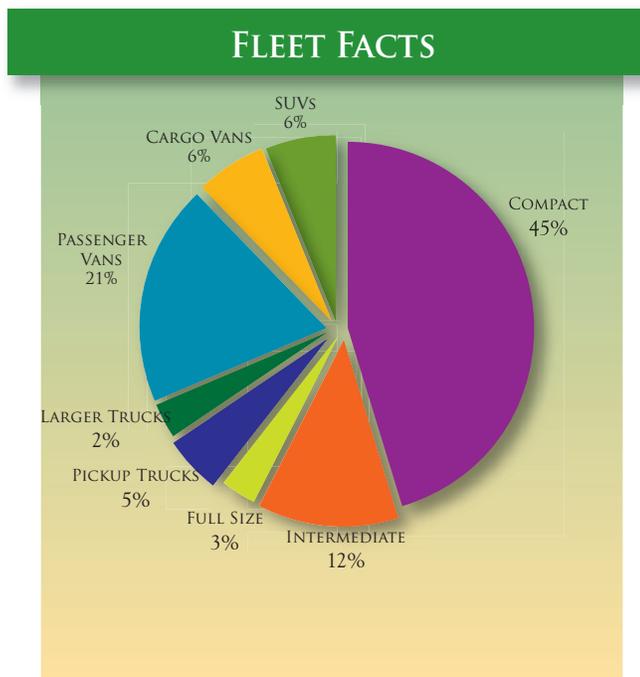
Our next vehicle auction will be held Saturday, February 25th. If you are interested in attending or would like some additional information, including a partial list of vehicles to be sold, check the DAS website at <http://das.ct.gov/fp1.aspx?page=274>.

Approximately 225 vehicles are sold at each auction, primarily cars and trucks retired from the DAS fleet. Additionally, there can be 50 to 75 vehicles from the State Police including asset forfeiture. If you cannot attend in February, we also plan to hold auctions in April and June. So if you're interested in a great deal purchasing a state car, put February 25 on your calendar. It costs nothing to show up and watch, and if you decide to bid there is simply a \$5.00 registration fee.

## Fleet Facts

Back in June of 2009, we reported on the makeup by vehicle class of the DAS fleet. Since over 30 months have passed, we thought it might be interesting to see what has, or has not, changed.

During this period of time there have been a couple of significant events worth noting. First, in 2009, we were in the final stages of completing the 20% fleet reduction as ordered by then Governor Rell. And second, because of the economic downturn, a moratorium was placed on ordering new cars. While helping the short-term financial picture, the long range impact of delaying purchases meant vehicles were not cycled out as planned, leaving a significant number overdue for replacement. This backlog is now being addressed, but it will take some time to fully catch up.



Here are some observations on how the fleet has evolved from June 2009 to January 2012:

■ DAS Fleet has been reduced from over 4,000 vehicles to 3,585.

■ There has been a noticeable shift from intermediate-sized cars to compacts.

■ All other vehicle categories have maintained their same approximate percentages even though the overall size of the fleet has been reduced.

■ Full-size cars continue to include Ford Crown Victorias that are primarily assigned to law enforcement applications.

■ As has been in the past large trucks represent various maintenance and utility applications such as plowing, wheelchair-equipped vehicles, and box trucks.

Within most class categories the changes made will positively impact our cost of operation. For example:

- In the compact class, the Dodge Stratus' (with a rating of 19 mpg city and 25 mpg highway) are being replaced by Ford Focus models that offer 26/36 mpg; an increase in mileage of over 30%.
- In the intermediate class, Ford Taurus' are being replaced by Ford Fusions and Chevy Malibus. The gas mileage savings is substantial with the Fusions and Malibus getting 23/33 mpg - nearly a 30% improvement over the Taurus at 18/25mpg.
- In the SUV class we have replaced many Ford Explorers with Ford Escapes. The change will yield a 35% improvement in gas mileage as the Explorer gets only 13/19 mpg and the new Escape gets 20/26 mpg.

## Did You Know?

All DAS garages are now wired to allow employees with state-issued laptops access to the state's email system. This feature will enable employees to make productive use of time while waiting for their vehicle to be serviced or repaired.

We encourage you to alert any staff members of this convenience.