



inroads

MARCH 2012

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New Haven Repair Facility

140 Pond Lily Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515
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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.

The pendulum has continued to swing towards overall improvement of our fleet's fuel mileage. Although with a fleet of over 3,500 vehicles, progress is measured in slow but sure steps.



In addition to the number of vehicles in the DAS fleet, two additional factors minimize efficiency gains:

- Agency requirements for vans, pick-ups and SUVs to meet the needs of their mission, and
- the recent economy drove former Governor Rell to impose a new vehicle purchase ban in 2008 and beyond.

After the vehicle purchase ban was lifted in 2011, smaller, more fuel-efficient models were ordered. This enabled us to begin making inroads by replacing larger, more gas-hungry sedans with cars that offer best-in-class fuel mileage. And fuel efficiency isn't just for sedans. In some cases larger SUVs were replaced with smaller models like the Ford Escape.

However, purchasing replacement vehicles for our fleet is not as simple as checking the MPG performance and reviewing the Procurement contract. DAS considers all criteria such as State and Federal requirements which dictate that a percentage of our fleet be powered by an alternate fuel and/or get above 40 MPG. Maintenance experience, reliability and projected disposal value also carry weight in this decision. And there is clearly a heightened sensitivity to public opinion that government vehicles should be purchased from American-owned companies. These considerations frequently compete against each other.

With a nearly two-year replacement backlog it will take some time before we are fully on schedule with our normal replacement cycle of six years. Continued fiscal concerns will result in an even more conservative and prudent replacement schedule.

Below is our annual mileage and fuel consumption for the past three years, using information gathered from the monthly mileage database and DOT fueling records:

	Annual mileage	MPG
2009	47,887,133	22.0
2010	46,091,924	22.025
2011	42,695,474	22.225

Between December of 2011 and June of 2012 we will have received and put into service over 400 vehicles with improved fuel efficiency compared to the models they replace. They will contribute to our continued MPG improvement.

Are you having difficulty getting the monthly mileage for your DAS vehicles entered each month?

Monthly Mileage

We are asking this question because recently there has been a system change which has created an unintended consequence, which may be causing some frustration for those who input mileage each month. The server supporting monthly mileage entry tasks was recently changed to better synchronize the mileage and billing functions. Unfortunately, making this improvement has created two issues that could affect your agency. Whether you perform this function or delegate this responsibility to a staff member, please check to see if either of the following issues have occurred:

- Mileage cannot be entered during the monthly billing review period, which occurs from the 1st through the 4th of each month.
- The feature that carries forward the ending mileage from the last month to become the starting mileage for the next month now only works if it is for the immediate past month (e.g. if the odometer reading and number of days used for January was entered during February, everything will be in order when it comes time to enter February mileage during the month of March). However, if the mileage being entered is for one or more months previous to the immediate past month, the ending odometer will not carry over as the starting odometer for the next month.

We are currently exploring solutions that would eliminate both these possible concerns. We seek your input regarding how much difficulty this may have caused your agency. Our concern is that this may cause additional time for the data entry process to be completed and could increase the likelihood of errors.

If every driver would submit their report on time and agency data entry staff get all information entered before the start of the next month, then these changes may be of little consequence. If, on the other hand, data entry is delayed because of forgetfulness, vacation or illness, then it may be another story.

We would appreciate if you could either give a call, or drop us an email at das.fleet@ct.gov to let us know how this is impacting your group.

\$200 Found!



Recently, while researching the purchase of a replacement truck engine, **Materials Storage Supervisor Dave Berry** uncovered a hidden plus. With numerous manufacturers offering rebuilt engines, Berry recognized the significance of a genuine Ford purchase - a **\$200 rebate!** Berry's positive efforts and willingness to invest the time to locate Ford's rebate program captures the essence of how Fleet employees contribute to cost reduction. With over 23 years of state service and nearly 10 of those as a Materials Storage Supervisor, Berry has helped the state shrink expenditures and achieve the most value for our parts dollars.

Thank you Dave!