



State of Illinois  
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation  
Omer Osman, Acting Secretary

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## **Roadeo competition puts snow plow drivers over a barrel**

*No bull: Friendly competition calls attention to vital safety job*

**PEORIA** – The sun was out, the blacktop was hot and winter was on the minds of everyone at today’s 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Roadeo in Peoria. The Illinois Department of Transportation once again partnered with the state chapter of the American Public Works Association to host the friendly competition that sharpens the skills of plow drivers throughout the state and calls attention to the need for people to apply for jobs keeping roads clear of snow and ice.

“Snow plow operators know that it takes the entire year to prepare for winter in Illinois. These workers save lives keeping our roads safe for travel,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “We always are looking for qualified people to join our team during winter. These are good jobs and the skills you pick up can open the door to other opportunities at IDOT and elsewhere.”

At the roadeo, participants put their skills to the test behind the wheel of a highway maintenance truck while driving through an obstacle course. Points were awarded based on speed, skill and accuracy. Drivers also showed off their safety chops and proved their mechanical knowledge via a diagnostic vehicle inspection.

Contestants took home a variety of prizes, including the coveted traveling trophy, which was awarded to the City of Peoria.

Local public works employees in Illinois maintain more than 145,000 miles of rural and municipal roads, enough to circle the earth almost six times. At IDOT, crews deploy nearly 1,800 trucks during winter, clearing more than 45,000 miles of lanes in a year – or the equivalent of driving from Chicago to the tip of South America almost seven times.

Sound like fun? IDOT is currently hiring seasonal help for snow-and-ice removal throughout the state. Applicants will be selected based on availability, experience and qualifications. Veterans are encouraged to apply. For additional information, including details on pay and the potential for benefits, please click [here](#).

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