

## Idea Exchange

### Dispenser for edge dropoffs

By modifying a commercial rock spreader, maintenance staff at Illinois DOT's Carlville yard have a neater, easier way to fix low shoulders along pavements. A platform built onto the front of a grader holds the spreader. It attaches to the grader's scarifying hookups and hydraulic controls.



*This rock spreading system is neat and efficient.*

A rock truck hooks onto a pintle at the spreader unit's front, dumping rock onto the belt as needed. The grader pushes the truck and the grader driver distributes the rock as needed.

"It's very handy," says Tom Shank, IDOT Field Technician. "It replaces one person and makes for a neater job and continuous operation." The platform is simple to build, he says, and the unit can also be used to distribute cold mix or hot mix. The unit they use is a Hi-Way brand reversible tailgate conveyer, TGC18, that costs about \$4000.

Pavement dropoffs are very hazardous and have been the subject of liability claims around the country. Large dropoffs should be repaired right away for motorist safety.

*For more information contact Tom Shank at 618/633-2206. No product endorsement is intended through publication of this equipment information.*

### CDL exemption expected in November

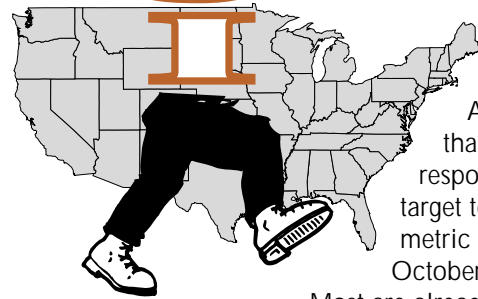
After a late July public hearing, WisDOT has forwarded to the Legislature a proposed rule exempting from the CDL requirement backup snowplow drivers in municipalities of less than 3000 population. This brings Wisconsin's rules in line with previously enacted federal rules. If there are no Legislative hearings, the rule will be published and is likely

to take effect around the beginning of November, according to Wes Geringer at WisDOT.

The exempted person must be an employee of the town or village and have a valid class "D" (regular) driver's license. He or she must be operating within the boundaries of the local governmental unit and must be needed for help in plowing snow because the local unit has determined that a snow emergency exists. A local unit of government means: county, city, village, town, school district, county utility district, sanitary district, metropolitan sewerage district, or other public body created by or under state law.

Watch your local papers and association newsletters for the official announcement of the rule.

### 40 states to metricate by October



A survey by AASHTO found that 40 of 49 states responding are on target to convert to metric system by the October 1996 deadline.

Most are already doing design and construction in metric units. Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada, the Dakotas, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia will delay; Maryland and Arkansas were undecided, and Washington did not reply. The survey appeared in AASHTO's January/February 1996 *Metrication Clearinghouse Newsletter*.

*Do you have an idea to exchange? Have you designed a gadget or found a new way to do something that other streets and highway people can use? Use the form on page 7 to let us know, or call Don Walker or Steve Pudloski at 800/442-4615.*

### Crossroads

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