



# State of South Carolina

## Department of Motor Vehicles

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SCDMV PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNTY TREASURERS IMPROVING SERVICES STATEWIDE

**Blythewood, S.C., August 15, 2006** – In 2003, the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV) began a county vehicle registration project with the S.C. Association of Auditors Treasurers and Tax Collectors (SCATT) to improve citizen services across the state. The project, which allows the issuance of vehicle registrations and decals in county tax offices, has proven successful.

Taxpayers in ten counties can now process their tax payment and vehicle registration in one place and four more counties are expected to go online in September. County offices currently issuing vehicle registrations and decals include Aiken, Cherokee, Chester, Clarendon, Dorchester, Laurens, Marion, Richland, Saluda and Spartanburg counties.

“This is really just beginning,” said Executive Director Marcia Adams. “We’ve been working with members of SCATT for some time to define and develop this project so that any county wanting to participate in the program can be brought on board. We are very appreciative of SCATT and the county officials for their support.”

What began as a cooperative effort between SCDMV and SCATT evolved into a partnership.

“Although we had worked with county officials for many years, SCDMV and the counties had never worked as partners. When we opened the door for discussion, we found that we had common concerns and vehicle registration was a top priority for all of us,” said Executive Director Marcia Adams.

County tax offices have long offered taxpayers the opportunity to pay vehicle registration fees at the same time they pay their vehicle taxes. Customers could either wait for SCDMV to send them their registration and decal through the mail or visit a SCDMV office to pick it up. For many customers who paid their property taxes at the end of the month, the extra trip to the SCDMV office was necessary to avoid an expired decal. It was a problem recognized by both the state and county officials and the county vehicle registration project seemed to be the answer.

Dorchester County, the first county to go online with the system, began issuing vehicle registrations and decals in June 2005 as part of the pilot program. After the pilot program, SCDMV planned to bring only five counties online by the end of 2006.

However, plans changed as the demand for the project increased with the success of the pilot program.

The county vehicle registration project, made possible by the DMV Reform Act signed by Governor Mark Sanford in June 2003, has made it easier for South Carolina taxpayers to do business with both organizations.

The county registration renewal project is just one of many service improvements DMV has made since it became a stand-alone agency in 2003. Some of those service improvements include online services and Saturday services in six field offices across the state.

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