



State of South Carolina

Department of Motor Vehicles

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCDMV PARTNERS WITH CLARENDON COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE TO ISSUE VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

Blythewood, S.C., September 20, 2005 – The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles and the Clarendon County Treasurer's Office announced today a County Vehicle Decal Issuance Program to allow the issuance of vehicle registration renewals in the County Treasurer's Office.

"We're pleased to work with Clarendon County officials and help make this program available to their residents," said DMV Executive Director Marcia Adams. "It's a tremendous service improvement for both the county and DMV."

Clarendon County, one of the first counties to commit to the project, is only the second county in the state to offer the vehicle registration and decal service.

"This is something our customers have been telling us they wanted for a long time," said Matt Evans, Clarendon County Treasurer. "It's all about convenience and we understand that. In this age of computer technology, it just makes good sense to take the next big step. We're grateful to DMV for making that possible."

The project began as a cooperative effort between the South Carolina Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors Association (SCATT) and the Department of Motor Vehicles. The two groups meet monthly to discuss mutual customer service issues and the vehicle registration renewal process has been a common concern for members of both organizations.

County tax offices have long offered taxpayers the opportunity to pay their vehicle registration fees when they pay their vehicle property taxes by mail. Once county offices process the payments, the information is sent to DMV where the vehicle registrations are produced and mailed to the customer. Clarendon County taxpayers, however, will no longer have to wait to receive their vehicle registration and decal from DMV.

"Whether a customer pays his taxes and registration fees by mail or in person, we can provide the vehicle registration and decal. Customers who visit our office can walk out with both their tax receipt and vehicle registration. They don't have to make that extra trip to DMV anymore and that's a time saver for everyone involved," said Mr. Evans.

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Making the project a reality required a team effort between DMV, Clarendon County officials and Smith-Data Processing Governmental Solutions. The three entities worked closely together to bridge the gap between the two technology systems.

“We’re very excited about our participation in the project. Clarendon is the first county we helped move through this process, but we will also be working with other counties in the future to give them the same capability,” said Thomas McLeod, Vice President of Smith Data Processing in Spartanburg.

The county vehicle registration project, made possible by the DMV Reform Act, which was signed by Governor Mark Sanford in June 2003, will make it easier for South Carolina citizens to conduct business with both DMV and the county offices. Several other South Carolina counties have joined the project including Anderson, Georgetown and Richland Counties.

“We are grateful for all the support we’ve received from Clarendon County, members of SCATT and Smith Data Processing,” said Mrs. Adams. “Together, we’ll continue our efforts to bring more counties online and find new ways to better serve the citizens of this state.”

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 Saturday service and online transactions at www.scdmvonline.com.

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