What you should know about SDcars and the new Plate with Owner System

The license plate with owner system and the new SDcars data processing system were first approved by the South Dakota Legislature in 2005. Since then, the Division of Motor Vehicles has been working hard to ensure the SDcars system would be up and running by July of 2008.

What have we been doing? Designing and testing the new system. Training staff and counties how to use it (don’t forget, it’s new to all of them, too!). Transferring millions of motor vehicle records from the previous system to the new system. Launching an SDcars website (www.SDcars.org) that offers information and updates for both users and vehicle owners. And of course, telling everybody in South Dakota about the change to license plate with owner and how the new system will affect them.

While we hope we’ve covered everything to make the transition to the new system a smooth one, you’re right - converting a whole system is a HUGE undertaking. We hope there will be no glitches with the new system, but if there are, we appreciate the patience of South Dakota’s vehicle owners during and after the change. In the long run, it will mean a quicker and more efficient system for all of us!

For More Information

Have questions on the SDcars system or how the license plate with owner concept works? Just contact the South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation, Division of Motor Vehicles at 605.773.3541 or your local county treasurer. You can also visit the website at www.SDcars.org. And be prepared to “Keep Your Plate - July ‘08”!
Keep my plates? You mean like FOREVER?

Well, ALMOST forever. At least as long as the plate series is valid and you continue to drive a vehicle. In July of 2008, South Dakota’s vehicle registration system will change from license plate with vehicle to license plate with owner.

How will that affect you as a vehicle owner? Under the current license plate with vehicle system, the plates that are on the vehicle when you sell it stay with the vehicle. Under the new license plate with owner system, the plates you have on your vehicle become yours. This means if you sell the vehicle, you KEEP the plates and put them on the next vehicle you purchase, once you go to the County Treasurer and register that vehicle. That license plate number will remain YOUR number as long as the plate series is valid.

What does the change mean for the Division of Motor Vehicles? A new computer system called SDcars!

SDcars: Customized Automated Registration System

SDcars is a customer and vehicle centric system that will store and retrieve vehicle information associated with the owner and tie all of the records together. The system will integrate and replace multiple data systems and applications now used by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

How is SDcars better than the old registration system?

SDcars will provide a variety of benefits for everyone involved in the vehicle registration process: the Division of Motor Vehicles, county offices, vehicle dealers, vehicle owners, and, in the future, lienholders, insurance companies, and other state agencies.

Multiple Vehicle Renewal
Multiple renewal will allow for the selection and renewal of one or more vehicles. The new system ties all of a vehicle owner’s records together, meaning when your name is pulled up on the system, it will automatically show all of the vehicles associated with your name. Such access will ultimately mean quicker and easier renewal for you as a vehicle owner.

Single Customer/Multiple Functions
The system uses a shopping cart concept where selections can be made to perform multiple functions for one customer, from registration renewal, adding a title, updating an address, etc. All transactions are added to the customer’s shopping cart. When all the transactions are completed, the customer “checks out” and the system provides them with a summary of the charges and a total amount due.

Report of Sale (ROS)
An ROS is a notification that a vehicle has been sold or transferred. The system will use these reports to make your license plate eligible for attachment to your new vehicle once you have sold your old one. Filing an ROS is mandatory when you sell or transfer your vehicle.

Seller’s Permit
If you are selling your vehicle outright (private party), you must obtain a seller’s permit from your county treasurer. The permit allows you as the seller to remove and keep your license plate once the vehicle is sold, and provide the buyer with a paper license plate to use on the vehicle for a specified period of time until they can obtain a regular license plate from their county treasurer.

Future enhancements include...

Registration Renewal Notices
SDcars will include a statewide renewal notice system that will generate renewal notices three months in advance of staggered expiration dates. Since all of your vehicle records are tied together, the notice you receive will include all the vehicles registered to you.

Online Vehicle Registration
Once this feature has been implemented, vehicle owners will be able to register their vehicles over the Internet, providing them with a convenient and secure means to conduct such business.