



Texas Department of Transportation

VEHICLE TITLES AND REGISTRATION DIVISION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78779-0001 • (512) 465-7611

September 25, 2001

Registration and Title Bulletin # 135-01

To: All County Tax Assessor-Collectors

Subject: Upgrading the Registration and Title System – RTS II

PURPOSE

To provide an update on TxDOT's plan to upgrade the Registration and Title System (RTS).

DETAILS

As discussed at the June TACA Conference, key components of the RTS infrastructure need to be upgraded. RTS is not broken, but it has reached its capacity in some areas, and in others it can no longer be effectively sustained or enhanced. RTS II is addressing several areas of concern, including:

- The point-of-sale programming language, which is outdated and no longer supported by the vendor
- The network architecture, speed, reliability and capacity
- The operating system, OS/2
- Integration of Internet Vehicle Registration; and
- Point-of-Sale production of registration stickers

When complete, RTS will be more reliable than it is today and it will be able to more quickly and effectively accommodate functional changes that will benefit you and your customers in the future.

TIMELINE

The RTS II project is already underway. Our agency is working with the prime contractor, IBM, which has three primary partners: Deloitte & Touche, KPMG, and Allied Consulting. Work began in Austin on April 30, 2001. Project target dates include:

- September 2001: New system design approved
- January 2002: Programming completed, testing in progress
- March/April 2002: Pilot county implementation begins
- Fall 2002: Statewide implementation begins
- Spring 2003: Integration of Special Plates, Project complete

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since many resources are being dedicated to the system upgrade, there will be only a few functional enhancements to the current system during RTS II development. Planned upgrades to the current RTS include:

RTS Release 4.2.2 – This release will be distributed in October and will include Senate Bill 5 Emissions Reduction Plan Surcharges plus certain new and modified special category license plate provisions enacted by the 77th Legislature. Also in October, the Fall Admin Table distribution will include annual updates to County Calendar, Fees, Accounting Codes and other RTS Admin Tables.

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RTS Release 4.3 – Will be distributed in January 2002 and will include VTR Regional Office Cashiering requirements. Mainframe programming to complete suppression of duplicate original title printing and the remaining additional special category license plate provisions from the 77th legislative session.

We will provide more details on these releases and updates on RTS II development at upcoming tax assessor-collector conferences including November's V.G. Young Conference in College Station. All information will be shared with those who are not able to attend.

VTR CONTACT PERSON(S)

If you wish to discuss RTS II, please contact your local regional office manager. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Jerry L. Dike, Director
Vehicle Titles and
Registration Division

cc: Ms. Judy Skeen, P.E., Information Systems Division
Mr. Marshall Hinton, Information Systems Division
Mr. Randall Dillard, Public Information Office
District Engineers, Attn: PIOs
VTR Administration