



**Re-entry & Driver's
License Reinstatement**

Driver's license = mobility □ a vital foundation for future success

Driving privileges enhance employability, not only by making offenders eligible for jobs that require a valid driver's license, but by enhancing their ability to consistently attend work and successfully meet other obligations/appointments.

Re-establishing state identification is necessary for employment, housing, banking, health care, and a range of benefits and essential services.

“The best compliment and justification for continuing to grow these efforts is summed up by one of the women we assisted that day. She said, “This opportunity is one of the best things the prison has done in preparing us for release.””

DOT-Motor Vehicle Division Background/Partnership

- Participation in Life Skills courses with the Department of Corrections
 - Driving record consultation
- April, 2019, DOT2GO in Mitchellville
 - 100 women assisted; 25 issued a license or ID
- Second DOT2GO visit this Friday, November 22nd

Preliminary data shows:

- ~80% of offenders do not have a valid driver's license upon release
- Nearly all of these individuals will be required to pass the driver's knowledge exam and a driving test
- Over half of the offenders have at least one unpaid court fine causing a suspension of their driver's license
 - Some offenders may have just one unpaid court fine, others may have multiple (as many as 26 separate unpaid court fines) causing suspensions on their record.

Preliminary data shows:

- Approximately half of offenders have civil penalties owed to the DOT before they can reinstate their driver's license, ranging from \$200 - \$3,000+
- A third of offenders have other reinstatement requirements to meet
 - e.g. SR-22 insurance, ignition interlock device required, drinking driver school required, or substance abuse evaluations/treatment required.
- Other issues/complications examples
 - Identity fraud
 - Reinstatement issues in other states that would need to be resolved
 - Suspensions caused by a vehicle crash where offender did not have liability insurance
 - Record cleanup issues requiring DOT review

Based on preliminary analysis, approximately 85-90% of offenders would benefit from DOT consultation on driver's license reinstatement.

1. Giving offenders a second chance promotes social and economic stability and can reduce unnecessary recidivism.
2. Newly released offenders struggle to get and keep jobs, gain housing, and access essential services without identity and a plan for transportation/mobility.
3. Failing to navigate administrative requirements related to driver's license reinstatement should not be the reason an offender violates their parole or probation.
4. For offenders that can't get a driver's license, we need to make sure they know about public transit, rideshare, and other transportation options to get where they need to go and avoid violations and citations that could jeopardize their release.

Ideas/Recommendations to Consider

- DOT “mobility managers” specifically assigned to assist with re-entry and driver’s license reinstatement
 - Commitment to augment existing efforts over the next year
- Driver’s license/ID fee reductions/waivers
 - Potentially issue a 2-year license or ID at no charge
 - Potentially offer a 2-year “hold” of all suspensions caused by court fines and civil penalties preventing driver’s license reinstatement



Thank you!

