**REAL ID deadline looms for vehicles, travelers**

Relatively few people have made the switch to new required identification

**BYS MATT BISE**

The REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005 after being urged by the 9/11 Commission, now requires states to implement a system that includes a current unexpired South Carolina driver's license or identification card from state motor vehicle standards and prohibits some federal agencies from accepting driver’s licenses and identification cards from states not meeting minimum standards.

And like most things it is always better to get it sooner than later. Numbers from the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles show a tepid turn-out with just seven months to go until the deadline. As of Jan. 8, 2020, 29% of South Carolina residents hold REAL IDs. According to the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, if they renew their REAL ID, Charleston County has 45%, Dorchester County has 41% and Berkeley County has 29% with the new IDs. For those who wait until the last minute to switch to a REAL ID, there is a last minute rush at the DMV.

“There is a way for people to check and see if they can get it online which would save them going to a branch office,” said Roy. To get a REAL ID residents must show government-issued birth certificate or snapped ID Passport and proof of Social Security number. Two proofs of a current physical address are needed, which include a current unexpired South Carolina driver’s license or identification card and a, no more than 90 day, utility bill with the same name and address. Residents will also have to show proof of all legal name changes and for new REAL IDs, they will still have to have all the needed documentation to the SCDMV online.

And with the Oct. 1, 2020 REAL ID deadline 12 years away for the November election, there is some confusion about the Nov. 3 election and the Nov. 6 election. “REAL ID is not required voting at all. It’s not required. You still to have (voters) show photo ID requirements we’ve had since 2013,” said Adam Hammocks, Director of the Berkeley County Election Commission and Voter Registration. “We’re still a real ID or a regular South Carolina drivers license does not affect your ability to vote or your voting rights or anything like that.”

**A parkway in park**

Flooding, loss of wetland tops concerns at BGM parkway hearing

BY JOY BONALA

While there is a lot of public support for the third and final phase of the Berlin G. Myers Parkway, there is also plenty of concern. Community members voiced their concerns about the project during a public hearing Thursday evening at the Ridgeline Ed- wards Community Center at the Armory. Formerly along the proposed roadway were given access to a geographic information system that showed how the parkway extension will affect their property, specifically.

“Floodling is a big concern and we’ve worked re- ally hard over the last 10 years to create a hydro- logical model with the Army Corps of Engineers,” said Joy Riley, project manager for the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

“Having that model with the community was the purpose and intent of the public hearing. The model shows how flood risk management time- wise once the proposed roadway is built.”

The project design includes the construction of new levee protection and reconstruction efforts. The project’s purpose and intent of the public hearing. The model shows how flood risk management time-wise once the proposed roadway is built.

The model shows how flood risk management time-wise once the proposed roadway is built.

Ben Hough, along with his daughters, Grace and Abigail, speak out during a public hearing on the final phase of the Berlin G. Myers Parkway at the Ridgeline Edwards Community Center at the Armory. Residents who have fought this roadway for decades. “My concerns remain that phase three of the Berlin G. Myers parkway will increase flooding, do little to ease traffic congestion, effec- tively alter the wetlands, and decrease the quali- ty of life for the community that live in the vicin- ity of this expansion,” Hough said.

Hough said the town should “turn its attention away from building new highways and toward other alternatives of transportation such as mass transportation along Daushow Road corridor.”

“Focusing on improving transportation is really a major point of how we can reduce flooding and development in ridgewater and danville,” said a realism. “Transportation is really a major point of how we can reduce flooding and development in ridgewater and danville.”

The newly designed roadway extension will increase the flow of traffic from the trail, which will be rerouted during the project. Other residents who spoke in favor of the project. Larry Crossley, who lives in the Indian Springs Tea Farm resident Juan Odenwood said he walks away from building new highways and toward other alternatives of transportation such as mass transportation along Daushow Road corridor. “Flooding, loss of wetlands top concerns at BGM parkway hearing.”

Other residents spoke out in favor of the project. Larry Crossley, who lives in the Indian Springs Tea Farm resident Juan Odenwood said he walks away from building new highways and toward other alternatives of transportation such as mass transportation along Daushow Road corridor. “Flooding, loss of wetlands top concerns at BGM parkway hearing.”

“Acting like sponges, (wetlands) help reduce flooding and drain runoff from surfaces like roofs and driveways,” Grace said. “Wetlands are critical to animal and plant species because they host a greater biodiversity of flora and fauna than other types of habitats.”

She encouraged those in attendance at the public hearing to learn about local watersheds and to protect the 90 acres of wetlands to be affected by the proposed roadway. A coastal resident man-Odouma and he walks on the Summerville Trail every morning and afternoon. “I think of this area as the ‘heart and soul of Sum- merville.”

Odouma said he has learned about the history and uses ac- cording to the Corps’ decision on issuing the necessary for- mosa gis. “There is a lot of public support for the project,” said Riley. “There is a lot of public support for the project.”

He encouraged those in attendance at the public hearing to learn about local watersheds and to protect the 90 acres of wetlands to be affected by the proposed roadway.

“Acting like sponges, (wetlands) help reduce flooding and drain runoff from surfaces like roofs and driveways,” Grace said. “Wetlands are critical to animal and plant species because they host a greater biodiversity of flora and fauna than other types of habitats.”

Asa said she recently learned that wetlands play a vital role in flood and erosion control. “Acting like sponges, (wetlands) help reduce flooding and drain runoff from surfaces like roofs and driveways,” Grace said. “Wetlands are critical to animal and plant species because they host a greater biodiversity of flora and fauna than other types of habitats.”

She encouraged those in attendance at the public hearing to learn about local watersheds and to protect the 90 acres of wetlands to be affected by the proposed roadway.

“Acting like sponges, (wetlands) help reduce flooding and drain runoff from surfaces like roofs and driveways,” Grace said. “Wetlands are critical to animal and plant species because they host a greater biodiversity of flora and fauna than other types of habitats.”

A coastal resident man-Odouma and he walks on the Summerville Trail every morning and afternoon. “I think of this area as the ‘heart and soul of Sum- merville.”

Odouma said he has learned about the history and uses ac- cording to the Corps’ decision on issuing the necessary for- mosa gis. “There is a lot of public support for the project,” said Riley. “There is a lot of public support for the project.”

“Acting like sponges, (wetlands) help reduce flooding and drain runoff from surfaces like roofs and driveways,” Grace said. “Wetlands are critical to animal and plant species because they host a greater biodiversity of flora and fauna than other types of habitats.”

She encouraged those in attendance at the public hearing to learn about local watersheds and to protect the 90 acres of wetlands to be affected by the proposed roadway.

“Acting like sponges, (wetlands) help reduce flooding and drain runoff from surfaces like roofs and driveways,” Grace said. “Wetlands are critical to animal and plant species because they host a greater biodiversity of flora and fauna than other types of habitats.”

Asa said she recently learned that wetlands play a vital role in flood and erosion control. “Acting like sponges, (wetlands) help reduce flooding and drain runoff from surfaces like roofs and driveways,” Grace said. “Wetlands are critical to animal and plant species because they host a greater biodiversity of flora and fauna than other types of habitats.”

She encouraged those in attendance at the public hearing to learn about local watersheds and to protect the 90 acres of wetlands to be affected by the proposed roadway.