FACT SHEET

REAL ID READY | TALKING POINTS

General talking points that can be used during speaking engagements, to inform staff and stakeholders, and when talking with media or elected officials.

IF YOU DON’T HAVE THE STAR, YOU WON’T GO FAR

Starting October 1, 2021, every American adult traveling by air will need a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license, an enhanced driver’s license or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the U.S.

- REAL ID driver’s license are generally marked with a star in the upper corner of the card.
- An enhanced driver’s license is offered in MI, MN, NY, VT and WA and is generally marked with a U.S. flag.
- Other forms of acceptable ID include: United States passport or passport card, U.S. military ID, DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST). For a full list visit: tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification

This requires many Americans to update their current driver’s license before October 1, 2021.

- An estimated 83 million Americans (34%) currently do not have any form of ID that would be accepted on October 1, 2021.
- Many Americans (39%) are unaware that the October 1, 2021 enforcement deadline will require a REAL ID to travel by air.

It is critical that all adult Americans confirm they have a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or another acceptable form of identification before October 1, 2021 to minimize disruption at airports.

- If REAL ID enforcement were implemented today, an estimated 67,400 travelers could be turned away on the first day, resulting in $34.9 million (excluding airfares) in lost travel spending on the first day.
- If this daily impact lasted a week, an estimated 471,800 air travelers could be turned away in the first week, costing travel businesses nearly $244 million in lost spending.

HOW TRAVELERS CAN PREPARE

U.S. residents are encouraged to check with their state’s DMV to ensure their ID is REAL ID-compliant.

Each state requires several forms of identification and cost varies. This information is available on state DMV websites.

For more information, visit the Transportation Security Administration or U.S. Department of Homeland Security REAL ID websites (tsa.gov/real-id and dhs.gov/real-id).