Metropolitan Transit Authority

Harris County



Texas Department of Transportation

City of Houston

Greater Houston Transportation and Emergency Management Center

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELASE May 10, 2002

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## HOUSTON TRANSTAR SHINES AT THE INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA'S 2002 ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION IN LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

"The partnership featured its award winning freeway traffic management web site at the industry meeting"

(Houston, Texas) ----- Houston TranStar, the transportation and emergency management center for the greater Houston region, enjoyed a high profile presence at the internationally recognized Intelligent Transportation Society of America 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Exposition held April 29-May 2, 2002 in Long Beach, California.

During the Intelligent Transportation Society of America 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Exposition in which over 3500 attendees from all over the country participated, Houston TranStar featured its United States Department of Transportation-Federal Highway Administration award winning freeway traffic management web site (http://traffic.tamu.edu).

The freeway traffic management web site sponsored by Houston TranStar valued partner agency, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in cooperation with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), features snap shots of Houston area freeways, real-time travel information, text reports, speed charts, historical data, route builder, emergency road and construction closures. In 2001 over one million people used the web site equating to over 48,000,000 web hits.

Houston TranStar's freeway traffic management web site is one component of a larger web server system maintained by the Houston TranStar partner agencies. The entrance to this web server system is found at <u>www.houstontranstar.org</u>. This web site creates one central resource for regional transportation and emergency management information.

According to John R. Whaley, P.E., Director of Houston TranStar, "The Houston TranStar consortium had the goal of continuing to raise our profile at this major industry event. For the second straight year, I am confident we achieved that objective.

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With our web site being recognized by such a respected government agency, the partnership remaining on the front end of this exciting technology, and the recognition we received from the leadership of ITSA, Houston TranStar continues to stay at the leading edge of the ITS industry efforts.

Long considered a premier event, the Intelligent Transportation Society of America Annual Meeting is the largest Intelligent Transportation System related meeting in the world, and has been deemed by national and international industry leaders to be the single most important event of the year.

For more information on Houston TranStar's participation in the 2002 ITS Annual Meeting and Exposition, please contact Artee T. Jones at 713-881-3244 or email: <u>ajones3@houstontranstar.org</u>. For more information on Houston TranStar, please visit the web at <u>www.houstontranstar.org</u>.

-30-

Houston TranStar is a partnership between the City of Houston, Harris County, the Metropolitan Transit Authority and the State of Texas. Together this partnership is responsible for coordinating the planning, design and operations of transportation and emergency management functions in the greater Houston region.

The Intelligent Transportation Society of America's mission is to foster public/private partnerships to increase the safety and efficiency of surface transportation through the application of advanced technologies. For more information on the Intelligent Transportation Society of America, please visit the web at <u>www.itsa.org</u>.