

Metropolitan Transit Authority

Harris County



Texas Department of Transportation

City of Houston

Greater Houston Transportation and Emergency Management Center

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**HOUSTON TRANSTAR WINS TRANSPORTATION  
AWARD FOR PIONEERING MOBILE ACCESS TO REAL-  
TIME TRAFFIC INFORMATION**

“Award Presented by the Nationally Recognized and Respected Intelligent Transportation Society of Texas”

(Houston, Texas) ----- On November 22, 2002, Andy Ballard, President of the Intelligent Transportation Society of Texas presented Houston TranStar with an award for pioneering 'Mobile Access to Real-Time Traffic Information' at the organization's Board of Directors and Membership Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Houston TranStar's mobile traffic information system allows travelers the opportunity to get accurate and up-to-date traffic information when they do not have access to their home or office computers.

The personalized e-mail alert system notifies users about incidents and travel times on Houston area freeways and can be sent to any e-mail address or device capable of receiving e-mail or text messages including personal computers, cellular phones, personal digital assistants (PDA's), and text pagers.

The e-mail alert system notifies users about freeway incidents and travel times several minutes before traditional radio traffic reports broadcast the information, thus allowing travelers the opportunity to make the right traveling decisions beforehand.

The mobile traffic information system is available to everyone at no charge and can be accessed by visiting Houston TranStar's web site located at [www.houstontranstar.org](http://www.houstontranstar.org) under the traffic information tab.

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The mobile traffic information system is made possible by Houston TranStar's valued partner agency, the Texas Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).

Jack Whaley, Director of Houston TranStar states, "The Houston TranStar partnership is excited about being recognized as a pioneer by such a respected transportation organization. With Houston TranStar serving as a model for other TMC's nationally and internationally, it is incumbent upon us to be a leader in the transportation industry and more importantly to provide an unprecedented level of service to the citizens of the Greater Houston region".

For more information on Houston TranStar's mobile traffic information system, please contact Artee T. Jones, Executive Public Information Officer at 713-881-3244 or e-mail: [ajones3@houstontranstar.org](mailto:ajones3@houstontranstar.org).

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Houston TranStar is a partnership formed by the Transportation and Emergency Management agencies in the greater Houston region. The partnership is comprised of the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO and the State of Texas Department of Transportation. For more information about Houston TranStar, please visit the web site located at [www.houstontranstar.org](http://www.houstontranstar.org).

Established in 1992, The Intelligent Transportation Society of Texas promotes and enhances public safety and welfare by fostering research, development and implementation of plan programs to reduce motor vehicle deaths and injuries, improve mobility, promote, encourage and advance a system of safer, more economical, efficient and environmentally sound highway transportation and other surface transportation through research, development and implementation of advance technology. ITS Texas is the second oldest chapter of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America.