Texas Department of Transportation

City of Houston

Greater Houston Transportation and Emergency Management Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 4, 2004

Contact: Artee T. Jones – Executive Public Information Officer

713-881-3244 or email:ajones3@houstontranstar.org

HOUSTON TRANSTAR'S NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AND AWARD WINNING WEBSITE NOW INCLUDES EVEN MORE FEATURES AND INFORMATION FOR MOTORISTS IN THE HOUSTON REGION

"New features and information allows motorists the ability to possibly avoid traffic congestion"

(Houston, Texas) ----- Today, the Texas Department of Transportation-Houston District, a valued Houston TranStar partner agency, formally unveiled on our nationally recognized and award—winning website, a new and improved multi-modal travel speed map designed to provide motorists in the greater Houston region with even more travel related information.

The new travel speed map allows motorists in a very user-friendly fashion the opportunity to view freeway incidents, construction lane closures, messages on the dynamic messages signs, freeway cameras, wait times for the Galveston – Port Bolivar Ferry system, airport information and a whole lot more.

In addition to these new features, the travel speed map has zoom capabilities for certain quadrants of the greater Houston region and allows motorists the ability to access this information via portable internet capable devices such as personal digital assistants (PDA's), mobile phones and pagers, as well as desktop computers, whenever and wherever they need it.

The website located at www.houstontranstar.org, was selected by the United States Department of Transportation- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as one of top three best internet destinations providing travelers with real-time information in the nation. The website award is based on user friendliness, comprehensiveness of information and real-time reporting capabilities. Houston TranStar is the only transportation management center in the nation to have won this nationally recognized award (2001, 2002 and 2004) three of the past four years.

-more-

2-2-2-2

Jack Whaley, Director of Houston TranStar states, "The members of the Houston TranStar partnership are excited about these new features on the website and the valuable information being provided for motorists throughout the greater Houston region. Our goal with this site has always been to provide the most up-to-date and accurate information to travelers in a very user-friendly fashion and with these new features, I believe we have accomplished that goal."

To view the new and improved travel speed map, please visit our award-winning website located at www.houstontranstar.org. For a demonstration of how this new travel speed map works, please contact Artee T. Jones, Executive Public Information Officer for Houston TranStar at 713-881-3244 or email: ajones3@houstontranstar.org.