

Metropolitan Transit Authority

Harris County



Texas Department of Transportation

City of Houston

Greater Houston Transportation and Emergency Management Center

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**HOUSTON TRANSTAR WINS NATIONAL HONORS
FOR THE REGIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
AT THE 2005 INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SOCIETY
OF AMERICA’S ANNUAL MEETING IN PHOENIX**

“The system is designed to integrate transportation management functions with emergency operations”

(Phoenix, Arizona) ---- On Tuesday, May 2, 2005, Houston TranStar, the Transportation and Emergency Management Center for the greater Houston region, was announced as the winner of the 2005 “Best of ITS” Partnership Deployment (Public Sector) Award for its development and deployment of the Regional Incident Management System or R.I.M.S.

Developed by the Texas Department of Transportation-Houston District, R.I.M.S is the first secure web-based data management system of its kind that integrates day to day traffic management functions with emergency management operations.

The system allows information and communications to be combined into one system that is available to all transportation managers and first responders tracking events that affect both transportation and emergency management functions.

Serving a six (6) county region, this web-based system can be accessed through a secure Internet site allowing field personnel with wireless connection to the Internet to input and monitor the operations taking place during an incident.

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According to Jack Whaley, P.E., Director of Houston TranStar, “We are excited to have received this award from an organization we consider to be the foremost authority on intelligent transportation related initiatives. To be awarded this honor after being reviewed by such an impressive and distinguished blue-ribbon panel of experts further convinces the Houston TranStar partnership that we are on the right path.”

Put to the test on the international stage when the City of Houston hosted the National Football League’s Super Bowl in 2004, R.I.M.S was credited as one of the reasons Super Bowl XXXVIII was a non-event as far as security and traffic issues were concerned.

During this very high-profile sporting event, the Harris County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, City of Houston Office of Emergency Management, State of Texas Division of Emergency Management, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas Department of Public Safety, Federal Bureau of Investigations, United States Coast Guard and local law enforcement agencies all used the R.I.M.S system to communicate and coordinate the activities associated with transporting, managing and protecting the over one (1) million people who visited Houston for Super Bowl XXXVIII and other related events over the two week period.

For more information on the R.I.M.S web-based system, please contact Artee T. Jones, Executive Public Information Officer for the Houston TranStar partnership at 713-881-3244 or email: ajones3@houstontranstar.org.

For more information on the Houston TranStar partnership, please visit our award-winning website located at www.houstontranstar.org.