

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 TO HOST REGIONAL HURRICANE TRAFFIC  
OPERATIONS WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY  
ADMINISTRATION AT THE STATE OF THE ART TRANSPORTATION AND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CENTER**

“The purpose of the workshop is to share updates on transportation plans, ITS deployment and institutional arrangements associated with transportation operations during hurricanes”

(Houston, Texas) ----- Today, John R. Whaley, III, Director of Houston TranStar, announced that the Houston TranStar partnership will serve as host for a Regional Hurricane Traffic Operations Workshop sponsored by the (FHWA) Federal Highway Administration on February 27 & 28, 2002 at the state of the art transportation and emergency management center.

Houston TranStar is located at 6922 Old Katy Road and the workshops will take place on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00p.m. and on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30a.m.

The (FHWA) Federal Highway Administration is sponsoring a series of workshops in the southeastern United States that bring emergency managers, traffic managers, ITS specialists and law enforcement officials together to discuss issues pertaining to traffic operations during emergency evacuations.

According to John R. Whaley, III, Director of Houston TranStar, “We are pleased that FHWA chose Houston TranStar to host this workshop. Since both the City of Houston and the Harris County Offices of Emergency Management are housed at the center, our facility has become the center of this kind of coordinated activity. We are very interested in programs like this that help staff members in our region discover new methods to ensure the continued safety of all citizens in the region during emergency situations.

Participants in the workshop include Shelly Row, P.E. – Director, Office of Transportation Operations Federal Highway Administration, Brandy Hicks – Office of Transportation Operations Federal Highway Administration and Christy Palin with PBS&J and a sponsor of the workshop.

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The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Share updates on transportation plans, ITS deployments and institutional arrangements
- Brainstorm and share simple solutions for improving traffic flow across state and jurisdictional boundaries
- Work with FHWA representatives on how to fund and plan for ITS projects applicable to transportation operations during hurricanes
- And, develop next steps for improving transportation operations during evacuations

For more information on the Regional Hurricane Traffic Operations Workshop sponsored by the (FHWA) Federal Highway Administration, please contact Artee T. Jones, Executive Public Information Officer for Houston TranStar at 713-881-3244/email: [ajones3@houstontranstar.org](mailto:ajones3@houstontranstar.org) or contact Timothy Luttrell at [timothy.b.luttrell@saic.com](mailto:timothy.b.luttrell@saic.com)

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**Houston TranStar is comprised of the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO and the Texas Department of Transportation and is responsible for the coordination of the planning, design and operations of Transportation and Emergency Management function for the greater Houston region. For more information on Houston TranStar, please visit the web site at [www.houstontranstar.org](http://www.houstontranstar.org).**