



Greater Houston Transportation and Emergency Management Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HOUSTON TRANSTAR IMPLEMENTS TRANSPORTATION
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN TO ADDRESS
WINTER STORM WATCH
EXPECTED TO HIT HOUSTON TONIGHT**

(Houston, Texas) --- Today, Houston TranStar announced its transportation and emergency management plan to address the “Winter Storm Watch” that is expected to hit the greater metropolitan area later tonight.

The National Weather Service-Houston/Galveston has issued a “Winter Storm Watch” for most of the greater metropolitan area for tonight and early Wednesday. According the National Weather Service, temperatures are expected to hold in the 27 to 32 degree range tonight and Wednesday morning with a glaze of ice likely to form on roadways, trees and power lines in the area between midnight and 4:00a.m. Ice accumulations of around 1/10 inch is expected and freezing rain possible for Wednesday morning commute time making driving condition hazardous.

To limit the potential of this Winter Storm Watch crippling the greater metropolitan area, Houston TranStar has developed and implemented a plan to improve driving conditions and make vital weather information readily available.

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Houston TranStar partner agencies have begun the following activities in preparation of the forecast icing conditions:

- The Texas Department of Transportation began applying chemical de-icer on freeways this morning after rush hour
- The City of Houston has loaded sand trucks in preparation for freezing on surface streets
- Harris County serves as the nerve center for information ensuring that the data is available via website. This data will be disseminated to Law Enforcement Officials, Community Organizations, Fire Officials and the General public relative to weather conditions and school closings.
- METRO is monitoring the HOV lanes and will close these lanes if they freeze

Houston TranStar partner agencies are asking all motorists to please be aware of these ongoing operations. Information on driving and weather conditions statewide can be easily found on the Texas Department of Transportation website at www.dot.state.tx.us or by calling 1-800-452-9292. For local information on weather conditions, school closings and road closures, please visit the Harris County Office of Emergency Management website at www.hcoem.org.

According to Jack Whaley, Director of Houston TranStar, “The plan is designed to improve driving conditions and make weather condition information readily available. The beauty of these government agencies working together is we employ the vast resources and the proven expertise of each agency all to the benefit of the public at large”.

Houston TranStar is the regional transportation management and emergency management center for the greater Houston metropolitan area. The consortium partnership combines the resources and the expertise of the Texas Department of Transportation, The City of Houston, Harris County and the Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

For more information on Houston TranStar’s plan for the Winter Storm Watch, please contact Artee T. Jones, Executive Public Information Officer at 713-881-3244.