

# 2021 HOUSTON TRANSTAR ANNUAL REPORT



# 2021 Activity Highlights

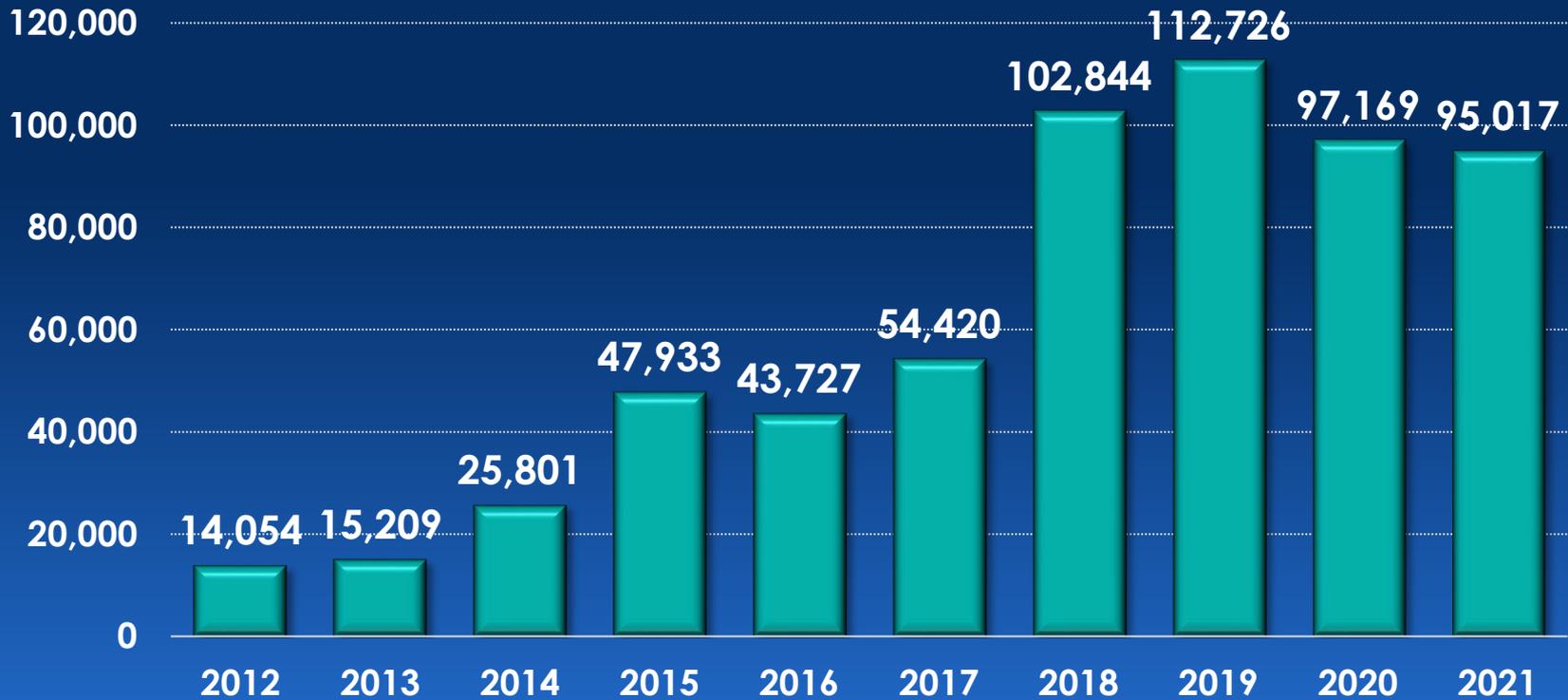
## Traffic returning to pre-pandemic levels – but not quite there yet

- **Houston TranStar** - Celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- **HCOHSEM** - Activation for Winter Storm Uri and Hurricane Nicholas
- **COH Traffic**
  - Continued LTE/5G communication upgrades
  - Finalizing integration of Advanced Traffic Management System
- **TxDOT**
  - Expanded coverage on SH 249 in Montgomery County
  - Established communication to 1,000 signals throughout the district
- **Harris County Traffic** - Began wireless connectivity to non-connected traffic signals
- **METRO** – Winter Storm EOC Activation/Transported Citizens to warming shelter

# RIMS Incidents

- Incidents **Down** 2.2% from 2020 (**Down** 15.7% from 2019)
- Include crashes, Tow-and-Go, MAP, HCTRA events, debris, etc.

## RIMS Entered Incidents, 2012-2021



# Crash/Accident Clearance

- 15,566 Crashes/Accidents in 2021 (**Up** 7.5% from 2020)
- Avg. Clearance Time in 2021 – 27.4 minutes (29.0 minutes in 2020)



# Motorist Assistance Program

- HCSO MAP – 26,991 total assists in 2021 (27,411 in 2020)
- Expansion of program to 24 hours a day, Monday-Friday

## MAP Program Assists by Year



# Tow and Go (SAFEClear)

- 31,884 free-tow assists in 2021 (**Up** 3.0% from 2020/**Down** 2.1% from 2019)
- Average 17.3-minute clearance time – **Up** 4.8% from 2020

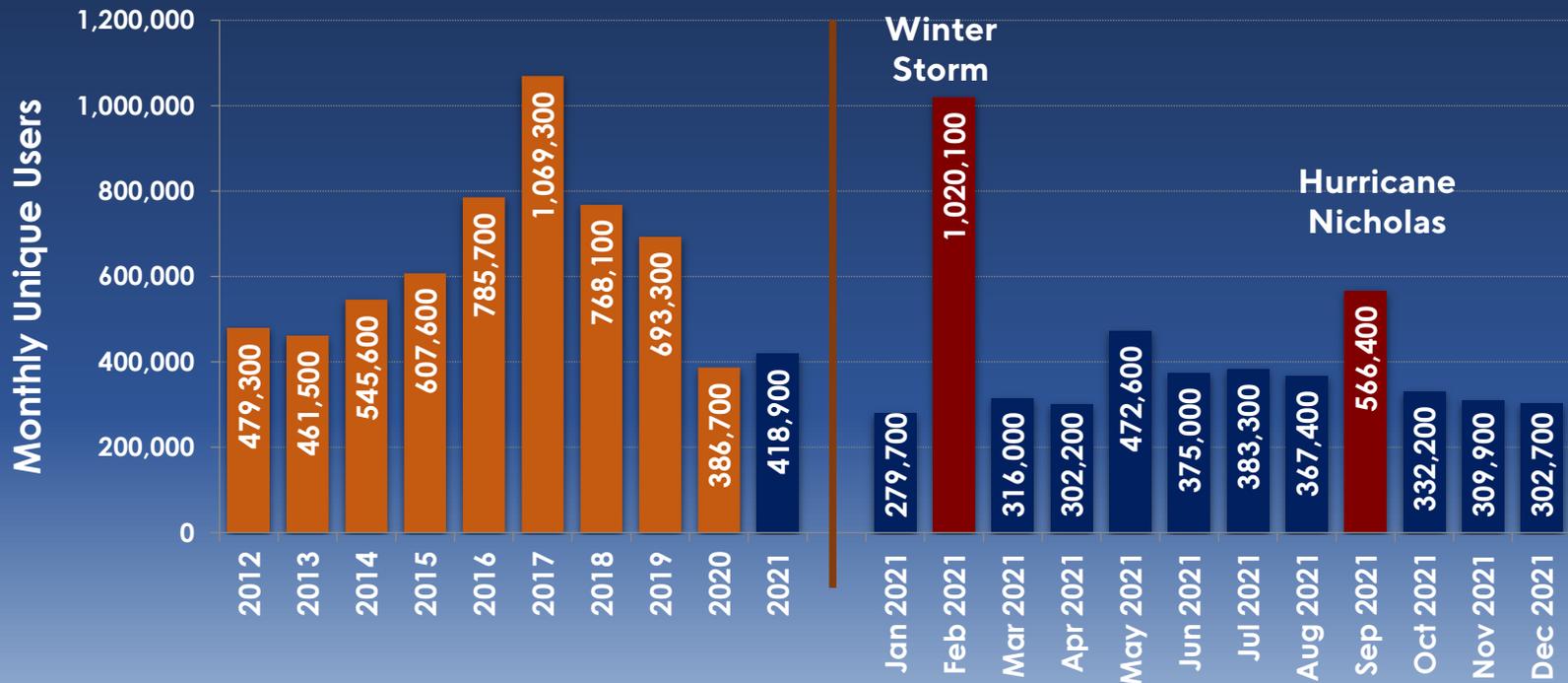
Tow-and-Go/SAFEClear Assists, 2012-2021



# Houston TranStar Website

- 418,900 avg. monthly unique users; **Up** 8.3% from 2020; **Down** 40% from 2019
- 294 million CCTV views (**Up** 87% from 2020/**Down** 5.2% from 2019)
- 23,831 WebApp Installs in 2021 (**Up** 3.1% from 2020/**Down** 56.0% from 2019)

## TRANSTAR WEBSITE UNIQUE USERS - 2012-2021



# Estimated TranStar Benefits

**\$354.4 million in user cost & fuel savings**

11.4 million vehicle-hours of delay reduced

21.3 million gallons of fuel saved

**\$25.4 million annualized cost**

**2021 B/C ratio = 13.9 (2020 = 8.2)**

**TranStar Lifetime Benefit = \$7.6 billion**

Houston TranStar Benefit/Cost Ratios 2012-2021



## Key Factors for Increase

- Pandemic Recovery - more traffic delay (but less due to TranStar)
- Slower speeds – more fuel burned (less due to TranStar's impacts)
- Increase in price of fuel (Average of \$2.71 in 2021 vs \$1.92 in 2020)

# Future Assessment of Benefits

Looking at the future of analyzing TranStar's Benefits

- Looking at how to better monetize incident-related delay
- Can we better connect real-time traffic with real-time TranStar activity?
- Continuing work on detecting incidents sooner and identifying post-incident congestion

## 2022 HOUSTON TRANSTAR STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Draft v1.0, April 14, 2022

### Background and Process

Houston TranStar serves the Greater Houston Region as a robust platform for transportation and emergency management services. Houston TranStar is a long-standing partnership of four public agencies in the Harris County and Greater Southeast Texas region, including:

- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
- Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)
- Harris County
- City of Houston.

Houston TranStar has evolved over its first two decades in operation from primarily a transportation management focused entity to one that now also has a critical role in emergency management and response. Its strength is the use of the combined resources of the four agencies to leverage their human and physical capital towards coordinated and innovative transportation and emergency management services to the region.

The development of this plan included a series of meetings with a steering committee comprising representatives of each of the partner agencies and interviews with Houston TranStar Executive Committee members. The steering committee was charged with identifying short- and long-term physical and operational needs for the center, opportunities for continued and new innovation initiatives, and review of the current institutional structure of the organization.

### Mission, Vision, and Goals

In 2019, representatives from each of the partner agencies were brought together to review the Houston TranStar mission and vision statements and formulate revisions to reflect the current and future nature of the partnership. The 2022 Strategic Plan Steering Committee affirmed the mission and vision statements and supported the Goals without modification. The 2019 Houston TranStar Mission, Vision and Goals were the foundation for this 2022 Strategic Plan.

<b>Incident: IH-45 GULF Northbound At IH-610 SOUTH LOOP (Left Shoulder/Left Lane/Center Lane,Accident)</b>			<a href="#">Map</a>   #1109306
Entered at 8/1/2022 6:31:52 AM	Cleared at 8/1/2022 6:44:00 AM	Incident Duration: 13 min	
Primary Segment Impacted: Monroe-IH-610 South Loop	Return to Normal Time at 8/1/2022 8:11:12 AM	Congestion Duration: 100 min	
Secondary Segment Impacted: Edgebrook-Monroe	Return to Normal Time at 8/1/2022 7:50:12 AM	Congestion Duration: 73 min	

What constitutes the benefits of the Partnership?

- Incident Management, Website Info, DMS, Radio/TV Broadcasts
- What about the other operations inside TranStar?
- Strategic Plan as a guide for future benefits?

# THANK YOU

**Jeff Kaufman, AICP**  
Associate Research Scientist  
[j-kaufman@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:j-kaufman@tti.tamu.edu)

713-613-9209