

MEDIA RELEASE
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**TranStar's Roadway Flood Warning System Wins
Emergency Management, Public Works Awards**

New technology available to motorists and first responders when next storm hits

Houston TranStar, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) and the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) claimed two awards in the last two weeks for the development of an innovative, real-time flood warning project completed in 2018.

TranStar won the Texas Public Works Association's *Technical Innovation Award* and along with HCFCD also received a *Technology Award* at the Emergency Management Association of Texas' Symposium after receiving a nomination from the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM).

"The Roadway Flood Warning System, available on TranStar's website, enhances traveler safety in southeast Texas," said Dinah Massie, Executive Director for Houston TranStar. **"We're grateful to both associations, and to our partners, for helping spread the word about this potentially life-saving tool."**

TranStar and TTI worked with HCFCD to overlay rainfall sensor data on TranStar's real-time traffic map. This information, paired with TranStar's roadway data, helps predict which areas are at risk for localized street flooding, aiding both residents and first responders.

"Emergency personnel now have a reliable tool to use in determining the best routes to serve the community during heavy rain events," said Francisco Sánchez, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the HCOHSEM. **"Preparedness is everyone's job, and we encourage residents and first responders to familiarize themselves with this technology in advance of the 2019 hurricane season."**

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For roadway conditions and more information about how to *Travel Smart with TranStar*, visit www.HoustonTranstar.org.

Houston TranStar is a unique partnership of representatives from the City of Houston, Harris County, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) who share resources and exchange information under one roof to provide transportation management and emergency management to help keep motorists informed, roadways clear and lives safe in the fourth most populated city in the United States.