

REGIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Background

H-GAC currently funds the following regional incident management activities:

- Quick Clearance Towing Program within the City Limits of Houston
- Harris County Sheriff's Office's (HCSO) Motorist Assistance Program (MAP)
- and the HCSO's Incident Management Unit (IMU)

These activities operate out of Houston TranStar (The Regional Transportation Management Center). The Quick Clearance towing program is a "No Cost" towing program to remove motorists who are stranded on the side of the freeway to a safe location off-system within the City Limits of Houston. The IMU authorizes these "No Cost" tows using the TxDOT Freeway CCTV cameras at Houston TranStar. MAP is a Freeway Assistance Service Patrol which patrols all freeways in Harris County.

Current Situation

The Quick Clearance Towing Program has been branded as Gulf Coast Regional Tow and Go™. A media release about the program was done on July 9, 2018 by the Public Outreach Contractor Newman and Newman, Inc. The TowAndGo.com website was also released on that date. An advertising campaign started on July 16, 2018 and will run through the end of August. This campaign includes billboards, radio spots, television commercials, newspaper ads and social media.

The "No Cost" towing program has been active on CCTV camera coverage freeways in the City of Houston, since May 1, 2018. The program has average about 2,400 "No Cost" Tows per month, since it started.

H-GAC is also working with the Harris County Sherriff office to expand the program onto the CCTV camera coverage freeways in Harris County outside of the City of Houston.

Action Requested

Information Only.