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It's Only a White Line Campaign Prioritizes Life-Saving Acts

When a traveler is stopped on a busy freeway, the risk of being injured or killed in a secondary crash increases by the minute. Whether a motorist has a vehicle breakdown or a fender bender, Houston TranStar's *It's Only a White Line*

program urges stranded motorists and pedestrians to get off the freeway as quickly as possible.

"The Texas Steer It, Clear It law requires that following a crash, if no one is injured and your vehicle can be driven, you must clear it off the freeway," said Dinah Massie, Executive Director of Houston TranStar. "If it's not drivable, there's help for that."

The *Tow and Go™* quick clearance program provides no-cost towing up to one mile for vehicles that break down from mechanical issues on the freeway. Launched in 2018, the program's coverage area now includes Harris County, Bellaire, Jersey Village, La Porte and Humble.

Some motorists wrongly believe that moving out of harm's way after a crash will cause them to lose insurance coverage. *It's Only a White Line* works to clear up this error about freeway incidents and towing.

"Your insurance carrier is first and foremost concerned with your safety," said David Wuthrich, Executive Director of the Independent Insurance Agents of Houston and member of the *It's Only a White Line* Leadership Council. "In the past, documenting a crash for insurance meant waiting for law enforcement at the scene, but getting out of danger is the first step. Taking pictures of the crash from within the safety of your vehicle, including photos of the other vehicle's license plate, is the next important step. But getting off the freeway is the name of the game."

"A car can be replaced," adds Massie. "A life cannot."

Learn how to *Travel Smart with TranStar*, including information on *It's Only a White Line* at **HoustonTranstar.org**. Download TranStar's **Mobile App** at the Google Play or Apple App store for quick access to travel times, roadway conditions and *Tow and Go™* service.

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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.