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RIBBON-CUTTING

Texas Department of Transportation and the Harris County Toll Road Authority Open New Ramps

Houston, Texas (March 2, 2005) The North Houston Association (NHA) is pleased to announce the ribbon-cutting for the opening of new direct connecting ramps between the Sam Houston Tollway and Texas 249. NHA played an initial role by asking the Harris County Toll Road Authority along with TxDOT to consider providing funding for this project. The NHA and the NHA Transportation Committee were involved in getting HCTRA and TxDOT to the table with funding.

Who, What, When, Where

- **State Senator Jon Lindsay**, President of the North Houston Association, TxDOT District Engineer **Gary K. Trietsch**, P.E., Harris County officials and Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) Executive Director **Art Storey**, P.E., and Director **Mike Streck**, P.E.
- will cut the ribbon opening to the public and removing the last barriers to the third and final ramp constructed as part of a project connecting Texas 249 and the Sam Houston Tollway North
- at 2:00 P.M., Friday, March 4, 2005,
- on the westbound Sam Houston Tollway direct connector ramp to Texas 249.

The \$27.3 million project constructed three single-lane direct connecting ramps between the Sam Houston Tollway and Texas 249. The Texas Department of Transportation opened the first direct connecting ramp from Beltway 8-North (Sam Houston Tollway) eastbound to Texas 249 northbound on Saturday, February 12, 2005. The two ramps to open Friday will include the westbound Sam Houston Tollway to Texas 249 northbound and the Texas 249 southbound to Sam Houston Tollway eastbound. Opening of all three new ramps enables motorists with a Harris County Toll

Road Authority E-Z Tag traveling to/from the Tomball/Willowbrook Mall area to directly access the Sam Houston Tollway.

Guests are directed to use the westbound toll lanes of the Sam Houston Tollway and exit the new ramp to Texas 249. Continue in the right (outside) lane to the barricade. An officer will allow you to proceed to the ceremony site.

Also celebrating the completion of the new ramps will be Paula Lenz, Executive Director of the North Houston Association, along with representatives of the Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce, the Northwest Chamber of Commerce and Williams Brothers Construction Company of Houston.

The North Houston Association is a non-profit organization that identifies, advocates and supports projects and initiatives which advance the business environment and improve the quality of life in North Harris and Montgomery counties.

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