

TXDOT HOUSTON'S CONNECTSMART

"Connecting You with Texas"



ConnectSmart Launch a Regional Success

On Friday, September 16, 2022, TxDOT's Houston District (TxDOT HOU) launched the ConnectSmart platform in an event that drew 200 members of Houston's regional transportation policy and planning community and the media to the Ion, Houston's Center for Innovation.

The launch was the culmination of the platform technology development and a six-month long planning effort. The event served as a galvanizing effort bringing together transportation officials that serve the mobility needs of the region.

Check out the launch event recap video:



The ConnectSmart launch team and the Young Women's College Preparatory Academy (YWCPA) students who volunteered in the "demonstration zone" where event participants downloaded the app to learn how it works.



Opening remarks by Eliza Paul, P.E., TxDOT HOU Engineer

What is ConnectSmart?

ConnectSmart is an advanced technology platform with a built-in intermodal mobile app aiming to increase safety and reduce congestion on Houston-area roadways, improve air quality, and create a more accessible and equitable transportation system.

The platform links the region's Transportation Systems Management and Operation and Active Demand Management with intermodal travel options to optimize available capacity while managing the region's demand.



ConnectSmart Pillars and Features (through March 2023)

ConnectSmart addresses regional goals and challenges (pillars) through a variety of features designed to decrease traffic and improve access to mobility options throughout the Houston region. New features are continually being added to the platform as we collaborate with our regional partner agencies.

	Pillars	Features
	Connecting Houston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multimodal trip planning and navigation - Transit ticketing and payment - Private and employer-based carpools - B-Cycle stations and bike availability
	System Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vanpool (app) - Instant carpooling - Real-time transit timetable - Enhanced point of interest search function
	Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multimodal dynamic navigation - Traffic cameras - Dynamic message signs (DMS) - Real-time parking availability and pricing
	User Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bike comfort routing - Regional Tow and Go™ roadside assistance - Low clearance structure trip warnings - School zone warnings and speed alerts - Pre-trip flood warning alerts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional travel demand (TDM) program - Travel and marketing campaigns - Partner, public, and employer events - Gamification - Mobile app public launch event - #EndTheStreakTX press briefing - Spanish and Vietnamese app translation

Regional Partners:



By the Numbers (as of March 2023)

ConnectSmart informs regional users about traffic conditions, travel modes and alternative routes for their daily travels resulting in many benefits for the Houston Region. The infographics highlight ConnectSmart numbers to date on several key measures.



*Fuel savings from VMT reduction.

ConnectSmart Helps #EndTheStreakTX of Fatalities on Texas Roads

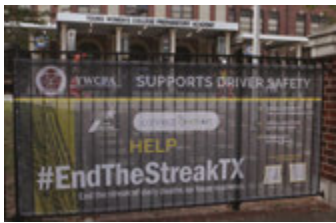
In 2021, there were 1,312 fatal motor vehicle crashes in the TxDOT six-county Houston District. TxDOT aims to reach a goal to end all fatalities on Texas roads by 2050.

TxDOT HOU and the ConnectSmart team joined forces in a joint #EndTheStreakTX press event on November 10, 2022, to raise awareness about safe driving behaviors.

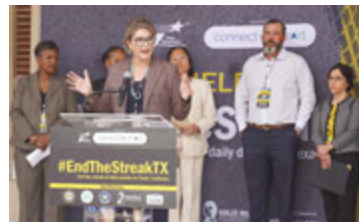
The event showcased the unique features of the ConnectSmart app that can support safe driving. These include alerting drivers when they enter school zones and when they exceed the speed limit in those zones. The alerts are audible and allow drivers to keep their attention on safe driving behaviors.

Other safety features include the ability to recommend comfort (safer) routes for bicyclists and to help stranded motorists request a free tow through Tow and Go™ where available.

See the Houston ConnectSmart #EndTheStreakTX video: 



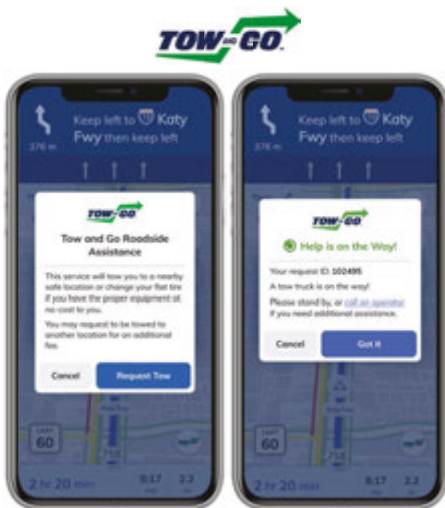
The press event was held at Houston's Young Women's College Preparatory Academy (YWCPA)



Champion for safety, Texas Transportation Commissioner Laura Ryan delivers opening remarks

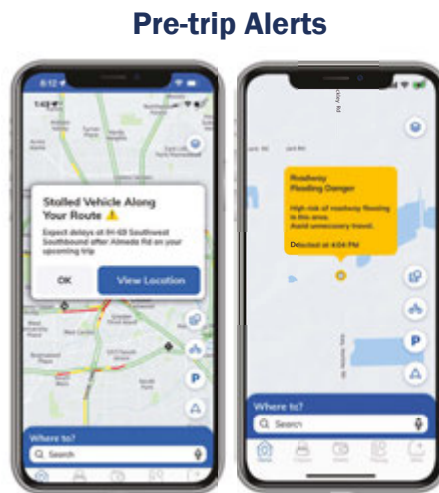
ConnectSmart Pillar and Feature Focus: Safety

ConnectSmart aims to alleviate traffic congestion, a Houston-regional concern that has an impact on every commuter and on public safety. The platform's features help travelers get around more safely, regardless of which mode they rely on the most.



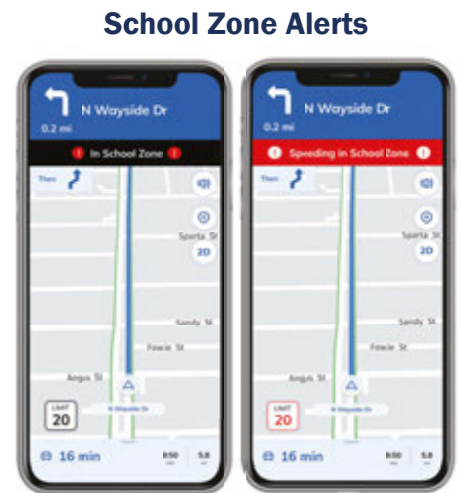
Tow and Go™ makes it easy for users to request emergency roadside assistance on supported regional roadways.

Reducing the response time to clear stalled vehicles keeps traffic flowing and greatly reduces the chance of a secondary incident.



ConnectSmart sends its users personalized, real-time pre-trip alerts about traffic incidents, road closures, and flooding events affecting their upcoming travel.

The trip planning feature allows users to explore alternative routes and modes to avoid these events, reducing incident-related congestion and safety concerns.



Through its integration of *TravelSafe* data, ConnectSmart alerts users as they enter a school zone.

A second alert is triggered notifying users if they exceed the school zone speed limit.

Upcoming Features:



En-route alerts



Flood risk areas



Tow and Go™ enhancements