



*Sylvia R. Garcia*  
*Commissioner*



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## **HARRIS COUNTY TRANSIT INTRODUCES PARK & RIDE SERVICE IN PASADENA**

Harris County's expansion of public transportation continues Monday, April 6, 2009 with the start of a Park & Ride route between Pasadena and downtown Houston.

Utilizing METRO's expertise and existing structure, Harris County Transit's Pasadena service joins the Park & Ride route that debuted in Baytown in October 2007 as the second express service in an area not currently served by METRO.

"We hope for the same success in Pasadena with the HWY 225 Park & Ride as we have seen in Baytown," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia. "With as many as 100 riders daily and a half-ton of pollutants removed from the air each month, we are already making a difference in the lives of Harris County Precinct Two residents."

Metro President & CEO Frank J. Wilson said the Pasadena and Baytown Park & Rides are important steps toward an integrated transit system for the region.

"Creating a seamless system is more efficient and cost effective than a scattershot approach to mass transit," Wilson added. "It's important to remember that the people who ride transit also pay for it – not just with fares, but with sales-tax dollars."

(more)

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The City of Pasadena has worked with the Pasadena Second Century Corporation to ensure that Pasadena's cooperation makes that city the hub for this new service that also serves residents of Deer Park, Galena Park, La Porte and surrounding areas along HWY 225.

"I am pleased to be a part of extending Harris County's partnership with METRO not only to residents of Pasadena, but to the region," stated Pasadena Mayor Johnny Isbell. "Our goal of doing what is best for the residents of Pasadena while providing them with affordable transportation options has been met."

An important aspect of this service is that it provides links to existing bus and rail routes in downtown Houston.

"We've proven this model of cooperation works," Garcia said. "By creating this interlocal agreement with METRO, we are giving residents all along HWY 225 the ability to plug into an established transportation system that can take them to downtown Houston, the Texas Medical Center and other important destinations."

The 244 Monroe/Pasadena Park & Ride will operate four trips each weekday morning and five trips each weekday afternoon, with service running from 5:48 a.m. to 7:23 a.m., and 4:05 p.m. to 5:58 p.m. The bus will make a stop at the Monroe Park & Ride lot before heading into downtown on the normal 244 Monroe route.

The one-way fare will be \$3.75 and customers are encouraged to use the METRO Q Fare Card, which offers five free trips for every 50 paid trips.

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