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News Release

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DATE: April 12, 2010

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**SUBJECT: Student Safety Gets Boost
with Cross-guard Training**

METRO Puts Spotlight on Rail Safety by Training New Trainers

Construction safety offers opportunity to educate across light rail corridors

Schools near Houston's busy rail construction projects are getting a jumpstart on rail safety, before any track is laid in their community. METRO Solutions and HISD have formed a partnership to make sure students at schools closest to rail construction zones remain safe through a training program that recently graduated its first class.

Mike Martinez, who manages METRO Solutions Community Outreach in neighborhoods where light rail construction is beginning, said, "We're using a crossing guard train-the-trainer program which encourages safety across the board, establishing a sustainable security program, one that schools can adapt as their community changes."

Martinez spearheads training through METRO's Community School Safety Education Program (CSSEP) that creates student and adult safety awareness in and around rail construction areas. METRO stepped up to the plate with HISD Crossing Guard Team Leaders - a full day of "Train-the-Trainer" construction safety instruction that got underway at the HISD Police Department this spring.

John Rawlings, HISD's crossing guard manager, explained, "This is a critical part of our work. We're wading into new territory and the overview we got of METRO light rail construction and how to handle safety issues, is going to be extremely important. This first training has given us a core group of leaders who can pass along the necessary skills district wide."

The Team Leader safety training covers construction safety rules, signs and symbols, as well as introducing them to construction equipment and machinery. Other safety considerations like reflective vests, flagger awareness, and communication with law enforcement officials will make school crossings safer. Crossing guards also received instruction about reporting any unsafe conditions. METRO's CSSEP program is ongoing and will expand as rail construction activity ramps up across Houston.

To find out more about Houston's light rail construction visit us at www.metro-solutions.org and www.gometrorail.org.

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