



GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP HOSTS ANNUAL STATE OF METRO LUNCHEON**

HOUSTON – Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) Chairman Gilbert Garcia and Interim President and CEO, Tom Lambert, delivered the keynote addresses at the Greater Houston Partnership’s annual State of METRO luncheon on Tuesday, October 22. In addition to discussing the mass transit organization’s accomplishments in 2013, Garcia and Lambert also shared an insider’s view of METRO’s future plans.

“We want everyone to know about METRO’s four “R”s: as we *recap* our successes in the areas of greater transparency and improved financials, voter approval of the 2012 General Mobility Program *Referendum* and increased *ridership* along with *rail* expansion” said Gilbert Garcia, METRO Chairman.

“We are focused on a back to basics approach of providing key services to the community” said METRO Interim President and CEO, Tom Lambert. He continues, “In the area of ridership alone, this fiscal year we surpassed 80 million boardings for the first time since fiscal 2009.”

METRO is the region’s largest public transit provider, offering safe, reliable and affordable transportation services about 370,000 times per day. Besides operating more than 1,200 buses, METRO is currently expanding its 7.5-mile light-rail line with three new lines under construction. METRO’s services also include: Star Vanpool, METROLift, HOV lanes, HOT lanes, Bikes-on-Buses/Trains program, Park & Ride, and road improvement projects. 2013 has been a busy year for METRO, with the North Line scheduled to open in December, and two other light-rail lines opening later in 2014,

METRO is currently undergoing a re-imagining study of Houston’s regional transportation system. “GHP applauds METRO’s leadership for this new endeavor” said Tony Chase, member of the Greater Houston Partnership Board of the Directors and Past Chairman. This re-imagining study will take a fresh look at the METRO service area and design a regional transit system from the ground up, taking into consideration existing transit facilities and level of financial resources. METRO is hosting a series of upcoming public workshops to discuss this process and develop a long range plan.

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Greater Houston Partnership is Houston’s leading business organization dedicated to making Houston a great place to live, work and build a business. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With more than 2,100 Member organizations, GHP represents approximately one-fifth of the region’s work force. Visit GHP at [houston.org](http://houston.org).