

# TIR NOTES FOR DRIVERS



**Thank you, TIR, drivers for serving your teams by driving. It is a very important role! Please always be safe and kind.**

## Important Notes:

- It is recommended to have this document, the event maps (online or printed out), a GPS device (and its charger), the exchange coordinates, the written directions for the runners, and the parking instructions in order to be fully prepared.
- For a large majority of the TIR, vehicles can follow the same route as the runners. So, it is important for drivers to have easy access to the course maps and / or written directions.
- In addition to the course maps, there is a pdf document called Exchange Coordinates and Hours (found on the Relay Resources page of the website ([texasindependencerelay.com/resources](http://texasindependencerelay.com/resources))). This provides the coordinates of the exchanges (as well as the hours that they are open) so that you can use a GPS device or phone to find the next exchange if you get lost. The coordinates are also on the course maps and detail pages for those maps.
- Remember the number of an exchange is AFTER that leg. For example, the very first exchange occurs when the first runner makes the hand off to the leg 2 runner at the end of leg 1. Exchange 2 is at the finish of leg 2, and so on.
- PLEASE DO NOT PARK WITHIN 20 YARDS OF AN EXCHANGE.
- Always get the next runner to the next exchange before the next runner gets there (but don't drive dangerously in order to do so!).
- Legs 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9 are mostly on dirt roads. Also, significant portions of Legs 19 and 20 are on a dirt road (but vans should not be driving on that road). Depending on recent road maintenance and weather conditions, the dirt / dust can sit well or be easily and widely dispersed in a huge cloud behind you as you drive along. Regardless, DO NOT DUST TIR RUNNERS!! Dirt roads at the TIR are "NO DUST ZONES!" As you are passing a runner, slow down well beforehand. Drive about 10-15 mph (giving wide berth) until you are well beyond them. If you look in the rearview mirror as you are passing a runner and see dust being kicked up, you are going too fast. Raised fists and other hand gestures from runners after you go by may be possible helpful hints that you may not be doing it right.
- NEVER PASS A RUNNER ON THE SMALL ROADS AS YOU ARE CRESTING A HILL WITH LIMITED VISIBILITY.
- Always remember that the roads are not closed. Vehicles not participating in the relay are also using them.

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TEXAS INDEPENDENCE RELAY  
COME AND TAKE IT

- If parking on the side of a road – ESPECIALLY IF SUPPORTING A RUNNER IN THE MIDDLE OF A LEG - get as far off as possible, but do leave two tires on the shoulder if it has rained recently. NEVER park in a way that impedes traffic (regular traffic OR the TIR's).
- DO NOT DRIVE SLOWLY ALONGSIDE OR RIGHT BEHIND YOUR RUNNER. At night, if you are staying near your runner, use a technique called shadowing, where you drive up ahead until the runner is about 400 meters behind, pull off the road (maybe leaving just two tires on the shoulder). Watch the runner pass and get 400+ meters ahead, and then cautiously pull out and repeat this process.
- At night, consider using your hazard lights the entire time to indicate that you are with the race. Also, if a team's runner is near to or passing the team's van (for example, the runner is running on the shoulder facing traffic, and the van is on the other side of the road on that shoulder), the van MUST turn off it's headlights. The reason for this is because oncoming traffic will see the van's lights but will not see the runner or their light. This is not good for anyone.
- Relatedly, ALWAYS MAKE SURE to turn off the brights when there is an oncoming vehicle approaching.
- If any teammates get out of the van in the middle of a leg at night to give encouragement or water make sure they have reflective gear and use due caution. TEAM MEMBERS MUST NOT STAND OR LOITER ON THE OPEN ROADWAYS.
- If you have a team of 10 - 12, you will most likely have van-to-van exchanges at Exchanges 18 or 19 and Exchanges 24 or 25. Both vans will want to go to Exchange 30 (you don't want to miss Good Times Running Co and their delicious breakfast tacos at Exchange 30!)

## The following pages have specific / important leg and exchange information, so do not overlook those notes. If there are no instructions for a leg or exchange, then follow the course, using the same good discretion as always.

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**The following is specific / important leg and exchange information, so do not overlook these notes. Also, drivers should also use the Parking Instructions file to make sure they are parking in the right places. If there are no instructions for a leg or exchange, then follow the course, using the same good discretion as always.**

## **EXCHANGE 4**

Please go into the landowner's property and park in a way that makes sense (not blocking others), but relatively near the exchange. If it is wet, however, be very careful to not get stuck.

## **EXCHANGE 11**

Definitely do not park in any way that impedes traffic on 1295. Also, do not park in the driveways or yards of any of the homeowners there. Teams may visit St. Mary's, one of the famous painted churches, BUT there is a Saturday Mass at 4:30, so it is strongly recommended that relayers admire the church from afar between the times of 4:00 and 5:45pm.

## **EXCHANGE 15**

Continue on CoRD 253 (Jackson) and park either on Jackson (between Center and Mechanic) or at the parking area that is diagonally from the exchange, on the SE corner of Main (90) and Mechanic.

## **EXCHANGE 17**

Vans may park off of 90 on the small road that runs alongside it (to the right). This road is Front Street.

## **EXCHANGE 19**

**VERY IMPORTANT** - Vans will not be using CoRd 102 which is at the end of Leg 19 and beginning of Leg 20. Teams will reach exchange 19 by passing 103/102 and then taking a left on CoRd 101. Where 101 T's into 102 is where Exch 19 is located. It is important that vans only park on the right (north) side of 101 (when going toward the exchange). Also, vans need to park at least 30 yards from the intersection so there is room to turn around. Not following these instructions could make this parking situation frustrating.

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## **LEG 20**

Teams leave the 19th exchange by turning around on CoRd 101 and then taking a right on Hwy 71. Exchange 20 is across from a 24Hr gas station. Check with your team members to see if anyone needs to go to the restroom. And, if so, stop there first and then drive to the Exchange 20 parking instead of walking back and forth across the open road. AS ALWAYS, PARTICIPANTS MUST NOT STAND OR LOITER ON THE OPEN ROADWAYS AND SHOULDERS, AND THEY MUST LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING.

## **EXCHANGES 21, 22, & 23**

PARTICIPANTS MUST NOT STAND OR LOITER ON THE OPEN ROADWAYS AND SHOULDERS, AND THEY MUST LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING.

See the Parking Instructions file to see how to leave Exchange 24.

## **EXCHANGE 24**

See the Parking Instructions file for Exchange 24

## **EXCHANGE 25**

Exchange 25 is at The Brandt 1910 event venue. Teams park by taking a right on 2nd St (one block after 1st St, which is where exchange 25 is located), and taking another right on Gresham. Parking is behind The Brandt 1910. The parking is an open field. One row should be along the northern side. Two rows can be down the center, and one row can be along the southern side. Do not park too close to 1st Street. Give plenty of space for vehicles to exit the parking area. Vehicles will leave the same way - Gresham to 2nd Street, and a Right on Hwy 36.

## **EXCHANGE 26**

Drivers exit the Fuel Maxx gas station by using the southern exit.

## **EXCHANGE 27**

The end of the Leg 27 and the beginning of Leg 28 is an out and back for the relayers, so drive with caution all around the intersection of 1489 and 1093.

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## **EXCHANGE 30**

Plan to stop at Good Times Running Co! HOWEVER, if driving a big white van (like almost everyone), do NOT park in the garage. There are plenty of spaces going around the Villagio Shopping center.

## **LEG 31**

To reach Exchange 31, vans should continue east on Westheimer Pkwy until reaching Barker Cypress (there is a traffic light here, and it is a brightly lit intersection at night). Take a left on Barker Cypress and enter George Bush Park to reach Exchange 31. Parking can be limited at times, so be sure to not block anyone in and to leave enough space for vans to maneuver in order to get in and out. Consider sending only one van go this exchange. Also, do not block the runners' path that is demarcated by the solid white line. If you have to park along the long driveway-type road that goes into the park (leading to the small-ish parking lot), BE SURE to keep 2 tires on the pavement even if it appears dry.

## **LEG 32**

To go to Exchange 32, teams leave the George Bush Park, and take a left on Westheimer Pkwy. Westheimer Pkwy T's into FM 1093 Westheimer Rd. (It looks like you could go straight, but you would be going into a shopping mall parking lot. Take a left on FM 1093 Westheimer Rd. The next traffic signal, a little more than 400 meters after this turn is Hwy 6 – Addicks Howell Rd. Turn left and go north on Hwy 6. After passing Briar Forest (there is a traffic signal and Briar Forest is on the right), look for Briar Hills Parkway. It is almost a mile north of Briar Forest, and there is a traffic light. Take a right on Briar Hills and then take a left to park in the parking lot for the 3-4 story beige building with dark tinted windows.

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## **EXCHANGE 33**

The easiest way to reach Exchange 33 is to go back out to Hwy 6, take a left on Hwy 6, and then take a left on Briar Forest. The exchange is located at Wilcrest and Briar Forest.

## **EXCHANGE 35**

Park in the far NW corner of the Shops of Memorial Shopping Mall parking lot away from any open shops.

## **FINISH PARKING**

The finish is at Hennessey Park which is right behind Saint Arnold Beer Garden (2000 Lyons Ave, Houston, TX 77020). TIR Parking is near Hennessey Park (see the Parking Instructions file) all near the intersection of Lyons and Maury. TIR vehicles may not park in the main Saint Arnold parking lot (east of the Saint Arnold Beer Garden).