

2017 TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS

LEG 1 (WITH THE PROLOGUE)

The Prologue is a narrow 1.15 mile rectangle that starts from the Memorial Museum on Smith Street, takes a left on St. Lawrence, takes another left on St. Joseph to go around the Gonzales courthouse, and then takes a final left on St. Louis to get back to the Museum that all team members run. The prologue is interesting in the way that teams run it differently. Most teams run the Prologue all together and easily as a ceremonial run. However, some of the more competitive teams will send their first runner off from the cannon boom as if they were running leg 1 from the getgo! This by itself makes a significant difference on the difficulty of leg 1 because it makes the leg either 4.26 miles or 5.41 miles, depending how it's done.

After the Prologue section, Leg 1 runners continue East on St. Louis, and they will be running facing traffic. When they approach the stop sign for 90A, though, runners will cross over St. Louis so that they can take a right and run on the shoulder of 90A that is GOING WITH TRAFFIC. The reason runners should not cross over 90A and run on the shoulder facing traffic is because it is only about a quarter of a mile later that runners will be taking another right on County Road 342 (Also Kelley Loop - but the sign about 40 yards before the turn says "CO RD 342").

After just a short bit on 342, runners will have a descent to a small bridge. There is a small rise after that, and we've heard that we don't give this hill enough credit. Runners will pass some mobile homes, and continue straight past Co Rd 344 (which goes off to the left). Soon runners will see a large field on the right, brushy terrain on the left, and farm buildings ahead, and they will know that they are almost done. Runners will take a left on Co Rd 343 (where 342 T's into it) and only have a fifth of a mile to their exchange just before Hwy 90A!

LEG 2

Almost immediately after getting the TIR baton (the slap band bracelet), runners will cautiously cross Hwy 90A, making completely sure that there is no oncoming traffic from either direction. After crossing, they will take a right to run on the shoulder, facing traffic. Most of Leg 2 is straight and slightly rolling (a net downhill).

At 4.82 miles (a third of a mile from the finish), after going over a few long bridges, runners will take a left on Co Rd 361. There is also a historical marker here. At the left turn, runners will go down a short hill and then onto the dirt road. They will follow this around a bend to the right and proceed to Exchange 2, located right at Sam Houston's Oak!

LEG 3

The dirt on leg 3 can be variable depending on several factors... the last time it was graded and the last rainfall are amongst the biggest. As of early February, the dirt on Co Rd 361 was pretty loose and a little rocky. Regardless, Leg 3 runners will proceed down Co Rd 361 until it ends at Co Rd 357. Here, runners will take a left on Co Rd 357. For whatever reason, directional cones at this small intersection have disappeared most of the years of the TIR. There are plans to also have a small yard sign that points the way (in addition to the cone), since chalk will not be too effective on the dirt roads. As always, it is best to know the directions so that you could do the leg without any directional assistance.

Leg 3 is rolling. While it is standard to run on the left side facing traffic, when runners approach hills on these smaller dirt roads, it is advisable for them to run up these inclines on the right side of the road. The vehicles coming behind can see them while an oncoming vehicle cresting a hill may not be aware of the runner on the other side.

Runners will continue on 357 until it T's into Co Rd 354. Runners take a right here, going around a small weathered white house that is at the corner and there is also a sign that points to the Scout Camp. From this turn, runners have just over 1.7 miles to go, staying straight on 354. The exchange will be at Camp Green Dickson, where Co Rd 381 T's into 354.

LEG 4

Leg 4 is maybe a little tougher than it is currently ranked. It is rolling with more ascending than descending. Starting from Camp Green Dickson, leg 4 runners will proceed north on Co Rd 381. As with all dirt road legs, when approaching a hill (and visibility is limited by the hill), run on the right hand side of the road.

The 1 mile mark for leg 4 is exactly a gated entrance of a large country estate (Munson Ranch) that is on the right. Runners will continue on 381 until they reach a stop sign. Here, runners will take a left to stay on Co Rd 381. Missing this turn would NOT be good.

Runners will continue north on 381 until it ends at FM 532, a paved road. This intersection is at the 5 mile mark. Runners will cross 532 and take a right, running against traffic. Runners will run along 532 for about a third of a mile before taking a left on Co Rd 397, which is just before Exchange 4!

LEG 5

Leg 5 is one of the longer legs, and it gradually descends over the first 3 miles before rising back up over the last few. Despite a few 90 degree turns, runners will stay on Co Rd 397 all the way until pretty close to 3 miles. Runners will pass Co Rd 395 (on the left at about 2.05 miles)... continue on 397 and do not turn on 395. Co Rd 394 is at 2.88 miles, and by dirt road standards, 397 and 394 is a big intersection (not busy, just big and noticeable)! There is a tree that is not quite in the middle of the intersection, but vehicles do drive on either side of this tree. Take a right on 394. Continue straight and after 5 miles (about 5.12), runners will pass 289 (to the right) and they may see a small white square-ish sign that indicates that they are now on Co Rd 287. This is correct... the dirt road changed from 394 to 287... using multiple names for the same road isn't just a metro street naming convention afterall! Just after 6 miles, the road bends to the left. Runners will soon see a small church to the right and know that they are super close to finishing leg 5 (which is at the historical marker in Old Moulton, just after turning left on 1680).

LEG 6

After receiving the baton (on 1680), leg 6 runners will take almost an immediate right on Co Rd 285 (on googlemaps and probably on GPS's, this road is labeled Pecan Dr., but the street sign says 285). There are some homes here as this is located in the small community of Old Moulton. About a third of a mile from the exchange, there is a home with a couple of friendly dogs who enjoy barking, but, from our point of view, more in a playful way. A couple of runners who live on the street were stopped as we peppered them with questions about the dogs. They also confirmed the friendliness of the dogs (despite the barking), having run or walked by the residence many many times. They did not feel that there should be any issue or concern about the dogs. That said, it is still something for all of us to keep an eye on.

About 1.44 miles into the leg, 285 has a 90 degree turn to the right, and then just after that runners will need to take a left on Co Rd 284. There is no street sign, and missing this turn would be little bit of a bummer. So, do the mental calculation to figure out about when you should reach the 1.5 mile mark, and do not miss this left turn (that immediately follows a 90 degree right curve in the road)! This road eventually becomes a dirt road, with some sections a little loose and a little rocky. Just before 3 miles, you will see a property with a white-poled fence and lots of hay bales. Continue on 284/283 (283 because both 284 and 283 converge here) by veering left here around this land. One exciting aspect about this leg is that it is around this home, that runners will run in three separate Texas counties (Gonzales, Lavaca, and Fayette) in a very short stretch of time! Soon thereafter, runners will reach a very big railroad crossing. Do not ever try to beat a train (or any other James Bond / Indiana Jones maneuvers to get to the other side if one is going by)! This train crossing does not have any red lights or other safety mechanisms. After making that crossing, runners may notice a green sign that says Weidemann Rd. Here 284/283 becomes Weidemann, and your team has completed the dirt road and most rural section of the TIR course! However, leg 6 runners still have a decent hill to climb after the tracks and before reaching Exchange 6!

LEG 7

Just after taking possession of the baton, leg 7 runners will take a left to run north on the southbound (left) shoulder of Hwy 95. About 2.25 miles into this leg, leg 7 runners will crest the highest point of the TIR course... 583 feet!!! It's so high that the rarefied air here may make it somewhat difficult for leg 7 runners to breathe! But, they will have to manage, and it's all downhill (overall) from here.

Nearing 3 miles into this leg, runners will be able to see the beginnings of the city of Flatonia and enjoy a nice decline to its wonderful downtown! Just like the Boston Marathon, the TIR also has a famous and significant Citgo gas station sign. The TIR's is located in Flatonia. Immediately after the Citgo gas station (and BEFORE the train tracks), runners will take a right (crossing 95 perpendicularly and with appropriate caution) on S Main to get to Exchange 7, which is right at the gazebo and Lyric Theater!

LEG 8

Leg 8 runners take a quick left on Market St., and cross over the train tracks. When reaching Hwy 90 (N Main in downtown Flatonia), runners should cross it and take a right to run on the left (westbound) shoulder of Hwy 90. Less than a mile into the leg, runners will have left Flatonia and will continue on this shoulder all the way to Engle, which was once a railroad town. Though the elevation profile doesn't look too tough, the long gradual inclines (especially if coupled with a strong wind from the east) can make this leg (and leg 9) fairly challenging. The exchange is at the light blue warehouses, named the Kemlon buildings.

LEG 9

Continuing directly east by way of Hwy 90, leg 9 runners embark to Schulenburg! As with leg 8, leg 9 can be tougher than the elevation profile looks because of the wide open nature of the route here. Leg 9 is also one of the TIR's longer legs.

Regardless, as Leg 9 runners are just starting to make their way into Schulenburg (about a half mile after the Schulenburg Shorthorn billboard and after crossing the Navidad River), runners will take a right (cautiously crossing 90) to turn on Old 90. There are a few homes located right at this turn. Old 90 is also North Main Street, and runners will take this all the way to Exchange 9 at the center of Schulenburg, between Sengelmann's Hall and the gazebo!

LEG 10

Leg 10 runners continue on Main for another third of a mile until reaching Herder Ave (there is a stop sign), and will take a left on Herder. Just .15m later, runners will take a right on Hwy 90 (Summit St. when Hwy 90 is in Schulenburg). Runners are to cross 90 first and then take the right so that they are once again running against traffic.

Leg 10 is one of the shorter easier Saturday runs. But, it still has a little Hill Country to it with a few short hills. When approaching I-10, leg 10 runners will know they are almost done. The exchange is about 200 meters beyond the Interstate.

LEG 11

Quick little TIR factoid... the first team to reach Exchange 10 (the start of leg 11) will do so at about the same time that the last TIR team in Gonzales gets their cannon blast start! This is the widest range of distance between the first and last teams, but as soon as that last team starts, they begin to close the gap.

Anyway, leg 11 is also along 90. It finishes at Weimar, where you know there is always a party and good times! This leg is completely straight, so no one should get lost (crossing fingers!).

LEG 12

Also completely straight along 90, finishing across from the old Borden Country Store!

LEG 13

Once again, another leg for the directionally challenged! Leg 13 is a completely straight leg, finishing at a gravelly road driveway on the north side of Hwy 90.

LEG 14

Leg 14 is not quite as straightforward as the previous 3 legs, but that is an awfully high bar. Runners tackling leg 14 will continue eastward on 90. At 2.97 miles, runners will go beneath the Hwy 71 overpass. Then, at 3.74 miles, runners will take a right on Cardinal Lane. This is different than years past, so we hope veteran TIR teams are paying attention! Right at 4 miles, runners will pass in front of Columbus High School, and then just a quarter mile later, runners will take a left on Montezuma (going around a cemetery).

Technically, Montezuma ends at a stop sign at Rampart Street. But, it is the slightest right turn (more of a veering right) on Rampart, followed by an immediate left (again, more of a veering left) that gets runners on Houston Street. This right and left veering occurs at 5.09 miles. Runners will take Houston straight and will cross Fannin (a large street with a traffic light) at 5.25 miles. Runners will continue straight on Houston Street until they reach Milam at 5.63 miles. Here runners will take a right on Milam, running so that they are on the left side facing traffic.

When runners first turn onto Milam, it is a residential area. But, about a half mile later it becomes commercial, as runners will pass in front of a Wal-Mart, HEB, Jack In the Box, and a Shell Station before crossing beneath I-10. Obviously, runners need to run with great caution here as cars will be turning in and out of the driveways in this commercial I-10 district of Columbus. Just after crossing beneath I-10, runners will pass a McDonald's, a couple of hotels, Los Cabos restaurant. Then, runners will take a left into the Snappy's Service Station and Convenience Mart driveway. Leg 14 runners must go around the back of Snappy's to reach Exchange 14 (and avoid crossing traffic coming in and out of the gas station).

LEG 15

Immediately upon receiving the baton, leg 15 runners will keep to the outside of the Snappy's parking lot and will take a left onto the Hwy 71 shoulder (running so that they are facing traffic). 3.25 miles after leaving Exchange 14, runners will **STOP AND LOOK BOTH WAYS** before crossing over Hwy 71 to take a right onto CoRd 103. After crossing 71 to get on 103, runners will take an immediate left onto CoRd 102 to go to the Robert R. Wells (Columbus) Airport, where Exchange 15 is located.

For those teams that have 12 runners, this is likely the exchange where you arrange 6 runners to be in the van that will handle the next 6 legs while the rest goes to get some rest at Brazos HS (just east of Wallis on Hwy 36). Then at exchange 21 in Wallis, the half-teams will swap roles.

LEG 16

Leg 16 starts from right in front of the airport and continues south on County Rd 102. For a little bit the road is paved, but then it becomes a dirt road. As with all dirt roads at the TIR, this should be a “No Dust Zone”, but it may be advisable to bring a bandana, just in case. Co Rd 102 is very straight and passes by Co Rd 101 at 1.82 miles. At 4.63 miles, Co Rd 102 curves to the left (there is no other choice). Then, half a mile later (at 5.1 miles), runners **MUST STOP AND LOOK BOTH WAYS** before cautiously crossing Hwy 71. After crossing Hwy 71, what was just Co Rd 102 becomes County Road 16. Co Rd 16 immediately curves to the right after crossing 71. It could almost look like it could go straight, but it should quickly become apparent that this is a driveway into a quarry. After following the CoRd 16 curve to the right, runners will continue on Co Rd 16 all the way into Altair. At one point, it may look like there is a fork in the road, continue on Co Rd 16 (or Clay St) by veering right. At Main Street, take a left and follow Main Street to Exchange 16 at Main and East Street.

LEG 17

Starting from the intersection of Main and East, Leg 17 runners will run south on East Street for just about 50 yards before turning left onto Hwy 90A. Runners will stay on the left (north) side shoulder of 90A, facing traffic. Runners will cross train tracks just after 1.5 miles, and then at close to 2.4 miles, runners will cross over the Altair River Bridge (from 2.4 to 2.73 miles). Though the lanes are wide, there really isn't a shoulder. There should be police officers on both ends, and no one has ever had an issue. That said, should a runner decide that they want their team to give them a ride to the other side (it's about a quarter mile), this is totally allowed. After the bridge, runners have 2.8 miles before reaching the exchange on 90A. (Exchange 17 is about a half mile further east than it has previously been located.)

LEG 18

From Exchange 17, runners continue east on 90A. Close to 1.3 miles, they will pass a Brookshire Brothers Grocery on the left, and then start passing homes on the west side of Eagle Lake. Runners will come to a split in the road where they can continue straight, going on the left side of Dairy Queen (on McCarty), and they should do that! (As an aside, Dairy Queen closes at 11PM, and about 2/3rds of the teams will pass by before then... but for many teams, not by much time!) Runners will continue on McCarty through the traffic light and through downtown. Runners are to continue straight on McCarty, over the train tracks, and past residential homes for about 4-5 blocks until reaching Prairie. At Prairie, they will turn right. Once on Prairie, they will continue straight, staying to the left (not crossing any train tracks **AFTER** taking the right on Prairie), until reaching Hwy 3013. At 3013, runners will take a left to get to Exchange 18, after having run clear across the entirety of Eagle Lake!

LEG 19

Exchange 18 is at FM 3013 and FM 1093. So, when leg 19 runners depart, they immediately head off on FM 1093 toward Wallis. This leg is flat and straight, and the stars can be very bright here! Exchange 19 is at the eastern end of a giant grain elevator.

Runners should run facing traffic (of which there is very very little). That said, there is not a large shoulder (but it does have a natural shoulder). If an oncoming vehicle makes a runner feel apprehensive in the slightest, that runner should stop and step off the road completely and wait for the vehicle to pass by.

LEG 20

Continuing on FM 1093, leg 20 does not have any turns, but it does have 2 curves!

As with the last leg, runners should run facing traffic, and not hesitate to stop and get completely off the road to let any motorist go by that the runner is even slightly unsure off.

LEG 21

After a good bit of time on FM 1093 (see 1093 instructions above), runners finally reach Wallis! FM 1093 T's into Hwy 36 (3.4 miles into leg 21). Here runners cross 36 and take a right on 36 (so that they are running on the shoulder that would be facing traffic). From the turn, they can see the Wallis lights, and the exchange is only $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile ahead.

LEG 22

Leg 22 runners continue on Hwy 36 from downtown Wallis to 1489 (Simonton Road)... this intersection has traffic lights and is 5.45 miles from the start of the leg. Here at Simonton Road (FM 1489), runners will take a left and the exchange will be about 200 meters from the turn. This leg has hardly any elevation change whatsoever, and with the exception of the turn at the end, this leg is really straight, too. Lastly, the most memorable thing about this leg is that there is a good chance that a train will go by (the tracks run parallel to Hwy 36), and in the middle of the night, the train is pretty loud!

LEG 23

Leg 23 runners will head due North on FM 1489 (Simonton Road). A little less than halfway into the leg, runners will go over a bridge that spans the Brazos River. Hopefully, we will have a full moon – kinda romantic in a TIR kind of way. Anyway, at the apex of the bridge, runners are at exactly 2.33 miles. Coming into Simonton, runners will pass Simonton Community church, and the exchange will be just a quarter mile ahead at 1489 (Simonton Road) and FM 1093.

LEG 24

Right at Exchange 23 (where there is a stop sign and a blockish retail center that is the office location of a State Representative) , Leg 24 runners will take a right to run east toward Fulshear on FM 1093.

Again runners are to run on the shoulder so that they are facing traffic. They should continue on 1093 all the way to Fulshear, and in the process, to the right, they may see the first glimpses of homes that may be considered Houston suburbia. At the very end of the leg at the traffic light at 1093 and 359, runners will cross 1093 to take a right on 1093... it's just what it is. The exchange is right there at the Shell station / Timewise.

LEG 25

Leg 25 definitely ventures into metro Houston territory.. more specifically, Katy! Runners start off by running on FM 1093, on the left, westbound-shoulder side (westbound for vehicles). After 1.76 miles, runners will take a left onto Cross Creek Ranch Road to go into a new subdivision. This should be easy to find since there is a traffic light at this intersection, and once into the sub, the runner will see large decorative arches that they will run under. Shortly after the arches, Cross Creek Ranch Road T's into Cross Creek Bend Road, and runners should take a right. This is a pretty big road (as far as neighborhood roads go) with a fairly wide median, so the runner should make sure to get to the left side of the road as they make the right turn so that they are running against traffic. This neighborhood has great sidewalks that go by ponds and stuff, but the runner should stick with the road. The paths can go in a different direction away from the road, and the paths are darker while the road is well lit. Cross Creek Bend has a big sweeping curve to the left, then a big sweeping curve to the right, and then another curve to the left again. Finally, 3.42 miles into the leg (and 1.5 miles after turning right on Cross Creek Bend), runners will take a right on South Fry Rd. From here, runners will go east on South Fry, crossing FM 1463, and then taking a left on Ranch Point Drive. Exchange 25 is just $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile later at Shafer Elementary, home of the absolutely brightest school sign known to man (don't look directly into those lights!) at Ranch Point Dr. and Cinco Ranch Blvd.

LEG 26

Leg 26 takes the team straight to the LaCenterra shopping center, where Luke's used to be. Thanks to TROT (Trail Racing Over Texas) who are bringing the fun and the food. Also thanks to La Centerra for letting us use the space where Luke's used to be. This exchange will be a GREAT time, so you don't want to miss it!! To get there, runners will run on Cinco Ranch Blvd (either by sidewalk or on the road). Though Cinco Ranch is curvy, there are no turns off of Cinco Ranch. Unlike most legs, however, runners are to run on the right side (with traffic).

LEG 27

Runners tasked with leg 27 will continue ON THE RIGHT side of Cinco Ranch Blvd, crossing beneath Grand Pkwy (99). About a quarter mile later, they will cross S Peek Rd. and continue straight on Cinco Ranch. There is a traffic light at Peek and Cinco Ranch, so runners are to use caution when crossing the intersection. About a mile after crossing S Peek, runners will cross Mason (another traffic light). Just after crossing Mason, Cinco Ranch becomes smaller, and it is only about 30-40 yards until runners reach a 4-way stop. Here, runners take a right on Norwood Hills Dr. (1.5 miles into the leg). About 200 meters down Norwood Hills, runners are forced to turn left (one of those half culdesac things) so that now the runner is technically on Cayman Point Dr. At 1.78 miles into the leg, runners take a right on Canyon Links Dr. There is a stop sign at this turn. When heading down Canyon Links, the runner should resume running on the left side of the street.

At 2.01 miles (less than a quarter mile after turning on Canyon Links), runners will turn left on Westheimer Pkwy, running on the sidewalk on the left side of the street. A little over a quarter mile after taking the left on Westheimer Pkwy, runners will pass by a Jr. High on the left, and then they will reach a CVS about a quarter mile after that. Runners will continue straight through the S. Fry intersection (traffic light), staying on the sidewalk. A quarter mile after the S Fry intersection, and at the end of the neighborhood brick wall (to the left), the sidewalk turns into a park path (no longer cement squares). This path is the beginning of the George Bush Park Hike and Bike Trail. This path will turn 90 degrees to the left (going away from Westheimer Pkwy) and go around soccer fields. At a shed-like equipment storage structure at the far end of the soccer fields parking lot, the path will turn left again to go further into the park. Runners continue on this path. About 600 meters after the soccer field parking lot (and very near to 4 miles into the leg), the path goes over a small bridge that crosses the bayou and then T's into another path. Take a right there. One mile later (5 miles into the leg), runners will begin to go over a quarter mile long boardwalk! After the boardwalk, it is only 1 mile to Exchange 27 - at the eastern end of the George Bush Equestrian parking area!

LEG 28

Leg 28 is run almost entirely on the George Bush Hike and Bike Trail. Just a few steps into the leg, the path turns due north. Runners continue on the path all the way until it exits out on the north end on a very small street named Barker Clodine Rd. You would hardly even know that you left the park if it weren't for the gate to keep vehicles out (and then the yellow line in the middle of the road a little bit later).

About 200-300 meters after leaving the park, runners will pass an apartment complex on the right and will see some homes up ahead to the left (that are not on this street). Then, runners will see a little rise in road (the reservoir embankment) and I-10 straight ahead. IMMEDIATELY after coming down the other side of this incline and immediately after a yellow diamond-shaped pedestrian warning sign, there is a small road / driveway that turns right. Turn right and follow this... this turn is 3.33 miles into the leg. 200 meters after this right turn, the driveway turns left, but the George Bush Hike and Bike Trail picks up (going straight where the driveway turns left). Hop on the trail and know that you are now over halfway done!

The path parallels I-10 for a little over 2.25 miles before it begins to curve southward (~5.6 miles). After completing the curve, leg 28 runners are now running parallel to Hwy 6. A little over a half mile after the curve, leg 28 runners will see a path splitting off the main path to go towards Hwy 6. They should take this left (near the big water gorge). From here, the runners will see how to go over the river gorge (by going right alongside Hwy 6), and then they will run a little dippy-do to run underneath Hwy 6 and to the 28th Exchange at the start of the Terry Hershey Trail!

LEG 29

For the past 9 years this leg, starting on the Terry Hershey Trail (from behind the 1 Briar Hills building) to the Food Town intersection (at Wilcrest and Briar Forest) has been the same. However, last year, the flooding in April eventually led to erosion issues with the trail, so large sections of the trail has been closed to "repairs" for quite awhile. The damage is actually negligible and it would be easy for all of us to navigate around the issues, but the "No Trespassing" signs are large, numerous, and ominous. So, we have to tweak it a little this year. That said, this leg is still ending at the Wilcrest / Briar Forest intersection – we will just get there by way of Briar Forest instead of by Wilcrest.

The Terry Hershey Trail is an enviable trail that meanders eastward into Houston. Just shy of 1.5 miles into the leg, runners will come up to Eldridge Pkwy (the first road that cuts across over the trail – it is very noticeable). Leg 29 runners must come up to Eldridge (there is no choice, the trail takes you up alongside the road), run on the little pedestrian walkway that is right next to the road to go over to the north side of the bayou

and then veer left on the path to loop back underneath Eldridge. We call this a dipsy-do. Runners should keep in mind that they are to head east down the Bayou. So, when they cross over the trail and then have to very temporarily do a U-turn to go back down to the trail, then obviously, they have to do another U-turn (left) to run under the bridge and continue eastward down the trail. Do not come down from the road and then take a right because that would be going the wrong way. If you are confused, by this, please pull up a leg map and review it closely, and it should become clear.

After passing underneath Eldridge, runners will follow the trail for almost a mile and half before running underneath the second large road that goes over the trail, Dairy Ashford. Immediately after passing Dairy Ashford, runners will do ANOTHER dipsy-do, this time to go back to the other (south) side of the Bayou. Runners will take a left after crossing beneath Dairy Ashford that brings them up to Dairy Ashford, where runners will turn left to run in Dairy Ashford, crossing over the Bayou again. Runners will be running toward a 10-story building – you can't miss it. Immediately after crossing the Dairy Ashford bridge, runners will take a left on a sidewalk that leads to the buildings parking lot. At the far end of the parking lot, a trail picks up again... again heading east down along the Buffalo Bayou (but now back to it's south side). If runners make it this far without getting lost, then their chances of not getting lost is pretty good (knock on wood)!

Runners will follow this trail that stems from the parking lot for almost a half mile before it turns right (South)... there is no choice in the matter. The trail also becomes crushed granite at this point. But, very soon after turning right a fork in the trail presents itself. Either way would not be too devastating as they both run parallel on both sides of a culvert. But, taking the left one is preferred, and this will save you about 20 seconds of running time. When the path reaches a large road with a median (this is Briar Forest), runners will take a left and run on the sidewalk down Briar Forest. From here it is a straight 1.7 miles to the to the exchange at Wilcrest and Briar Forest. When runners reach Kirkwood (a large street with traffic lights), they will be just over 5 miles into the leg (so less than a mile to go)!

LEG 30

Leg 30 is totally a straight shot, heading east down Briar Forest. Briar Forest becomes Memorial when Memorial meets Briar Forest at 2.95 miles. Then, a little later (at 3.65 miles) the road becomes San Felipe (where Memorial veers off). In short, just stay straight, running on the left side of the road, notwithstanding the name changes, and you'll get to Exchange 30, a little over a quarter of a mile beyond Voss – at Winrock!

LEG 31

From Winrock and San Felipe, leg 31 runners continue east on San Felipe for another half mile before taking a left on Potomac. Runners will go another half mile before taking a right at exactly the 1 mile mark onto Sugar Hill. Runners will continue on Sugar Hill for almost another mile, and then will take a right onto Tanglewood. This uptown neighborhood is pret-ty swanky! Tanglewood has a really big median with a path that runs down the center of it... Leg 31 runners should go ahead and run on that for .35

miles, and then take a left on Doliver. Runners follow Doliver for .42 miles (headed straight for the new under construction condo building) until it T's at S Post Oak. Here, the runners will cross S Post Oak and take a left to run on the right hand sidewalk (going with traffic). Just over a half mile after this turn, runners will reach Woodway, which is 3.25 miles into this leg (here there are fairly decent sized buildings with a lot of glass... most buildings have a lot of glass, but these look particularly glassy). Turn right on Woodway... again staying on the right hand sidewalk. Passing by the entrance to the Omni (with its big red wall decorative sign) shortly after this turn should be confirming that you're on the right path.

Runners will stay on this sidewalk, making their way into the 610 loop, crossing beneath 610 at 3.76 miles. After crossing beneath 610, the path widens as the runners are entering Memorial Park! They will cross the Nature center driveway at exactly 4 miles, and then at 4.25, they will cross under the train tracks and see the Memorial Pedestrian bridge that goes over Woodway/Memorial. They will run underneath it, but then take a right u-turn type of turn (at the new Memorial Park Running Trails Center) to go up and over to the north side of Memorial Drive. After coming down the pedestrian bridge, leg 31 runners will continue east for just a second (like 20-30 yards) before taking a left on the crushed granite path that is on west side of W Memorial Loop Drive. Runners will follow this trail all the way up around the north side of the park, and at the eastern end of the jogging track, there is a crosswalk to get to the main Memorial Park Path (at the tennis center) on the other side of Memorial Loop Dr. After getting on the main path, runners continue east just about 150 more meters before exchanging near the stretching area at the east side of the tennis center!

An important note for Leg 31 runners: If it is a nice day, expect the park to be busy... not so much for running on the path, but rather for your team to find nearby parking. So, arrange with your driver in advance that if they can't find close parking, they will drop off the next runner and then may circle around and pick you up near the exchange – airport style.

LEG 32

Leg 32 starts with a short stretch (1/2 mile) on the main Memorial Park trail. At the stop sign (3-way stop for Memorial Park Loop motorists) and corresponding crosswalk, leg 32ers will take a left off the main Memorial Park Trail and take Arnot. Runners are only on Arnot for ~300 meters before they take a right on Crestwood, and then they are only on Crestwood for about the same distance before they take a left on Blossom St.

Blossom is a somewhat narrow thoroughfare that runs east-west by several condominiums. It commonly accommodates many runners, walkers, and cyclists. It also goes right by On The Run! Leg 32 runners will stay on Blossom for over a mile and a half until it T's at Jackson Hill at the small blue shed-like structure. Here, runners will take a right on Jackson Hill, 2.4 miles into the leg. Runners will run on the left side (facing traffic), and as they near Memorial Drive, runners will take a left to run over Memorial by way of the pedestrian bridge (which gives a TIR-ific view of the city)!

Immediately after coming off the pedestrian bridge, runners will go straight to immediately go over another pedestrian bridge to go over the Buffalo Bayou. Once runners have reached the south side of the Bayou, they will take a left on the wider (white cement) path that runs along Allen Pkwy. Not long after taking this left, the path will split. Runners should take the left split to simply run under Waugh (3.01m), and then the paths will come together again. Keep following this main path alongside Allen Pkwy, passing underneath Montrose and another pedestrian bridge at 3.41 and 3.46 miles.

At 4.44 miles, runners will cross the I-45 entrance ramp (onto Allen) to continue heading straight into town. Here Allen Pkwy splits to become Lamar St. (one way going west) and Dallas St. (one way going east). Continue along Lamar, running alongside Sam Houston Park, crossing Bagby, then running next to the Library. Then, at take a right at Smith (at 4.90 miles). Runners will see Pappas BBQ restaurant across the street on the southwest corner of Lamar & Smith. Continue on Smith until reaching Exchange 32 at Smith Fountain!

LEG 33

Leg 33 runners take an immediate left off Smith and onto Clay, heading southeast. Although there will likely be an officer there, Leg 33 runners absolutely should NOT blindly make this turn, assuming all traffic has been stopped. Runners should proceed down Clay, towards the Toyota Center on the right hand (south) side of Clay. At Caroline (.45 miles), 2 blocks from the Toyota Center, runners will take a right and follow Caroline (running on the right side). Caroline will “end” at Holman, 1.63m into the leg, at the Houston Community College. Caroline actually picks up again at the other side of the campus, so runners will cross and take a right on Holman, take a left at the next block (San Jacinto), take the next left (Alabama), and then take a right back onto Caroline. Runners will proceed all on Caroline all the way until it ends at Hermann Park Drive. When approaching Hermann Park Drive, runners will be at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Runners will take the sidewalk around the museum, staying on the right side of Hermann Park Drive, when they take the right turn. This is 3.16miles into the leg, so there is less than a quarter mile to go. And, it won't be long after the right turn on Hermann Park Drive that runners will be able to see Sam Houston's statue up ahead in the middle of the traffic circle. The exchange is exactly beneath the statue! But, please use caution as there are small steps leading up to and away from the statue.

Important Note for Leg 33 runners: We have seen this park pretty empty and totally busy. There are several outdoor attractions nearby, so if it is a nice day, parking could be quite scarce. It will be certainly busy this year with the Houston Kite Festival taking place at the same time. Plan on running the leg without any assistance from your team because they will need to go ahead and find parking (hopefully using the plan we've provided).

LEG 34

Virtually all of leg 34 is run on a trail or path, which makes it another great leg! Because there are fewer streets as reference points, though, it is very important that leg 34 runners have studied their route beforehand so that they know with confidence the route (without the help of any signage if it were to come to that)!

From Sam Houston's statue on the circle, runners will start out with appropriate caution as there are small steps and then they will be crossing the traffic circle that can be busy at times. Runners will be headed directly towards the reflection pond and obelisk, but right after they cross the traffic circle, they will encounter the main crushed granite path that circles the Hermann Park. Runners will take a RIGHT on this path, and runners will soon find themselves situated between the park (to their left) and Fannin (to the right). In between Fannin and Main Street (which is just on the other side of Fannin) is the Metro Rail. Runners stay on this main crushed granite path that runs along the west side of the park. About a half mile into the leg, the path will begin to curve to the left, so that runners begin to run along Cambridge instead of Fannin. Runners will soon be running along the wall of the Houston Zoo, and another obvious landmark is that the Memorial Hermann Hospital is across Cambridge. The wide crushed granite path will have narrowed into a sidewalk, and it will be obvious that you are going by the Zoo (on the left) as runners will go by its South entrance. Runners will cross Herman Park Road at exactly 1 mile into their run, and they will find themselves running on a crushed granite path again as they keep the golf course to their left and Cambridge to their right. The remaining distance along Cambridge is short, however, as the trail will again curve left and begins to run along a new street – this time N MacGregor Way (keeping the golf course on their left).

Shortly after turning alongside MacGregor Way, an opening in the trees to the right allows runners to see the sidewalk leading to the tunnel beneath MacGregor Way. Runners will take this sidewalk to the right, and will be exceedingly cautious as they make their way down to use the tunnel to get to the other side of MacGregor Way. On the other side, runners will immediately take the stairs up to run across the big gray Bill Coats pedestrian suspension bridge to reach the other side of the Brays Bayou. After reaching the far end of the pedestrian bridge, runners will take a LEFT on the path / sidewalk. Then, runners will stay left to follow the path beneath both MacGregor Way and Almeda. For about 200 yards runners will run on a narrow dirt path beneath these roads. This dirt path picks up the cement Bray's Bayou path again, and runners should continue to run east on the path that goes alongside MacGregor Way. The path goes beneath South Fwy (288) and continues to wind eastward between the bayou and S MacGregor Drive, never straying too far from S MacGregor. S MacGregor is a large road, but not that busy. There are a couple of places where the path comes up to cross a street, with little pedestrian stop signs that the runners should pay attention to. The first of these is crossing Armore (2.45 miles into leg). The next one is at Scott Street (3.6 miles). Near Scott Street, the trail deviates away slightly from MacGregor Dr., but the path converges back to the MacGregor about 300 meters after Scott. Just past 4.5 miles, runners will reach Calhoun (a relatively small intersection with a traffic light). They will veer slightly right (but not turning right on Calhoun) when crossing this intersection to

leave the path and to run into the drive that leads to the parking lot for MacGregor Park! Exchange 34 is just 200 meters ahead in MacGregor Park!

LEG 35

Leg 35 runners start off by veering left from the exchange, continuing east in the MacGregor Park parking area. Three hundred meters after the exchange, runners will cross Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and take a right on the sidewalk. This sidewalk runs along MLK for another 300 meters before it reaches Old Spanish Trail, a pretty big road (that the officers will help a lot with!). Here, runners will cross Old Spanish Trail and then take a left to run alongside Old Spanish Trail (on the sidewalk on its south side). Close to a quarter mile after this left turn, runners will run under a little tunnel that goes beneath several train tracks... it may not look so impressive when running beneath it, but that's a lot of train tracks!

Leg 35 runners continue on the sidewalk next to Old Spanish Trail for another 3/4s of a mile (1.33m into the run) before they take a right on Wheeler St. (there is a traffic light here). When taking a right at this turn, runners will be going around Houston's Fire Station 40!

Runners will stay on this right hand sidewalk, and for just a very short stretch before Wayside (traffic light), the sidewalk gives way to a dirt path. After crossing Wayside (staying on Wheeler), the sidewalk resumes, and runners will go by the side of Houston's Parks and Recreation HQ! Shortly after this, Telephone Road merges into Wheeler (there is a black wrought iron fence on the runner's right), and technically the road becomes Telephone at this point. But, to runners, it will be the same road they've been on, still running on the right side, and, at this point, next to the black fence. Just after this, leg 35 runners will cross Griggs and go over a railroad track. Less than 200 meters after this (2.19 miles into the leg), runners will take a right on Broad St. Then, runners will take the next right on Huey (2.3 miles), and then a left on Askew, where Huey T's into it (2.46 miles). Runners will stay on Askew for a half mile all the way until it ends at 610 Frontage road (3.00 miles). At the frontage road, they will take a very brief right (about 30 meters) to get to the steps that will take them on the pedestrian over pass that will take them up and over 610!

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: The steps down the pedestrian are 1) Steep, and 2) Hard cement. So, it is absolutely imperative that all runners must WALK down the steps and use the handrail.

After coming down the pedestrian overpass, runners will take the left on Fairway that is directly in front of them and will continue on Fairway for just over a half mile to Exchange 35 in the Barnett Stadium parking area! Relay Tailgate – woohoo!!!

LEG 36

Runners who get to do leg 36 will start by exiting the parking lot and taking a right back onto Fairway. They should run on the left side of Fairway and will cross Telephone at .38 miles. Runners will take a left on Mchenry, just after passing these big slightly worn portable building structures (.64 miles into the leg). Runners will use caution in crossing Reveille, a large, but lightly used boulevard (.93 miles), and just after that, at the one mile mark, runners will turn right on Southern. Runners stay on Southern until it ends (1.3 miles). Here, runners will turn left to run up the ramp to take the pedestrian overpass going over I-45!

After crossing over I-45, runners will make a U-turn type of turn to run north on the sidewalk along the frontage road for about 100 yards, and will take the first right on Easton (1.51 miles). In early February 2013, the street sign for Easton was missing, and it probably has not yet been replaced, so runners need to be able to handle this without the street sign. Easton does a little zig-zag at Berkley so that runners are on Berkley for maybe .01 mile before they are immediately back on Easton heading east. Runners will cross Broadway, a large road, at 1.95 miles and will continue on Easton until it T's into Iola St. at 2.28 miles. There is a sign on a fence on Iola that says "Whoa", but leg 36 runners should keep on truckin'! Runners will take a left on Iola, and then a right on Detroit, just 100 yards later. Runners will follow the curving Detroit until they reach the stop sign at Park Place. At Park Place, runners take a left, staying on the left hand sidewalk. Just 250 meters later, leg 36 runners will cross over train tracks and then will cross over Galveston and take a right on the sidewalk on the other side of Galveston (2.85 miles). Galveston here is really Old Galveston, but the street sign may just say Galveston Rd. In any event, it should be clear that runners take a right here as Park Place kind of turns into a driveway on the east side of Galveston. Runners will take Galveston straight to the exchange at Cesar Chavez High at Galveston and Howard!

LEG 37

From Exchange 36 (actually, from leg 35's last turn onto Galveston) the course resumes the old TIR course. However, the old leg 38 is now split into legs 37 and 38, both around 3 miles each.

After taking the baton, leg 37 runners head east on Howard, and they will stay on the left hand sidewalk (facing traffic) until it ends at Allendale. There is a Meat Market (to the left) and a church (on the right). Runners will take a left on Allendale (1.13 miles), staying on the left hand sidewalk, thinking of wonderful Billy Joel songs. They will cross Allen Genoa at 1.78 miles and then past S Richey just a smidge over 2 miles.

Just beyond 2.5miles, Allendale does something kinda funky... it turns into and becomes Oaks Dr. for just a tiny little bit. Runners will follow the road turning right (on what they sensibly believe to be Allendale), they will reach a stop sign, and then they will take a left BACK ON Allendale. This left back onto Allendale is at 2.59 miles into the leg. About 250 meters after this turn - at 2.76 miles - runners will take another left on Dade Street. Runners will run in this neighborhood a few blocks before making a right turn on W Houston Ave (at 3.02 miles). From here, runners will run on the left side of Houston

Ave, cross Shaver (an intersection with traffic lights) at 3.27 miles, and then make the exchange about 200 meters after crossing Shaver.

This is a new exchange location than in years past due to construction occurring on Garner.

LEG 38

Leg 38 is a short leg, but it has several turns. After receiving the baton, leg 38 runners continue East on Houston Ave. Just before a half a mile into the leg, runners will pass a church that is to the left and will cross Pasadena Ave. Runners will keep going down Houston and will pass the Bobby Shaw Middle School just before Houston T's into Strawberry Road. At Strawberry, runners will take a right (staying on the right side). But, they will only go about 30-40 yards, before they will take a left and cross Strawberry in order to run on Beusch. When taking this left, runners will be at 0.92 miles into the leg.

Leg 38 runners will run Beusch in it's entirety until it T's into Jane Drive (at 1.44m). Runners will take a right on Jane, and then runners will quickly begin curving leftward on Jane (almost a U-Turn!), and then it will only be .1 of a mile after turning onto Jane (from Beusch) that runners will be turning right onto Austin Avenue (1.54m). After turning on Austin, runners will stay on the left side, and it will be over 3/4s of a mile until runners will cross Preston (a little bit of a bigger street), and they will take a left on the sidewalk (going north on Preston, with traffic). Just 200 meters later, runners will hang a right on Rose (2.41m). As runners make their way down Rose, they will see Exchange 38 in the front of Keller Middle School! (However, runners need to watch out for themselves as they cross Magnolia immediately before the exchange).

LEG 39

From the front of Keller Middle School, runners will take an immediate left (though it won't feel like they are taking a left as it is just part of the exchange) to take Magnolia 0.08 miles (~150 yards) to San Augustine. Runners will take a right on San Augustine, running on the right hand side of the road to the traffic light at San Augustine and Red Bluff Rd. After crossing Red Bluff, this road becomes Orrel. But, runners are not on Orrel long before they take a right (going around the convenience store) on Truxton. On Truxton, it is a good idea for runners to resume running on the left side of the road as they will take the next left on Glenmore (0.49 miles into the leg).

Runners will stay on Glenmore for a while, running on the left side (facing traffic), until they reach Edgefield Dr. Here, 1.19 miles into the leg, they will take a right on Edgefield. Then, they will pass 4 culdesacs on the left before taking a left on Parkwood (1.43 miles). After making the left, runners will see the ballfields and track for the Junior High School, and then they will take a right on Greenshadow Drive. On Greenshadow, runners should run on the left side of the road. Runners will continue east on Greenshadow and take it underneath the Sam Houston Tollway. Runners will stay on Greenshadow (which eventually becomes 13th Street) all the way to Exchange 39 at San Jacinto Elementary.

LEG 40

Two last turns....

Exchange 39 is just 4.3 miles from the finish! Runners will actually continue east, crossing past East Street at 0.41 miles. At 0.83 miles, runners will take a left on Independence Pkwy (the sign at this intersection used to say Battleground Road, but they changed it within the last year). Just after this left turn, runners will climb up a “mountainous” overpass (it’s actually not that bad, but the way some talk about it, you’d think it is Denali!). At the top, however, runners will be immensely rewarded by being able to see their final destination, the San Jacinto Monument, over 3 miles away.

After crossing over Hwy 225, runners will run on the left side shoulder of Independence Pkwy, and finally, at 3.20 miles, the runner will take a right onto State of Texas Vista. (Only runners, and NOT vans take this way to the monument.) After making this turn, even though the monument is plainly in sight, the runner still has over a mile to go.

After the Leg 40 runner finishes where the straightaway finally forks, teams will make their way the last .06 mile (untimed) to celebrate their incredible weekend long accomplishment and the great state of Texas.