

# **2018 TIR LEG DESCRIPTIONS**

## **LEG 1 (WITH THE PROLOGUE)**

The Prologue is a relatively short 1.15 mile run that all the team members run. It is a 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. 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 racing 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, 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 (though 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 reaching Hwy 90A!

## **LEG 2**

Almost immediately after taking 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 about 4.6 miles, runners will see the first exchange to the left, but they will still have a little further to go to reach the turn to get there. At 4.82 miles (a third of a mile from the finish), after having just crossed 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... two of the biggest factors are the last time it was graded and when the last rainfall took place. As of mid-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 is useless 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 for about just over a mile and a half. Runners will see an oil field on the left, and then a dirt road on the right. This road is CoRd 355, and runners should turn right onto it. About a quarter mile after this turn 355 curves 90degrees to the right (at 3.80) and then it curves back 90 degrees to the left another  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile after that (at 4.05 miles). After this second curve, runners will have a straight  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile run to the finish. BUT, we're sure runners will be thrilled to see a nice little climb to finish off the leg. So, thoughtful runners will save a little bit to look strong all the way to the hand-off!

### **LEG 4**

In short, Leg 4 should be easy. Just stay on Co Rd 355. There are some curves on 355 and that's fine. Just don't turn on any other road. It's mostly dirt and then turns into a paved country road near the end.

The Leg 4 runner will have the slightest of descents before it curves around left and goes around some stately oaks and under tree branches that span over the road. A little over a half mile into the leg, runners will go by an oil field drive way on the left and then immediately by Co Rd 363 that goes off to the right. Just after that is the start of a long gradual ascent of about 150 feet that goes for about a mile. It's not that steep, but leg 4 runners will definitely say otherwise! If runners can afford it, this leg has some great expansive country views.

At 1.25 miles, Co Rd 354 goes off to the left. Don't turn. Stay straight on 355... there is 0.35m of hill left after going by 354. After cresting the hill and going down just a little bit, 355 has a 90 degree turn to the right which is shortly afterward followed up by a 90 degree turn to the left. Runners will continue to the intersection of 355 & 364 at 3.07 miles. This intersection has little miniature stop signs to make a 4-way stop. Almost looks like one of the nearby residents put them up because 2 vehicles came to the intersection at the same time once. Anyway, this intersection serves as the mile-to-go marker. Shortly after that, country road pavement begins, and then runners will reach Exchange 4!

## **LEG 5**

The first 2.2 miles of Leg 5 continue on 355, but these miles are straight as an arrow towards Shiner. (As a short note, 355 actually becomes 349, but this is not really noticeable... just stay straight.) Co Rd 355(349) eventually T's into 348. Here runners cross the street and take a right. Immediately after taking the right, runners take a left onto the shoulder of 90A. This turn does not have good visibility around it, so runners should use caution when making this left turn.

After taking this left, runners have just a bit before country becomes more and more town of Shiner! 90A is the main road of Shiner. Runners will pass by a park on the left just before reaching the commercial downtown part of Shiner. Then, runners will take a sharp left (again, visibility around this turn is not good either!) before running a country city block to the exchange!

## **LEG 6**

As soon as teams reach downtown Shiner, they are going right back out again... this time a little bit more North than West. At the exchange, runners will be taking a left as they get the baton onto N Avenue D. It doesn't take long before runners are in the residential part of Shiner. At 0.33 miles, Ave D T's into 12<sup>th</sup>. Runners will take a right here, and then just 2 blocks later, runners will take a left on Avenue B, and runners will follow Avenue B out of town.

One unique detail about this leg is that as runners are nearing the outskirts of town, they will pass Gonzales Street on the right, and then not more than 100 yards later, they will pass San Jacinto Street to the left! So, Leg 6 runners can claim they ran in the Texas Independence Relay and ran from Gonzales to San Jacinto all by themselves in about half a minute! And, not long after that they crossed ALL OF TEXAS and all the way to Louisiana! (Texas Street, that is... which is about 200 meters past San Jacinto Street and then Louisiana Street which is right after that.)

After all of that excitement, runners will continue north on Ave B which becomes Co Rd 351 as it leaves town. Runners will pass a cemetery and then a large park (both on the left). And, eventually (3.5 miles into the run) 351 reaches a stop sign, T'ing into 351/353 (351 to the left and 353 to the right). Runners will take a left after reaching the stop sign, thereby staying on 351. A little over a tenth of a mile after that, 351 curves 90 degrees to the right, and runners will stay on 351 going up a hill and reaching the exchange a little less than a half a mile from the curve (and a little over half a mile from the stop sign).

## **LEG 7**

Leg 7 runners continue on 351 and enjoy wide countryside vistas! At 1.6 miles into the leg, Co Rd 351 curves to the right (90 degrees), but 351A goes to the left. So, even though runners are staying on 351, we're treating it like a right turn. Then a quarter mile later (3.85 miles) the road curves back left again. After this curve to the left the road becomes a dirt road. Co Rd 351 then T's into Co Rd 294 at 2.5 miles into the leg.

A rather odd aspect about this leg... Just before reaching Co Rd 294, there is a Texas Historical Marker to the left in the woods. You may not see it as it is SO easy to miss. Being that this is in the middle of nowhere on a dirt road to begin with, and then that it is pretty much in the woods, this must be the winner for the most remote and obscure Texas Historical Marker in the world! And, you got to see it (maybe) on Leg 7!

Back to the course... At Co Rd 294 (where 351 T's into it), runners will take a left, and then 294 immediately curves 90 degrees to the right. Runners will continue on 294 until it T's into Co Rd 290. This is at 3.23 miles into the leg. Runners will take a right on 290 and then follow 290 to the exchange.

## **LEG 8**

Exchange 7 is on a curve, so leg 8 runners immediately curve back to the north after accepting the hand-off. At 1/3 of a mile into the leg, 290 is a little tricky in that it almost starts to turn to the right, but then it turns to the left (but not 90 degrees) while another road (296 goes to the right).

290 has several curves (a couple are the 90 degree variety), but runners need to stay on 290 until it ends at a stop sign at 532. This is 2.59 miles into the run – exactly halfway! 532 is a bigger paved road. Runners will cross 532 and take a right so that they are facing traffic. After about a half a mile on 532, runners will take a left on 288. Not far down on 288, there is a home with a hundred loud barking dogs... ok, maybe more like 7 or 8. But they are barky for sure. Thankfully, the homeowner was as nice as can be, and they plan to keep the dogs inside while we run by. But, the first team / runner that reaches this spot might get the barks-a-lot treatment. A mile and a half after turning onto 288, it T's into 287. Here (4.56 miles into the leg), runners will take a right on 287. Then, .60 of a mile later, 287 T's into 1680 at Old Moulton! Runners will take a left here on 1680 and immediately hand off to the next runner!

## **LEG 9**

After receiving the baton (on 1680), leg 9 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. That said, be cautious and confident in handling the dog situation, if it arises.

About 1.44 miles into the leg, 285 has a 90 degree turn to the right, and then just after that runners will 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 usually a lot of hay bales. Continue on 284/283 (283 because both 284 and 283 converge here) by veering left here around this property. 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. Don't 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 9 runners still have a decent hill to climb after the tracks and before reaching Exchange 9!

## **LEG 10**

Just after taking possession of the baton, leg 10 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 10 runners to breathe! But, they will likely 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 this 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 (BEFORE the train tracks), runners will take a right (crossing 95 perpendicularly and with appropriate caution) on S Main to get to Exchange 10, which is right at the gazebo and Lyric Theater!

## **LEG 11**

Leg 11 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 headwind from the east) can make this leg (and leg 12) challenging. The exchange is at the light blue warehouses, named the Kemlon buildings.

## **LEG 12**

Continuing directly east by way of Hwy 90, leg 12 runners embark to Schulenburg! As with leg 11, leg 12 can be tougher than the elevation profile looks because of the wide open nature of the route here. Leg 12 is also one of the TIR's longer legs.

As Leg 12 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. This is 4.82 miles into the run, and there are a few homes located right at this turn. A huge attraction just after turning onto Old 90 are the fainting goats! So fun and cute...what great neighbors! Old 90 is also North Main Street, and runners will follow this all the way to Exchange 12 at the center of Schulenburg, between Sengelmann's Hall and the gazebo!

## **LEG 13**

Leg 13 runners continue on Main for another third of a mile until reaching Herder Ave (there is a stop sign). Runners will take a left on Herder, crossing over to the other side of the street, and then just .15 of a mile later (just over 200 meters), runners will take a right on Hwy 90 (Hwy 90 is named Summit St. in Schulenburg). Runners are to cross 90 first and then take the right so that they are once again running against traffic.

Leg 13 is not a long leg, but, it still has a little Hill Country to it with a few short hills. When approaching I-10, leg 13 runners will know they are almost done. The exchange is about 200 meters beyond the Interstate.

## **LEG 14**

Leg 14 is also along 90, and it finishes at Weimar, where you know there is always a party and good times! The finisher of this leg has also gotten a special commemorative baton as a gift from Weimar every year since the TIR's inception! This leg is completely straight, so no one should get lost (crossing fingers!).

## **LEG 15**

This leg is also completely straight along Hwy 90, finishing across from the old Borden Country Store!

## **LEG 16**

Once again, another leg perfect for those who are a little directionally challenged! Leg 16 is a completely straight leg, finishing at a gravelly road driveway on the north side of Hwy 90.

## **LEG 17**

Leg 17 is not quite as straightforward as the previous 3 legs, but that is an awfully low bar. Runners tackling leg 17 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. 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 that is lined with US flags! 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 district of Columbus that is just off I-10. After crossing beneath I-10, runners will pass a McDonald's, a couple of hotels, and Los Cabos restaurant. Then, runners will take a left into the Snappy's Service Station and Convenience Mart driveway. Leg 17 runners must go around the back of Snappy's to reach Exchange 17 (avoiding any traffic coming in and out of the gas station).

## **LEG 18**

Immediately upon receiving the baton, leg 18 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 18 is located.

For those teams that have 12 runners, this is the recommended exchange where you arrange 6 runners to be in the van that will handle the next 6 legs (to get to Exchange 24 in Wallis) while the rest goes to get some rest at Brazos HS (just 2 miles east of Wallis on Hwy 36). Then at exchange 24 in Wallis, the half-teams will swap roles.

## **LEG 19**

Leg 19 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.

As an aside, we heard about a very odd fellow with a lasso (practicing according to him) who was walking along this stretch and totally creeping out a few runners last year. We thought this was urban (or rural) TIR legend and not quite all true. After all, some of the best runner highs occur at the TIR. However, this story was recently confirmed. So, if you see a sketchy dude with a lasso on this stretch, please definitely tell the officer stations at (102 and 71 at 5.1 miles) as well as the Exchange folks.

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 19 at Main and East Street... at the silo!

(Another quick word. No trespassing into private property of public property that is not opened to you. Do not go into this (or other) grain silo(s), closed schools, churches, office buildings, retail stores, or homes that are not owned by the TIR (which means all of them).

## **LEG 20**

Starting from the intersection of Main and East, Leg 20 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. 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.

## **LEG 21**

From Exchange 20, 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 that are 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! 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 and curving left, until reaching Hwy 3013. At 3013, runners will take a left to get to Exchange 21, after having run clear across the entirety of Eagle Lake!

## **LEG 22**

Exchange 21 is at FM 3013 and FM 1093. So, when leg 22 runners depart, they immediately head off on FM 1093 toward Wallis. This leg is flat and straight, and the stars can be very bright on this leg! Exchange 22 is at the eastern end of a giant grain elevator.

Runners should run facing traffic (of which there is 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 23**

Continuing on FM 1093, leg 23 does not have any turns, but it does have 2 sweeping curves! It finishes by 2-Driveways (which is our name for this exchange for over a decade)!

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 about.

## **LEG 24**

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 24). 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 in the center of downtown Wallis at the city's sign!

Wallis is the next "Major Exchange" where half-teams switch roles from running to resting and vice versa!

## **LEG 25**

Leg 25 runners continue on Hwy 36 from downtown Wallis to 1489 (Simonton Road)... this intersection has traffic lights, is 5.45 miles from the start of the leg, and is lit up well. So, it is hard to miss! Here at Simonton Road (FM 1489), runners will take a left. Just over  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a mile after taking this left (5.8 miles into this 6.23 mile leg), runners will stop to look both ways before cautiously crossing 1489 at a right angle to take a right on Kibler Rd. Kibler Rd. takes you into the community of Orchard and to Brazos Elementary. Runners will take a left onto the first driveway of the elementary 0.29 miles after the previous turn. Then, runners will finish out the last 200 meters by going to the school.

Van drivers should use the second driveway to the school both to go into the parking area and to leave. Also, there are homes nearby and it will be absolutely in the middle of the night, so please be courteous and quiet (shhh).

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 26**

Leg 26 runners will begin the leg by departing from Brazos elementary in the exact same way that Leg 25 runners came to it. Go out the first driveway... it's about 200 meters from the exchange to the end of the driveway. Take a right on Kibler. Follow Kibler about a quarter mile before crossing Simonton Rd (1489), stopping and looking both ways before cautiously crossing. Take a right on Simonton and run facing southbound traffic. At about 2.4 miles into the leg, runners will crest the bridge that spans the mighty Brazos River. Coming into Simonton, runners will pass Simonton Community church to the right and some homes to the left, and the exchange will be just a quarter mile ahead at the intersection of 1489 (Simonton Road) and FM 1093.

## **LEG 27**

Right at Exchange 27 (where there is a stop sign and a blockish little retail center) , Leg 27 runners will begin by immediately “taking a right” (though it will feel straight as this turn happens at the exchange) 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 28**

Leg 28 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. The Leg 28 has the choice of either running on the far left side so as to run facing traffic. Or, they may choose to stay on the right side of Cross Creek Bend Rd (which has plenty of room for vans to pass). Although this neighborhood has great sidewalks that go by ponds and stuff, 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, will get to the south (right hand) side of South Fry Rd and will reach Exchange 28 only a couple of blocks after this turn. The exchange is on SE corner of the intersection of South Fry and Flewellen Oaks Lane.

## **LEG 29**

Leg 29 is short and sweet at 2.5 miles in length (though this is not the shortest leg in TIR history). Runners start off by staying on the South side of South Fry, and now the sidewalks are recommended. Less than a quarter mile into this leg, runners will be crossing 1463, and there is a traffic light here. 1463 is a big road, so runners need to proceed with due caution. Runners will continue on S Fry for 1.17 miles and then take a right onto Cinco Terrace (again, staying on the right side). Runners will follow Cinco Terrace for the remaining duration of the leg. When runners see the traffic light of Cinco Terrace and Spring Green, they are seeing where the exchange is located!

Exchange 29 is on the SE corner of Cinco Terrace and Spring Green. There is a new 24 hour Timewise gas station here, so if you need gas, this place is as good as any! Quite a few beverages and snacks will likely be purchased here, and the restroom facilities work. ALSO, there is a Hurts Donut place across the street that is open 24/7 and is apparently a thing. The number of jokes that can be made involving a place named Hurts Donuts in the middle of the TIR are endless!

## **LEG 30**

Runners tasked with leg 30 will immediately turn left onto Spring Green, and head north back up to Fry. Fry Road is  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the exchange and at Fry runners should cross over Fry first, and then take a right (so that they are running on the side / sidewalk that faces traffic). To anyone who isn't SUPER familiar with Fry and Cinco Ranch Blvds., it is really hard to distinguish the difference between the two! Fry is very well lit and the avenue is roomy and comfortable. Runners will reach a major shopping area (The Home Depot, HEB, etc) at around the 3 mile mark, and they will cross under 99 (Grand Parkway) just after 3 miles. At 3.77 miles into this leg (3.5 miles after turning onto Fry), runners will take a left on Peek Rd. Again Peek Rd. has a very similar look and feel, and for many teams it will be the first light of dawn on this leg (though it will still be dark for the majority). At just a little bit after 5 miles into the leg (a little over 1.35 miles after turning on Peek), runners will be able to see Good Times Running Company, located in The Villages Shopping Center that is at the corner of Peek and Westheimer Pkwy! Runner will cross Westheimer at 5.29 miles, and will take a right on Westheimer to reach the exchange.

The wonderful folks at Good Times Running Co (what an appropriate name) are ready to welcome you, take care of you, and send you on your way to finish off the rest of your journey to Houston! As this is exchange 30 it is the last major exchange, and many (if not the great majority) of  $\frac{1}{2}$  teams will be coming from Brazos High School to reunite the full team. The parking garage at The Villages (the entrance is off Westheimer Pkwy) will make parking easy, and they have a perfect spot to hang out in the courtyard behind the store. They'll have breakfast tacos, etc (though not intended really to be a full-on huge breakfast, so please be courteous to those who haven't reached the exchange yet). Thank you Good Times Running Co (GTRC)!!

## **LEG 31**

As great as a spot Good Times will be, the relay must go on! The leg 31 runner will continue on Westheimer Pkwy. They will cross Mason (normally a very busy street) at about a half mile into the run. 1.5 miles later, at the two mile mark, runners will cross Fry. A little less than a ¼ mile after crossing Fry, runners will pass the homes, go over a little bayou bridge and begin to run into more of a green space. The cement blocks will give way to more of an asphalt path, and this is the beginning of the George Bush Trail. The path will then turn 90 degrees to the left (going away from Westheimer Pkwy) and go around soccer fields. If you find yourself running way off the path and running on grass, you're likely running off the course. 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 right at 3 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 (4 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 32**

Leg 32 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, crossing over the new bridge at 1.55 miles) and going all the way until it exits out on the north end on a very small street named Barker Clodine Rd. This exit is at 2.73 miles. 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 32 runners are now running parallel to Hwy 6. A little over a half mile after the curve, leg 32 veers towards Hwy 6. When runners get close to Hwy 6 and near the big water gorge, it will become evident how to run the little dipsy-do to run underneath Hwy 6 and get to the 32nd Exchange. Exchange 32 is at the start of the Terry Hershey Trail!

### **LEG 33**

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 33 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 they just ran on** 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 about a mile and half before running underneath the second large road that goes over the trail, Dairy Ashford (3.07 miles). Runners keep going and will run under Kirkwood (4.16 miles), and then they will finally come up off the trail (a left “exit”) to come up to a street named Wilcrest. This is 5.25 miles into the leg. On Wilcrest, runners will take a right, staying on the right hand side. Runners will stay on Wilcrest for almost a mile and a half until they reach the exchange at Wilcrest and Briar Forest.

### **LEG 34**

Leg 34 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 name of the road changes again to 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 34, a little over a quarter of a mile beyond Voss – at Winrock!

## LEG 35

From Winrock and San Felipe, leg 35 runners continue east on San Felipe for another half mile before taking a left on Potomac. Runners will go another half mile up Potomac and then will take 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 35 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, at Woodway and Post Oak, 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 35 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 35 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. We don't anticipate it being quite that busy, but it's good to have contingencies.

## LEG 36

While we can see why some less-than-completely prepared runners may rely on runners ahead of them when out in the country or late at night. Odds are good that they, too, are a TIR runner, and if you're willing to gamble that they're better prepared than you, then that happens. BUT, here, at Memorial Park, there are a lot of runners every weekend. So, following the runner ahead of you has much worse odds of achieving the desired outcome. More than a few times, runners have followed people to their homes and were likely surprised (not in a good way) when they saw the runner they were following anxiously dash into their house and lock the door. Obviously, it also creeps the locals out to have sketchy haggard-looking people with a race number (but no apparent race) following them. So, make it a point to be prepared for this leg so that you could do it yourself without following anyone or without even having signs or course markings.

Leg 36 starts with a short stretch (1/2 mile) on the main Memorial Park trail. So, if a runner is running at about a 10min/mile clip, they will only be on the path for 5 minutes. Leg 36 runners will cross the driveway to the parking for the golf course and Becks restaurant at 1/4 mile. Then, at the stop sign (3-way stop for Memorial Park Loop motorists) and corresponding crosswalk (0.5m from the exchange), leg 36ers 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. Runners will take the left onto Blossom at 0.9 miles.

Blossom is a somewhat narrow thoroughfare that runs east-west by several condominiums. It commonly accommodates many runners, walkers, and cyclists. So, while on the one hand we appreciate teams / vans helping their runners, Blossom may not be the best for this. 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 that crosses Memorial Drive, runners will TAKE A LEFT AND WILL NOT CROSS OVER THE BAYOU. Very sorry for the all caps, but this is a change from several years of going to the other side, and this year in particular would be a bad one to run on the south side because a big music festival (the In Bloom Music Fest, previously known as the Free Press Summer Fest) will be on the south side of the bayou, and they will have Allen all blocked off.

When running on the Buffalo Bayou Trail, leg 36 runners need to keep to the main wide newer-looking cement path. There are these little light poles going along the path the entire way. These lights have cement posts with a circular flying-saucer-like decorative piece at the top, and they are about 25 yards apart the entire way. So, if you find yourself having turned on a path without these lights, you've made a wrong turn.

After runners have made the left after crossing Memorial Drive, they will go underneath Waugh Dr. at 3.03 miles, and then under Montrose Blvd at 3.42 miles. Runners will pass by newer pedestrian bridges just after Montrose at 3.48 miles. One third of a mile later (3.8 miles), the path will cross back beneath Memorial and from 4 – 4.25 miles, runners will run around the north side of the Houston Police Department Memorial. On the east side of the Memorial, a trail option (going off to the left and with hand rails) presents itself. Do not take this left turn. Continue straight on the path to go back underneath Memorial Drive, and then runners will be running on the path right alongside the bayou. At 4.35m, runners will be right across from Eleanor Tinsley Park, where the music festival is taking place. If they are not playing, they will be getting set up for the day.

At 4.46 miles, runners will be running by the skate park (but this is easy to miss as it is to the left and up the hill a bit). This section is one of the best views of downtown! At 4.56 miles, runners will pass under the Sabine Street Bridge, and then just another tenth of a mile later, runners will pass underneath I-45 and plenty of other on-and-off ramps. It's noticeable.

At 4.86 miles, runners will take the pedestrian bridge to cross over the bayou and run on the south side of the bayou. This bridge is moderately sized – not small, but definitely not huge. After crossing this bridge, runners will take a left (4.9m) to continue running along the bayou the same direction they were previously running. At 4.93 miles (which is immediately after taking the left), runners will go beneath Rusk and Capitol Streets. Very soon after that, runners will see the big blue ferris wheel on the other side of the bayou. This ferris wheel is a key landmark for leg 36 runners because when they see the ferris wheel, they should start looking for the steps / ramp that will take them up off the bayou path and onto the city streets! While on the path and right after seeing the ferris wheel, runners will run beneath the intersection of Texas Ave and Bagby, and then immediately after that, to the right, are the steps and switchback ramp that leads up to Texas Ave.

Upon getting up to street level, runners will be on Texas Avenue in front of the Wortham Theater (currently undergoing renovation required post-Harvey) and across the street from the Hard Rock Café.

Here at 5.21 miles into the leg, runners will take a left on Texas Avenue to proceed deeper into the city. Runners will cross Smith, Louisiana, Milam, and Travis Streets. At 5.53 miles, runners will take a right on Main Street. Main Street is a two-way street with a metrorail in the center. Runners should run down Main on it's west side going with the traffic, so the runners should not have crossed Main or over the Metrorail yet. Runners will then cross Capitol, Rusk, Walker, McKinney, Lamar, Dallas, and Polk.

After crossing Polk, runners will be right across the street from the TIR Tower, which has the finish line right on top! Runners will be directly next to the old Methodist Church, and when they reach Clay, runners will take a left on cross Main St. This at the 6.01 mile mark. At 6.08 miles, runners will take a left into the TIR Tower. Quick note – runners over 6ft6 need to be cautious to not bump their head, and the big vans will not make it in.

The guard arm will be down. Do not be alarmed, but rather run right around it. Immediately after the guard arm, runners will take a left (halfway up the first ramp) to continue going up the other ramp. After the first two half ramps, Leg 36 runners will run the full length of the remaining 6 ramps. The total distance from the street to the finish is less than a third of a mile.

At the start of the last ramp leading to the rooftop, teams will join their last runner by going through the TIR Tunnel (the cannon) and then turning to the right and finishing at the finish line! The time stops when the leg 36 runner reaches the finish line (not when they go through the tunnel as in years past). This will be Epic and Glorious!