

Meeting Announcement

T10 and Friends

May 4–8, 2015

Hosted by:



Location:

Hyatt Regency North Dallas/Richardson
701 East Campbell Road
Richardson, TX 75081
972-231-99600

Reservations:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=12491314
Rate \$175 per night (includes free parking, internet, and hot breakfast buffet)
The hotel's cutoff for reservations is April 14, 2015.
After that, reservations will be possible, but only if rooms are available.

Revision History:

r0 – Reservations information and first past at car rental information (5 Jan 15).

Shared-ride Transportation to the Hotel: DFW is served by SuperShuttle. As of January 2015, the web rate is \$26 each way (<http://www.supershuttle.com/>).

Light Rail Option: The DART Light Rail ride from DFW to the hotel costs \$2.50, with an opportunity cost of about 1.5 hours.

The DFW DART station is located outside the terminal (aka outside security) near Gate A1. If you did not check any luggage, the best way to get there is to use the inside security Skylink tram to get to the Gate A1 area, and only then exit the security zone.



If you have baggage to collect and are lucky enough to be in Terminal A, collect your bags and then walk inside the terminal towards the lowest numbered baggage claim area you can find. From there, locate the most convenient elevator you can find inside Terminal A (not in the parking garage). Join the Skylink riders in taking this elevator to the LL level, then leave the terminal building, turn right, and walk until you see the DART signs (pictured on the right).

After you have collected your baggage in a terminal other than Terminal A, walk out of the terminal and locate the outdoors pickup area for Terminal Link. Many Terminal Link buses are do not use good destination signage on their exterior, so the drivers are trained to tell passengers where the bus is going. DART is a fair place to claim as your destination, but Gate A1 will work too. Upon arrival at the Terminal Link stop for Gate A1/DART, exit the bus, turn right, go to the first terminal entrance on the left, enter the terminal, and immediately look to the right. Using the elevators visible on the right to descend to the LL level, exit the terminal, and immediately look right to see the DART station signs.

Once in the DART station, use a vending machine to purchase the paper ticket which a fare inspector may demand to see. The DFW Station is the end of the DART Orange Line. So, if there is a train that is obviously positioned to leave the station, board it.

Departing from DFW, the Orange Line has two possible destination endpoints: LBJ/Central or Parker Road. This information will be announced numerous times after you have boarded the train. If the train terminates at Parker Road, things are definitely going your way.

At certain times of the weekdays (and always on weekends) Orange Line trains starting from DFW terminate at LBJ/Central. If this is the case, it will be necessary transfer from the Orange Line train to a Red Line train whose terminus is Parker Road. The transfer needs to be accomplished before (or maybe when) the LBJ/Central station is reached. I recommend making this transfer at the Cityplace/Uptown station or the Mockingbird station. The Cityplace/Uptown station is especially nice in foul weather because it is the only underground station in the entire DART system. On sunny and hot days, Mockingbird gets very little sun and thus is a tad cooler than other stations.

When your train reaches the Spring Valley station, call the hotel and request them to send a shuttle to pick you up at the Galatyn Park station. Two stops (and about ten minutes) later, you will be at the Galatyn station, where you will exit the train and walk across the concrete park (past the Renaissance hotel) to meet the Hyatt shuttle.

Renting a Car: The hotel is located within a block of a ten-lane freeway. Significant, sometimes grungy walks are required simply to find food, which may motivate many attendees to rent a car.

Two pleasant amenities await the car-equipped traveler.

- Lots of dining options are less than ten minutes away.
- At your discretion, transit from DFW airport can be accomplished on a single **toll road** 90% of the way. (Note: GPS directional software may offer other options, some with smaller mileage numbers. *Caveat Emptor!*)

Toll Road War Stories: Of the 28 miles on my preferred route between the DFW car rental facility and the hotel, around 23 miles must be driven on the President George Bush Turnpike. Make no mistake about it, **you will pay about \$6.00 in tolls, each way (to and from the airport)** for the privilege of driving on this high-speed roadway. You will also pay between \$4.00 and \$6.00 per day to fund your car rental company's minions who track usage and prepare bills.

Q: How can you be so certain that a toll bill **will** be sent?

A: The Dallas toll road system is a completely cashless operation (i.e., everyday these folks figure out how to bill **anybody** who drives under one of their toll gantries). Regardless of how it is equipped (or not equipped), your rental car will not be one of a handful of special cases the toll gnomes decide to ignore. You will be driving one of the thousands of cars that are billed based on a digital image of the license plate. The North Texas Tollroad Authority has plenty of practice billing based on license plates, and they claim to drop the ball less than 5% of the time.

Even if you zip past each of the four toll gantries between DFW and the hotel at speeds in excess of the posted 70 MPH speed limit, you will be billed. The bill will go to your rental car company, and based on the date/time of the transit, your rental car company will bill you.

Q: Do the rental car companies include the tolls in my final statement when I return the car?

A: No. They wait 2 to 8 weeks to be sure all the digital images of your/their license plate have been processed, and then make a supplementary charge against whatever credit card you used to pay for the rental car.

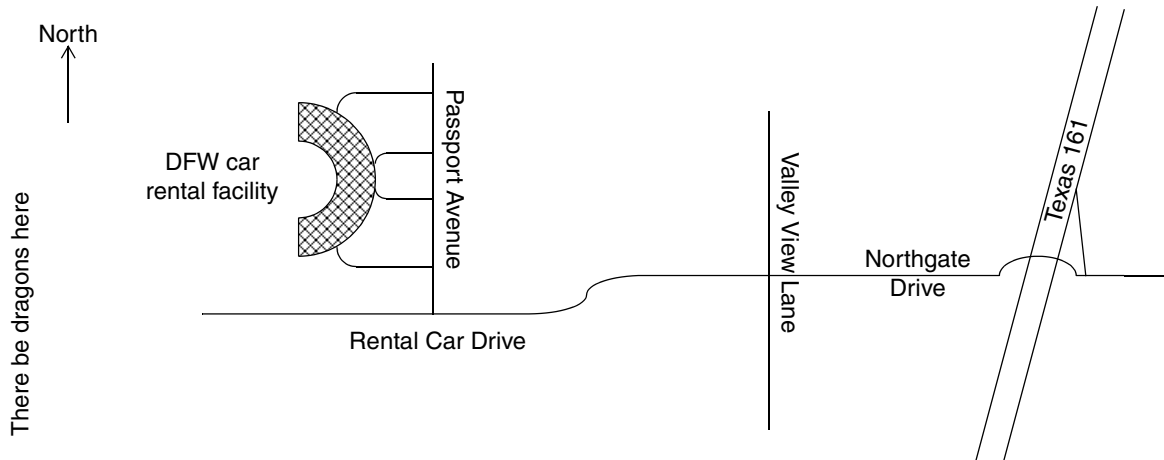
Transiting to the DFW Car Rental Facility: The DFW car rental facility is more than a mile south of the terminal complex. To catch a bus to the facility, go downstairs. In four out of the five DFW terminals, you go downstairs **after** visiting baggage claim (if needed). In the fancy new international terminal (aka Terminal D), you go downstairs in order to reach baggage claim.

After you have reached the downstairs neither world, go outside (unless you are already outside because there are no inside stairs down). Look for a sign that indicates where the car rental buses stop, and wait their. Board **any** bus that says Rental Cars on the side. There is no distinction between car rental companies at this point.

The driver will tell you when the bus arrives at the DFW car rental facility. Mosey around the facility until you find your car rental company.

Driving Directions from DFW car rental to the hotel: Resist the temptation to exit the DFW airport by retracing the path of the car rental bus because that route adds at least 7 miles to your trip, not to mention a pair of toll gates and numerous other annoying hassles.

In a nutshell, the major highway you are looking for upon exit from the car rental facility is Texas 161. Getting to Texas 161 requires a left turn where many others turn right (including your GPS navigation software, perhaps). So, pay close attention to the following map and directions.



There are four exits from the DFW rental car pickup garage. All four connect to Passport Avenue, where a right turn the only correct way to go. The main difference between the four exits is how many traffic lights must be traversed before making the all important left turn. Passport Avenue Ts into Rental Car Drive at another traffic light. This is where a left turn is critical.

After the all-important left turn on to Rental Car Drive, the first traffic light encountered is for Valley View Lane. There are a pair of important facts about Valley View Lane. Two gas stations are located here, which represents the perfect place to fill up before returning the car. The second crucial point is difficult to notice, but vital. Rental Car Drive becomes Northgate Drive when one drives across Valley View Lane going east.

Remember Northgate Drive! When returning the rental car, Northgate Drive is the correct exit from Texas 161. The exit bears no labels to indicate DFW rental car returns should exit here. Northgate Drive is the only information visible on the exit signage, which is why it is imperative to remember Northgate Drive.

After crossing Valley View Lane heading east towards the hotel, the next pair of traffic lights represent the access road complex for Texas 161. Cross over the freeway (yes, at this point it is a freeway) and use the northbound entrance ramp to enter Texas 161 north.

From this point, the hotel is 26 miles and 25..35 minutes away (depending on traffic). Within two minutes, the first toll gantry will be encountered. This is where the President George Bush Turnpike begins.

Between DFW and the hotel, the President George Bush Turnpike will cross three major interchanges for:

- Interstate Highway 635
- Interstate Highway 35E
- Dallas North Tollway

After the Dallas North Tollway interchange is passed, one last toll "plaza" will be traversed before the exit to South-bound US 75 South freeway. If you have not already done so, marvel at how modern technology has completely rototilled the way toll roads work and reduced their need to consume real estate.

May 2015 T10 Meeting Week Announcement

When the State Farm skyscraper (pictured right) comes into view, the time has arrived to prepare for the transition to US 75 south.

Lesser landmarks can be spotted for their entertainment value. One on the left is the former Texas Instruments fab, which looks like a very large launchpad blockhouse now sporting a Dell logo. The former-fab dead giveaway is oversized air conditioning plant next door to the blockhouse.



On the right, just before the exit to US 75 south, an attentive driver can spot the thoroughly modern Texas Instruments fab. This fab is somewhat hidden behind a strip mall, but a quick look right before taking the US 75 south exit ramp will reveal the unmistakable accoutrements of a chip fab.

Getting from the President George Bush Turnpike to US 75 south involves driving in the rightmost lane, taking the right exit, and bearing right at the fork between north US 75 (left) and south US 75 (right).

Unless there is a car wreck in the way, do not leave the lane where you entered US 75 south.

In less than a mile, take the Galatyn Parkway/Campbell Road exit. Follow the signs to Campbell Road, and turn left on to Campbell Road. While crossing under US 75, use the leftmost straight-through lane.

After clearing the freeway, the full height of the Hyatt will be visible on your left. A left turn at the next traffic light will position you to enter the Hyatt parking lot, which now is on your left.