

ENDL TEXAS

Date: 5 March 2002
 To: T10 Technical Committee
 From: Ralph O. Weber
 Subject: Driving to the March T10 Meeting Site

I have the most wonderful news. Reconstruction has begun on the interchange between IH 635 (the LBJ Freeway) and US 75 (the Central Expressway). Well okay, this is wonderful news only for the thousands of Plano and McKinney residents how spend hours each day trying to squeeze through the interchange in the two through lanes that some 1960's uncivil engineer thought would be enough forever.

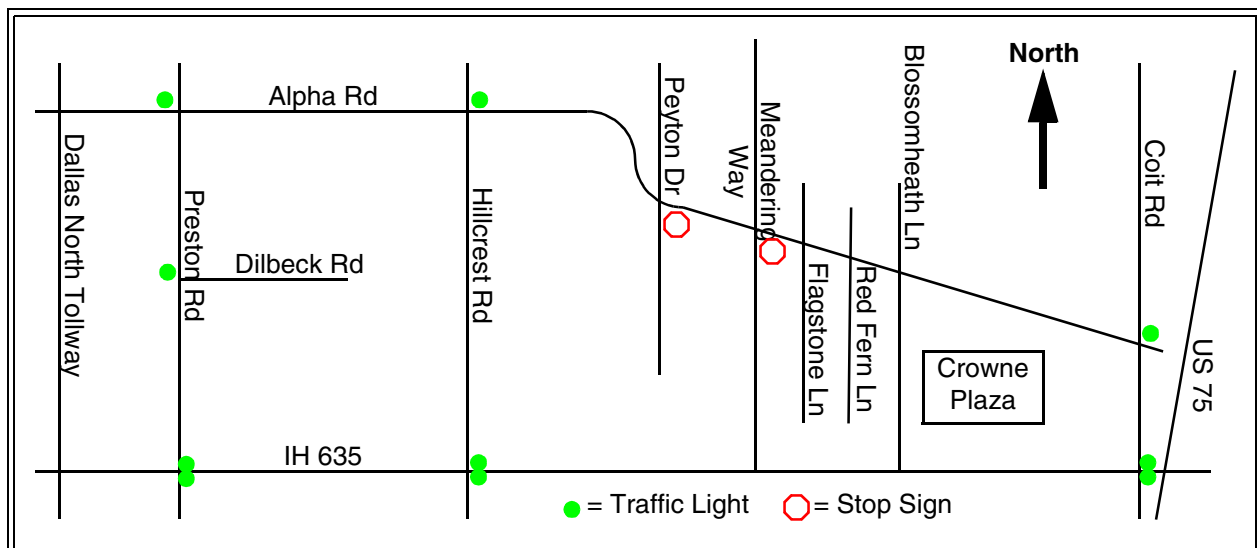
For T10 attendees, the reconstruction may mean traffic jams and a general mess at the Coit exit from IH 635 because the construction work extends two exits to the west of US 75 and Coit is the first of those two exits.

If you follow the driving directions on the meeting announcement, you are in for at least three surprises.

1. The Coit exit from IH 635 is not well marked. Thinking of it as the next exit after Hillcrest and you have a fighting chance of finding it.
2. The hole in the construction barricades for Blossomheath Lane (the street on which the Crowne Plaza Suites hotel is located) is completely unmarked. As near as I can tell, it is the first opening in the construction barricades after the Harvey Hotel.
3. There are no dedicated left turn lanes on the Coit bridge over IH 635.

To be honest, I drove the route key parts of the route on the meeting announcement at near the end of rush hour today and found the above challenges to be the only really hard problems. However, the construction workers are allowed to change anything on a whim.

With this in mind, here is a map of the back streets in the general vicinity. You may wish to exit at Hillcrest (or Preston) to avoid the worst of the troubles.



I recommend exiting at Hillcrest and taking Alpha to the back door.
 Detailed driving instructions follow.

Airport to Dallas North Tollway directions:

1. Follow signs from the car rental lot to the North airport exit.
2. Continue straight North as the several freeways (TX 121 & TX 114) merge and exit.
3. Exit right on IH 635 East.
4. Continue East on IH 635 for approximately 10 miles.
Stay on IH 635 through the IH 35 interchange.
5. When you see the exit signs for the Dallas North Tollway, move to one of the right-hand lanes and prepare to follow one of the directions below.

Preston Road exit directions:

1. Preston Road is the 1st exit after the Dallas North Tollway.
This is a heavy shopping area, with the Valley View Mall, strip malls on every other corner, and a couple of car dealerships. Expect heavy traffic at almost anytime.
2. After exiting, turn left (North) on Preston Road.
Be careful not to get too far left in the last 50 yards before the intersection because this is a U-turn lane and taking it will end you up heading West, not the desired North (and later East).
3. Cross through the traffic light at Dilbeck Rd.
4. Turn right (East) at the next traffic light, Alpha Rd.
This section of Alpha Rd is a combination of residential, a country club, and last but not least a church.
5. Cross through the traffic light at Hillcrest Rd.
6. Cross through the stop sign at Peyton Dr.
7. Cross through the stop sign at Meandering Way.
Begin counting cross streets at this point.
8. Cross Flagstone Ln.
9. Cross Red Fern Ln.
10. Turn right (South) at the 3rd cross street, Blossomheath Ln.
The Crowne Plaza is about 100 yards South on your left.

Hillcrest Road exit directions:

1. Hillcrest Road is the 2nd exit after the Dallas North Tollway.
The US 75 reconstruction work reaches all the way to this exit, so expect to see barricades and construction equipment. However, I have found the traffic problems to be minimal at this exit.
2. After exiting, turn left (North) on Hillcrest Rd.
They may be building a U-Turn lane at the Hillcrest exit but it is not functional yet, so no worries on that account.
3. Turn right (East) at the next traffic light, Alpha Rd.
4. Cross through the stop sign at Peyton Dr.
5. Cross through the stop sign at Meandering Way.
Begin counting cross streets at this point.
6. Cross Flagstone Ln.
7. Cross Red Fern Ln.
8. Turn right (South) at the 3rd cross street, Blossomheath Ln.
The Crowne Plaza is about 100 yards South on your left.

Coit Road exit directions (for those with infinite patience):

Note: These directions are slightly different from those on the meeting announcement in order to avoid the construction problems at IH 635 and Blossomheath.

1. Coit Road is the 3rd exit after the Dallas North Tollway.
2. After exiting, turn left (North) on Coit Rd.
3. Cross through the traffic light at the westbound IH 635 access road.
4. At the 2nd traffic light, turn left (West) on Alpha Rd.
Like the Coit bridge over IH 635, there is no dedicated left turn lane at this intersection.
5. The Crowne Plaza is in sight on your left, drive to it.