

ENDL TEXAS

Date: 11 February 2003
 To: T10 Technical Committee
 From: Ralph O. Weber
 Subject: Driving to the March T10 Meeting Site

There is great news for all of you who thought last year's construction on the new interchange between IH 635 (the LBJ Freeway) and US 75 (the Central Expressway) was no big deal. They have gotten serious.

The project has made the annals of Dallas myth, having been given the name "*The High Five*". This may refer to the congratulations drivers who have successfully navigated the maze give each other, but I suspect it has more to do with the number of layers of bridges that are being built.

For T10 attendees, *The High Five* 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 five surprises.

1. The car rental exit from DFW Airport no longer involves "*Northgate*". Attendees last year pointed out that the car rental lots have moved from the north side of the airport to the southeast side. More later.
2. The Coit exit includes a severe dogleg right that some traffic engineer with a warped sense of humor has marked as Speed Limit 30.
3. There are no dedicated left turn lanes on the Coit bridge over IH 635.
4. The construction equipment used to build *The High Five* is stunningly high tech and the results are a sight to behold.

If you arrive in the dark, make a point of walking outside the hotel the next morning to witness it for yourself.

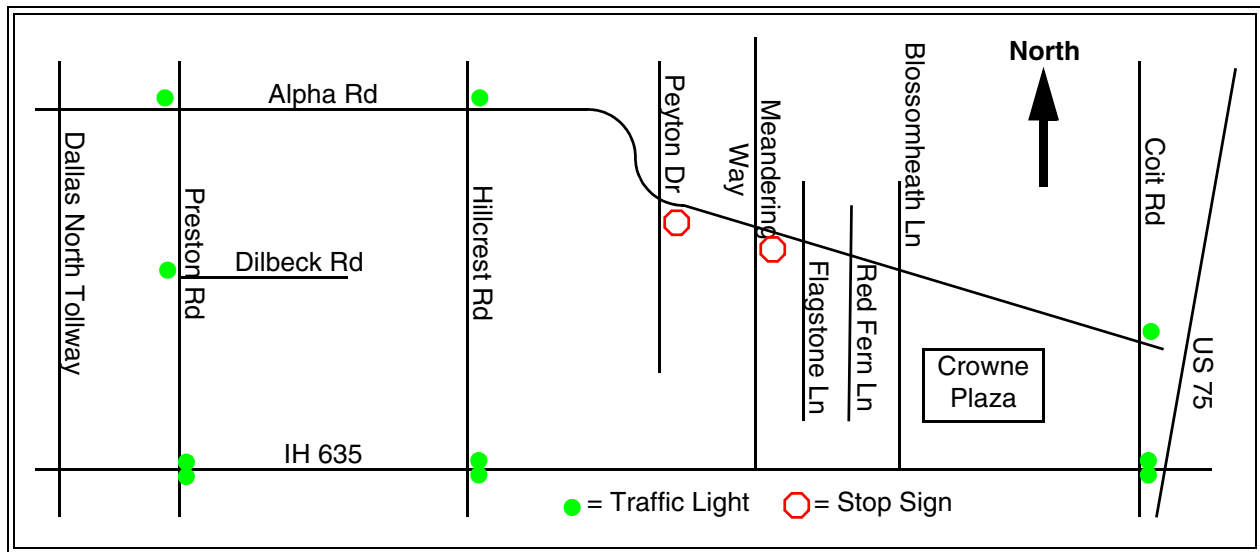
If you arrive during daylight, **do not under any circumstances** study *The High Five* bridge construction or you risk adding some dents to your rental car. Instead, focus on the road and road signage. After you have safely parked at the hotel, you may study the bridge builders artwork either from the safety of your car or standing near by.

5. The *Crowne Plaza Suites* has installed signs (sort of like big "House For Sale" signs) directing you to their doors, both on the IH 635 service road (for those who follow the meeting announcement directions) and on Alpha Road (for those who follow the directions herein).

Caveat Emptor: I drove to the hotel via the Coit exit at 10 a.m. on a Sunday morning and whipped right through all the twists and turns (except for that dogleg on the Coit exit). Navigating the Coit exit without difficulty is possible ... under the right circumstances. Perhaps someone will give you a *High Five* if you too make it.

Airport Exit: The best way to leave the DFW airport by rental car is to follow your car rental company's directions to IH 635 East. If the reports received last year are still accurate, you will be directed to Texas 161, aka *The President George Bush Turnpike*, that will connect to IH 635 after you have been fleeced for 75¢ or thereabouts. Continue East on IH 635, aka *The LBJ Freeway*, trying not to be amused by the notion that Lyndon's road is free while *No New Taxes* George's road requires payment of a toll. (No, Texas has not begun honoring the current President Bush ... yet.) During the next 10 miles (and goodness knows how many minutes), flip to the next page of

these instructions and remind yourself of the following map.



I recommend exiting IH 635 at Hillcrest Road and taking Alpha Road to the back door. But if IH 635 traffic is a serious mess bordering on a parking lot, consideration should be given to exiting at Preston Road.

Detailed driving instructions follow.

Airport to Dallas North Tollway directions (common to all):

1. Follow car rental company's instructions to reach IH 635 East and/or see above.
2. Continue East on IH 635 for approximately 10 miles.
Stay on IH 635 through the IH 35 interchange. Signs identify the right two lanes as exits to IH 35 North and South. These are **exit only** lanes, beware.
3. When you see the exit signs for the North Bound Dallas North Tollway, move to one of the right-hand lanes and prepare to follow one of the directions below. Warning: there is at least one **exit only** lane on the right in this area

Hillcrest Road exit directions:

1. Hillcrest Road is the 2nd exit after the Dallas North Tollway.
The High Five 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.
A U-turn lane has been added at Hillcrest. Observe the signs on the left-most lanes at Hillcrest Road and position yourself in a left-turn lane, not in the U-turn lane.
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.
If you miss the Blossomheath Ln. turn, a *Crowne Plaza* sign will appear on your right at the next turn. This is the back door entrance to the *Crowne Plaza* and your last chance to arrive without getting lost.

Preston Road exit directions (for use only during severe IH 635 congestion):

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 Road.
This section of Alpha Road 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.
If you miss the Blossomheath Ln. turn, a *Crowne Plaza* sign will appear on your right at the next turn. This is the back door entrance to the *Crowne Plaza* and your last chance to arrive without getting lost.

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.
Do not forget the severe dogleg turn in this exit.
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.