

NAVIGATION IN GENERAL

Please be advised that while commercial mapping software, GPS devices, and the like are good for developing shortest routes to Bristol Motor Speedway for everyday purposes, they can be misleading for NASCAR Race Weekends. This is because those devices are not aware of such items as short-term left turn prohibitions, lane closures, ramp and median closures, traffic signal manipulations, and similar traffic control techniques used in Bristol and surrounding areas to manage the hundreds of thousands of vehicles that make up Bristol race traffic. Such devices may advise you to make turns that are not allowed, or send you along a heavily congested route when another, less-congested route may work better for your purposes. For traffic in such conditions, a little planning goes a long way, and these directions were developed to make your trip as enjoyable as possible.

PLANNING YOUR PARKING LOCATION FOR BEST EXIT

One of the keys to a more enjoyable motoring experience on Race Weekend is to plan how will be leaving the area afterward, and select your parking location accordingly. The specific directions on this website detail how to get to, and depart from, the free parking areas at Speedway Parking on White Top Road and Whitetop Creek Park on Sportsway Drive. In addition to these two BMS-controlled areas, there are up to 200 privately operated parking and camping satellite fields in the BMS area. If you choose to use of these locations, or park along a roadway (but not in a no-parking zone), please practice what we call “Smart Parking.”

There are many locations in the BMS area where median openings are closed after the race, so there are no U-turns or left turns permitted in those locations. The southbound Highway 11E off-ramp and northbound Highway 11E on-ramp at Highway 394 are closed for several hours after the race. There is no direct access to Volunteer Parkway or Highway 11E from Exide Drive during and after the race, and there are access restrictions in the area of Highway 394 and White Top Road during those periods as well. So, in general, Park Smart by selecting your parking location so that you only have to go straight or make right turns to ultimately get to your post-race destination. If you have specific questions about access to and from a specific private campground or parking satellite field, please contact the City of Bristol traffic engineer at dmetzger@bristoltn.org.

FREE OFF-SITE PARKING FIELDS AT BMS SHUTTLE BUSES, PEDESTRIAN HOLD PERIOD

Bristol Motor Speedway operates two off-site free parking fields south of the speedway off of Highway 394; both are served by free shuttle bus service. The western of the two lots is called Speedway Parking, located on the southeastern corner of Highway 394 and White Top Road (the driveway to Speedway Parking the driveway connects to White Top Road south of Highway 394). The shuttle buses pick up and drop off passengers on the shoulder of Highway 394. If you don't park up next to Highway 394 on the lot, it is an

uphill walk to the shuttle buses. The eastern of these lots is Whitetop Creek Park (despite the similar names, Whitetop Creek Park does not connect to White Top Road) at the southern end of Sportsway Drive southeast of BMS (accessible via the Copperhead Entrance intersection). The shuttle bus picks up and drops off passengers at the intersection of Sportsway Drive and Highway 394 (police officers are on site on race day to help pedestrians cross Highway 394), so it is a walk of about 2,000 feet from Whitetop Creek Park to the shuttle bus stop at the intersection.

After the Xfinity and Sprint Cup races, there is a Pedestrian Hold period of up to one hour. During the Pedestrian Hold period, all motorists on the BMS campus and some roadways adjacent to BMS (including Highway 11E and Highway 394) are stopped to allow the huge flows of pedestrians to cross these roadways in greater safety. If you park at either Speedway Parking or Whitetop Creek Park, you may consume part, if not all, of the Pedestrian Hold period getting back to your vehicle.

Included are three diagrams, labeled D2, D12, and D31 (taken from a larger traffic planning document) that show routes to Bristol Motor Speedway (D2) and away from Bristol Motor Speedway (D12). The route to BMS is not always that same as the route away from BMS. The third diagram (D31) is the post-race-only White Top Route and Chinquapin Routes; the latter leads to selected locations (Elizabethton, Johnson City, and eastbound Interstate 26) south of Bristol.