



The Tours

This document includes important tips on preparing for and debriefing a variety of City tours that we have been developed to give you a chance to explore new parts of Sugar Land! Five tours have been developed: one driving/walking tour and four biking tours. While the driving tour covers the whole City, we divided the biking tours to allow for a more manageable tour time and to keep them comfortable. We recommend that you budget between 1.5 and 2 hours for each tour.

Before the Tour

Learn the Route & Think about other Users

The best preparation is to learn your tour route. Knowing your route will help you stay on-course and identify key points to stop and make additional observations.

Read through the Directions and Destinations page for your tour, then retrace the tour path using Google Maps to ensure you know it well.

As you trace your route on Google Maps, try to answer these questions:

- Would this route be comfortable for someone of any ability or experience? Would the experience be different if I were biking, walking, rolling a wheelchair, or driving? Would it be different as an eight year old? An eighty year old?
- If I could predict my post-tour observations now, what three things do I think I'll experience on this route?

Prepare with Safety in Mind

For the Driving Tour: If possible, ask another person in your household to drive while you navigate and make observations. If you are driving alone, consider planning stops along your route to take a break and reflect on what you observed. The driving tour includes walking breaks where you can explore certain parts of the City on foot. Make sure to use pedestrian buttons when crossing intersections.

For Bike Tours: Safety is important any time you ride a bike but is even more critical on these tours. Some of the tours are intentionally designed to take you across major barriers and along streets that are not well-designed for people walking and biking. The purpose is to better understand the City's full network of street typologies.

To stay safe, make sure you do the following things before you ride.

- Schedule your ride for a time of day with less traffic and comfortable temperatures.
- Budget about 1.5 to 2 hours for each tour.
- Let someone know when you plan to ride and when you plan to be back.
- If possible, bring another member of your household to ride with you.
- Make sure your bike is in working order. Check the air in your tires, make sure your brakes work well, and check to see if your chain is in good condition. Going on a test ride through your neighborhood is a great way to make sure all things are in working order.

During the Tour

Use the Tour Sheets & Stay Safe

Print and bring the tour direction and destination maps with you. You can also save them to your phone. The maps include a lot of detailed information. We understand it may be overwhelming, so please do not feel obligated to follow word-for-word. Use the map sheets and prompted questions however you choose. Our main goal is for you to experience the City's transportation network!

For the Driving Tour: Please follow the rules of the road and try to avoid distracted driving during the tour.

- Charge your phone before you leave.
- Bring water, caffeine, or any snacks you might want during the drive.
- Make sure to bring a mask in case you stop at any local businesses.

For Bike Tours:

Keep safety at the front of your mind during your ride:

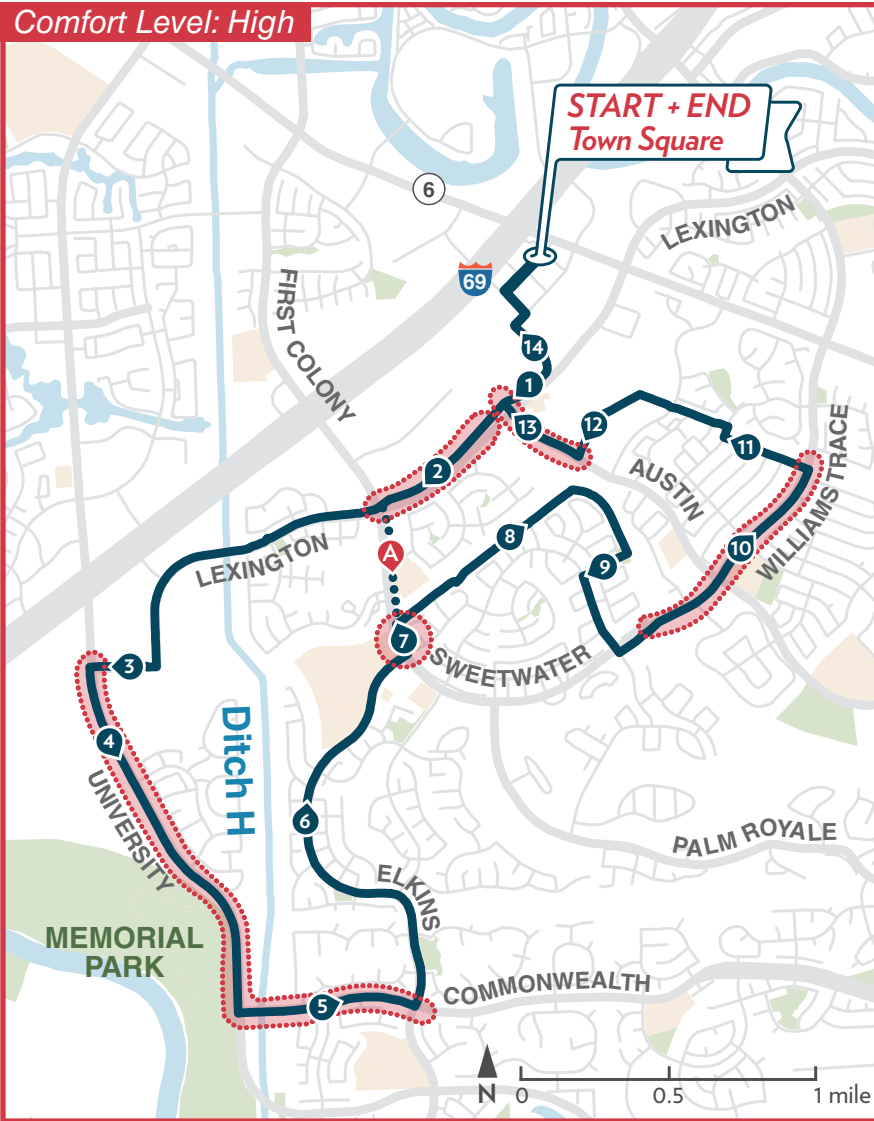
- Wear a helmet and sunscreen.
- Charge your phone before you leave.
- Bring plenty of water and stay hydrated.
- Make sure to bring a mask in case you stop at any local businesses.
- If you feel unsafe or fatigued during any part of the tour, do not hesitate to pull over and walk. It's okay to only do part of a tour, or to break a tour into segments over multiple days.

After the Tour

The following questions can be used to debrief your tour experience. Use these to chat with your tour companion or in a moment of reflection when back home.

1. Did you discover something on the tour that you have never seen before (e.g., a new destination, a barrier you did not realize existed, an new area of town)?
2. Would this route be comfortable for someone of any ability or experience? For example, if you were using a wheelchair, what would be your biggest barrier?
3. What parts of the tour were comfortable? What parts were uncomfortable?
4. Did you ever feel unsafe driving, biking, or walking on the tour? If so, where did you feel unsafe and why?
5. How would your experience on the route differ if it occurred during a peak travel period (rush hour)?
6. What is your overall perception of how streets are laid out in Sugar Land?
 - Were sidewalks present on the whole tour? Were they clear and wide enough for people to walk, use a wheelchair, or even bike?
 - Was there shade?
 - How did it feel to cross intersections on foot? Did certain design elements help an experience at an intersection?

DIRECTIONS HIGH COMFORT BIKE TOUR 11 miles, option for 6.2 miles



School Park

Recommended segments for biking or walking on the sidewalk

DIRECTIONS

1 Walk or bike around Town Square. Once you're finished exploring, exit southwest toward First Colony Mall. Take a left when you get to the end of Town Square, and then take a right onto Town Center Blvd. Continue to the light, then take a left onto Mall Ring Rd.

Optional: You may also explore the First Colony Mall Outdoor Plaza area prior to getting on Mall Ring Rd.

2 Take a left at the mall exit near the men's Dillards, then take an immediate right onto Lexington Blvd. You may want to use the sidewalks or walk this section until you reach Sweetwater Blvd.

A *To take the shorter, 6.2 mile tour, take a left onto the Sweetwater Blvd. Stay on the sidewalk on the east side of the street to use the pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the drainage channel. Then skip to direction #8 to continue your tour.*

3 *To take the longer, 11 mile tour, continue on Lexington Blvd as it swings around the Smart Financial Centre.*

4 Cross the intersection at University Blvd and take a left onto the sidewalk.

5 Take a left onto Commonwealth Blvd. You may want to continue on the sidewalk for this section.

6 Take a left onto Elkins Rd.

7 At the end of Elkins Rd cross Sweetwater Blvd and take a left onto the sidewalk.

8 Take a right (a left if you're taking the shorter tour) onto Woodstream Trail at the bicycle and pedestrian bridge. Follow the trail around the bend.

9 Take a right using the trail connection into the neighborhood near the tennis courts and swimming pool. Continue on the neighborhood trail and take a left onto Woodstream Blvd.

10 Take a left onto Sweetwater Blvd. You may want to hop onto the sidewalk here. Continue on the sidewalk as Sweetwater Blvd becomes Williams Trace Blvd.

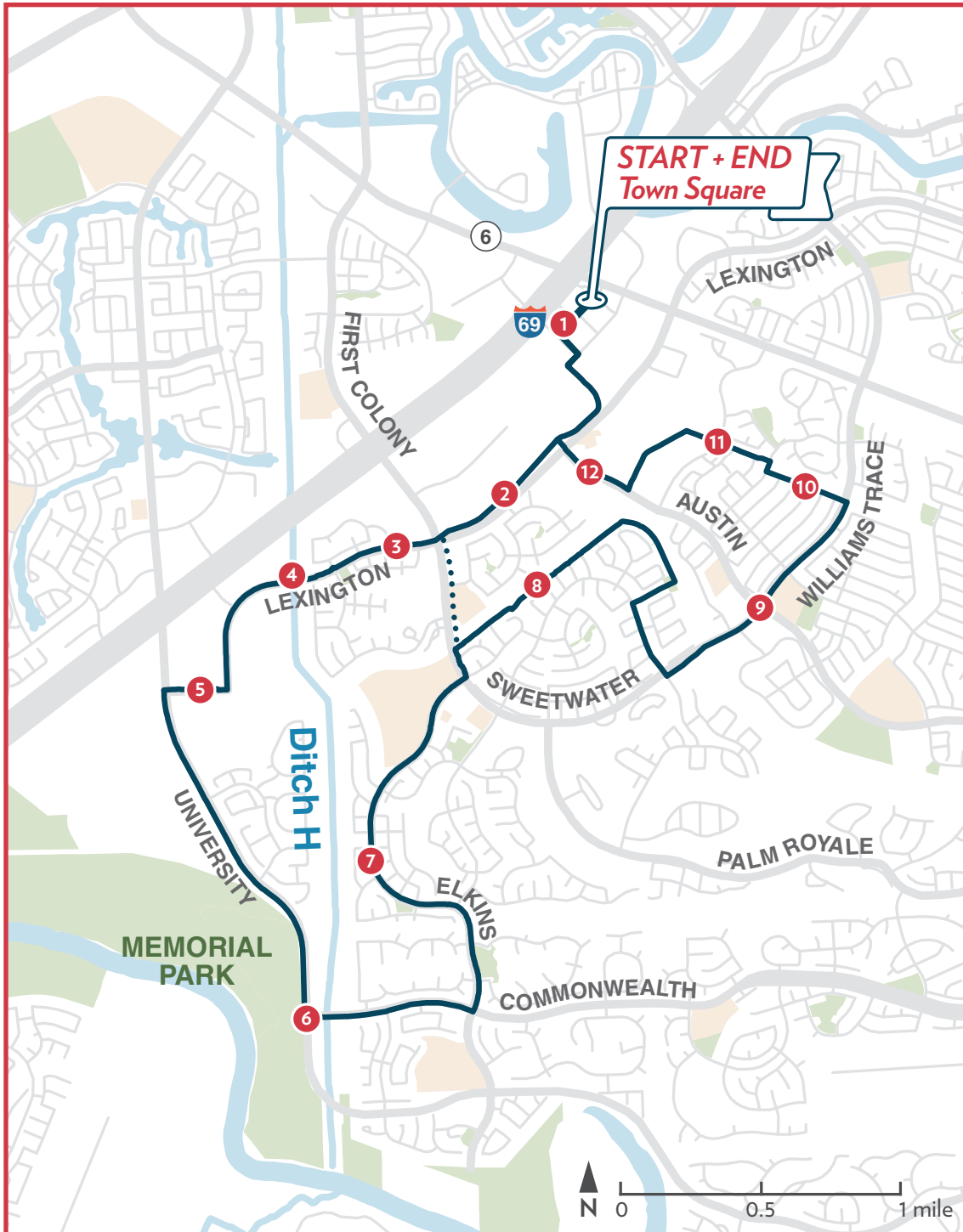
11 Take a left onto Sugar Mill Dr and continue to the end. Take a right onto Williams Grant, and then the first left onto the trail.

12 Follow the trail to Austin Pkwy, carefully crossing Grants Lake Blvd.

13 Take a right onto Austin Pkwy.

14 Continue across Lexington Blvd to reach Mall Ring Rd. Take a right on Mall Ring Rd and follow it back around to take a right onto Town Center Blvd. Take the first left to get back into Town Square.

THINGS TO SEE HIGH COMFORT BIKE TOUR



DESTINATIONS

- 1** Town Square has a mix of land uses, including civic, residential, commercial, and office. The streets are laid out in a grid and include design elements like wide sidewalks that provide space for a high number of people walking or rolling in a wheelchair. How do you feel walking around Town Square?
Optional: How easy is it to access the First Colony Mall Outdoor Plaza? How does the mall's Outdoor Plaza compare to walking in Town Square?
- 2** Lexington Blvd is similar to many of the City's other major streets. It has a wide median with multiple vehicle travel lanes. How does it feel to bike or walk on Lexington Blvd?
- 3** Does Lexington Blvd west of Sweetwater Blvd feel any different than east of Sweetwater Blvd? How do you feel about crossing the roundabout on a bike?
- 4** The City is designing a trail along Ditch H that will cross under IH-69 and SH-6, extending from Clements High School to just south of US-90A.
- 5** The new roads around the Smart Financial Center include wide sidewalks and clear crossings. What was your experience crossing University Blvd?
- 6** The intersection of University Blvd and Commonwealth Blvd is a key access point to Memorial Park. How does it feel to cross the intersection on foot or bike? Take a moment to observe a few signal cycles and note the behavior of turning vehicles. How would it feel to drive through this intersection?
- 7** Elkins Rd has a standard bike lane. How does it feel to use this bike lane? How was your experience crossing Sweetwater Blvd?
- 8** The Woodstream Trail is one of the City's many trails along drainage routes and includes regular connections into the residential street network. How does it feel to bike on this trail?
- 9** The sidewalk along Sweetwater Blvd widens when the street becomes Williams Trace Blvd after crossing Austin Pkwy. How does the change in width impact your experience?
- 10** Sugar Mill Dr has bike "sharrows" indicating drivers and bikers share the road. How does it feel to bike on this road? What qualities make it feel safe or unsafe?
- 11** Notice the lack of ramps or crosswalk paint as the trail crosses Grants Lake Blvd. This would be a barrier for people with mobility challenges.
- 12** Now that you have a better eye for street design, what do you like and not like about Austin Pkwy?