



city of  
**bristol**

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Traffic Plans Announced for August 2014 Bristol Motor Speedway Race Weekend**

The City of Bristol, Tennessee, in conjunction with many other agencies in Tennessee and Virginia, has developed the overall race traffic management plan for the August 20-24 events at Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS). The traffic management plan also addresses other safety and security issues in and around Bristol Motor Speedway. Bristol Traffic Engineer David Metzger and the Bristol Tennessee Police Department will discuss these plans with the media at a press conference scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on August 14, 2014, at the Municipal Annex Building at 104 8th Street in downtown Bristol.

This plan was designed with the safety of our citizens and visitors as our paramount concern. Special attention has been given to all the pedestrians in the area of the racetrack and to their safety. Please arrive early to account for any delays in passing through the security checkpoints established for fan safety. It is suggested to use a clear plastic bag to carry your items into the speedway to speed up the search process and to have your cooler ready to be inspected at the gate.

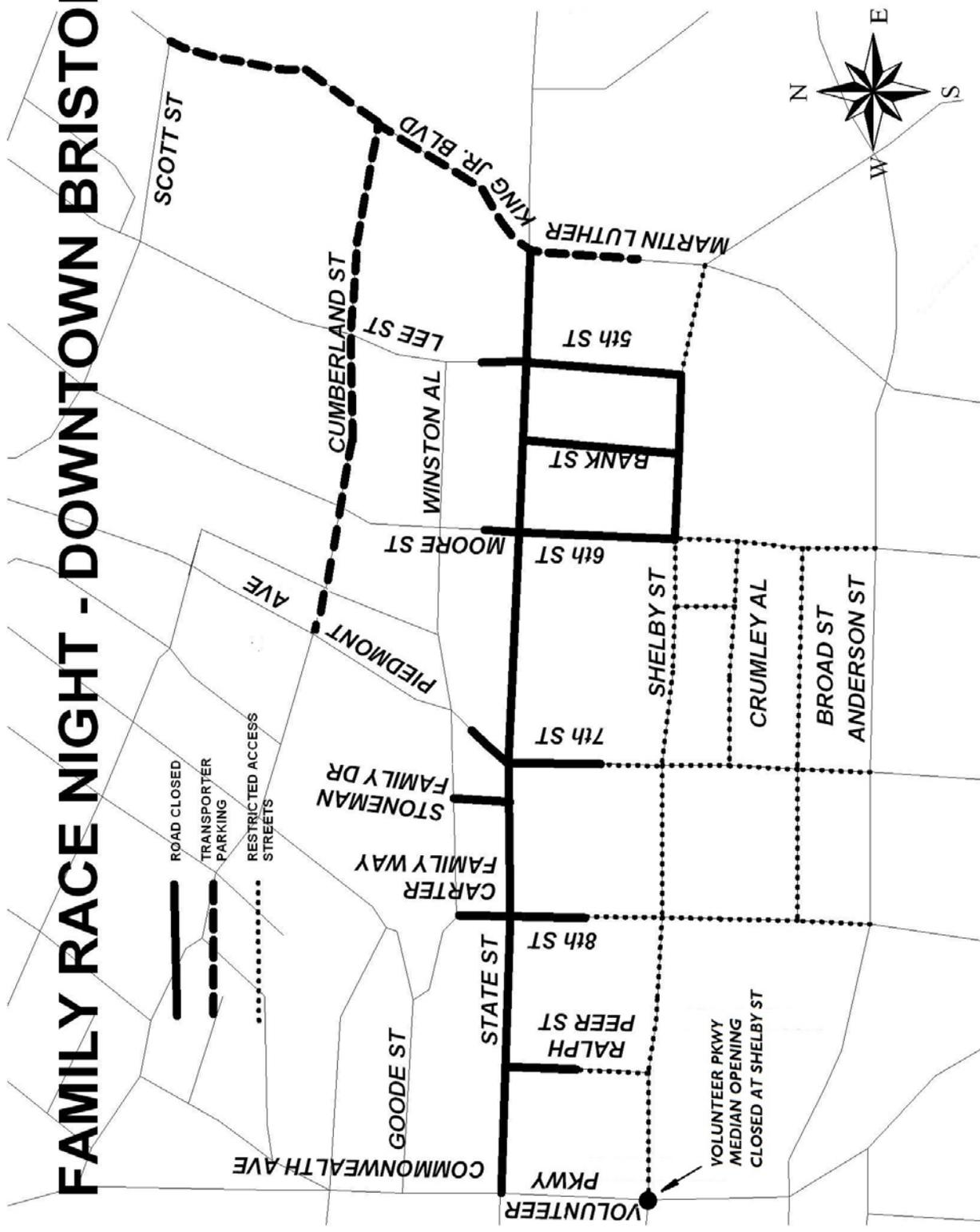
Generally, the overall schedule of events is as follows:

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20: WHELEN MODIFIED SERIES BUSH'S BEANS 150 and CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES UNOH 200.** The spectator gates open at 8:30 a.m., followed by various practice and qualifying sessions for these two races. The Bush's Beans 150 begins at 6:15 p.m., followed by the UNOH 200 at 8:30 p.m. Red flag conditions notwithstanding, the second race should end about 10:15 p.m. After a 45-minute transition period, a concert ranging from 70 to 90 minutes will take place, ending shortly after midnight.

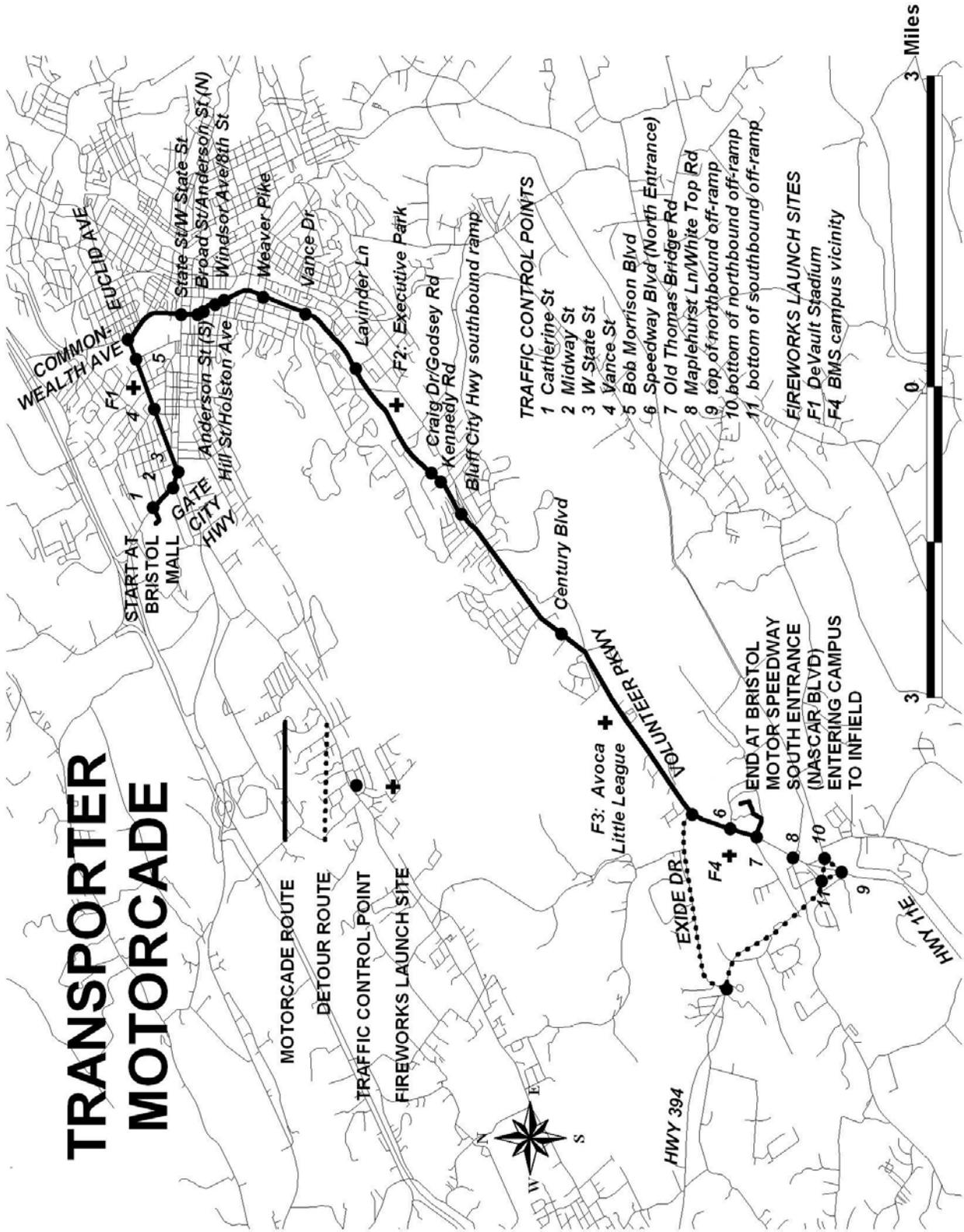
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21: FOOD CITY FAMILY RACE NIGHT.** This event runs from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in downtown Bristol. State Street between Volunteer Parkway/Commonwealth Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and the adjacent side streets will be closed to traffic from 5:30 a.m. to about midnight to allow set-up and clean-up for this event. Family Race Night ends with the Transporter Motorcade going past at about 9:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21: TRANSPORTER MOTORCADE. The Transporter Motorcade departs Bristol Mall and 9:00 p.m. and travels to Bristol Motor Speedway via Gate City Highway, Euclid Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue, Volunteer Parkway, and Highway 11E. The

# FAMILY RACE NIGHT - DOWNTOWN BRISTOL



# TRANSPORTER MOTORCADE



motorcade is scheduled to arrive at Bristol Motor Speedway at approximately 9:55 p.m. and enter the speedway via the South Entrance from Highway 11E. From approximately 9:30 p.m. to about 10:30 p.m., Highway 11E between Exide Drive and Highway 394 will be closed to vehicular traffic for the motorcade; motorists will be detoured around this closure via Highway 394 and Exide Drive.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22: NATIONWIDE SERIES RACE. The spectator gates open at 10:30 a.m. Qualifying for the Nationwide Series race begins at 3:40 p.m., followed by Sprint Cup Series qualifying at 5:40 p.m. The Nationwide Series race is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. It is estimated that this 300-lap race will end about 9:15 p.m., red flag conditions notwithstanding. Please note that 2014 marks the first time that the August Nationwide Series race is 300 laps long, rather than 250 laps long as in previous years.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23: SPRINT CUP SERIES RACE. The spectator gates open at 1:00 p.m. The race is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Typically, red flag conditions notwithstanding, this race could end by about 10:45 p.m. or so.

Ordinances in Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, prohibit the buying, selling, trading, or exchanges of tickets or other merchandise on public road rights-of-way. People who wish to buy or sell items must do so on private property after securing the appropriate business license. In addition, Bristol Tennessee ordinances prohibit ticket scalping. State law prohibits golf carts or ATVs on public streets or rights-of-way.

For the Wednesday night activities, traffic control will be limited to the intersections and roadways in the immediate Bristol Motor Speedway area, on roadways such as Volunteer Parkway, Highway 11E, Highway 394, White Top Road, and Exide Drive, among others. The balance of this document will discuss traffic issues for the Nationwide and Sprint Cup race days.

### **PRE-RACE: GETTING THERE**

As in previous years, signage will be in place for the six routes leading to the Bristol Motor Speedway from Interstates 81 and 26. The primary routes are as follows:

- Fans coming from Knoxville on northbound I-81 can exit at **Tennessee Exit 57A**, taking I-26 east to Tennessee State Route 381 (State of Franklin Road) at Exit 19 in Johnson City, which leads to US 11E and north again to BMS.

The work zone at the Interstate 26 Exit 13 interchange will have all four lanes of Interstate 26 open for the August 2014 Race Weekend, but there will be some shoulder closures in this work zone. Significant delays in this work zone are not anticipated for this Race Weekend.

The extensive work zone in Bluff City for the construction of the Highway 11E and Highway 19E interchange represents the single largest change in race traffic operations for the August Race Weekend. The old traffic signal at Highway 11E and Highway 19E is gone, and two new traffic signals are operational (Highway 11E and State Route 44, *and* at Highway 19E and State Route 44). These traffic signals will be manually operated

during peak flow conditions as appropriate. This is the same traffic configuration that was used for the March 2014 Race Weekend. Motorists are advised to be extra cautious in this area.

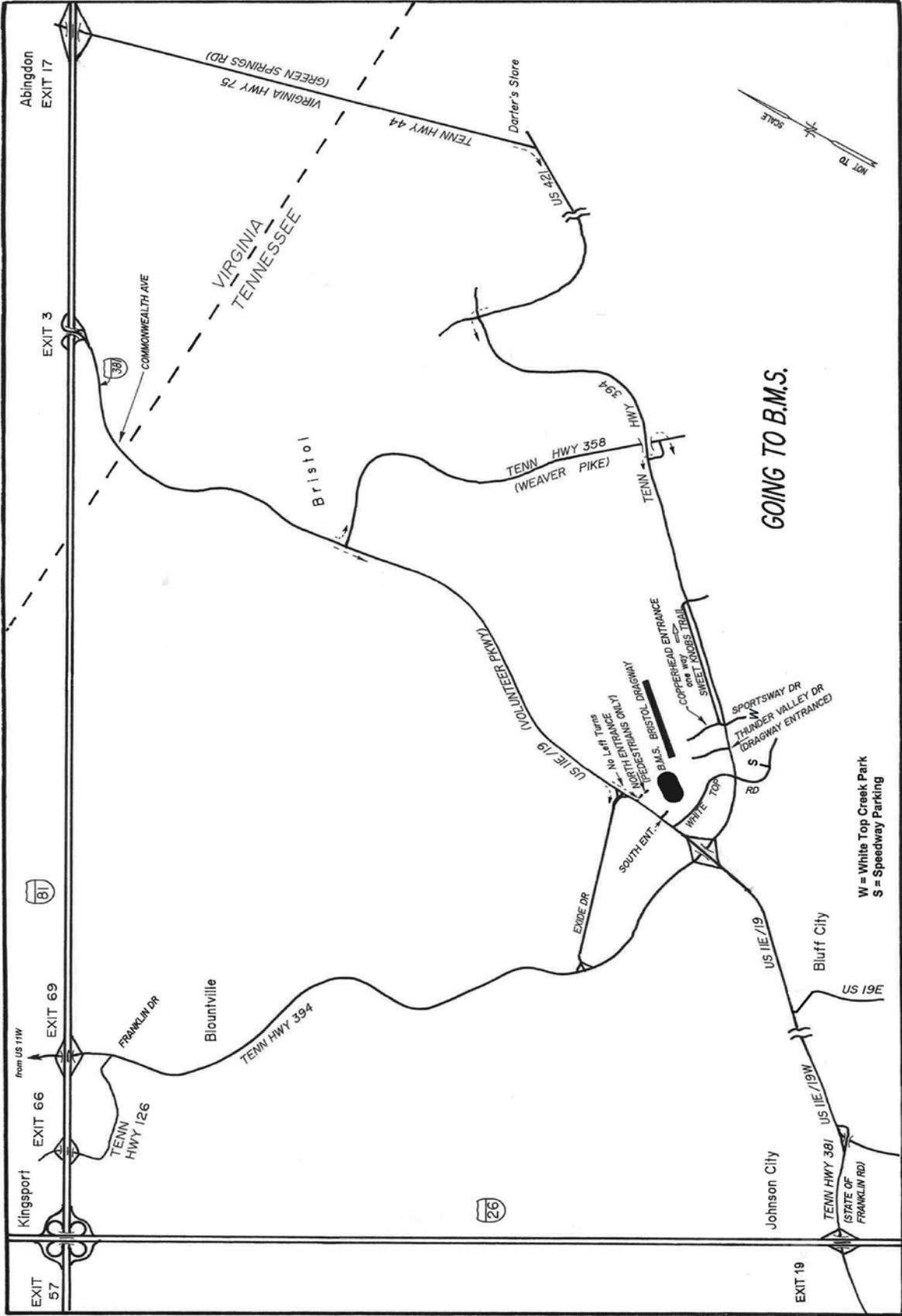
- Fans coming from the Knoxville area can exit I-81 at Tennessee **Exit 66** (State Route 126) or **Exit 69** (State Route 394) and go through Blountville towards BMS. These are among the heaviest-traveled routes between Interstate 81 and BMS.
- Fans coming from Roanoke or Wytheville on southbound I-81 are encouraged to exit at **Virginia Exit 17** (Virginia State Route 75) in Abingdon and follow southbound Route 75 into Tennessee, where it changes to Tennessee State Route 44. Route 44 intersects US 421 in Holston Valley; go north on US 421 and turn left on Tennessee Highway 394, which will bring motorists into the Dragway side of BMS. There will be directional signage along this route to guide you to BMS.
- Fans coming over Sam's Gap on westbound I-26 from North Carolina should exit onto Tennessee State Route 381 (State of Franklin Road) at Exit 19 in Johnson City, which leads to US 11E and thence to BMS.
- Fans coming from Virginia on southbound I-81 can also exit at **Virginia Exit 3** in Bristol (Interstate 381), which turns into Commonwealth Avenue in Bristol, Virginia, and Volunteer Parkway in Bristol, Tennessee, which leads directly to BMS. Fans may choose to turn left from southbound Volunteer Parkway to Tennessee State Route 358 (Weaver Pike) to reach Tennessee Highway 394 and get to BMS on the Dragway side. The traffic signals along Commonwealth Avenue and Volunteer Parkway may be manually coordinated to optimize traffic flow both before and after the race as conditions require.

Please note that August 2014 is the first Race Weekend in which the third far right southbound lane of Volunteer Parkway between State Street/West State Street and Melrose Street has been removed. Sufficient capacity remains on Volunteer Parkway for race traffic with this modification.

Race fans traveling to BMS from or through the Elizabethton area are also cautioned about the extensive work zone at Highway 11E and Highway 19E in Bluff City, where they will have to travel through two new traffic signals to reach Highway 11E and then travel north to BMS.

Highway 19E between State Route 44 and Highway 11E is closed, and motorists are detoured via State Route 44. Motorists are advised that this will add about a half-mile of travel to your route and to allow extra travel time to go through the two new traffic signals.

Please plan how you will exit the racetrack area and select your parking location accordingly. Because of security precautions, vehicles parked in and around the track in no-parking zones will be towed immediately.



GOING TO B.M.S.

W = White Top Creek Park  
S = Speedway Parking

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In years past, the speedway has operated the BMS radio network on the following radio stations:

WJCW-AM 910 (Tri-Cities, TN/VA)  
WFHG-AM 980 (Bristol, VA)  
WMEV-FM 93.9 (Marion, VA)

WXSM-AM 640 (Tri-Cities, TN/VA)  
WNVA-FM 106.3 (Norton, VA)  
WMTN-AM 1300 (Morristown, TN)

Fans are encouraged to listen to these stations (list of stations subject to change) as they approach BMS to get last minute information on traffic, parking, and other important details that may impact their travel plans.

Motorists that need to go from the Johnson City area north past BMS that are not going to the races are encouraged to use the alternate northbound US 11E route that begins by exiting onto Highway 394 and leads to Virginia Exit 5 of I-81. Signage will direct such traffic on how to get around the BMS area.

The median opening at the intersection of Volunteer Parkway/US 11E and Exide Drive just north of BMS will be closed no earlier than noon and remain closed the rest of the day on both the Nationwide and Sprint Cup race days. The time of the closure will depend on the traffic conditions in the field. This means that there will be no left turns or U-turns at this intersection from any direction. Right turns will still be permitted all day long.

Other median openings along Volunteer Parkway and Highway 11E in the vicinity of BMS may also be closed before the race, depending on traffic conditions in that area at that time.

#### **PRE-RACE: ONCE YOU ARE THERE**

As in previous years, no parking will be permitted on the shoulders and medians of Volunteer Parkway, Highway 11E, Exide Drive, Highway 394, White Top Road, Old Thomas Bridge Road, at electrical substations, or wherever signage so indicates. This is very important to leave these areas clear so pedestrians do not have to walk in the travel lanes at those locations. Some grassy areas are also marked as no-parking zones to allow for helicopter landing sites in case they are needed for medical emergencies. Because of heightened security, vehicles parked in no-parking zones will be towed for the safety of our citizens and visitors. Vehicles parked in these areas will be towed to the impound lot at the Exide Drive fire station northwest of BMS. No camping is permitted on public street rights-of-way.

All persons with handicapped parking license plates or mirror placards will be required to show proof of need in order to utilize the handicapped parking spaces on the BMS campus. People using these permits should display the permit clearly, **AND** be prepared to show supporting documentation identifying the person to whom the permit is issued, **AND** must provide a photo ID of the person to whom the permit is issued. If the permitted person is not in the vehicle, Bristol Police plan to prosecute the offender and confiscate the permit. Obviously, that vehicle will not be allowed to park in the Speedway's handicap-accessible lots. Signage in advance of the two campus entrances will direct persons using handicap permits into the checkpoint areas. Bristol Motor Speedway, in partnership with area law enforcement agencies, will be strictly enforcing this State law.

A portion of Sweet Knobs Trail that serves as a "frontage road" of Highway 394 for about two miles east of BMS will be converted into a one-way, one-lane eastbound road flowing towards the Vance Tank Road intersection, starting on the morning of the Nationwide race until after the post-race traffic is over following the Sprint Cup race.

Left turns may not be permitted from northbound Highway 11E to westbound Highway 394 all weekend.

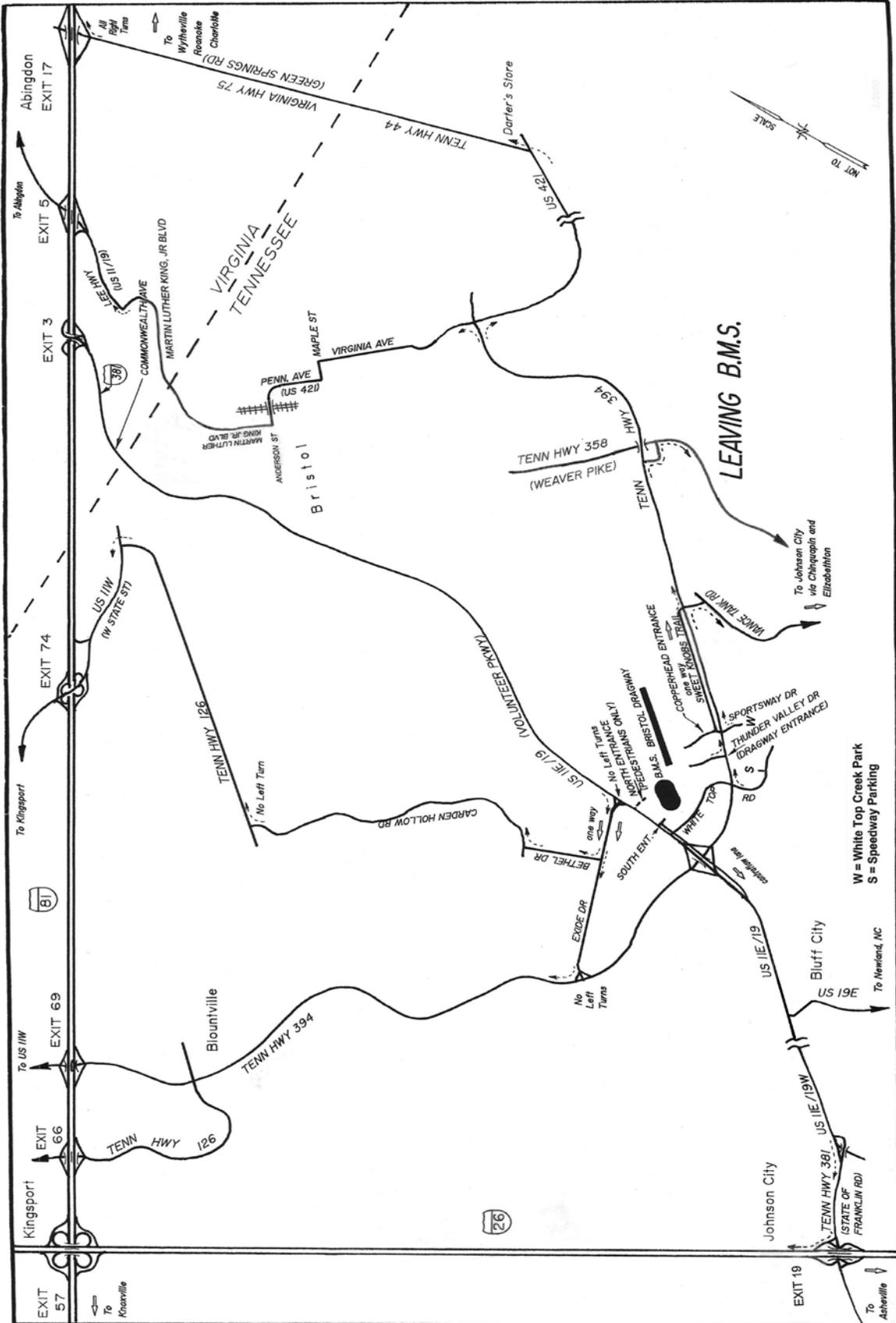
There will be heightened security at BMS, so arrive early to allow time to find a parking space and allow time to pass through the security checkpoints upon entering the stadium. All coolers and backpacks are subject to search. No firearms, *even with state permits*, will be allowed on BMS property.

### **POST-RACE: LEAVING BMS**

There are nine signed "drain" routes that will carry traffic from the BMS area back to Interstates 26 and 81: (1) south on US 11E to **I-26 Exit 19** and I-81 to **Tennessee I-81 Exit 57**; (2) south on the US 11E "contraflow" lane (available to motorists exiting South Entrance and some westbound White Top Road areas only) to **I-26 Exit 19** and **Tennessee I-81 Exit 57**; (3, 4) west on Tennessee State Route 394 through Blountville to **Tennessee I-81 Exit 66** or **Exit 69**; (5) north on Bethel Drive from Exide Drive to Carden Hollow Road to Tennessee State Route 126 to US 11W and thence to **Tennessee I-81 Exit 74** (available to motorists exiting certain areas along Exide Drive and southbound Volunteer Parkway only); (6) north on US 11E to I-381 to **Virginia I-81 Exit 3** in Bristol; (7) east on Tennessee Highway 394 to US 421, turn left onto US 421, following the signs to **Virginia I-81 Exit 5**; (8) east on Highway 394 to US 421, turn right onto US 421 to Route 44 in Holston Valley and on to **Virginia I-81 Exit 17** in Abingdon; (9) from the Dragway, Sweet Knobs Trail, White Top Road, and Sportsway Drive areas to **I-26 Exit 24** in southern Johnson City via US 19E through the Chiquapin area and Elizabethton (Chiquapin Route). All of these routes are extensively signed for guidance. Particular points of interest for post-race flows are as follows:

- Traffic exiting the BMS grounds from the South Entrance can turn left towards Johnson City (Routes 1 and 2 above) or right towards Virginia (Route 6 above). *However, these exiting vehicles, as well as those vehicles on Volunteer Parkway and Highway 11E from Sperry View Drive to White Top Road, will be stopped completely for up to one hour immediately after the race (for the pedestrian hold period) to allow pedestrians to leave BMS safely.*

One lane of traffic may be permitted to exit BMS from the North Entrance and turn right along northbound Highway 11E to Virginia Exit 3. If so, these motorists are also subject to the Highway 11E pedestrian hold period immediately following the race.



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W = White Top Creek Park  
S = Speedway Parking

LEAVING B.M.S.

- Post-race traffic entering Highway 394 from Sportsway Drive, the Dragway Entrance, and the Copperhead Entrance will also be subject to a pedestrian hold period up to one hour after the race in the interests of pedestrian safety. Traffic on Highway 394 will also be stopped to allow pedestrians to cross. Some satellite parking/camping fields exiting onto Sweet Knobs Trail may also be held to allow pedestrians to leave the area safely. White Top Road motorists entering Highway 394 may also be subject to the hold period if they go past the Dragway or Copperhead Entrances.
- To accommodate the Highway 394 post-race pedestrian hold period, westbound Highway 394 traffic approaching the BMS area from Weaver Pike may be stopped at the Vance Tank Road end of Sweet Knobs Trail and will not proceed westward until the Highway 394 hold period is over. Through motorists that would ordinarily use this roadway are advised to use alternate routes during this period.
- Traffic exiting from parking areas south of Highway 394 and east of Highway 11E must turn right onto eastbound Highway 394 and on to Virginia Exits 5 or 17. Cars exiting from this area can use the Chinquapin Route to Elizabethton and Johnson City and points beyond.
- Please note that all of the median openings along Volunteer Parkway and Highway 11E from the Bristol Tennessee Essential Services facility two miles north of BMS to near Egypt Road about three miles south of BMS will be closed with chains during and after the race for the operation of the southbound Highway 11E contraflow. Motorists needing to U-turn along US 11E or Volunteer Parkway will have to go beyond those points to turn around. ***Driving though the median is both unlawful and extremely dangerous, as unexpected head-on traffic in the same lane may be encountered.***
- Traffic exiting from the Dragway Entrance (Thunder Valley Drive) onto Highway 394 will be required to turn left towards US 421 and on to Virginia Exits 5 or 17 of I-81 or the Chinquapin Route to Elizabethton and Johnson City.
- Motorists exiting the BMS grounds via Copperhead Road will be required to take eastbound Sweet Knobs Trail parallel to Highway 394 to a point two miles east of BMS, where they will enter Highway 394 and go on to Virginia Exits 5 or 17 or Johnson City and Elizabethton as listed above.
- Motorists traveling east on Sweet Knobs Trail post-race that wish to use the Chinquapin route to get to Elizabethton, Johnson City, or points beyond can do so by turning left onto eastbound Highway 394, exiting at Weaver Pike, and going south to join the Chinquapin Route at the south end of Broyles Lane. Eastbound Sweet Knobs Trail traffic **MUST** turn at its eastern intersection with Highway 394.
- Traffic exiting from the All-American Campground must turn onto eastbound White Top Road to Highway 394, where they will turn left towards US 421, Interstate 81, and the Chinquapin route to Johnson City.

- Traffic exiting from the Red Barn, White Oak, Gentry, or Tri-City Transport lots onto White Top Road can go east to Highway 394 or west to Highway 11E after the race. For those White Top Road motorists going to US 11E, they are encouraged to go left (south) on Highway 11E utilizing the contraflow lane. These motorists will have no access to Highway 394; they must continue on to Johnson City and thence to Interstates 26 and 81. These motorists may also be able to go north on Highway 11E, but will encounter delays as they go past the South and North Entrances.
- Motorists parked in fields on the southbound side of Volunteer Parkway north of Exide Drive, or in the Earhart fields between Highway 11E and Bethel Drive, are encouraged to leave the area via westbound Exide Drive. *Exide Drive from Highway 11E to Edison Circle (eastern intersection) at the industrial plant will operate as a one-way westbound roadway only during and after the race. There will be no access to Volunteer Parkway or Highway 11E from Exide Drive, Bethel Drive, or Carden Hollow Road during this time.* Such motorists can proceed to northbound Bethel Drive to Carden Hollow Road and thence to Tennessee Exit 74, or to Highway 394 and on to Tennessee Exits 66 or 69 as listed above. Traffic parked in fields along Exide Drive west of Bethel Drive can leave the area by going west on Exide Drive to Highway 394 and on to Tennessee Exits 66 and 69.
- The southbound Highway 11E off-ramp to Highway 394 will be closed after the race. This is to alleviate congestion at the bottom of the ramp on Highway 394. Motorists going south on Highway 11E can reach Interstate 81 via State of Franklin Road and Interstate 26 via Route 1 described above.
- The flow of motorists going west on Highway 394 will utilize the center two-way left-turn lane as a post-race westbound-only (contraflow) lane from Highway 11E to Blountville. This flow will be split at the Franklin Drive intersection in Blountville; motorists in the far left lane will turn left onto westbound Franklin Drive to Highway 126, which will take them to Interstate 81 at Exit 66. The other two lanes of motorists will continue on Highway 394 straight to Interstate 81 at Exit 69.
- If there is a crash on northbound Interstate 81 north of Exit 5, post-race traffic may not be able to get on to northbound Interstate 81 at Exit 5 in Bristol, Virginia. As a contingency plan, if a traffic problem develops, such traffic may be directed to continue north on Lee Highway to Virginia Exits 7 or 10 and enter the Interstate at that point. Traffic entering southbound Interstate 81 will be able to enter at Exit 5.
- Motorists going to the Linden Drive and Exit 7 areas of Bristol, Virginia, after the race, are encouraged to leave Interstate 81 at Exit 5 and proceed north on Lee Highway (US 11/19) to the Exit 7 area. If those motorists are on Highway 394, the easiest route is to go east on Highway 394 to Highway 421, turn left, and follow the signs to Interstate 81; there will be additional signage on this route to direct motorists to the Linden Drive area. This will also allow motorists to avoid the work zone at the I-81 Exit 7 interchange.

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: WHAT IT TAKES**

There are many agencies other than the City of Bristol, Tennessee and the Bristol Motor Speedway that are involved in making race traffic operations as smooth and safe as possible. Personnel from the following agencies are instrumental in making traffic safe and move on Race Weekend:

Bristol, Tennessee	Bristol, Virginia
Johnson City, Tennessee	Kingsport, Tennessee
Bluff City, Tennessee	Abingdon, Virginia
Elizabethton, Tennessee	Jonesborough, Tennessee
Chattanooga, Tennessee	Cleveland, Tennessee
Middlesboro, Kentucky	Sullivan County, Tennessee
Washington County, Virginia	Carter County, Tennessee
Washington County, Tennessee	Greene County, Tennessee
Virginia State Police	Tennessee Highway Patrol
Virginia Department of Transportation	Tennessee Department of Transportation
Kentucky State Police	Cumberland Gap Tunnel Authority
Several federal agencies	

A significant amount of material is also required to make this plan work outside of construction work zones:

2,383 signs	20 variable message sign trailers
four arrow board trailers	20 permanent variable message signs
2,500 cones, lane separators, and barrels	120 barricades
22 portable lighting units for roadway lighting	one-third mile of chains along medians

Most of all, it takes the cooperation of the motoring public to make this plan a success.

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