The Rice Guide
to Getting Around on METRO Buses

Popular Destinations

**Chinatown** is easily accessible, even Saturday nights, on the frequent **2 Bellaire** from TMC TC. Get off at Bellaire & Ranchester for Lai Lai’s, about a 40 minute ride from TMC.

**Target/Fiesta**

TMC Transit Center, accessible from METRO-Rail, is the gateway to points south of Rice. The **8 South Main** and **10 Willowbend** both depart from bus platform 2 and pass within one block of Target. Both run every 15-30 minutes on weekdays, 30-60 minutes on weekends, so a schedule is very useful in determining which to catch. The **14 Hiram Clarke** leaves from bus platform 1 and passes by the other side of the Fiesta shopping plaza. The 14 runs every 15-30 minutes on weekdays, 25-30 minutes on weekends.

http://www.ridemetro.org

METRO info: 713 635 4000
METRO Police: 713 224 COPS (2677)
Before Your Trip

Get a Q Card

The Q Card is used to pay your fare on METRO buses and trains. Stop by the Rice Cashier’s office and they will load up a Q Card for you free of charge!

Find your route

METRO’s system map and trip planner on http://www.ridemetro.org/ can help you find the bus route that goes where you want to go. Google Transit, http://www.google.com/transit/, will also provide a detailed itinerary to get to your destination. Directions to some popular destinations are in this pamphlet.

Buses that don’t travel past Rice can usually be caught by transferring from METRORail. Check the bus route map to determine at which station or transit center to make the connection.

Get a schedule

Most routes run every 15-30 minutes, so knowing when to arrive at the stop can minimize your waiting time. Bus drivers are not permitted to run early; a couple of minutes behind schedule is the norm.

Schedules are available at http://www.ridemetro.org, the METRO RideStore at Downtown Transit Center, and usually at the RMC Information Desk at Rice.

Questions? Comments?
Need additional directions?
Email JLL5@rice.edu

Riding the Bus

METRO bus stops are marked by a standard sign:

It indicates the numbers and names of the routes that stop at that location.

As the bus approaches, check the destination sign over the windshield to ensure that it is the route and direction you want. Make sure you are visible to the driver so he or she will stop.

When the bus stops, allow passengers to exit, then tap your Q Card on the reader as you enter.

Take a seat and enjoy the ride! Note that the sideways-facing seats at the very front of the bus are reserved for elderly and disabled passengers.

As the bus nears the stop where you would like to get off, signal the driver by pulling the cord over the windows, pressing a “stop” button, or touching the yellow tape on the wall in newer buses. Use the back door for a quick exit.

Popular Destinations

Houston Airports

See companion brochure “The Rice Guide to Houston Airports on METRO Buses.”

The Galleria

The 73 Bellfort Crosstown is your easy ride to ultimate shopping! Making stops at TMC Transit Center and alongside campus on University Blvd, the 73 will drop you off right outside the doors to the Galleria. For the return trip, catch the 73 along Westheimer in front of the mall. The 73 runs every 30 minutes Monday through Saturday. Ride time is about 20 minutes each way.

Frequent service to the Galleria is also provided seven days a week by the 81 and 82 Westheimer routes, which serve the length of Westheimer Rd. These can be caught along Smith Street, four blocks west of McGowen Station on METRORail, or at Main Street Square.

CVS and Walgreens are located on Holcombe at Greenbriar and Kirby, respectively, a very short ride on the frequent 2 Bellaire or 68 Brays Bayou routes from TMC TC.

Value Village and Salvation Army are located next to each other on Bissonnett St about 5 minutes past Bellaire TC. Catch the 65 Bissonnett at Mandell and Bissonnett near the north colleges, or at Wheeler Station.

The Movie Theatre Edwards Greenway Plaza is easily accessed from the 25 Richmond, which departs frequently from Wheeler Station. Get off at Richmond and Wesleyan. Check the schedule for late night return trips.