

The back way from NIST to FT Meade, BWI Airport, or Baltimore

This route entirely avoids the beltway and almost entirely avoids I-270. It's easy to avoid I-270 altogether from NIST, but this rarely saves time. This route saves time only if there are problems on the beltway, but it is generally a more pleasant drive. School busses can be a problem in the mornings.

At the main gate of NIST, or from the Exit of NIST North turn onto W. Diamond toward I-270 and get immediately onto I-270 to DC. Immediately follow the Metro Signs and get onto I-370 for the Metro station and go to the Metro station.

At the Metro station don't turn into any parking lot, get in the right lane (start out following the signs for Lot 2) and just follow the road around past the parking garage and take the first right to exit out of the station before you get to Lot 2. This leads you immediately to a stop sign at Redland Rd. Turn left onto Redland Rd.

Go straight on Redland Rd. through Crabbs Branch Rd., through the light at Needwood Rd. and in 2 miles you will come to a light at Muncaster Mill Road. Continue straight through that light and Redland Road turns into Muncaster Rd. Continue straight through the light onto Muncaster Rd.

After about 3.5 miles you will come to a light at Rt. 108, Laytonsville Rd. Take a right and then immediately (100 yards or so) turn left onto Brookville Rd. This is a narrow country road. Go about 2.8 miles and you will dead end into Rt. 97 (Georgia Ave.) in the old town of Brookville.

Turn right onto Rt. 97 and in a short distance, about .2 mi, Rt. 97 will make a hard left in the old town and then, in one short block, 97 will go right 90 degrees, but you won't. You will continue straight onto Brighton Dam Road, where Rt. 97 goes right. Folks coming the other way on Rt. 97 have a stop. You will go over a couple of speed bumps and be on another narrow country road. There is a flood area here, so be careful if it is raining hard, and an intersection where Brighton Dam Rd. makes a right at a stop sign. After 2.3 miles Brighton Dam Road crosses New Hampshire Ave. at a light. Continue on Brighton Dam Rd. across the dam, and on another 4 miles until Brighton Dam Rd. runs into Ten Oaks Rd. in a kind of a Y. You will have a yield at Ten Oaks and about a 30 degree right turn. In about a half mile you will be at a light at the intersection with 108 again (now called Clarksville Pike) in the town of Clarksville.

Turn left onto 108 and then immediately turn right onto Rt. 32 East.

To go to Ft. Meade just continue on Rt. 32 and you'll get there in 10 miles or so, on your left, after you cross I-295..

To go to Baltimore or BWI, Airport Square 2 or the Maritime Academy exit 32 onto I-95 North (left exit).

For Baltimore just continue in on I-95 or, for points west you can get onto the beltway, I-695.

For BWI, Airport Square #2 or the Maritime Institute exit I-95 onto I-195 to BWI Airport (prominently marked). This is perhaps 10 miles on I-95 and right after the Tunnel exit.

For Airport Square #2, the F Annex, or the Maritime Institute exit I-195 (right exit) north onto 295 to Baltimore (it's about 2 mi from I-95). Be careful, it's an abrupt merge onto 295. For BWI just keep going straight in I-195 and you'll soon be there.

For Airport Square #2, the F Annex, or the Maritime Institute, exit 295 at the first exit (coming up soon) onto W. Nursery Rd. Go East, that is turn right, onto W. Nursery Rd. You will very shortly come to a light that is International Drive to the Left, and Winterson Rd. to the right.

For the Maritime Institute turn left onto International Dr. and you'll soon see the Academy on your left.

For Airport Square #2 or the F-Annex turn right off W. Nursery onto Winterson Rd. and then make the first left onto Elkridge Landing Road. Airport Square # 2 will be no more than a quarter mile on your right, past Cienna and just before the Holliday Inn. The F-Annex is perhaps a half mile, on your right, a bleak, unmistakable NSA building surrounded by chain link fences and guard posts. Don't ask me where to park, it seems to change every time I go there, but you may have to park in the lot across the road.

The Back Way from BWI Airport to NIST

Exit BWI on I-195 headed west to I-95 and take I-95 south to Washington DC.

After maybe 10 miles exit from I-95 onto Rt. 32 West. Go perhaps 6.8 miles to the Rt. 108 Clarksville exit. Turn left onto 108, cross over 32 and turn right at the second light (coming up very soon) onto Ten Oaks Rd .

Go about .6 mi. on Ten Oaks, and you will come to a Y intersection with Brighton Dam Rd.

Turn left onto Brighton Dam Road and continue over the Brighton Dam, through the light at the intersection with New Hampshire Ave. (4.2 miles from Ten Oaks) and eventually you will hit a couple of speed bumps and come to Rt. 97 (Georgia Ave. – 2.3 miles from New Hampshire Ave.) in the Village of Brookville. Parts are a narrow country road and there is an area that floods.

Go straight at the Stop with Rt.97 and you will be on 97, which will make a sharp right curve in a block or so, and you will go a few hundred yards farther and make the first left onto Brookville Rd, another country road.

Go 2.8 miles on Brookville Rd. and you will come to a stop at Rt. 108 (Laytonsville Rd.). Make a right onto 108 and then immediately make a left at the light onto Muncaster Rd. You will go almost 6 miles or so before you turn again, but Muncaster Rd. will turn into Redland Rd. at the intersection with Muncaster Mill Rd. Continue through the light at Muncaster Mill Rd. onto Redland Rd. You will come to a light for Needwood Rd., then, about 2 miles from Muncaster Mille Rd, you will come to a light for Crabbs Branch Rd.

Here's the tricky part: continue through the light for Crabbs Branch and then make the first right (in 50 yards or so) into the entrance for the Shady Grove Metro Station, which is not as conspicuously marked as normal for a Metro Station entrance. However, don't make any of the lefts into actual Metro parking lots, just continue straight and you wind up on I-370, the metro spur from I-270. Cross Shady Grove Rd., the exit for Rt. 355 and exit onto I270 West (or is it North) to Frederick, a right Exit.

You will be on I-270 a short distance and take the first exit, Clopper Rd. You will merge onto Clopper Rd. cross under I-270 and, at the first light, the NIST main gate will be to your left, and NIST North will be to your right, behind Chilli's Restaurant.