The NIST Conference Program is handling registration for the August 16-17 FCSM Forum and will email specific instructions for getting on campus closer to the event. Many times they will use a different gate and include a gate pass. Use those instructions.

The headquarters site of the National Institute of Standards & Technology is located at 100 Bureau Drive in Gaithersburg, Maryland, just off Interstate Route 270, about 25 miles from the center of Washington, D.C. See http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/visitor/index.cfm for more Visitor Information.

FAQ: I am driving to NIST and need an address for my GPS? Do not use “100 Bureau Drive.” Instead, use “21 North Drive, Gaithersburg” or “West Diamond Avenue and Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg.”

NIST Main Gate Requirements

All visitors and guests to the NIST campus must have the following items available before entering the Visitor's Center: Photo I.D. (federally approved State issued driver's license, Federal ID, or original passport) and Vehicle Registration Card. Visitors driving rental cars can show their rental agreement in lieu of vehicle registration. International attendees are required to present a passport.

Once you leave the Visitor Center, you will be asked to show the visitor badge you picked up and a photo ID before being admitted onto the campus. At the main entrance stop sign, make a left, follow until you see signs for the Administration Building (101) (tallest building). There is free visitor parking.

The Portrait Room is located on the first floor of the Administration Building (101) right across from the cafeteria. From the Lobby, make a left and go all the way down to the end and turn right. Bathrooms are located near the Red Auditorium.

PLEASE NOTE: Effective July 21, 2014, under the REAL ID Act of 2005, agencies, including NIST, can only accept a state-issued driver’s license or identification card for access to federal facilities if issued by states that are REAL ID compliant or have an extension. Drivers' licenses from the following states and territories will NOT be accepted for entry to NIST: American Samoa, Arizona, Louisiana, Maine, and Oklahoma. In addition, only enhanced drivers' licenses (identified by the American flag on the face of the card) will be accepted from the following three states: Minnesota, New York, and Washington. Visitors with state licenses not in compliance with the REAL ID requirements may be admitted to campus provided the sponsoring NIST employee meets the visitor at the Visitor Center on arrival and provides escort while the visitor is on site.

Driving Directions:
From northbound I-270 take Exit 10, Route 117 West, Clopper Road. Bear right at the first light onto Clopper Road/West Diamond Avenue. At the next light, turn left onto the NIST grounds. See Main Gate instructions.

From southbound I-270 take Exit 11, Route 124, Montgomery Village Avenue/Quince Orchard Road. Bear right at the first light onto Route 124 West, Quince Orchard Road. After you merge onto Rt. 124, Quince Orchard Road, turn left at the second light onto Route 117, West Diamond Avenue. Turn right at the first light onto NIST grounds. See Main Gate instructions.

METRO Shuttle Red Line
NIST provides shuttle service for official visitors and staff to and from the Shady Grove Metro Station. The shuttle stops at the 4th kiosk on the Eastside of the Shady Grove Metro Station, and at NIST in front of the Administration Building (101) every 30 minutes. The first shuttle leaves the Shady Grove Metro
Station at 6:45 a.m. and the last shuttle from NIST leaves at 6:05 p.m. The ride between NIST and the Shady Grove Metro Station takes approximately 15 minutes, depending on traffic conditions.

NIST does not provide transportation back to the airports after conferences but there are several alternatives discussed on the NIST Visitor Information site: http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/visitor/index.cfm

Maryland Transit Administration offers a Commuter Bus (Route 201 Zone 3) with a pick-up in front of the NIST Main Gate (MD 117 & Bureau Drive) which drops off at BWI Airport (Southwest Airlines, International Terminal, MARC/Amtrak Rail Station). This bus takes approximately 1 hr 15 minutes from NIST to BWI. Express service via MD 200 is $5 for one-way service. http://mta.maryland.gov/commuter-bus

Hotel Information

Disclaimer: These commercial establishments have no official relationship with NIST. We provide this information as convenience to NIST visitors and conference attendees. NIST does not endorse or guarantee the quality or services provided by these establishments. More hotels are listed on the NIST Visitor page.

Note: The Montgomery County MD Agricultural Fair is August 12-20 and could impact where you want to stay to avoid traffic jams. Perry Parkway could be impacted.

There are two Marriotts in the Washingtonian Rio area – this area is very nice with restaurants and shopping and further away from Fair traffic.


TownPlace Suites by Marriott, 212 Perry Parkway, Gaithersburg, MD, 301-590-2300. This is the closest hotel to NIST on the same road as the Hilton. http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wastg-townplace-suites-gaithersburg/


Holiday Inn, 2 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD, 301-948-8900. Call the hotel directly and ask for a NIST rate; if you book online you may not get the NIST rate and they cannot change it later. Renovated about a year ago. Near Lakeforest Mall at corner of Montgomery Village and Rt 355. Fairly easy to drive to NIST. http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/gaithersburg/wasrv/hoteldetail

Hampton Inn & Suites Washington DC North/Gaithersburg 960 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20879, USA1-301-990-4300 – New http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/index.html no shopping around it, it’s fairly easy to get to NIST although others are closer.