



MEDIA CONTACT: Mark Mahoney, mark.mahoney@cincinnati-oh.gov

Traffic and Parking Details for BLINK® Festival, Parade

CINCINNATI – The City of Cincinnati is excited to once again host BLINK®, an internationally recognized light and art spectacular Thursday, Oct. 13, through Sunday, Oct. 16. More than 1 million people are expected to attend the event, which will span 30 city blocks from Findlay Market, through Downtown across the Roebling Bridge and into Covington, Ky.

This year, as in years past, the primary footprint of BLINK on the Cincinnati side of the river traces the streetcar route along Elm, Race, Walnut and Main streets with the venue extending a couple blocks to the east and west, north, and south. The parade route for this year's BLINK will take place along Fifth Street between Broadway Street and Central Avenue.

To accommodate the event and expected crowds, the City, in conjunction with local law enforcement and the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, have established a temporary traffic pattern to support the anticipated influx of visitors and the safety of pedestrians.

The traffic pattern will prohibit vehicular access to Elm and Race streets in Over-the-Rhine and Main and Walnut streets Downtown as well as a few additional from approximately 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. each night of BLINK. Motorists, however, will be allowed to travel on several major north-south and east-west streets with police assistance during the event.

A handful of other streets will close only on Thursday, Oct. 13, for the BLINK parade while others will remain closed throughout the event for public hospitality areas. The hospitality areas include access to public restrooms, entertainment stages, food and beverage and seating.

The attached maps show the planned road closures and locations where vehicular access will be allowed during the parade Thursday, Oct. 13, and for the remainder of BLINK, Friday, Oct. 14, through Sunday, Oct. 16.

Commuters and visitors are encouraged to carpool and use public transportation due to anticipated traffic and limited parking.

Metro and TANK are offering free bus service after 6:00 p.m. during BLINK. For more information, including details about Park & Ride options, visit: www.go-metro.com/blink or www.tankbus.org/tank-metro-offering-free-rides-to-blink/.

The Connector is adding extra streetcars during BLINK. Cincinnati Police will ride ahead as an escort for the streetcar. All 18 station stops will be open. Station stops are wheelchair accessible with level boarding and accessible seating on every streetcar.

Public and private parking garages and surface lots will be open in areas surrounding the event location.

BLINK: Vehicular Access Points

Through traffic will be allowed with police assistance on several major streets while BLINK is under way each of the four nights. Those include the following:

East & West:

- Liberty Street
- Central Parkway

Westbound:

- Third Street
- Fourth Street
- Sixth Street
- Ninth Street

Eastbound:

- Second Street
- Fifth Street
- Seventh Street

North-South:

- Vine Street north of Second Street to Sixth Street
- Vine Street north and south between Central Parkway and Liberty Street

Please note: Although these roads will be open with police assistance, motorists should allow extra time because of expected delays at all crossings due to the large number of pedestrians who will be walking the route to see the event.

BLINK: Road Closures

The following roads will be closed while BLINK is under way from approximately 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. each night.

Over-the-Rhine: Findlay Market to Washington Park

- Elm Street: 12th Street north to McMicken Street
- Race Street: 12th Street north to McMicken Street

- Pleasant Street: Liberty Street north to 14th Street
- Dunlap Street: Findlay Street north to McMicken Street
- Elder and Findlay streets: Central Parkway east to Vine Street
- Green Street: Vine Street east to Logan Street
- Wade, Odeon and Magnolia streets: Central Parkway to Elm Street
- 15th Street: Walnut Street west to Central Parkway
- 14th Street: Central Parkway east to Sycamore Street
- 13th Street: Vine Street to Sycamore Street
- 12th Street: Vine Street to Main Street

Central Business District: Kroger Store to The Banks

- Main Street: Third Street to Liberty Street
- Walnut Street: Second Street to Liberty Street
- Vine Street: Sixth Street to Central Parkway
- Eighth Street/Garfield Place: Elm Street to Sycamore Street
- Seventh Street: Race Street to Sycamore Street
- Fourth Street: Sycamore Street to Vine Street
- Roebling Suspension Bridge

BLINK Public Hospitality Areas: OTR, Central Business District, The Banks

There are several public hospitality areas that necessitate continuous street closures in the following locations.

OTR: Findlay Market and Cincinnati Art Academy Areas

- Logan Street: Findlay Street to Elder Street
- Eton Alley: Elm Street to Race Street
- Jackson Street: Central Parkway to 12th Street

Central Business District

- Court Street: Race Street to Walnut Street
- Walnut Street: Ninth to Central Parkway
- W. Eighth Street: Vine Street to Elm Street

The Banks

- Freedom Way: Rosa Parks Street to Joe Nuxhall Way
- Marian Spencer Way: Second Street to Ted Berry Way at Roebling Bridge

BLINK Parade: Fifth Street between Broadway and Central Avenue

Fifth Street will be closed between Central Avenue and Broadway starting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, for the parade. Through traffic also will be prohibited one block north and one block south of each intersection along Fifth Street at Lawrence, Broadway, Sycamore, Main, Walnut, Vine, Race and Elm streets.

Local access to garages along the route will be maintained.

Please note: For safety reasons, the streetcar will not operate the Downtown loop during the parade. Service in OTR, however, will continue.

In addition, the following streets will be closed for equipment and float staging beginning at 4:00 p.m. until approximately 10:00 p.m.

- Sentinel Street between Fifth Street and Eggleston Avenue
- Reedy Street between Broadway and Eggleston Avenue
- Seventh Street between Broadway and Culvert Street
- New Street between Broadway and Culvert Street
- Culvert Street between Reedy Street and E. Fifth Street

Additional Information:

- Local access for residents will be maintained with the assistance of Cincinnati Police officers on site.
- Cincinnati Police may close additional streets as needed, depending on traffic volumes.
- Government Square will be closed beginning at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13. Patrons should catch their buses via the public entrances to the Transit Center along Second Street.

For more information, visit www.BlinkCincinnati.com.

Information Updates

For the latest information from the City of Cincinnati Department of Transportation & Engineering, check [@RoadmapCincy](https://twitter.com/RoadmapCincy) on Twitter.