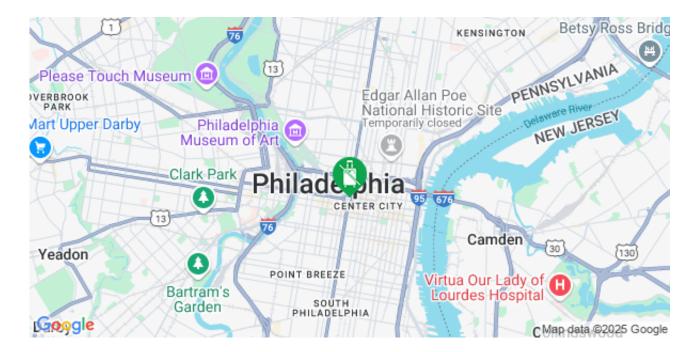


## **Travel**



12 FEB 17:40 UTC USA Tactical: Super Bowl victory parade slated from Lincoln Financial Field to Philadelphia Museum of Art in Philadelphia, PA from 11:00 (local time) on February 14; allot for disruptions

## **Current Situation**

- The City of Philadelphia has announced that a celebratory parade will be held on February 14 in honor of the Philadelphia Eagles' victory in Super Bowl LIX on February 9.
- The parade is scheduled to commence at 11:00 (local time) at Lincoln Financial Field, proceeding north along Broad Street toward Philadelphia City Hall. From there, it will continue northwest via Benjamin Franklin Parkway, culminating at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.
- Upon arrival at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, a celebratory event will begin at 14:00. Video screens will be placed along the parade route to ensure attendees can follow the proceedings.
- The City of Philadelphia announced road closures, parking restrictions, and changes to public transportation starting at 05:00. Details and timings of the planned road closures and parking restrictions can be found <a href="here">here</a>. Detailed information regarding changes in public transportation can be found <a href="here">here</a>.
- Authorities have also announced that a bolstered security presence will be deployed throughout the South Philadelphia, Center City, and Northeast Philadelphia districts and along the parade route to monitor the event.



Source: City of Philadelphia

## **Assessments & Forecast**

- 1. The previous Super Bowl victory for the Philadelphia Eagles occurred in 2018, followed by a celebratory parade in Philadelphia. The event attracted a crowd estimated in the mid-to-high tens of thousands, with the team's players riding atop a bus and escorted by security personnel along the designated route. Nearly all sections of the parade route were densely populated with the team's supporters. Security forces established multiple vehicle blockades in the surrounding areas, resulting in substantial traffic disruptions. The event proceeded in an entirely peaceful manner.
- 2. However, following the Eagles' recent victory on February 9, spontaneous gatherings in downtown Philadelphia led to incidents of civil disturbance, including the burning of trash cans and property vandalism during the early morning hours of February 10. In response, authorities intervened and implemented crowd dispersal measures, leading to at least nine arrests.
- 3. **FORECAST**: Based on past Super Bowl celebratory events, a similar turnout in the mid-to-high tens of thousands is anticipated for the upcoming parade. While instances of spontaneous unrest were recorded in Philadelphia following the Eagles' victory, public sentiment among supporters is likely to have stabilized in the days leading up to the official celebration. Furthermore, previous Super Bowl victory parades, including the 2024 parade in Kansas City, have generally proceeded in a structured and orderly manner in contrast to the more spontaneous street celebrations immediately following a win. As a result, the upcoming parade is expected to take place peacefully.
- **4. <u>FORECAST</u>**: Additionally, security officers are likely to remain on high alert throughout the parade, implementing extensive security measures. This heightened vigilance comes in light of the terrorist attack reported in New Orleans, LA, on January 1, which left 15 fatalities on the same day as the Sugar Bowl college football game was slated to take place. While details regarding specific security measures have not been announced as of writing, these will likely include the strategic deployment of barricades and blocker vehicles to safeguard key ingress and egress points.

- Additionally, other proactive measures such as security checkpoint can also be expected in the vicinity of the parade route and the Philadelphia Museum of Art to minimize potential disruptions and significantly reduce the likelihood of any unrest escalating into violence.
- 5. **FORECAST**: While no planned protests are scheduled to coincide with the parade, there is a credible risk of spontaneous demonstrations driven by heightened sentiments surrounding pro-immigration activism. This is because the parade takes place amid a recent nationwide wave of demonstrations, primarily led by left-leaning groups, advocating for immigrants' rights and protesting ongoing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in major cities, including Philadelphia. Activists may stage ad-hoc protests, which could manifest through chanting, acts of vandalism, or attempts to obstruct the parade route. Should any ad-hoc spontaneous protests unfold, law enforcement is expected to respond swiftly; however, isolated scuffles, disruptions, and arrests remain possible, as seen on February 10.
- **6. FORECAST**: Given the planned road closures announced by city authorities, and the scale of the parade, significant disruptions to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic are anticipated, particularly in high-density viewing areas such as Broad Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway from the early morning hours onward. Police and traffic authorities will likely be deployed extensively to monitor the proceedings and regulate traffic flow, ensuring order and safety throughout the event. Moreover, traffic disruptions are expected to linger through the day even after the parade concludes, given the high attendance and extensive area coverage of the event.

## Recommendations

Those operating or residing in Philadelphia, PA on February 14 are advised to allot for disruptions to vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the vicinity of the parade route due to the slated road closures and security checkpoints.