

Traffic and Parking for the State Bowl

Getting There

Traffic into South Hampton Roads can become extremely congested during the spring and summer months, especially on weekends. Delays can sometimes run for hours. For that reason, you should plan two approaches to the area: a straightforward route (for most down Interstate 64 through the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel) and a secondary route in case of traffic problems. Plan B should probably incorporate the Monitor & Merrimac Bridge Tunnel, also located off Interstate 64. With the abundance of map sources available on the Web and with travel services widely available, Future Problem Solving of Virginia will not provide directions to Norfolk, only hints about getting around once you reach the city.

Getting around once you reach the city

Both the Waterside Sheraton and Blair Middle School are located in or near downtown Norfolk. If you enter the city on I-64, continue east to the I-64/I-264 interchange and take the I-264 exit (284A) toward Downtown Norfolk (The exit sign just says “Norfolk”). Drive into downtown exiting at Waterside Drive (exit 9). The Sheraton is on the left. Turn left on E. Water Street to enter the hotel or the parking garage at Dominion Tower. Both the self-parking garage and the hotel valet parking charge a fee.

To reach Blair, continue west along Waterside Drive. In a few blocks the road will curve right and change into Boush Street. Proceed along Boush until you reach West Olney Road, then turn left. Your route down Olney will take you past the Chrysler Museum, historic Ghent, Christ & St. Luke’s Church, and the Hague (a park-like river inlet). Your next turn will be a right onto Colley Avenue at the Eastern Virginia Medical School. Blair is located about a half a mile down Colley on Spotswood Avenue near the Naro Theater. Turn right to reach the Blair parking lots.

Waiting for the Bowl to begin

Blair parking lots will be closed to all traffic until 3:00 p.m. So what should you do when you arrive in Norfolk? Here are a few suggestions for parking and visiting near Blair:

- **Sheraton and waterfront tourist attractions** – Points of interest include the Waterside Festival Marketplace, downtown harbor walk, Nauticus (the national maritime center), and the USS Wisconsin.
- **MacArthur Center Shopping Mall** – Upscale stores, restaurants, movie theaters, and a food court.
- **Chrysler Museum of Art** (free parking but admission fees). The museum contains Walter P. Chrysler’s eclectic art collection.
- **Historic Ghent** – Located near the Chrysler Museum, the area has winding streets of carefully maintained residences and Mansions, most built during the early 20th century. The grassy areas along the Hague are good for relaxing or reviewing the fine points of FPS.

At 3 o’clock, cars will be allowed to park in the lots and buses will be lined up in the school bus lanes. When the lots are full, cars will be directed to the Maury High School lots three blocks away. Remember, the bowl doesn’t start until 3:30 p.m., so you’ll have plenty of time to walk from Maury to Blair.

Want to know more about Ghent? Check out these links:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghent_district
http://www.norfolk.gov/Planning/comehome/Ghent_History.asp
<http://www.destinationghent.com/>