

2024 Total Solar Eclipse Planning



American Astronomical Society
Solar Eclipse Planning Workshop
June 9, 2023



Jim Stack, Executive Director
Genesee Transportation Council
Rochester, NY

Single-biggest mass travel event in the USA!

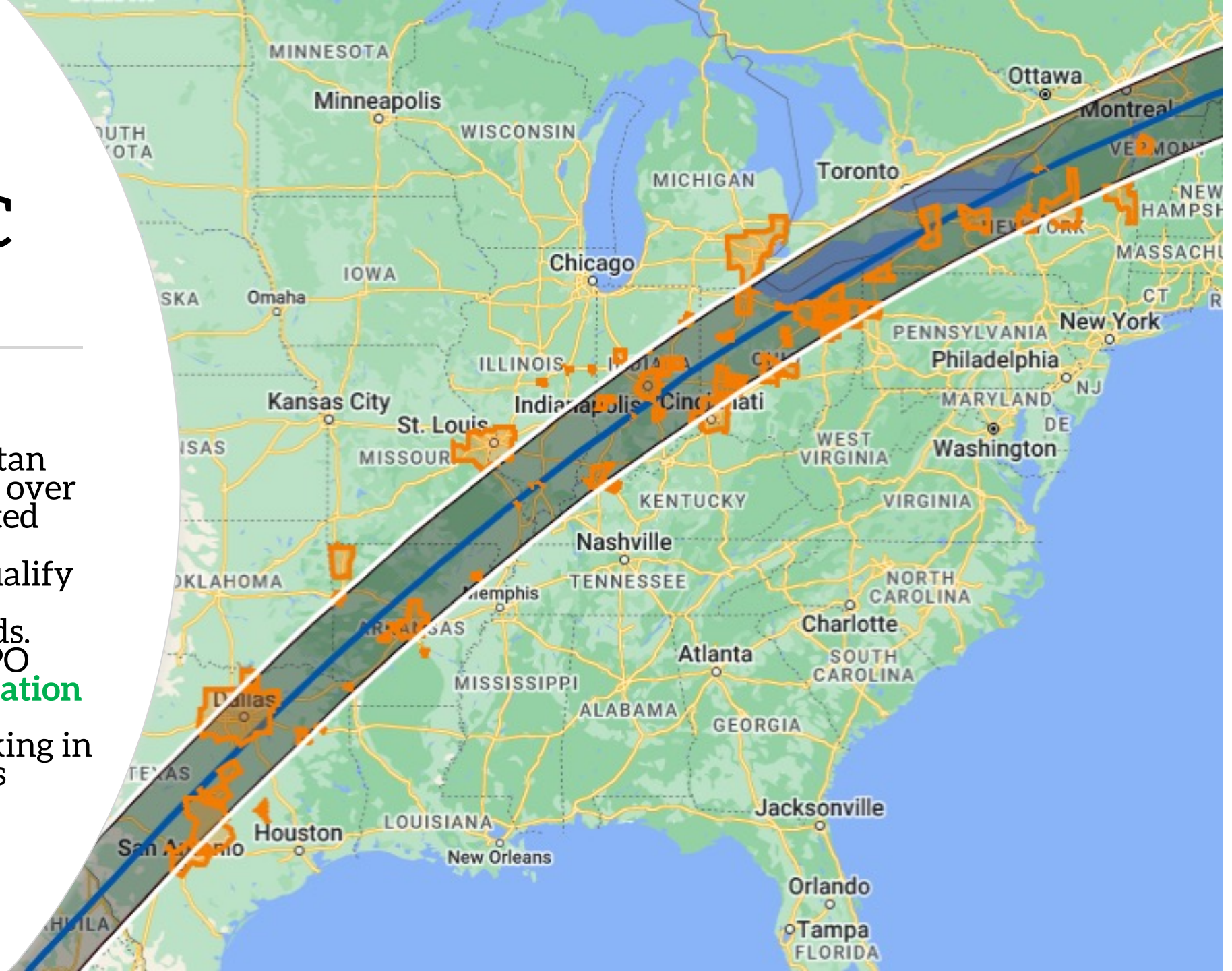


GTC's Role

We don't own, operate or maintain transportation systems, but our member agencies do. As a planning agency, we hope to inform, convene, connect, share resources, and assist our member agencies and stakeholders. We want to be part of the success stories, not traffic-related horror stories.

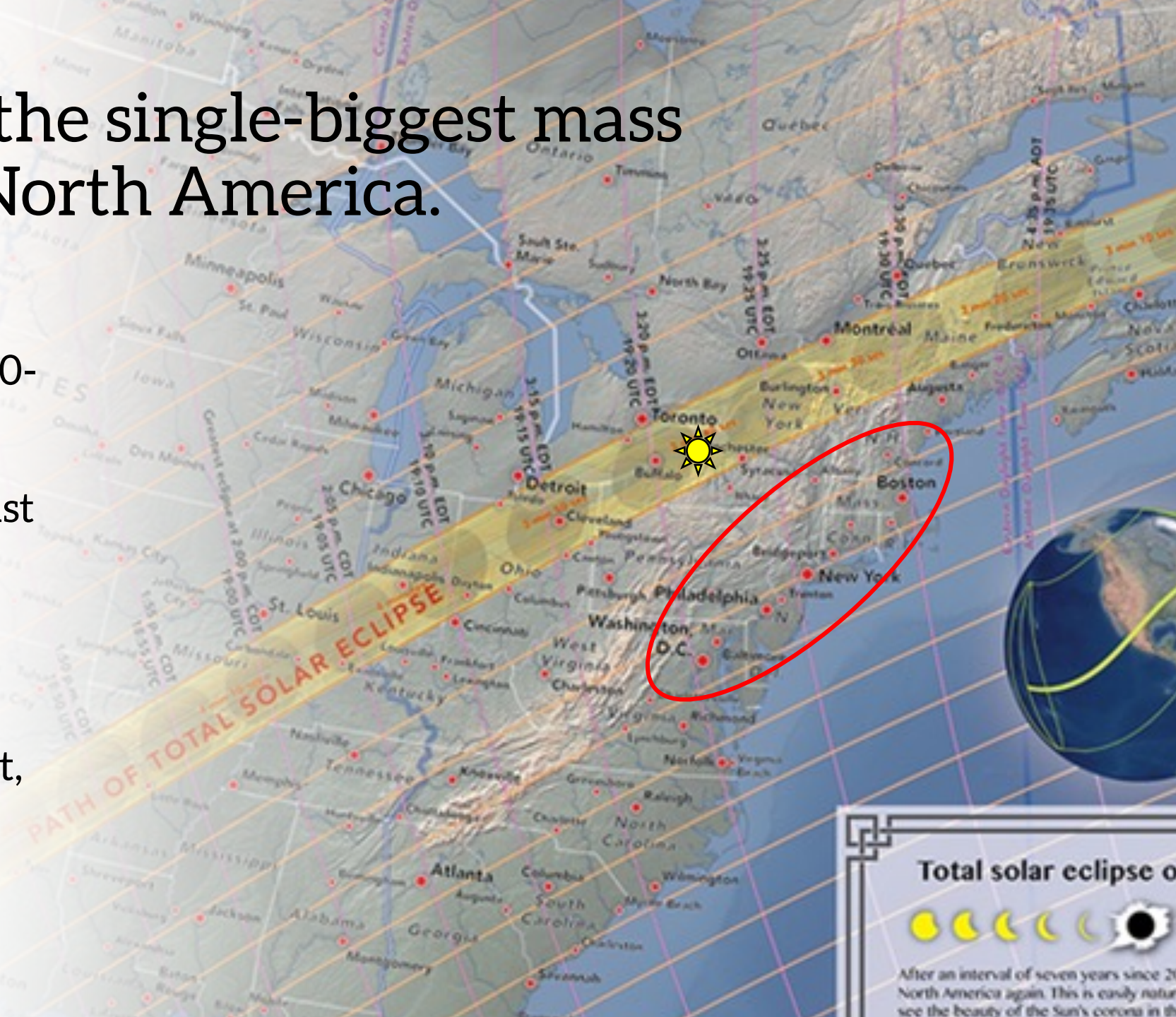
Why is GTC involved?

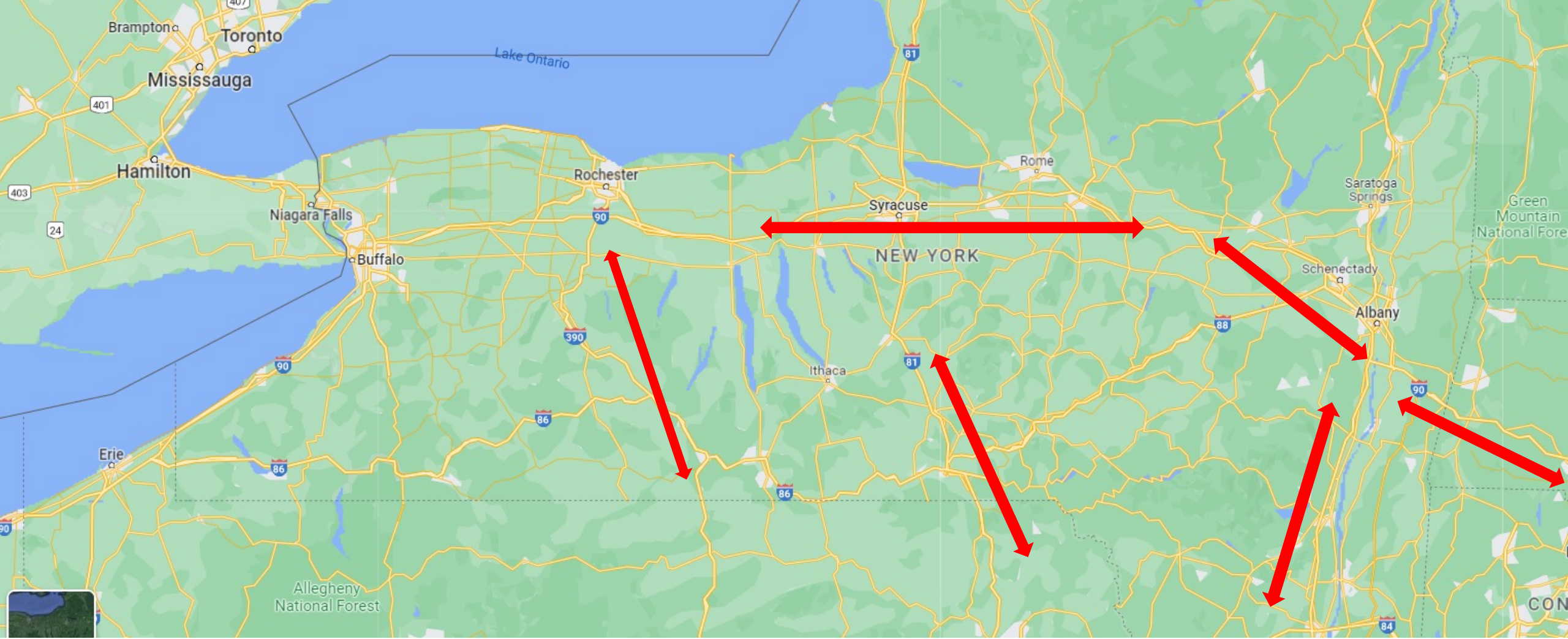
The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) requires every metropolitan area with a population of over 50,000 to have a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to qualify for the receipt of federal highway and transit funds. GTC is the designated MPO **responsible for transportation policy, planning, and investment decision** making in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region



Be prepared for the single-biggest mass travel event in North America.

- Will attract people from around the world to the 120-mile Path of Totality.
- Western New York will attract visitors from the East Coast and beyond
- 32 million people already living within the USA section of the path, but metropolitan areas such as St Louis, Cincinnati, Detroit, Toronto, and Quebec are very close to the path.





- Boston, MA – 392 mi (5 hrs, 45 min)
- Springfield, MA – 309 mi (4 hrs, 28 min)
- Hartford, CT – 335 mi (4 hrs, 49 min)
- Albany, NY – 226 mi (3 hrs, 16 min)
- Manhattan (NYC) – 349 mi (5 hrs, 19 min)

- Philadelphia, PA – 340 mi (5 hrs, 1 min)
- Baltimore, MD – 349 mi (5 hrs, 30 min)
- Washington, DC – 391 mi (6 hrs, 22 min)

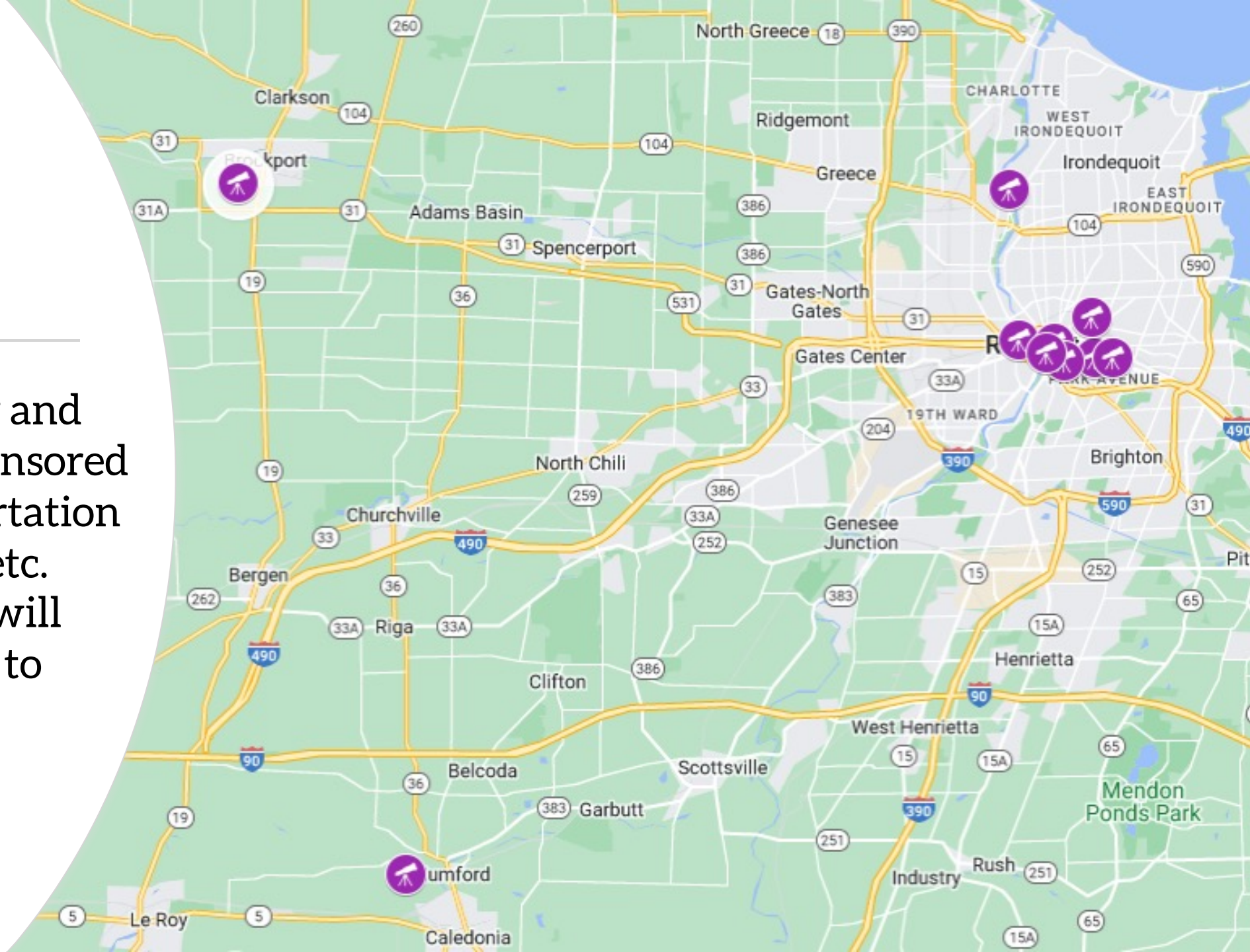
Traffic Considerations



Carbondale, IL 2017, The State Journal Register

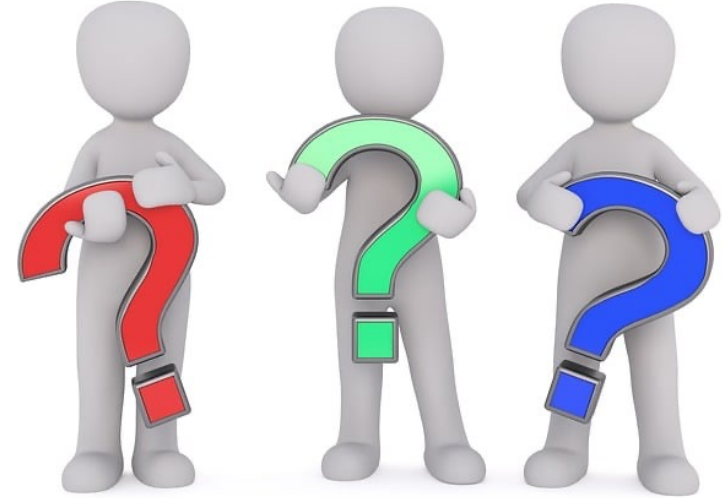
- Where will people park?
- Should roads be closed?
- Should they be one-way?
- Need to plan for emergency services – create a lane?
- Pre-deployed resources?
- Routine travel still needs to be accommodated.

Working to identify and map sanctioned/sponsored events, key transportation facilities, hospitals, etc. Using Google Maps will allow visitors to use to navigate the area.



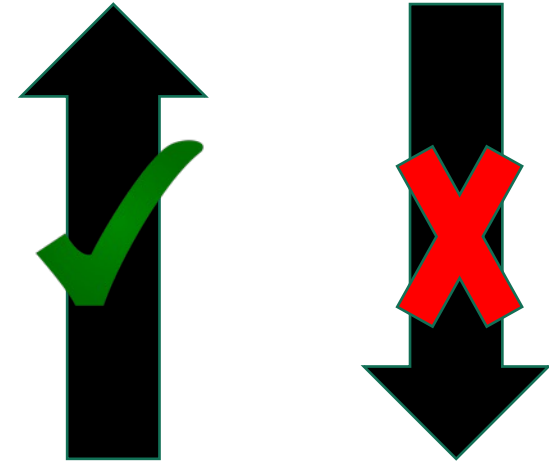
Traffic Considerations

- What are you doing locally?
- Will venues in proximity to each other cause conflicts?
- Should there be satellite parking with shuttles?
- Long distance travelers need information.
- On and off-campus events impact each other.
- Multiple agencies have jurisdiction, so coordination is key.



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Think bottom up, not top down



Arrive Early and Stay Late

Partnering with the full Rochester Task Force to share information about tourism, science education and community.

“Come for the sun, stay for the stars!”

- Deb Ross, AAS National (and Rochester) Task Force Co-Chair

#TakeTuesdayToo

Contact Information



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