

2024 Total Solar Eclipse Planning

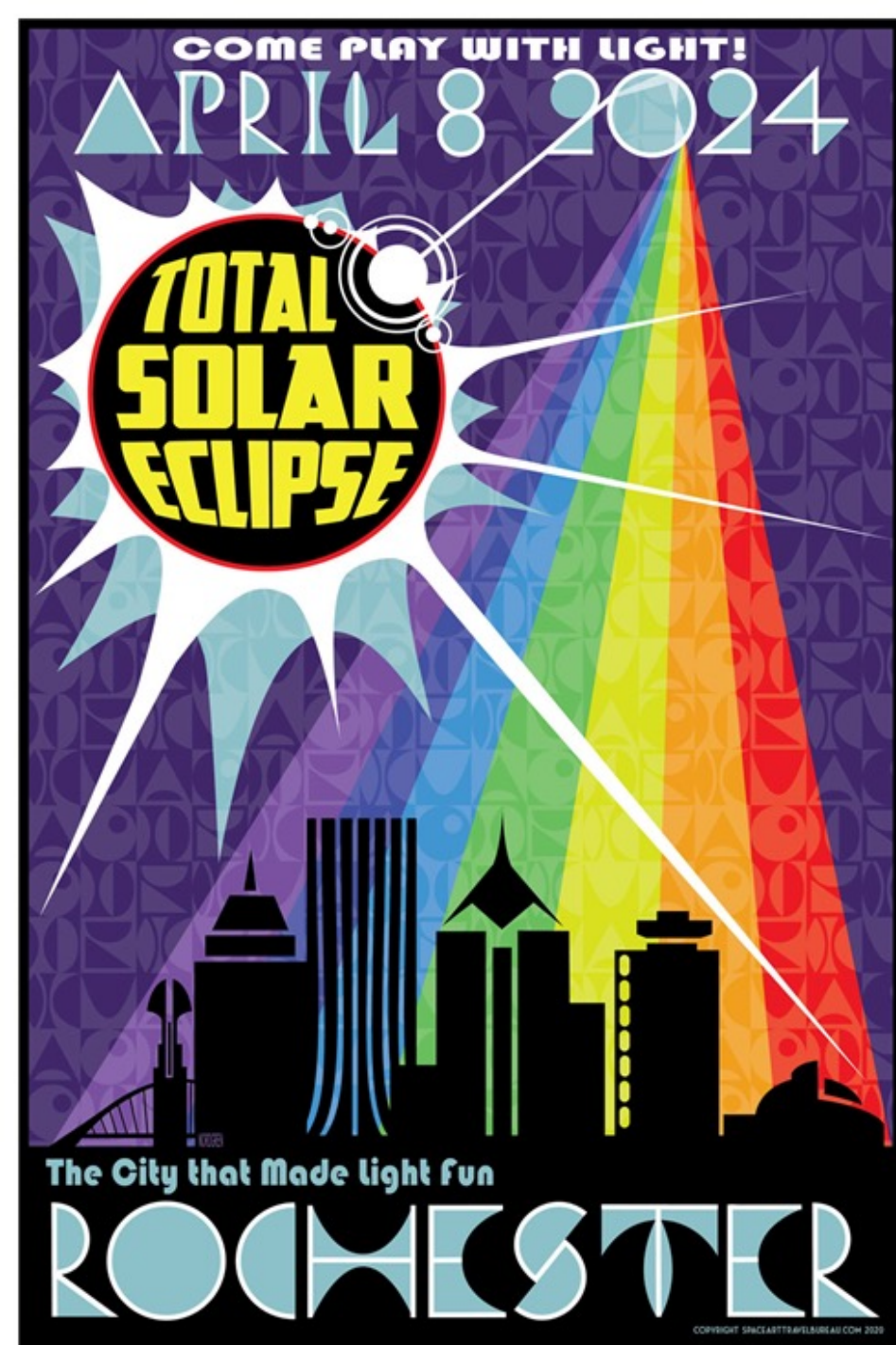


Single-biggest mass travel event in the USA.

Organizing Successful Events

AAS Solar Eclipse Planning Workshop
October 21, 2022

Jim Stack
Genesee Transportation Council, Executive Director



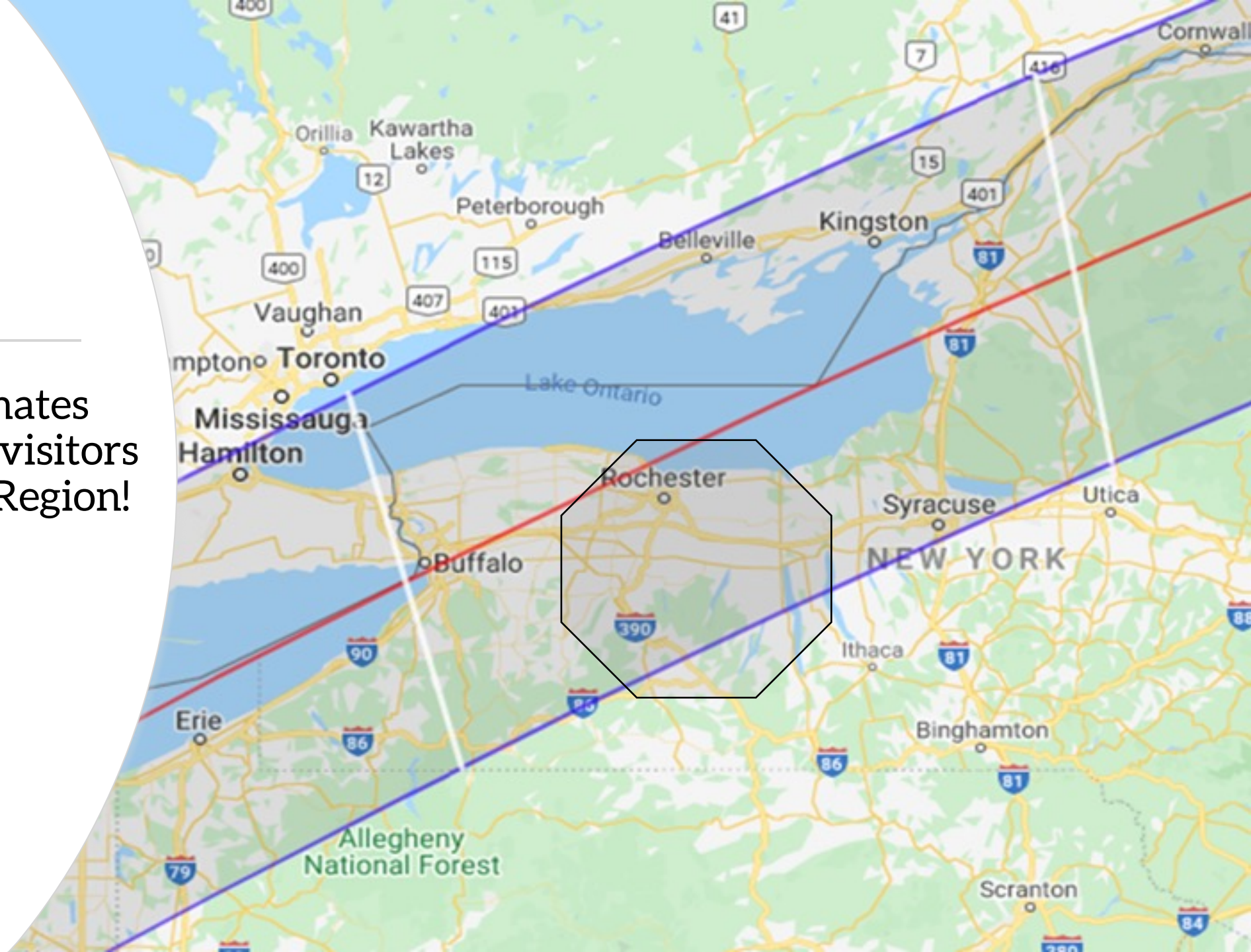
GTC's Role

We are proud to be part of a larger community working to put the Greater Rochester Region in the spotlight. We want to be part of the success stories, not traffic-related horror stories.

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.

VisitRochester estimates
350 – 500 thousand visitors
to the Finger Lakes Region!



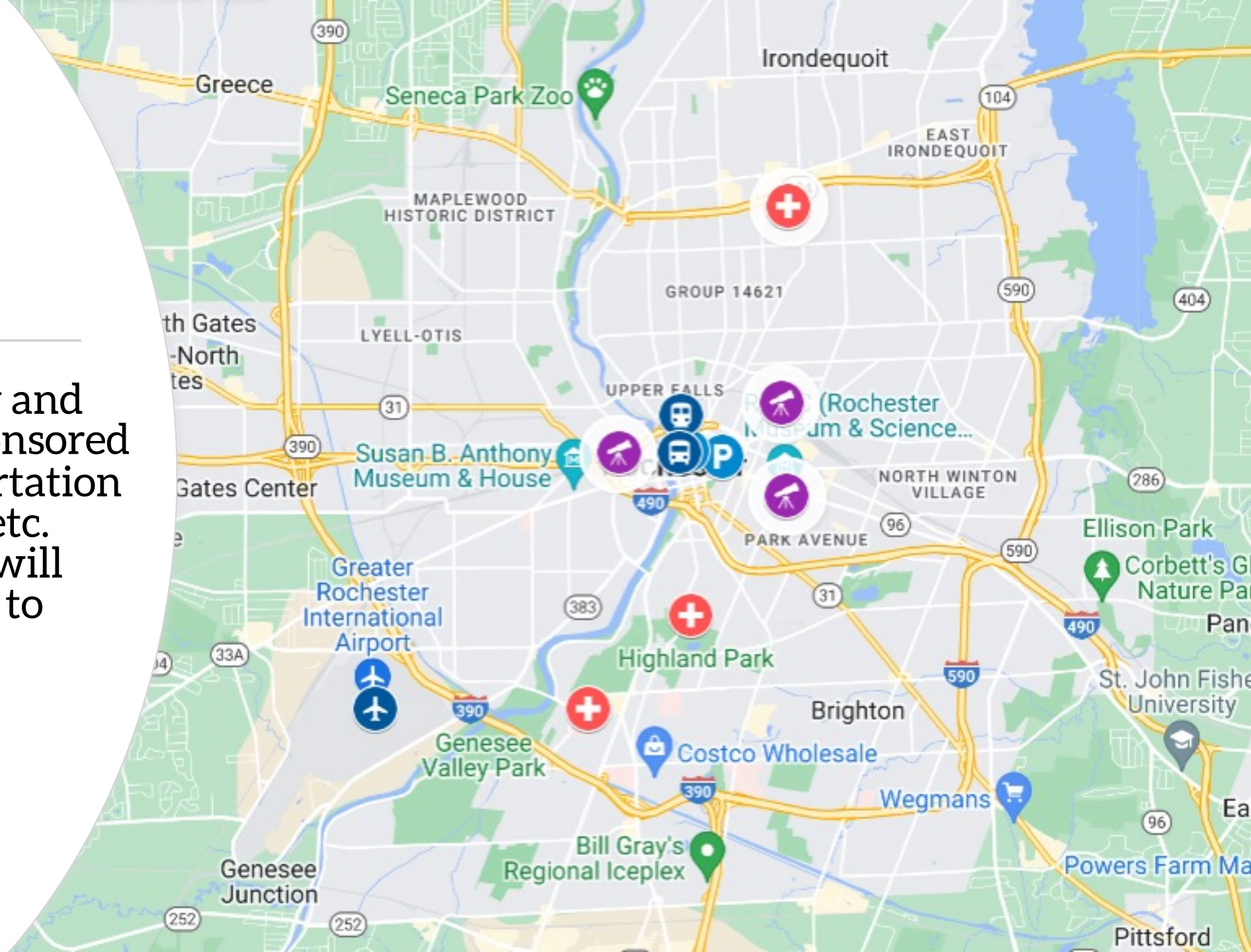
Crowds and Traffic

- **Expect huge crowds coming from the east and south will be driving**
- People from Boston, NYC, Albany, Syracuse, Binghamton, etc.
- People will arrive over 1-4 days pre-eclipse
- Rochester and the areas just west of us are the easiest place to get to
- If 2017 is a guide, most people will want to depart in the 2 hours post-totality,
- **Majority leave right after the first 15 minutes post totality**
- **THIS** is the biggest issue!
- Traffic jams should be expected on all roads leading out of the region - particularly East and South - **Can't go NORTH!**



Wyoming 2017, Denver Post

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.



Venue Considerations

- Audience experience will differ
 - Science museum
 - Baseball stadium
 - Downtown location
 - Open areas in parks, farms, etc.
 - State park camping areas
 - Suburban High School
 - Urban public market
 - Rooftop restaurant
- Activities before & after eclipse
- Visitor comfort related to weather, food, restrooms, etc.



Traffic Considerations



Illinois 2017, Chicago Tribune

- Where do people park?
- Should roads be closed?
- Need to plan for emergency services – create a lane?
- Pre-planned signal patterns?
- Pre-deployed response vehicles such as tow trucks?
- Routine travel still needs to be accommodated.

Traffic Considerations



Illinois 2017, Chicago Tribune

- Will venues in proximity to each other cause conflicts?
- Should we have satellite parking with shuttles?
- Long distance travelers need information.
- Multiple agencies have jurisdiction, so coordination is key