2024 Total Solar Eclipse Planning

Organizing Successful Events

AAS Solar Eclipse Planning Workshop
October 21, 2022

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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!
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

- 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.

Illinois 2017, Chicago Tribune
Traffic Considerations

• 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