2024 Total Solar Eclipse Planning

Transportation & Emergency Response Challenges

AAS Solar Eclipse Planning Workshop
October 22, 2022

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Genesee Transportation Council, Executive Director

Single-biggest mass travel event in the USA.
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!
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.
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
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.
University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) – Strong Memorial Hospital is the region’s only Level 1 Trauma Center and Burn Center.
UR Medicine Mobile Stroke Unit
Life saving stroke care in minutes.
But how do we manage a Planned Event at multiple venues of different sizes in multiple counties?
New York State Mass Gathering Planning Guide

June 2018

CHECKLISTS ARE HANDY!

• PRE-EVENT PLANNING
  ✓ Identify & Coordinate with Key Partners
  ✓ Risk Assessment
  ✓ Develop plan
  ✓ Exercise plan
  ✓ Implement Critical Infrastructure Protection & Other Mitigation Measures
  ✓ Identify Personnel and Equipment
  ✓ Trainings & Exercises and Protocol Reviews
  ✓ Communication & Info. Management Protocols
  ✓ Permits & Notifications
  ✓ Mass Casualty Plan Review
• OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
  ✓ Maintain Situational Awareness
  ✓ Maintain Incident Action Plans
  ✓ Maintain Lines of Communications
  ✓ Ingress/Egress/Parking
  ✓ Screening & Security
  ✓ Law Enforcement Operations
  ✓ Fire Rescue/Hazmat Operations
  ✓ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Operations
  ✓ Facility Lockdowns & Evacuations
  ✓ Emergency Alerting/Public Information
  ✓ Crowd Control
  ✓ Monitor Cyber/Technological Threats
POST-EVENT ACTIVITIES
✔ Debriefs
✔ Demobilization
✔ Review of Medical Incident Response Procedures
✔ After-Action Review and Plan Development

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