2024 Total Solar Eclipse Planning

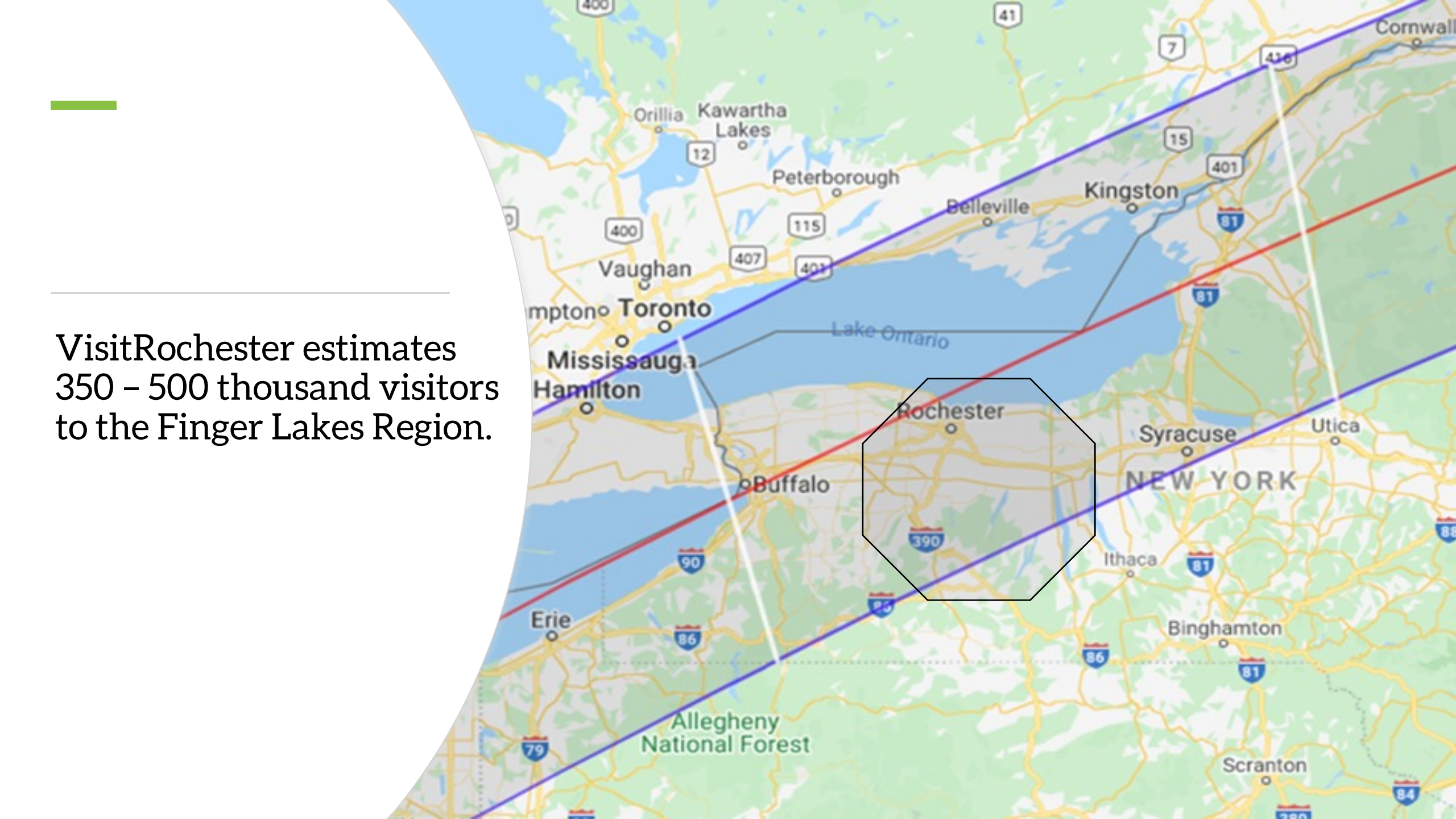
Single-biggest mass travel event in the USA.

Eclipse Logistics: Securing Supplies, Healthy & Safety Issues, Traffic Challenges, Border Crossings & More

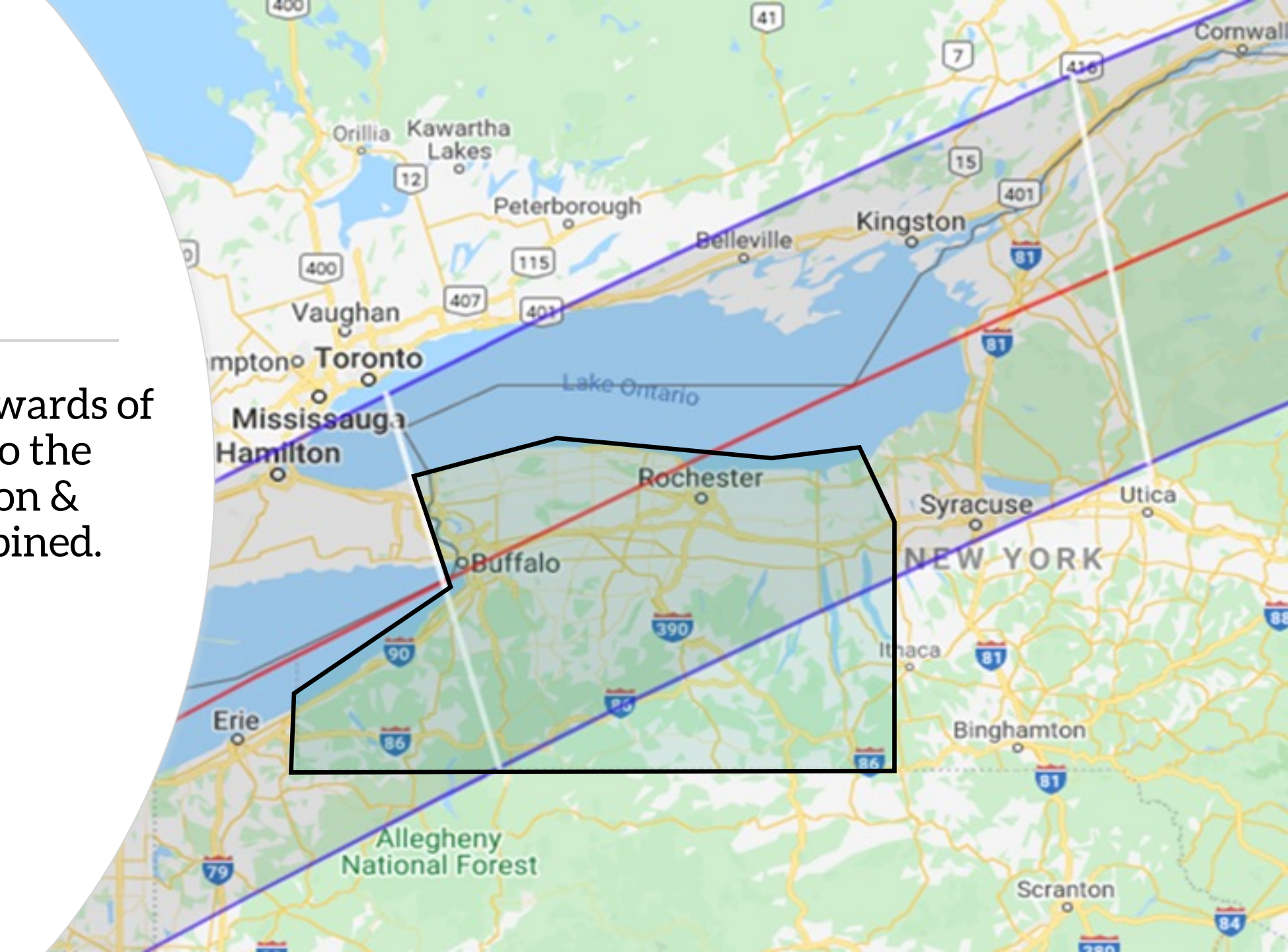
AAS Solar Eclipse Planning Workshop
October 22, 2022

Jim Stack
Genesee Transportation Council, Executive Director

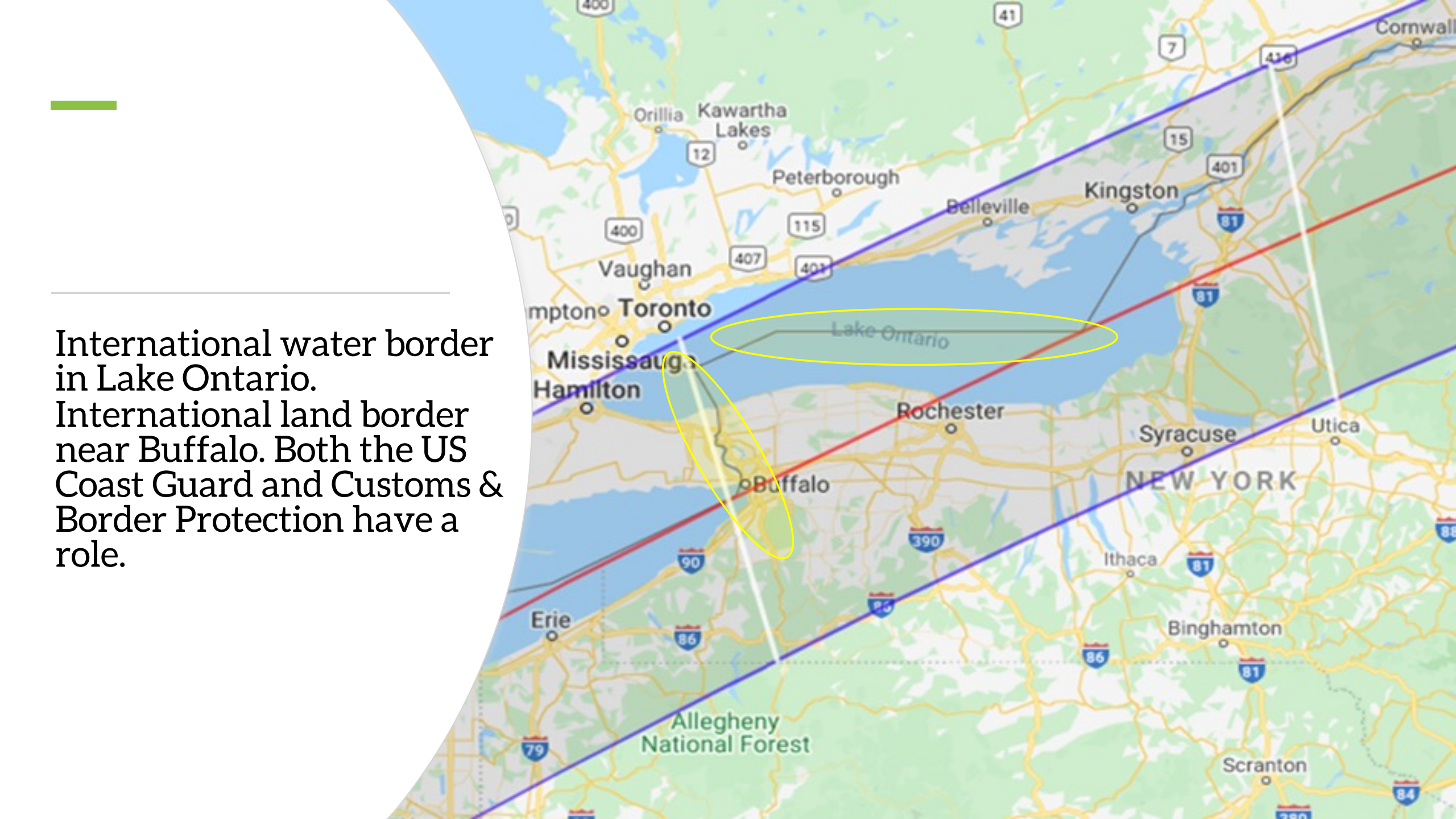
VisitRochester estimates 350 – 500 thousand visitors to the Finger Lakes Region.



NYS estimates upwards of 1 million visitors to the Finger Lakes Region & Western NY combined.



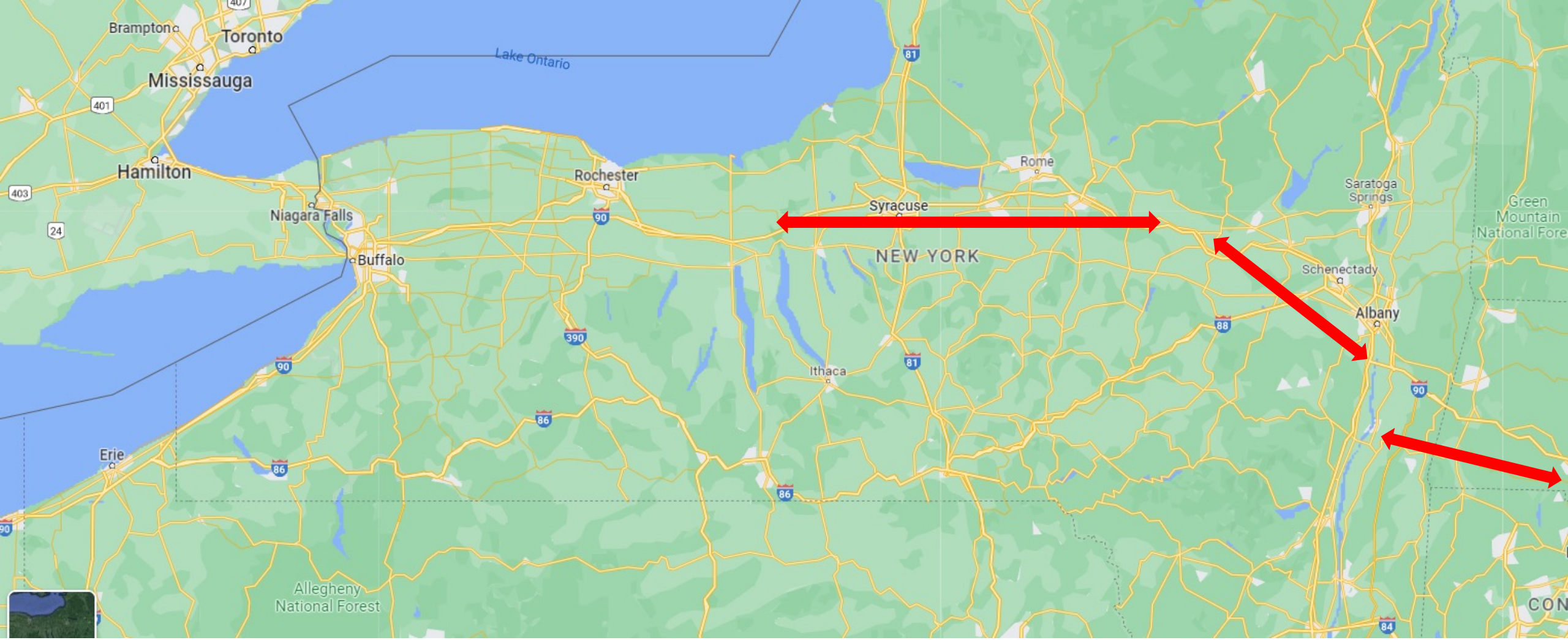
International water border in Lake Ontario.
International land border near Buffalo. Both the US Coast Guard and Customs & Border Protection have a role.



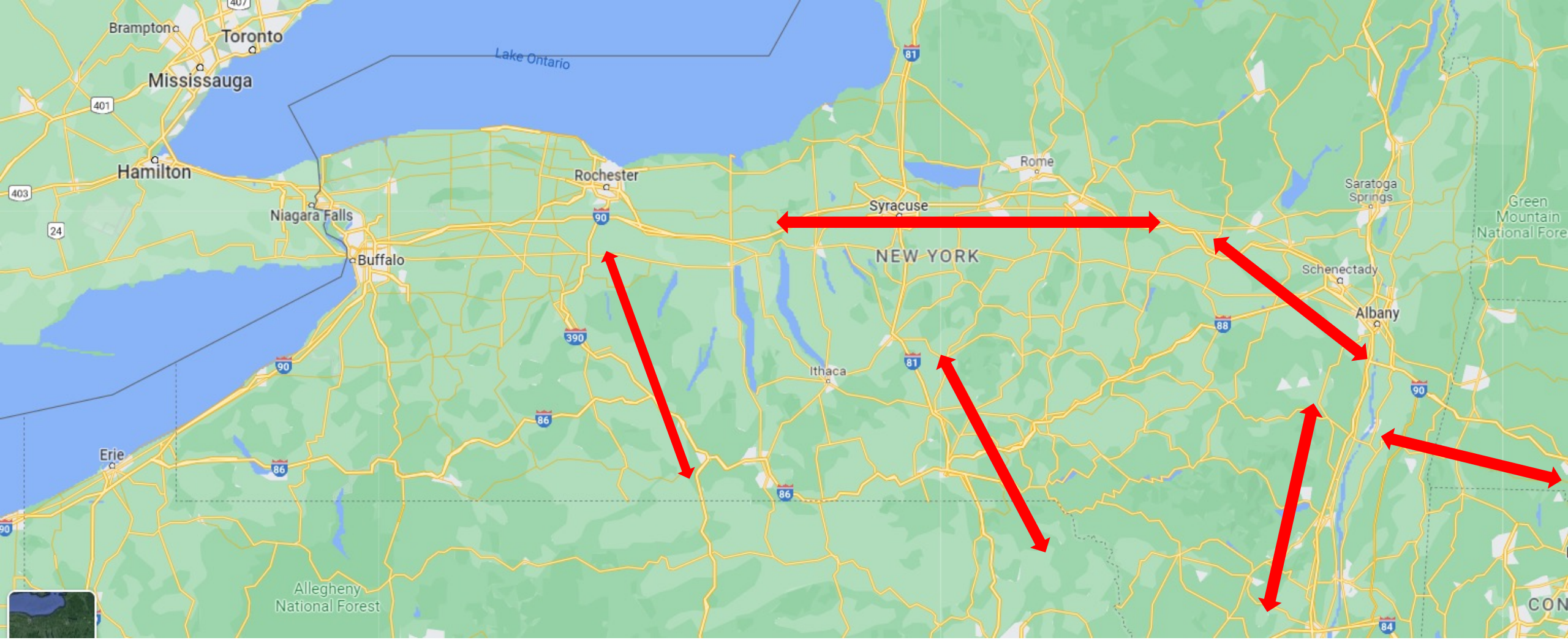
Crowds and Traffic

- **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



- Boston, MA – 392 mi (5 hrs, 45 min)
- Springfield, MA – 309 mi (4 hrs, 28 min)
- Hartford, CT – 335 mi (4 hrs, 49 min)



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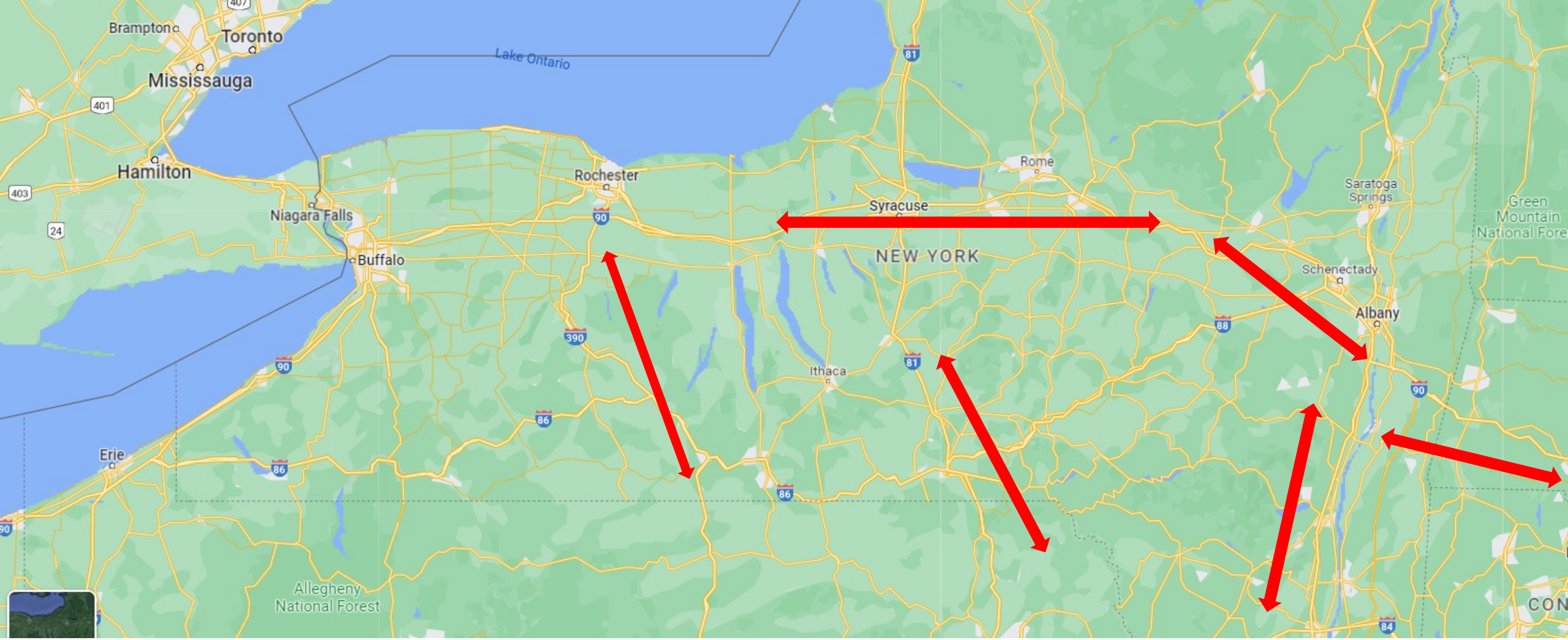
- Albany, NY – 226 mi (3 hrs, 16 min)
- Manhattan (NYC) – 349 mi (5 hrs, 19 min)
- Philadelphia, PA – 340 mi (5 hrs, 1 min)
- Baltimore, MD – 349 mi (5 hrs, 30 min)
- Washington, DC – 391 mi (6 hrs, 22 min)



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- **Hicksville – 368 mi (5 hrs, 43 min)**

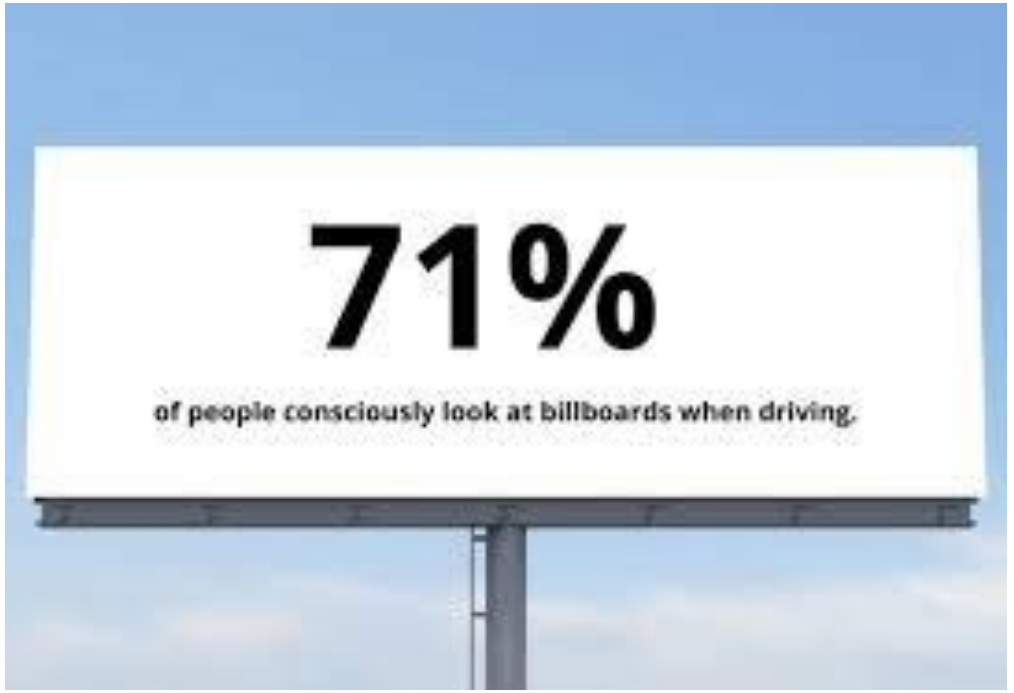
Traffic Management

- ✓ Communicate to Drivers (in advance of event)
  - ✓ Awareness Campaigns via
    - ✓ Social Media
    - ✓ Traditional Media
    - ✓ Billboard/Message Boards along major routes

Scott Fybush/fybush.com 2010

twitter
YouTube
digg

I-490 E
ROAD WORK
9AM - 3PM


71%
of people consciously look at billboards when driving.

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  - ✓ Variable Message Boards
  - ✓ Navigation Apps like Google maps, Waze, etc.

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AMBER
ALERT

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  - ✓ Navigation Apps like Google maps, Waze, etc.
- ✓ Congestion → crashes → more congestion → more crashes
  - ✓ Incident detection, verification, reaction
  - ✓ RTOC cameras and detectors
  - ✓ Interagency pre-planning
  - ✓ Pre-deployed responders (towing, public safety, etc.)

AMBER
ALERT

I-490 E
ROAD WORK
9AM - 3PM

READY SET
TOW!
SERVICING
STATE WIDE
5
90

MERGE
LEFT
H.E.L.P.
State Farm
103

Monroe
Ambulance

STATE POLICE