2024 Total Solar Eclipse Planning

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!
• 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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• Philadelphia, PA – 340 mi (5 hrs, 1 min)
• Baltimore, MD – 349 mi (5 hrs, 30 min)
• Washington, DC – 391 mi (6 hrs, 22 min)
• 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
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  - Navigation Apps like Google maps, Waze, etc.
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- Congestion → crashes → more congestion → more crashes
  - Incident detection, verification, reaction
  - RTOC cameras and detectors
  - Interagency pre-planning
  - Pre-deployed responders (towing, public safety, etc.)