

# 2024 Total Solar Eclipse Planning



American Astronomical Society  
Solar Eclipse Planning Workshop  
June 9, 2023



Jim Stack, Executive Director  
Genesee Transportation Council  
Rochester, NY

**Single-biggest mass travel event in the USA!**

**TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE**  
**APRIL 8**  
**2024**



NORDGREN

**ROCHESTER**  
**NEW YORK**

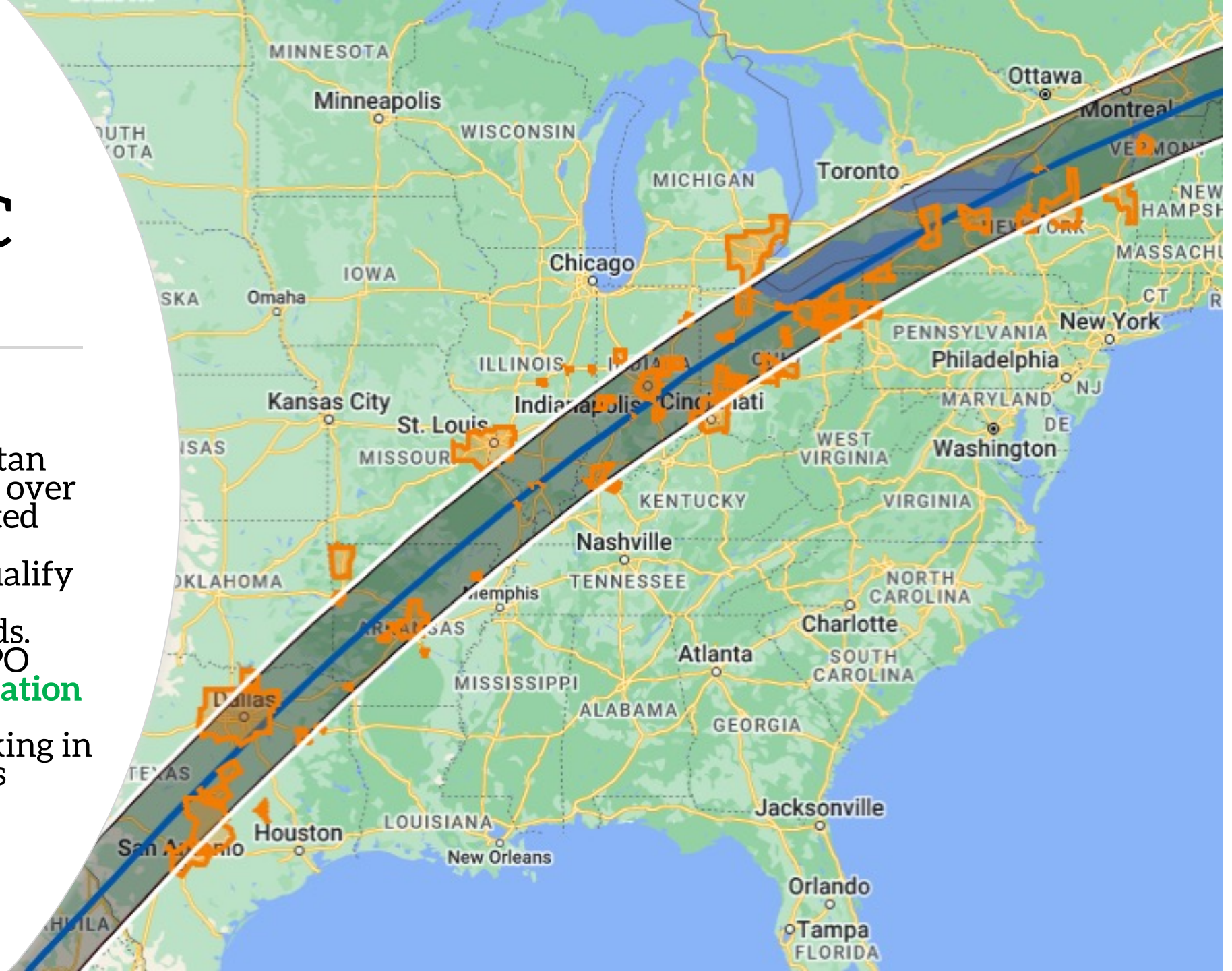
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# GTC's Role

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. We want to be part of the success stories, not traffic-related horror stories.

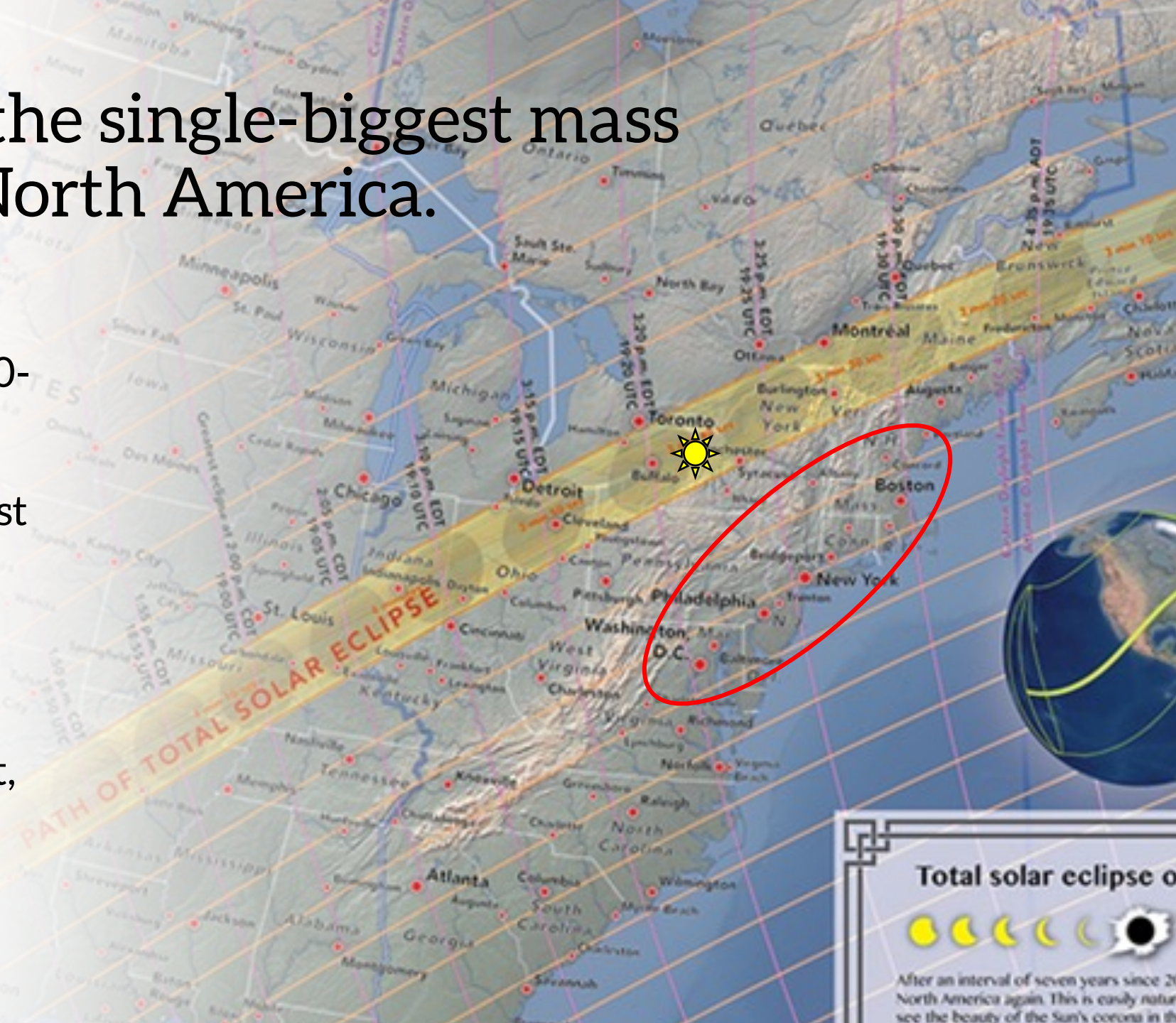
# Why is GTC involved?

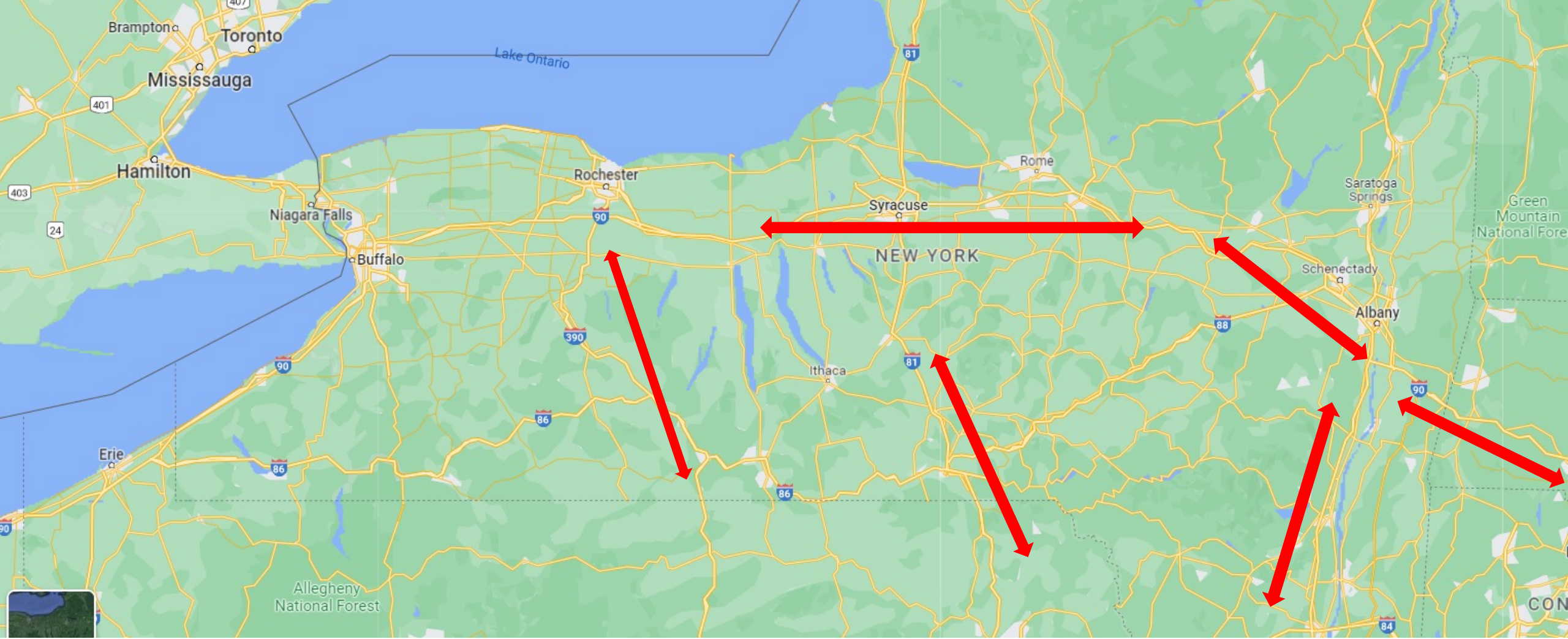
The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) requires every metropolitan area with a population of over 50,000 to have a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to qualify for the receipt of federal highway and transit funds. GTC is the designated MPO **responsible for transportation policy, planning, and investment decision** making in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region



# Be prepared for the single-biggest mass travel event in North America.

- Will attract people from around the world to the 120-mile Path of Totality.
- Western New York will attract visitors from the East Coast and beyond
- 32 million people already living within the USA section of the path, but metropolitan areas such as St Louis, Cincinnati, Detroit, Toronto, and Quebec are very close to the path.





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

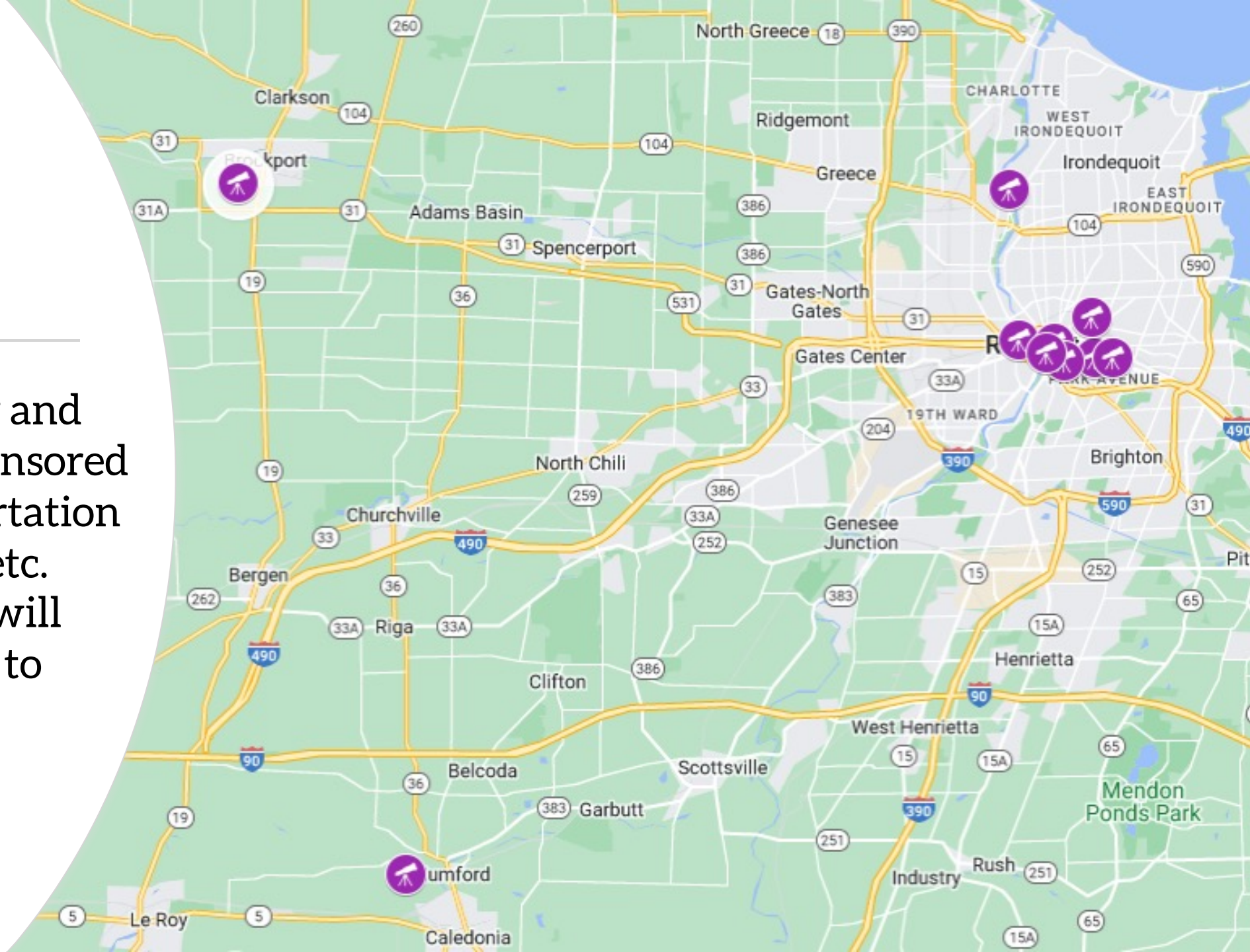
# Traffic Considerations



Carbondale, IL 2017, The State Journal Register

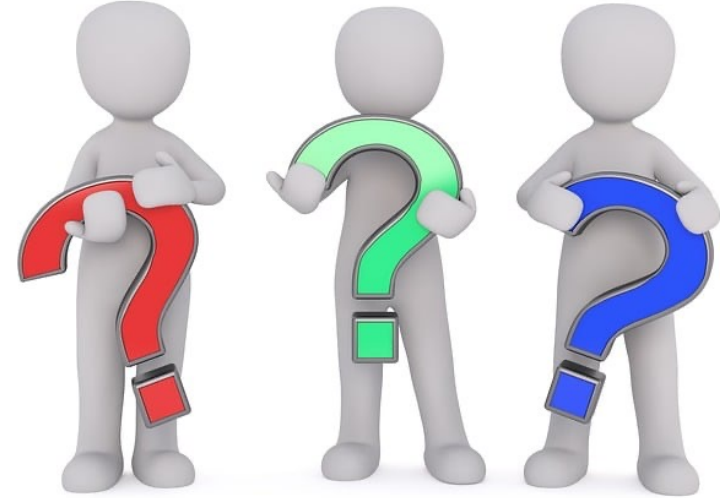
- Where will people park?
- Should roads be closed?
- Should they be one-way?
- Need to plan for emergency services – create a lane?
- Pre-deployed resources?
- Routine travel still needs to be accommodated.

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.



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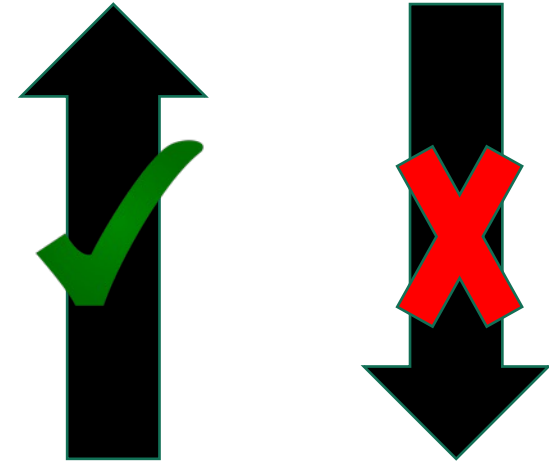
- What are you doing locally?
- Will venues in proximity to each other cause conflicts?
- Should there be satellite parking with shuttles?
- Long distance travelers need information.
- On and off-campus events impact each other.
- Multiple agencies have jurisdiction, so coordination is key.





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**Think bottom up, not top down**



# Arrive Early and Stay Late

Partnering with the full Rochester Task Force to share information about tourism, science education and community.

“Come for the sun, stay for the stars!”

- Deb Ross, AAS National (and Rochester) Task Force Co-Chair

#TakeTuesdayToo

# Contact Information



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