

2024 Total Solar Eclipse Planning

Organizing Successful Events

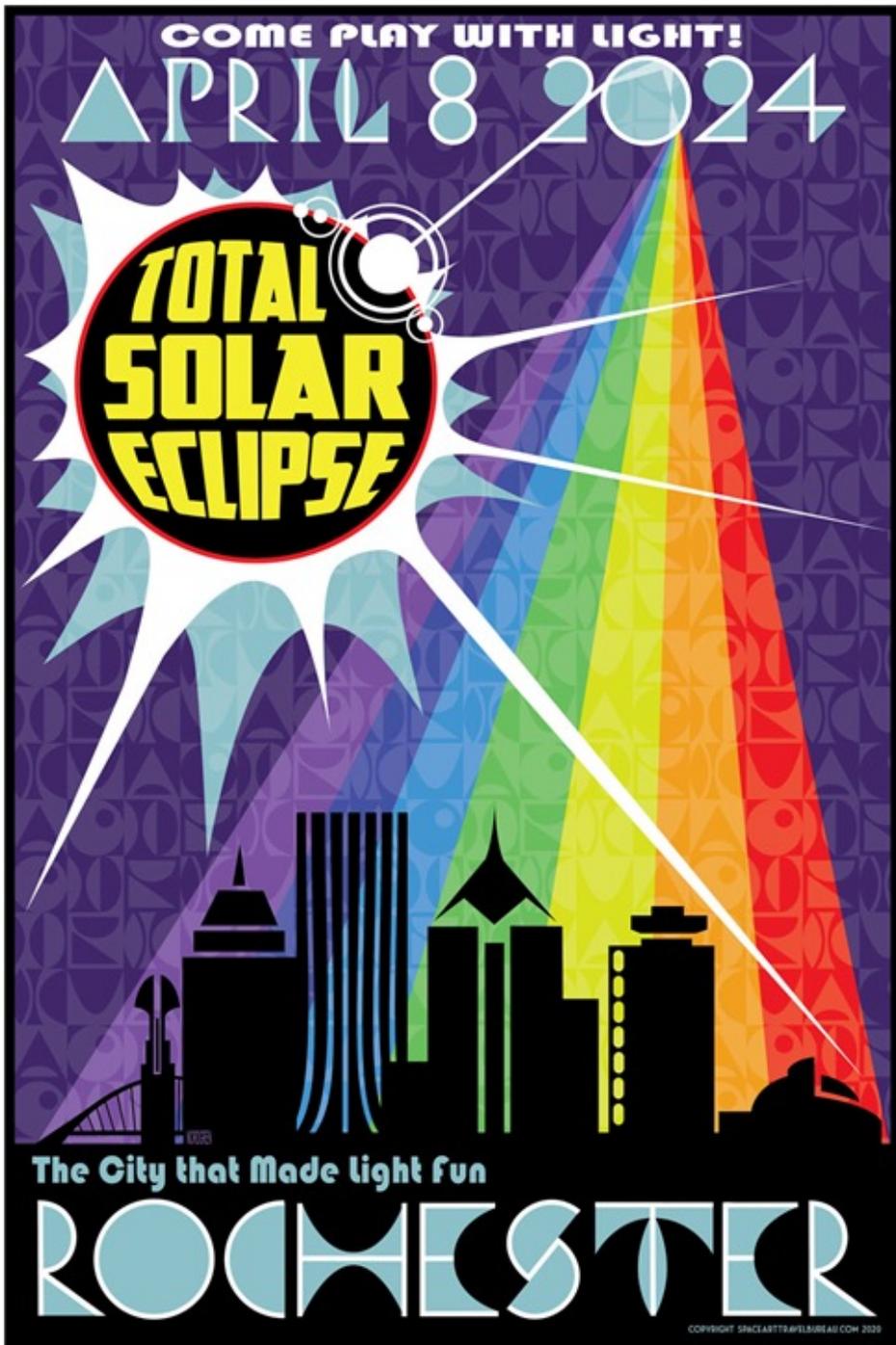
AAS Solar Eclipse Planning Workshop
October 21, 2022

Jim Stack

Genesee Transportation Council, Executive Director



Single-biggest mass travel event in the USA.



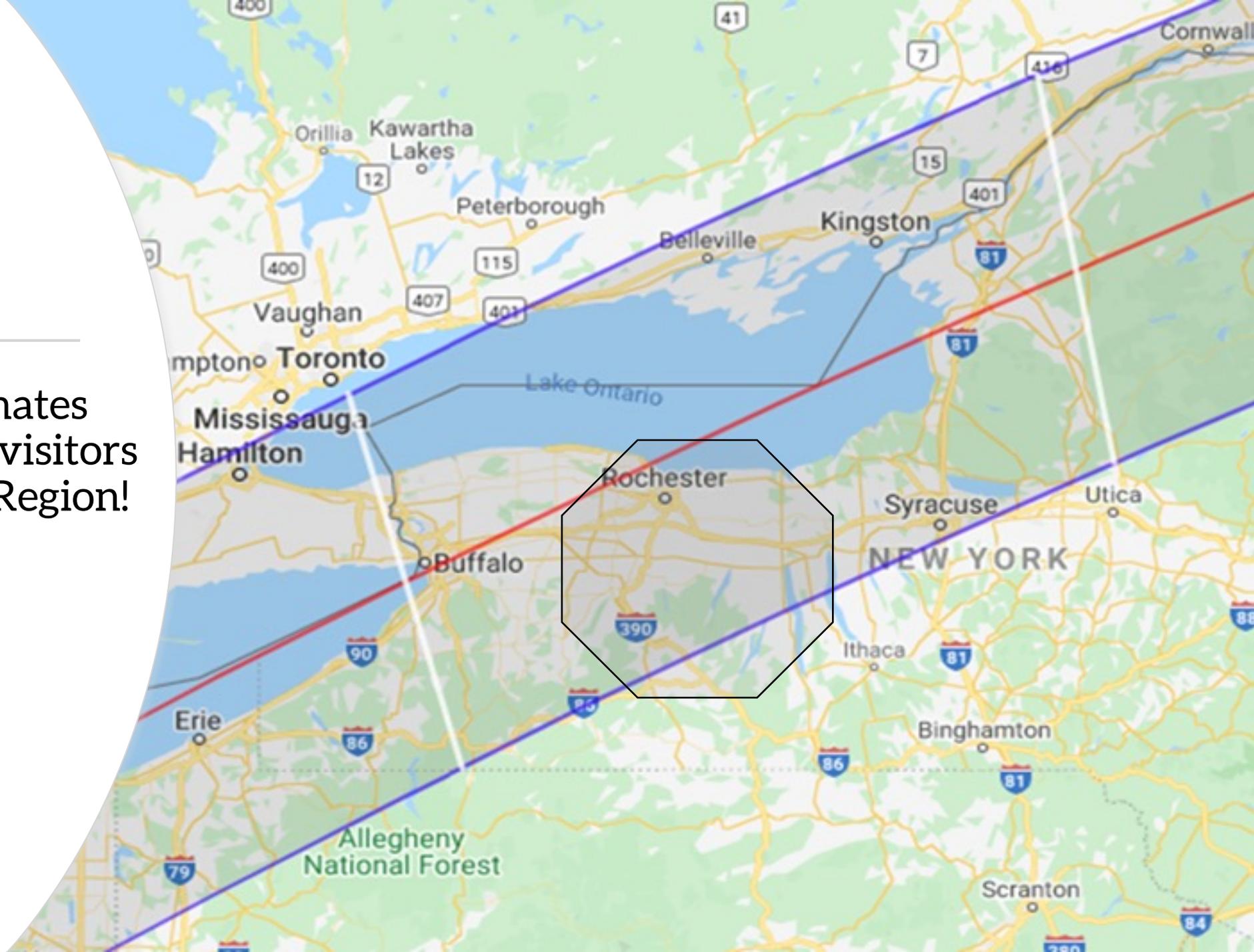
GTC's Role

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!



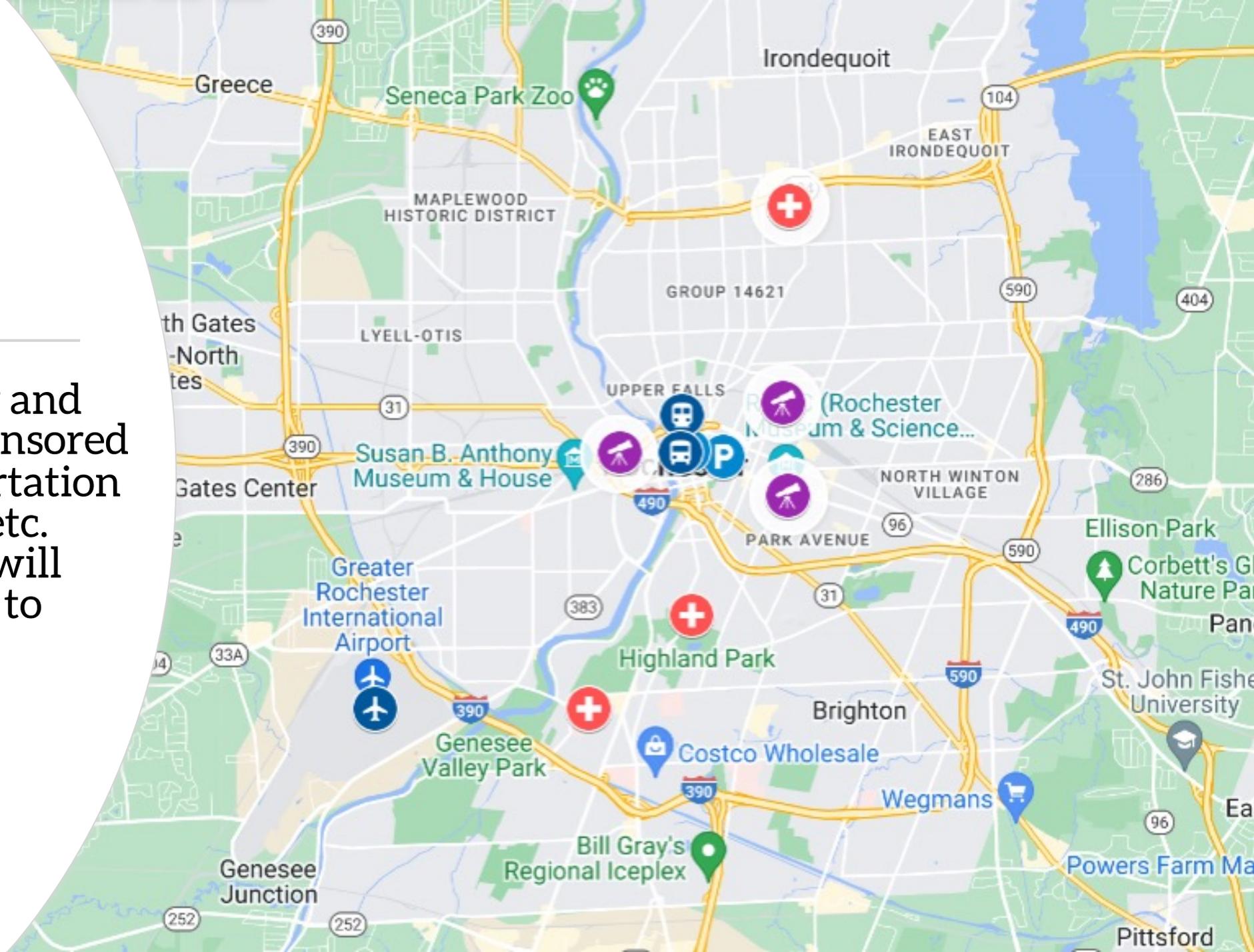
Crowds and Traffic

- **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!**



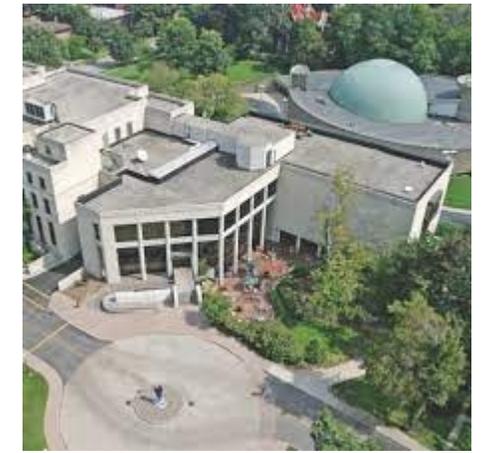
Wyoming 2017, Denver Post

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



Illinois 2017, Chicago Tribune

- 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



Illinois 2017, Chicago Tribune

- 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