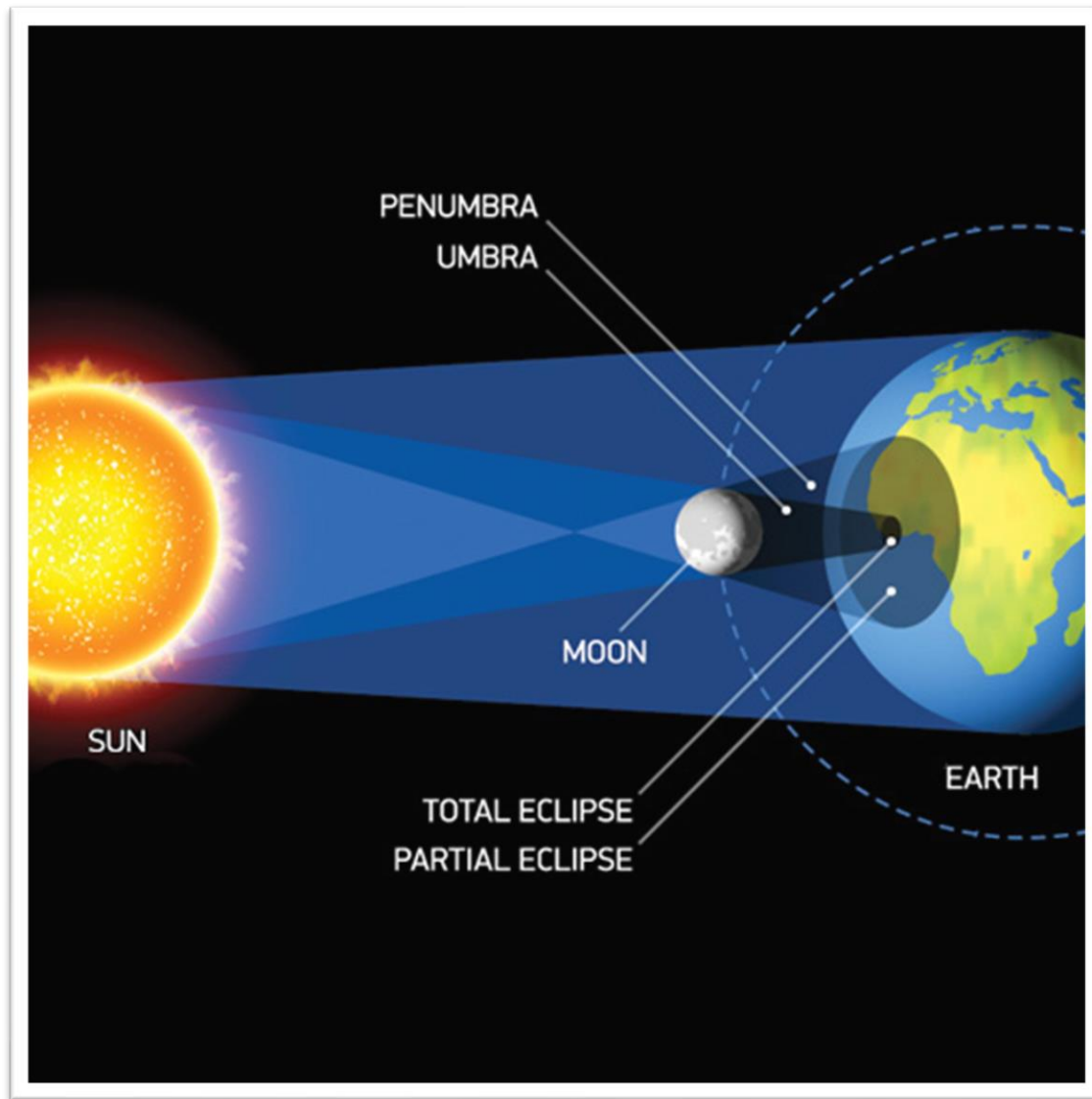


Chamber of Commerce
Eclipse Presentation
February 21, 2024

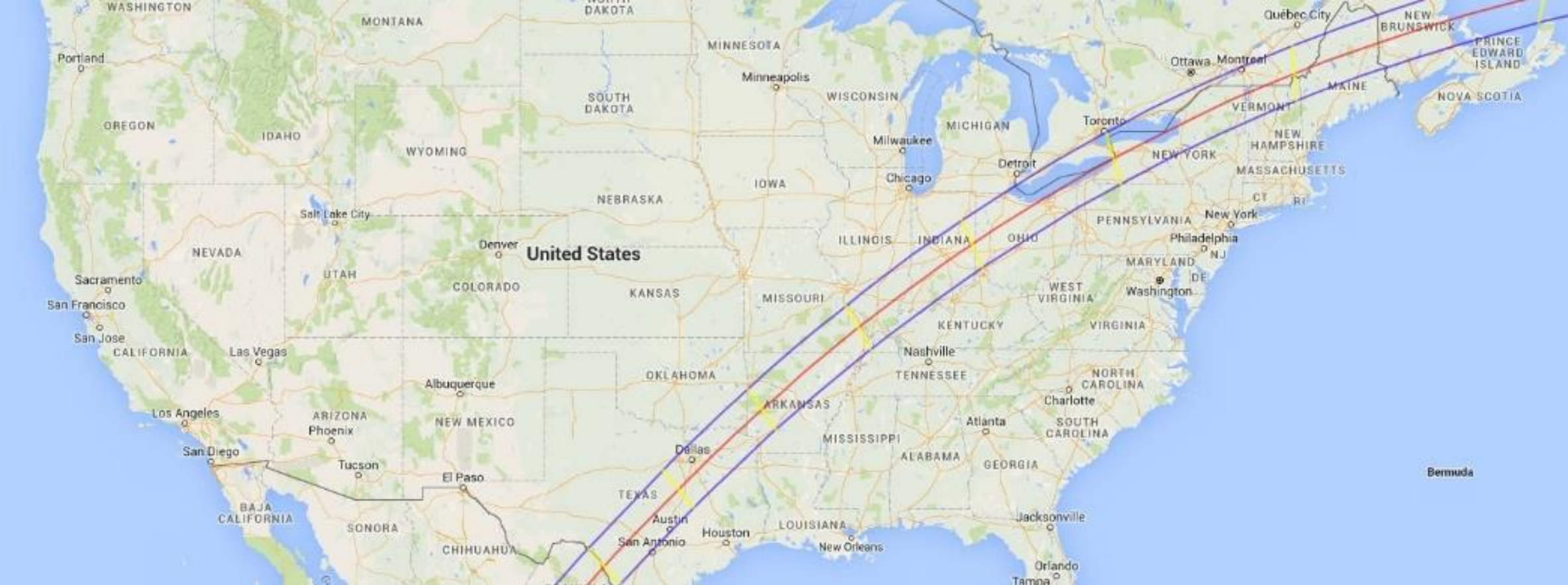
Director Dave Freeman

Lorain County Emergency Management Agency



What is a Solar Eclipse?

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon cast its shadow on the Earth as it passes between the Earth and the Sun. A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon appears to totally obscure the Sun



2024 Great North American Eclipse

- 11 States will experience totality
- Approximately 31,500,000 live on the path of totality

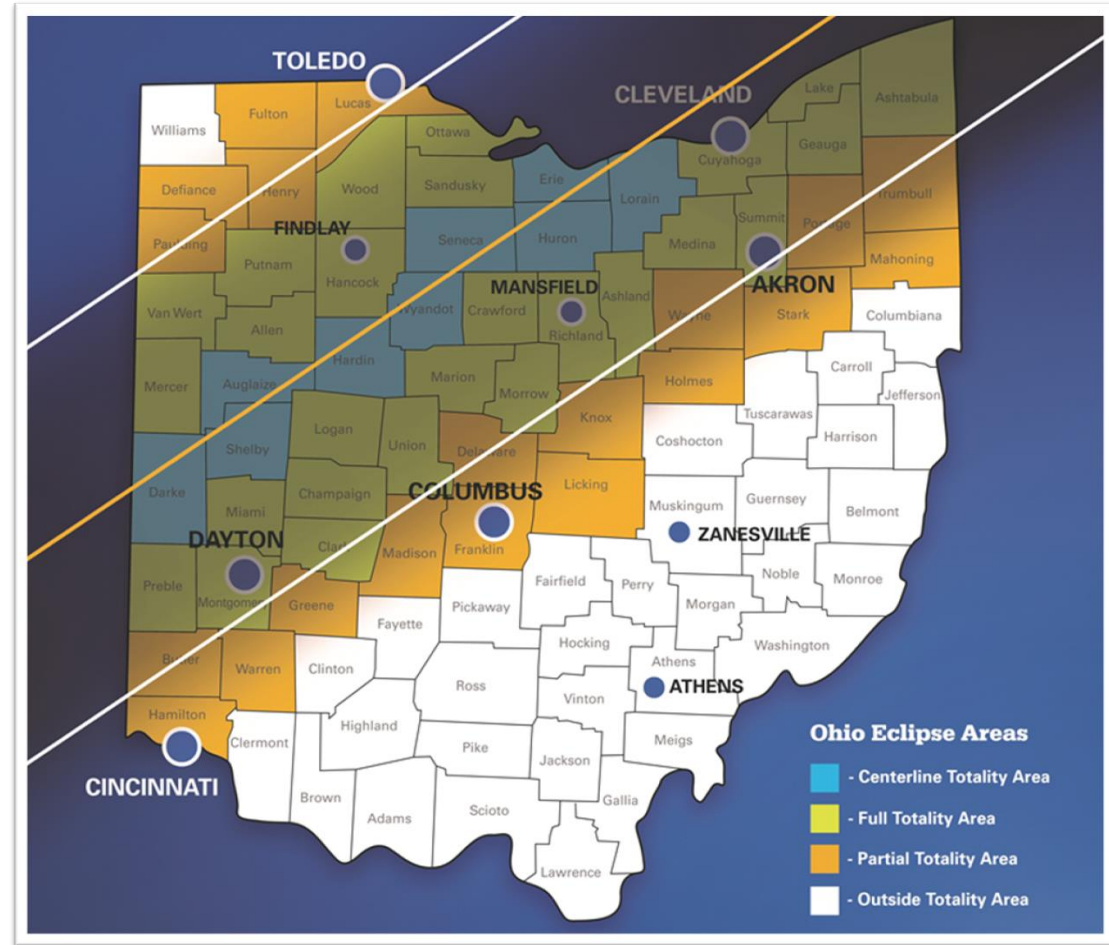
What will happen in 2024?

- Eclipse will travel across Ohio from southwest to northeast
- Totality will enter Ohio near Greenville, Ohio around 3:00 pm, and will exit near Avon Lake, Ohio around 3:10 pm, travels at approximately 2,000 mph!
- Takes about ten minutes to travel across Ohio
- Up to 2-4 minutes of totality – depends on where you are



Why is Lorain County Special?

- Truly a once in a lifetime event
 - Last one in Ohio in 1806
 - Next one in Ohio will be in 2444
- 1 of only 9 Ohio counties that intersect with the center line of totality
- Ohio is within a one-day drive of 70% of the U.S. population
- Lorain County Statistics
 - Current population is estimated at 312,964
 - Early estimates showed the potential to triple our population
 - Updated numbers show between 139,000 to 556,000 visitors to the state



2017 Eclipse Impacts

- Missouri DOT
 - Totality occurred during school dismissal
 - Rest areas experienced 75% capacity during peak eclipse
- Colorado DOT
 - Temporary halt of construction projects from 20:00 hours 8/18/2017 through 20:00 hours 8/22/20
 - Only saw 1/3 of predicted vehicles
- Following totality, participants left almost immediately. This was experienced in Oregon, Colorado, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri.

So what's the big deal?

- One case study is Sweetwater, Tennessee
 - Normal population is 6,000
 - Eclipse population was 24,000
 - This was largely due to heavy promotion (anyone?)
 - The influx wasn't a problem
 - Biggest issue was traffic following the event
 - Most visitors left immediately
 - This resulted in long traffic delays

What do we need to plan for?

- Local eclipse festivals and viewing parties – “Arrive Early, Stay Late, Stay Put”
- Population surge
- Traffic management – egress support
- Local infrastructure stresses
- Local emergency operational support – public works, law enforcement, supplies, sanitation, cellular communications
- Health, **safety** and welfare
 - Weather, this is Ohio after all!
 - Pop up campgrounds, food service
 - Bad actors

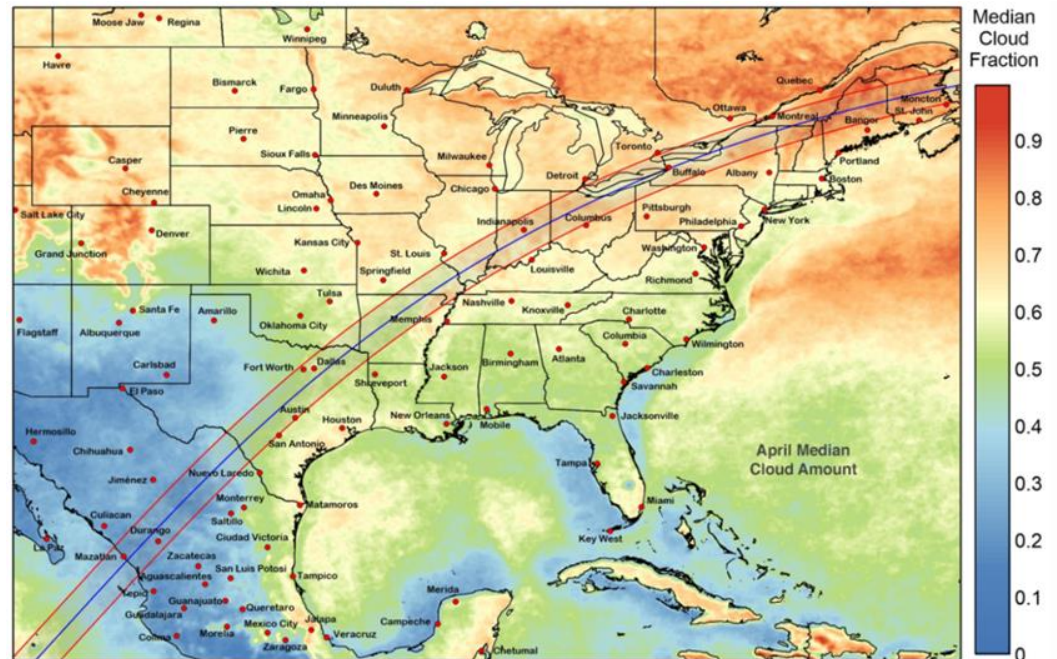


How are we planning?

- Formed committees
 - 1. Public safety – fire, EMS, hospitals
 - 2. Law enforcement/Traffic Planning
 - 3. Public Health
 - 4. Infrastructure
- Committees are brainstorming issues and solutions
- Tabletop exercises planned to practice prior to the event
- Getting information to residents, visitors via media, Lorain County Emergency Management website

Weather in Ohio in April

- The weather in Ohio in April is mild with temperatures between 39°F and 53°F
- You can expect rain for roughly half of the month of April in Ohio; expect roughly 8 to 15 days of rain
- You can expect a few days of snow in Ohio in April
- Historically, our area has a 60-80% chance of cloud cover



Typical April (2000-2020) cloud cover measured from the Aqua spacecraft at approximately 1:30 p.m. local time from 2000 to 2020. The path of totality on April 8, 2024, is shown with red lines marking the northern and southern limits and a blue line up the center. Note the large number of major cities within the path or only a short drive away. Based on this map, Mexico and southern Texas offer the best prospects for a clear view of totality. Data: NASA. Eclipse track: Fred Espenak. Courtesy Jay Anderson, Eclipsophile.com.

Business Concerns - General

- Will your staff be able to get to work?
 - Schools are out, do employees have reliable childcare if needed
 - Make employees aware and allow time for planning.
- Route considerations
 - Are you on/near a major artery?
 - Can you accommodate increased traffic?
- What is the typical employee schedule?
 - Will this need to be altered due to the eclipse timing?
- Increased cellular/data traffic could result in internet issues.
- Do you have a large parking lot?
 - Visitors may make use of large open areas for viewing.
 - Will you allow this to take place or limit traffic?
 - Consider adding outside amenities if you allow this use:
 - Food/drink sales outside
 - Port-A-Potties outside



Business Concerns – Gas Stations

- How much fuel is typically on hand?
- When is fuel delivered?
 - Can you plan for delivery on Friday and Tuesday?
 - How low are station tanks just before a typical delivery
 - How many additional vehicles can you accommodate



Business Concerns - Restaurants

- Do you have enough stock to accommodate increased demand?
 - Use your best judgement with extra perishable items, I don't want any business to take a loss due to overstock.
 - Non- perishables will be used up over time if not needed.
 - Can you plan for delivery on Friday and Tuesday?
- Staffing
 - Do you already have long wait times on weekends?
 - Are you understaffed? All hands approach if needed.



Business Concerns – Grocery/Convenience Store

- Do you have enough stock to accommodate increased demand?
 - Use your best judgement with extra perishable items, I don't want any business to take a loss due to overstock.
 - Is it better to run out of a good or be stuck with extra?
 - Non- perishables will be used up over time if not needed.
 - Can you plan for delivery on Friday and Tuesday?



Impact on Area

- Economically, this could be a boom or a bust.
 - May bring increased traffic and positive exposure to our County!
 - Traffic control, extra staffing, sanitation/clean up could cause increased costs to communities.
- Weather is a HUGE factor!
 - Poor weather forecast could greatly reduce number of visitors
 - Good news for public safety but bad for businesses who are anticipating an increase in traffic and sales.
 - Could result in large numbers of room cancellations for hotels.
- Emergency Management Official Stance
 - Be prepared but not panicked!
 - This is not the apocalypse (the zombies aren't here...yet!)
 - Use your experience in business to estimate needs, you are the experts!

Questions?
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