

All,

The next Total Solar Eclipse meeting will be held on January 26, 2022, at 1:30 pm at 221 Friendship Ln. In this first meeting, we will be assigning some individuals tasks that need action taken on them immediately. It is crucial that you or someone from your organization is represented at this meeting. The topics below will be discussed and certain action items will be assigned to individuals/groups.

Discussion Points:

1. Updates from organizations or eclipse groups.
2. Does anyone need to be added to the group?
3. **Action Item- Official Website**
 - Who is creating/maintaining this?
 - Do we have one for tourists and one for locals?
 - Official Fredericksburg/Gillespie County Logo?
 - What pertinent information needs to be on the website?
4. **Action Item- Budget Needs**
 - What organizations need to budget for this event?
 - What budget cycle should the funds be allocated?
 - Are we going to hire an Eclipse Planner?
 - Do any planned projects need to be expedited for this event?
 - Discuss other items that will need to be budgeted.
5. **Action Item- Big Picture Issues**
 - Modification of ordinances or fee structure for that weekend?
 - School Closures (FISD, HISD, Private Schools, Daycares)
 - City/County Holiday?
 - Organize volunteer group for assistance?
 - Who will communicate to businesses and what is the message?
 - Who will communicate with residents and what is the message?
 - Public viewing areas?

In 2022 we will have 6 scheduled meetings. Below is a list of the scheduled meetings and they will be held from 1:30-4:30. A calendar invite will be sent out for each meeting with the location listed.

January 26th

March 23rd

May 18th

July 20th

September 21st

November 30th

Eclipse Meeting

August 26th, 2021

Emergency Services Group Notes

Group Members:

Justin Calhoun	EMC	Braxton Roemer	FPD
Lynn Bizzell	Fire	David Jung	EMS
Randall Fuchs	Forest Service	Les Metzler	Communications
Buddy Mills	GCSO	Brian Pehl	GCSO

Date of Eclipse: Monday, April 8th 2024 at 1332 hours

Expectations:

- Heavy influx of tourists
- Severe Traffic Congestion
- Depletion of local resources
 - Fuel
 - Food and Water from Grocery Stores
 - Medical resources

Actions to be Taken:

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- Activate the EOC from Thursday, April 4th, 2024 to Tuesday April 9th, 2024
- Operate initially with a skeleton crew but remain flexible
- Representatives in EOC should include:
 - EMC
 - Law enforcement
 - Fire
 - EMS
 - TXDOT
 - Hospital
 - Forest Service
- Tasks to perform
 - Assist Communications with calls to include: event questions, roadside assists, allocation of resources and some criminal justice calls
 - Manage unexpected events

Resources Needed

- Texas Task Force to be contacted by EMC

- Ambus from STRAC to be contacted by David Jung
- Air Medical Service Helicopter – Tony Lombardi will block of space at the airport for a helicopter. Need to secure a helicopter at the airport – to be contacted by David Jung
- Staffing – Communications, Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS will all increase staffing during the event period and will create staffing plans
- Hotels rooms will need to be blocked off for out of town staff during the event – PD will complete this.

Areas of Concern:

Infrastructure

- Cellular service – taxed from increased users
 - Emergency Services will utilize FirstNet
 - Fred. IT should provide spare phones for non-FirstNet users
- Dispatch Communications Failure
 - Backup system – to be completed by Les Metzler
- Internet Coverage in EOC - IT

Traffic

- Keeping traffic lanes open for Emergency Response
 - No solution at this time. Need to discuss further
- Vehicle Break downs
 - Contact all wrecker services in advance to make sure available - PD
 - Equip all first responders with basic essentials to include: fuel, jumper cables, water, food, basic medical supplies
 - Contact auto repair shows in advance to make sure they are available - PD
- Fuel Supplies
 - Fuel suppliers and convenient stores need to have surpluses of fuel available
- Minor Crashes
 - Type of response based on severity – to be determined by PD

Medical Emergencies

- Stage EMS units strategically throughout the county – EMS plan
- Establish First Aid Stations strategically throughout the County – EMS Plan
 - Staffing would need to be by private medical staff – consider private clinics – EMS

Supplies

- Food and Water Supplies – need to increase surpluses at grocery stores prior to event – EMC
- Restrooms – portable bathrooms may be needed – Krupa

Criminal Justice Planning

- Crashes – See Traffic above
- Criminal Trespass – illegal access of private property by tourists
- Disturbances
- Jail Capacity

Eclipse Meeting – August 26, 2021

Reagan Rabke was elected leader from the inspection group.

Expecting 50K added to our population. Event is taking place on Monday, April 8, 2024 around 1:30 pm.

Permitting of Food Vendors – vendors that are open to the general public will be permitted. Hoping this will be regular vendors out at Fair Grounds/ Trade Days etc. Anticipate many people cooking outdoors.

- Produce a food safety/ fire safety flyer for camping outdoors

Inspection of these food vendors will be next to impossible – how do you get to them? Providing food safety information is the most important at this point.

Weather – some issues may be a problem:

- Windy – red flag warning
- Rainy – could be an issue with low water crossings – people not familiar with low water crossings in our area.

Sanitation –

- Porta potties and hand wash stations will be limited in supply not to mention being able to service them throughout the weekend and the day of the event.
- Trash receptacles – place roll off trash containers in strategic areas. Suggested areas:
 1. Fair grounds parking lot
 2. Keg 1 O-Neal Beer distributor 290 West
 3. Wal-Mart Parking Lot
 4. D&D 16 South
 5. First United Bank (N. Llano)
- Fresh water (considerations)

Area Vol Fire Dept – safe haven / possible additional trash collection sites

Communications – mentioned the EOC would be activated. Mobile service enhancers (cows) available? Satellite phones.

Eye protection – social media post on safe eye protection during event. Chamber marketing this?

Notes from 08/26 - Eclipse Meeting

Information Center: Who and Where, visitors and vendors

Food Vendors:

- Do we inspect or not
- Where will they be set up
 - Typical mass gathering places, ie: fair grounds, park, etc
 - "Randomly" at roadsides, private property
- Waste Disposal issues
- Temporary Hand washing stations and availability of same
- Port-a-potties and availability

Parking areas

- Overnight and "day" parking
- Ensure Emergency Vehicle access
- All weather access
- Bulk water for washing/flushing
- Septic Drops
- Ban or restrict open recreational/cooking fires
 - Maybe implement our existing Burn Ban
- Create "safe camping flyer"

Trash Collection Sites

- Where
 - Rural VFD's
 - Community Centers
 - Fair grounds
 - Wal Mart
 - Trade Days
 - First United (Llano St.)
- Who pays

ADA issues complicates all above

EMS

- Possible overwhelm HCMH ER
- Limited by-pass, transfer options
- Activate "minor emergency" locations

Foresee a busy week-end prior to 04/08/24

Eye protection – Who and Where

Demands on Cell Service, Power Grid, etc

Special Events and Parks

- Will allow local non-profits and groups to host events as fundraisers (City/County not planning on hosting their own events at this time).
- Would like to focus on making certain areas available for specific groups within the City and County (i.e. Fort Martin Scott could host boy/girl scouts, FISD Football Stadium as a public viewing area; ballfields for scientific experiments; open field near Oakcrest for photographers, etc.).
- The Fredericksburg Parks & Recreation Department is preparing a written plan for the department and is planning to obtain approval from City Council for fees and policies in the next six months so that they can begin to take reservations for facilities and camping, etc., two years in advance of the eclipse.
- Gillespie County Airport
 - Hotel & conference center are already booked for the event
 - Tony has not gone to Commissioners' Court yet to discuss fees or charges
 - Airport's biggest concern is where will the people stay, eat, and use the restroom
 - How will airport patrons get to where they are going? Possibly use the wine shuttles in town for transportation to and from the airport to downtown?
 - A suggestion to ask a member of the Fair Association to attend the stakeholders meeting as they might be a resource for the airport
- Suggestion to make a clearinghouse/Craigslist type website where landowners could post what they have available and allow the public to contact them to negotiate the terms of use. However, we would need a person to manage that website.
- CVB stated that the eclipse, FAQ, and a countdown timer is on their website: [Best Stargazing in Fredericksburg, TX | Dark Sky Park \(visitfredericksburgtx.com\)](#)
 - CVB would like to see a consistent branding of the eclipse with logo
 - Hotels will be ready to open reservations two-years in advance, they just need some guidance (i.e. require minimum night stays, don't price gouge, etc.)

Please find notes below from the State and Local Liaison Group:

	Implications and Areas of Concerns:	Opportunities to Mitigate or Prevent Implications:
1.	Safety of community members, visitors	Eye education Emergency preparedness Healthcare needs Patient safety in homes
2.	Abundance of traffic and increased population at a quick period impacting availability of resources	Provide education to community members in advance to help prepare for influx of visitors "Work from home" and/or no-school day to reduce traffic Grid lock of traffic exiting at the end of the day Healthcare and emergency services mitigating traffic to reach rural or high population areas
3.	Healthcare and emergency availability of Rural Residents	Similar to the experiences of the ice storm, first responders faced travel barriers and implications to accessing community members
4.	Sanitation	Restrooms and facilities for the health and safety – increased availability
4.	Overarching resources, communication and access	Prepare our community Educational resources Safety awareness Outlying healthcare and immediate care Utilize state resources

Traffic:

The initial traffic discussion for the City of Fredericksburg Police Department was loosely based on staging officers in vehicles and on bike in 4 sections. The city would be broken down into 4 sections using Main and Adams Street as the dividing lines. Officers would be staged in the 4 sections to handle traffic and calls in those areas. This would alleviate the need for officers to travel across town through heavy or stopped traffic in an attempt to answer calls. We also discussed staging supplies in all 4 sections: water, first aid kits, MREs, and a few gallons of gas. We also discussed a few ideas on how to keep traffic from stopping in the middle of the roadway during the event. DPS and TxDOT were not at the meeting so a more county wide traffic plan will be discussed at the next meeting.