**SHELL RELEASE FOR SOLAR ECLIPSE**

**[Your State] Set for Prime Viewing of August Solar Eclipse**

*Plan ahead to get your best viewing and avoid traffic congestion*

[DATELINE] – This summer, citizens and travelers throughout a large portion of [STATE] will have the chance to see a rare celestial event – a total solar eclipse.

On Aug. 21, 2017, the moon will block out the sun’s light, causing a total solar eclipse across [INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC INFO HERE]. An influx of out-of-state visitors is also expected to come to [STATE] to witness the event.

Travelers should make plans early to determine where they will view the eclipse, where they will stay and how best to avoid the extra traffic congestion.

“[INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC QUOTE FROM DOT LEADERSHIP HERE].”

[STATE NAME] will be one of 14 states from Oregon to South Carolina to experience the path of the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse. Approximately 200 million people -- a little less than two-thirds of our nation’s population -- will be within a day’s drive of the path of the eclipse.

The green line on the attached map represents the optimal viewing location while everyone inside the yellow lines will see the eclipse. [INSERT STATE-SPECIFIC INFO ON TIME AND DURATION HERE]

Please follow these tips to drive safely on the day of the solar eclipse:

* Don’t stop along the interstate or park on the shoulder during the event.
* Exit the highway to safe location to view and/or photograph the eclipse.
* Don’t take photographs while driving!
* Don’t try to wear opaque eclipse glasses while operating a vehicle.
* Turn your headlights on -- do not rely on your automatic headlights when the eclipse blocks out the sun.
* Watch out for pedestrians along smaller roads. People may be randomly parking and walking alongside the roadside in the hours around the eclipse to get the best view.
* Prepare for extra congestion especially on the interstates in the path on the day before, day of and day after the eclipse.
* Avoid travel during the eclipse or in the area of the main path if you can.

For more information on the solar eclipse, its path and how to view it with proper safety glasses or other techniques, visit the NASA website at [**http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov**](http://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/)**.** For a comprehensive list of state events and festivals celebrating the Aug. 21, 2017, solar eclipse, visit <http://nationaleclipse.com/events.html>.

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