

DEPARTMENT Mn/DOT - Environmental Services
Room 715

Office Memorandum

TO : Leonard G. Eilts, Director
Office of Environmental Services

DATE: Oct. 21, 1981

FROM : Jim Reiersen *J. Reiersen*
Site Development Unit

PHONE: 6-5773

SUBJECT: Usage Survey Results
Watonwan Rest Area, TH 60

Attached are the results of the rest area usage survey made at the Watonwan site on TH 60. The survey was made during a five day period between July 30 and August 3, 1981.

The major facts resulting from the survey indicate that the percentage of vehicles stopping, 7.6%, is very close to the 8% figure used for design purposes. In addition, there were 2.5 persons per vehicle and 41% of the vehicles were out of state. This would clearly indicate that TH 60 is a tourist/recreational route.

Sixty-nine percent of the vehicles were passenger cars, resulting in an average time in the rest area of 15.2 minutes. Normally, 20 minute length of stays are used for calculation purposes.

Generally, usage at this rest area facility has continued to meet original design expectations. The majority of people using rest areas feel that they are necessary and in some cases, more are needed. The final page has comments submitted by the users on a variety of subjects.

Attachment

cc: R.J. McDonald
F.C. Marshall
W.C. Merritt
L.A. Nelson
A. Sotebeer
C. Christie
Doug Olson
Jim Dock, GDI, Inc.
D. Adams

TIME VEHICLES ENTERED AREA

	<u>Thur.</u>	<u>Fri.</u>	<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Mon.</u>
9-10	17	27	29	22	21
10-11	26	27	28	35	25
11-12	26	24	31	27	30
12-1	25	27	29	23	23
1-2	9	30	24	28	20
3-4	31	35	26	50	22
4-5	<u>16</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>11</u>
	172	236	227	247	187

AVERAGE INFORMATION FOR EACH TYPE VEHICLE THAT ENTERED AREA

<u>Type Vehicle</u>	<u>Average Length of Stay</u>	<u>Average No. of People</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
Car	13.5	2.4	69.1%	8.1%
Car with camper trailer	24.1	3.2	1.2% ✓	11.1%
Car with house trailer	23.7	4.3	0.3% ✓	25.0%
Car with boat trailer	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Car with other trailer	13.4	3.1	0.9% ✓	13.2%
Single Unit Truck	14.0	2.9	9.4%	6.6%
Truck with camper	36.3	3.4	3.1%	10.8%
Truck with trailer	17.5	3.7	2.7% ✓	27.6%
Truck (Commercial)	17.5	1.7	1.7% ✓	3.7%
Semi	16.4	1.4	6.4% ✓	4.0%
Motorhome	29.1	3.2	1.6% ✓	14.9%
Bus	13.0	2.0	0.1% ✓	2.0%
Other	<u>21.9</u>	<u>1.3</u>	<u>3.5%</u>	<u>11.4%</u>
	15.2	2.5	100.0%	7.6%

A refers to percentage of total number of vehicles using rest area.

B refers to percentage of this vehicle that stopped in rest area, out of total number of vehicles that passed this rest area.

Vehicles with pets	8%
Vehicles stopping at other rest areas	20%
Vehicles spending their vacations in Minnesota	57%
Vehicles traveling East	39%
Vehicles traveling West	61%
Vehicles who's plans had been affected by gas pricing	40%
Vehicles on vacation that were camping	17%
Average number of days vacation in Minnesota	7.2 days

We asked motorists "What additional facilities would you like to see in this rest area?" The answers were:

Chairs with back support	Play area	Sights of Interest
Pop machines	Mileage Table	Stronger soap
Shaded car parking spots	Overnight camping	Clock
Dump Station	Bar-B-Q grills	Sauna
Coffee machine	Weather Info	More shade trees
Sheltered picnic tables	State maps(several times)	Cafe
Hot and cold water	Beer machine	Telephone book
Tourist Info	Paper towels	

There were many responses for comments on "The current gas price affecting their vacations":

Would have brought camper but cheaper by car
Traveling with another couple
Shorter trips (many times)
Price
No money
It hurts more
Costs too much (many times)
Too much gas tax
Limited it

We received general comments from approximately 50% of the people stopping, about how clean, nice, beautiful, well kept, excellent and attractive the rest area is. Other comments included the following:

Thanks for not striking
Polite personnel
Great to rest at
Need more rest areas
Minnesota needs a racing program(horses and dogs) to keep people like us in Minnesota.
Minnesota has best rest areas on our entire trip (several times)
No cold water in rest rooms
Much too elaborate. No wonder Minnesota taxes are so high.
We waited to stop at this one.
More restrictions on dogs
Hope area is kept open
Sometime the attendant is too snooty
The facilities are maintained better than 99.5% of the rest areas in the country.
Minnesota has best rest areas in entire country.
I'm a business woman who travels alone; I always stop here because I feel safe even at night. Well lit area.
We own a trucking company and our drivers stop all the time because it's the only place open at night.
An oasis of comfort
Parking for trucks too narrow
Terrific - Have waited 18 years for a good rest stop on T.H. 60.
No playground; so we aren't staying.
Don't cut back any facilities because they are vital to safety.
Bad water
Paint Handicap ramp orange so that no one trips.

SUMMARY

Date : July 30th thru August 3rd, 1981
 Hours: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
 Weather warm, partly cloudy
 Total Vehicles on Mainline 14,070
 Vehicles entering rest area 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 1,069
 Percent of vehicles stopping 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 7.6%
 Total people using rest area 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 2,644
 Average Person per vehicle 2.5
 Average time in rest area 15.2 min
 Out of State vehicles 41%

PURPOSE FOR ENTERING AREA

Use rest rooms 67%
 Just to rest 1%
 Eat/Picnic 6.5%
 Water 6.5%
 Dispose of Refuse 4%
 Other 3%
 Use Travel Information 1%
 Telephone 1%
 Dispose of Sewage 1%

PERCENT OF PEOPLE USING:

Rest Rooms 79%
 Drinking Water 40%

PERCENT OF VEHICLES USING:

Trash receptacle 23%
 Picnic table 11%
 Travel Information 6%
 Telephone 4%
 Other 1%
 Electric Outlet .6%
 Picnic Shelter (area doesn't have shelters) .3%

NUMBER OF VEHICLES THAT STOPPED 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Vehicles Entering</u>	<u>Out of State</u>	<u>Vehicles on Mainline</u>	<u>Percent Stopping</u>
July 30	Thur.	172	71	2664	6.5%
July 31	Fri.	236	94	3283	7.2%
Aug. 1	Sat.	227	93	2723	8.3%
Aug. 2	Sun.	247	104	2730	9.1%
Aug. 3	Mon.	187	79	2670	7.0%
		1069	441	14,070	7.6%