

Office Memorandum

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DATE: 12/10/79

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SUBJECT: Straight River Rest Areas Usage Study I35

The two rest areas, south bound and north bound, were studied to obtain current use information. This information will be used in providing the proper numbers of facilities at new areas and to check if use patterns are changing.

Questions that were asked of these people stopping in the rest area included questions about current vacations and the gas shortage. The answers to these should show changes in travel patterns since the gas shortage.

The information is obtained by giving each vehicle entering the rest area a questionnaire which is answered during their stay in the area. The questionnaire is then collected as the vehicle leaves the area. The study is performed for 5 consecutive days Thursday - Monday 8 hours per day.

The mainline traffic is counted and classified according to type of vehicle during the same period of time. This allows us to derive averages for stopping and length of stay for each type vehicle using the rest area.

The following information was collected at the North Bound rest area:

SUMMARY North Bound

Date: August 16th - 20th 1979

Hours: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Weather: Warm, Partly Cloudy to Cloudy, showers Sun morning

Total vehicles on mainline North Bound 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.-----12611

Vehicles entering rest area North Bound 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.----- 1142

Percent of vehicles stopping at North Bound 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.----- 9.1%

Average time in rest area----- 15.6 min.

Out of state vehicles----- 61%

People per vehicle----- 2.6

Purpose for Entering Area

Use rest rooms-----	56%
Just to rest-----	13%
Other-----	7.6%
Water-----	6.7%
Eat/Picnic-----	5.3%
Telephone-----	4.6%
Dispose of refuse-----	3.7%
Use travel informatin board-----	2.3%
Dispose of Sewage-----	8%

Percent of People Using

Rest Rooms-----	74%
Drinking Water-----	42%

Percent of Vehicles Using

Refuse Containers-----	21%
Other (mostly play area)-----	10%
Travel Information-----	9%
Picnic Tables-----	8%
Picnic Shelters-----	5%
Telephone-----	4%
Electric Outlet-----	1%

Number of Vehicles that Stopped

Date	Day	Vehicles Entering	Out of State	Vehicles on Mainline 9-5	Percent Stopping
Aug. 16	Thur.	220	133	2350	9.4
Aug. 17	Fri.	244	168	2139	11.6
Aug. 18	Sat.	236	165	2834	8.3
Aug. 19	Sun.	258	123	3028	8.6
Aug. 20	Mon.	179	111	2260	7.9
		<u>1142</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>12611</u>	<u>9.1%</u>

Time Vehicles Entered Area

	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
9-10	18	13	29	16	23
10-11	25	21	32	18	23
11-12	49	29	46	28	25
12-1	31	28	31	40	21
1-2	25	36	30	45	18
2-3	17	46	23	46	20
3-4	35	36	32	26	25
4-5	20	40	13	40	24
	<u>220</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>179</u>

Average Info for each Type Vehicle that Entered Area

Type Vehicle	Average Length of Stay	Average No. of People	Average No.	
			A	B
Car	14.0 min.	2.7	70.1%	10.4%
Car with camper trailer	20.8 min.	3.1	1.4%	18.6%
Car with house trailer	27.7 min.	3.5	2.4%	33.7%
Car with boat trailer	13.1 min.	3.7	1.1%	12.4%
Car with other trailer	22.6 min.	2.5	1.7%	15.9%
Single Unit Truck	19.8 min.	2.7	10.6%	7.5%
Truck with Camper	15.4 min.	2.8	2.1%	16.0%
Truck with Trailer	32.0 min.	2.0	0.2%	0.7%
Truck (commercial)	12.6 min.	1.5	1.1%	4.7%
Truck (tractor trailer)	15.4 min.	1.0	5.6%	5.3%
Motorhome	21.6 min.	2.3	1.9%	10.5%
Bus	36.0 min.	20	0.1%	4.5%
Other	27.5 min.	1.8	1.7%	13.8%
Totals	15.6 min.	2.6	100%	9.1%

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

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

Vehicles with pets----- 6.6%
 Vehicles that stopped at other Rest Areas-----36.9%
 Vehicles that didn't stop at any other Rest Areas----- 52%
 Vehicles spending their vacations in Minnesota-----38.4%
 Vehicles not spending their vacations in Minnesota----- 19%
 Vehicles who's vacations were affected by Gas shortage-----17.2%
 Vehicles who's vacations were not affected by Gas shortage- 34%
 Vehicles on vacation that are camping----- 7.8%
 Vehicles on vacation that are not camping-----42.7%
 Average Length of vacation in Minnesota----- 5½ days

There were over a hundred comments on the Gas Shortage selected comments are:

Extra Cost	Rip Off
To Expensive	Eat 2 times instead of 3 to save money
Not Using Air Conditioner	Vacationed in Minnesota
Shorter Trip	I will try to use public transportation
More Air Travel	No Problems finding it
Hard to Find Lead Free Premium	50-60 mpg
Drive Speed Limit - Cruise Control	Delayed vacation from July to August

We received approximately 750 Rest Area Comments
50% of comments were on how Nice, Clean, Beautiful, Well Kept, Excellent
and other compliments.

Other comments received several times:

Best since left Texas

Unusual Architecture

Well Landscaped

Need More Areas

More Elaborate than Necessary

To Far Apart

Soft Drink and Coffee machines needed (several times)

Get Rid of Mosquitos (several times)

Good Looking Structure

Building too exotic and expensive

To Far off Highway

A Little Extravegent for Ordinary People

Need More State Maps (several times)

One of the reasons we come to Minnesota is the Rest Areas

No Dumping Facilities

Texas Size Mosquito's

Water Not Good

Super Super

Impressive

Too Fancy

Wish there were More

Would like Information on Solar System

Don't Like filling out Surveys

To Hot in Building

Congratulations for Use of Solar Energy

Children Enjoyed Play Area

SUMMARY South Bound Rest Area

Date: August 16th - 20th 1979

Hours: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Weather: Warm, Partly Cloudy to Cloudy, Showers Sunday Morning

Total Vehicles on Mainline South Bound	9 A.M. - 5 P.M.	15103
Vehicles Entering Rest Area South Bound	9 A.M. - 5 P.M.	1911
Percent of Vehicles Stopping South Bound	9 A.M. - 5 P.M.	12.7%
Average time in Rest Area		17.0 min.
Out of State Vehicles		63%
People Per Vehicle		2.6

Purpose for Entering Area

Use rest rooms	58.5%
Just to Rest	12.5%
Eat/Picnic	7.8%
Water	6.8%
Other	5.3%
Dispose of Refuse	3.9%
Use travel Information Board	2.2%
Telephone	2.0%
Dispose of Sewage	1.0%

Percent of People Using

Rest Rooms	83%
Drinking Water	40%

Percent of Vehicles Using

Refuse Containers	22%
Picnic Tables	10%
Travel Information	10%
Other (mostly play area)	9%
Picnic Shelter	5%
Telephone	4%
Electric Outlet	1%

Number of Vehicles that Stopped

Date	Day	Vehicles Entering	Out of State	Vehicles on Mainline 9-5	Percent Stopping
Aug. 16	Thur.	301	192	2340	12.9
Aug. 17	Fri.	376	229	3156	11.9
Aug. 18	Sat.	425	266	3275	13.0
Aug. 19	Sun.	423	298	3324	12.7
Aug. 20	Mon.	386	230	3008	12.8
Totals		1911	1215	15103	12.7%

Time Vehicles Entered Area

	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
9-10	32	33	38	23	34
10-11	34	50	49	50	45
11-12	39	51	66	56	73
12-1	37	41	82	57	62
1-2	64	43	36	56	52
2-3	32	52	61	70	46
3-4	28	66	54	57	41
4-5	<u>35</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>33</u>
Totals	301	376	425	423	386

Average Info for each Type Vehicle that Entered Area

Type Vehicle	Average Length of Stay	Average No. of People	A B	
			A	B
Car	15.1 Min.	2.6	64.4	12.6
Car with Camper Trailer	22.3 Min.	3.5	1.2	25.3
Car with House Trailer	23.6 Min.	2.9	1.9	33.6
Car with Boat Trailer	13.7 Min.	2.7	2.7	45.6
Car with other Trailer	14.8 Min.	2.7	2.2	25.3
Single Unit Truck	17.2 Min.	3.3	11.0	12.5
Truck with Camper	22.8 Min.	3.0	2.8	29.7
Truck with Trailer	21.3 Min.	3.3	2.1	10.2
Truck (commercial)	24.3 Min.	1.7	1.3	7.7
Truck (tractor trailer)	25.8 Min.	1.2	7.7	9.2
Motor home	25.1 Min.	3.9	0.8	7.3
Bus	18.0 Min.	1.0	0.1	4.2
Other	<u>19.3 Min.</u>	<u>1.3</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>18.8</u>
Totals	17 Min.	2.6 people	100%	12.7%

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

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

Vehicles with Pets-----	10.4%
Vehicles that stopped at other Rest Areas-----	25.6%
Vehicles that didn't stop at any Rest Areas-----	52.6%
Vehicles spending their vacations in Minnesota-----	40.4%
Vehicles not spending their vacations in Minnesota-----	17.1%
Vehicles whose vacations were affected by Gas shortage-----	16.5%
Vehicles whose vacations were not affected by Gas shortage-----	38.6%
Vehicles on vacation that are camping-----	7.3%
Vehicles on vacation that are not camping-----	46.1%
Average Length of Vacation in Minnesota-----	8.7 days

There were over a hundred and Twenty-five comments on the gas shortage selected comments are:

There is no shortage
 High in price (many times)
 No weekend travel
 Used cruise control
 We purchased small car
 Limited travel (many times)
 Walked more
 Stayed in Minnesota
 Used car instead of camper
 We drive VW
 Gas in Great Britain is \$2.40 per gallon so we are delighted

We received approximately 1000 rest area comments 50% of the comments were on how Nice, Clean, Beautiful, Well Kept, Excellent and other compliments.

Interesting Structure
 Large waste of money
 Need more rest areas
 Seems a bit extravagant
 Great to see more rest areas in construction
 Useful
 Unusual
 Very fancy
 Minnesota has the finest facilities
 Like them to be attended
 A credit to the state employees
 OK
 Modern
 No paper towels
 Grounds need to have grills
 Heavy tax dollar usage
 Coffee would be nice
 Quiet
 Better than other states
 Very needed facilities
 Nicer than Iowa
 Spray for mosquito's
 Pleasing to the eye
 Don't like blow dryers
 Is it necessary for this study
 Liked play area for kids
 No maps
 Have gas and vending machines
 Nice trails
 We liked the painting color scheme
 Parking well organized
 Inforce pet regulations
 Greatful for telephones

STRAIGHT RIVER REST AREA USAGE SURVEY I-35 S B

DEAR MOTORIST:

THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IS DETERMINING WHAT SHOULD BE THE SPACING OF THE REST AREAS ALONG THE HIGHWAY AND WHAT FACILITIES THEY SHOULD PROVIDE TO SATISFY YOUR NEEDS. ONLY YOU CAN SUPPLY INFORMATION WE NEED TO PLAN REST AREA FACILITIES. PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

DAY OF WEEK THURS VEHICLE TYPE 1 NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN
 DATE 8-16 TIME IN 11:16 VEHICLE 2
 LICENSING STATE CAL TIME OUT 5:11 in 24 8
 WHERE IS YOUR HOME (CITY OR COUNTY)? San Diego (STATE) Calif

REST AREA USE

1. WHAT WAS YOUR CHIEF PURPOSE FOR DRIVING INTO THIS REST AREA? (check only one)

1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use rest room	2. <input type="checkbox"/> Dispose of sewage	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Water
4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Just to rest	5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use Travel Information Board	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone
7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eat/Picnic	8. <input type="checkbox"/> Dispose of refuse	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ (please specify)

2. HOW MANY PEOPLE IN YOUR PARTY USED THE FOLLOWING?
 Rest room facilities 2 Drinking water supply 2

3. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES WERE USED BY YOUR PARTY?

1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Picnic table	2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel information	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical outlet
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelter	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Trash receptacle	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone
7. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____	8. <input type="checkbox"/> None of these	

4. DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS TRAVELING WITH YOU? No NUMBER _____

5. DID YOU STOP AT ANY OTHER REST AREAS THIS TRIP? YES NO WHERE Everywhere

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY ON VACATION OR PARTICIPATING IN RELATED RECREATIONAL OR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. Will you or did you spend your vacation or related time in Minnesota? Yes No
2. If you answered "yes" to the previous question, what City or Lake did you or will you stay near? (City or Lake) Burntside Lake: ELY
3. Has the current gas shortage affected your vacation travels? Yes No
 Comment _____
4. How long are you planning on staying in Minnesota? 8 Days Days
5. Will you be camping or using campground facilities? Yes No

REST AREA COMMENTS Pretty Good

PLEASE RETURN TO PEOPLE AT REST AREA EXIT
 THANK YOU