Enclosed is a copy of the 1979 Usage Survey taken August 2 thru August 6 to determine the type of usage activities at the Lake Pepin Rest Area on T.H. 61. Similar five day surveys are made annually at both interstate and non-interstate rest areas to identify types of usage, traffic content, vehicular type and pedestrian preferences. This type of survey information is used to verify or modify our design criteria used in the Systems Analysis calculations. The System Analysis calculations determine rest area need from a qualitative and quantitative standpoint.

In the past 12 to 15 months you and I have discussed the possibility of turning the Lake Pepin rest area over the DNR or the local unit of government. The justification was based on a presumed high rate of local usage and fishing activities at Lake Pepin.

The August usage survey figures indicate that 4.4% of the mainline traffic stop at this rest area and that there are 2.8 persons per vehicle stopping at the site. The average length of stay at the rest area is approximately 28 minutes for each vehicle stopping. Of the traffic stopping at the rest area, 38% was from out of state, 2.6% was local traffic and the remaining traffic was of in state origination. In addition, 76% of the users indicated they were on a vacation travel trip.

Based on an examination of the Lake Pepin rest area usage survey information, this office recommends that Mn/DOT retain ownership, custodial control, maintenance and management of this site because it services a substantial number of T.H. 61 travelers, especially vacation travelers. A minority of the rest area users are from the local area. In addition, the Lake Pepin facility has been identified as an integral part of the T.H. 61 system as per the comprehensive Non Interstate Rest Area Development Program report.

If you have any questions concerning the usage survey results, please contact this office.

cc: F. Marshall  
    W. Merritt  
    L. A. Korth  
    R. Larson  
    R. Sullivan
TO: Jim Reierson  
Site and Development Unit

FROM: Robert Doerr  
Senior Highway Technician

SUBJECT: Lake Pepin Rest Area Usage Study T.H. 61

DATE: Sept. 12, 1979

This rest area usage study was done to provide additional information to be used in spacing primary trunk highway rest areas and providing the proper number of facilities at each location.

This information is obtained by giving each car that enters the rest area a questionnaire that they fill out during their stay in the area. This questionnaire is then collected as the car leaves the area. The count is done for 5 days, Thursday-Monday, 8 hrs. a day.

The number and type of vehicles passing the area were also counted. This allows us to develop averages for stopping and length of stay for each type of vehicle using the rest area.

The following information was collected:

SUMMARY

Date: August 2nd - 6th, 1979
Hours: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Weather: Partly Cloudy to Clear and Warm

Total vehicles on Mainline 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 15620
Vehicles entering rest area 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 687
Percent of Vehicles Stopping 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 4.4%
Average persons per vehicle 2.8
Average time in rest area 28 min.
Out of State Vehicles 38%
Vehicles Stopped Contained People from 33 states & 5 countries 2.6%
Local Traffic 16%

Purpose for Entering Area

Use Rest Rooms 40%
Just to Rest 19%
Eat 14%
Other 10%
Water 8%
Use Travel Information Board 3%
Use Refuse Containers 3%
Telephone 2%
Dispose of Sewage 1%
Percent of People Using

Rest Rooms 68%
Drinking Water 42%

Percent of Vehicles Using

Refuse Containers 32%
Picnic Tables 21%
Other 9%
Travel Information 7%
Picnic Shelter 3%
Telephone 1.3%
Electricity 2%

Number of Vehicles that Stopped

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Vehicles Entering</th>
<th>Out of State</th>
<th>Vehicles on Mainline 9 A.M - 5 P.M.</th>
<th>Percent Stopping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 2nd</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2690</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 3rd</td>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>3120</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 4th</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>3453</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 5th</td>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3603</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 6th</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2754</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td></td>
<td>687</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>15620</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time Vehicle Entered Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>86</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Average Information for Each Type Vehicle that Entered Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type Vehicle</th>
<th>Average Length of Stay</th>
<th>Average No. People</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>25.7 min.</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; with camper trailer</td>
<td>29.7 min.</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; with housetrailer</td>
<td>20.2 min.</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; with boat trailer</td>
<td>36.8 min.</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Unit Truck</td>
<td>37.2 min.</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck with Camper</td>
<td>19.8 min.</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; with Trailer</td>
<td>41.3 min.</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck (commercial)</td>
<td>19.4 min.</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; (tractor trailer)</td>
<td>46.8 min.</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Home</td>
<td>57.1 min.</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>48.0 min.</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>24.8 min.</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>27.9 min.</td>
<td>2.8 people</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Refers to percentage of total number of Vehicles using rest area.
B. Refers to percentage of this type vehicle that stopped out of total number of this type vehicle that passed rest area.

#### Vehicles with Pets:
- 16.5%

#### Vehicles that stopped at other rest areas:
- 22.8%

#### Vehicles spending their vacations in Minnesota:
- 376%

#### Vehicles whose vacations were affected by gas shortage:
- 42%

#### Vehicles on vacation that are camping:
- 25%

#### Average Length of vacation in Minnesota:
- 10 days

People made 101 comments on Gas shortage - selected comments:
- Had to fly to Minnesota and borrow cars for limited mobility.
- Decided to stay close to home and not go out west.
- Cut Mileage
- My car gets 35/mpg
- Requires shorter trips & daytime traveling
- Staying close to home
- Stayed in Minnesota
- Honda's don't use much gas
- Used to come to Minnesota more often
- Planned large trip to Tenn. but didn't go
- Not so far, Not so often
- Expensive, but seems to be available
- Plan in advance for gas stops
- Lower speeds increase travel time
- We travelled all over country with no problem for 2 months
- Found it necessary to give up trip to Nova Scotia
- Can go camping only a few times this summer
- We have always limited our travel
- We are retired and have curtailed using our travel trailer
COMMENTS

We received 347 comments about the rest area selected comments were:

Very Clean 36% of comments
Very Good or Very Nice 25%
Beautiful or Pretty 10%
Neat, well kept, well maintained 10%

Other Comments:

Supervised
Nicest one around, we drove 100 miles once to stay here
Pretty View
Excellent
Camping Info is Excellent
Telephone good Idea
I would rather see more rest areas and less trees along the highway
As nice as we found anywhere
Garbage cans full to top
Need more picnic shelters
Wish it were open in winter (5 times)
Very Enjoyable
Nice, Thanks for the handicap facilities
Need More along highway (7 times)
Wonderful Place
Hot water appreciated
Convenient
Drinking water is warm
Wish Illinois was more progressive
Put in beer stand
Need more picnic tables
Nice Landscaping (3 times)
Showers needed
Need more drinking fountains
Minnesota has best rest areas (3 times)
LAKE PEPIN REST AREA USAGE SURVEY T.H. 61

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day of Week</th>
<th>Vehicle Type</th>
<th>Number of People in Vehicle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time In</td>
<td>Time Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHERE IS YOUR HOME (CITY OR COUNTY)? ________________ (STATE) ________________

REST AREA USE

1. WHAT WAS YOUR CHIEF PURPOSE FOR DRIVING INTO THIS REST AREA? (check only one)
   - Use rest room
   - Dispose of sewage
   - Water
   - Just to rest
   - Use Travel Information Board
   - Telephone
   - Eat/Picnic
   - Dispose of refuse
   - Other (please specify)

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

3. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES WERE USED BY YOUR PARTY?
   - Picnic table
   - Travel information
   - Electrical outlet
   - Picnic shelter
   - Trash receptacle
   - Telephone
   - Other (Please specify)
   - None of these

4. DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS TRAVELING WITH YOU? NUMBER

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

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)
3. Has the current gas shortage affected your vacation travels? Yes No Comment
4. How long are you planning on staying in Minnesota? _____________ Days
5. Will you be camping or using campground facilities? Yes No

REST AREA COMMENTS

PLEASE RETURN TO PEOPLE AT REST AREA EXIT

THANK YOU