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

FROM: Jim Reierson  
Site Development Unit

DATE: Oct. 21, 1981  
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, CDI, Inc.  
D. Adams
**TIME VEHICLES 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>17</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>172</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>187</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. of People</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car with camper trailer</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car with house trailer</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car with boat trailer</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car with other trailer</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Unit Truck</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck with camper</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck with trailer</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck (Commercial)</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorhome</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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
- Sometimes the attendant is too snoopy
- 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Vehicles Entering</th>
<th>Out of State</th>
<th>Vehicles on Mainline</th>
<th>Percent Stopping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>Thur.</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>2664</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>3283</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>2723</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 2</td>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2730</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>2670</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1069 | 441 | 14,070 | 7.6%