

Mn/DOT-Design Services  
Room 715

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1-18-80

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296-5773

1979 Rest Area Usage Survey  
Lake Pepin Rest Area  
S.P. 2513 T.H. 61

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  
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R. Sullivan

JR:mp

DEPARTMENT Mn/DOT-Office of Design Services*Office Memorandum*

TO : Jim Reiersen  
Site and Development Unit

DATE: Sept. 12, 1979

FROM : Robert Doerr  
Senior Highway Technician

PHONE: 296-7588

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

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 &amp; 5 countries

Local Traffic 2.6%

Traffic with Unknown Homebase 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

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

Time Vehicle Entered Area

	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
9-10	5	8	14	10	14
10-11	10	11	16	16	11
11-12	11	14	29	28	18
12-1	16	23	21	34	16
1-2	7	22	28	37	10
2-3	13	14	15	38	15
3-4	11	14	19	28	11
4-5	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>11</u>
	86	118	162	215	106

Average Information for Each Type Vehicle that Entered Area

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

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 there vacations in Minnesota 76%

Vehicles who's 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
- Ust 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.

DAY OF WEEK Mon VEHICLE TYPE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN
DATE 6 TIME IN VEHICLE
LICENSING STATE TIME OUT
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)
1. Use rest room 2. Dispose of sewage 3. Water
4. Just to rest 5. Use Travel Information Board 6. Telephone
7. Eat/Picnic 8. Dispose of refuse 9. 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?
1. Picnic table 2. Travel information 3. Electrical outlet
4. Picnic shelter 5. Trash receptacle 6. Telephone
7. Other (Please specify) 8. 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