

Transportation
Office of Environmental Services

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Office of Environmental Services

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Rest Area Usage Survey
Goose Creek Rest Area, I-35 N.B.

A five day, rest area usage survey was conducted at the Goose Creek safety rest area, I-35 N B., near Harris, Minnesota. The survey was conducted between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on July 28 through August 1, 1983. The primary objectives of the survey were:

1. to identify rest area usage patterns so an evaluation of custodial staffing and scheduling can be made.
2. to verify safety rest area design criteria developed for the planning, location, and design of rest area facilities.

During the five-day usage period, approximately 6,682 persons visited the rest area. The strongest usage periods occurred on Friday and Saturday, when a total of 3,510 persons visited the facilities.

Eleven percent (11%) of the mainline traffic stopped at the rest area. This percentage of vehicles stopping is on target with our original 20-year design projection of 12% stopping. The average number of persons per vehicle was 2.6 and the average length of stay was 14.4 minutes. The average number of vehicles from out-of-state was 23.2% of the traffic stopping, or 1,550 vehicles.

Public perception of rest area facilities is very good. One of the questions asked each user was "Do you believe rest area developments are a good use of the motorist tax dollar?" Of the 6,682 persons using the rest area, 99.2% said rest areas were a good use of tax dollars. The majority of users were appreciative of the rest area facilities.

Another question asked the user was "What additional facilities would you like to see in the rest areas?" A significant number of visitors identified vending machines, e.g., pop and snacks.

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The Office of Environmental Services will continue to conduct annual usage surveys at selected rest areas to measure overall user patterns, and to verify and update current design data.

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GOOSE CREEK REST AREA USAGE STUDY

Location: Goose Creek Rest Area, I-35 N.B

SUMMARY

Date: July 28 - August 1, 1983
 Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Weather: Partly Cloudy, warm and humid with rain on Saturday p.m.

Total vehicles on mainline:	23,358
Vehicles entering rest area:	2,577
Percent of vehicles stopping:	11.0%
Total people using rest area:	6,682
Average person per vehicle:	2.6
Average time in rest area:	14.4 min.
Percent of out-of-state vehicles:	(597) 23.2%

Purpose for Entering Area:

Use rest rooms	1,358	(53%)
Just to rest	440	(17%)
Others (mostly switching drivers)	273	(10%)
Eat/picnic	239	(9%)
Water	200	(8%)
Telephone	67	(3%)
	<u>2,577</u>	<u>100%</u>

Percent of People Using

Rest rooms	4,932	(74%)
Drinking water	2,648	(40%)

Percent of Vehicles Using

Trash receptacles	759	(29%)
Pet exercise area	269	(10%)
Travel Information	236	(9%)
Picnic Table	212	(8%)
Telephone	107	(4%)
Picnic Shelter	46	(2%)
Others	40	(2%)
None of these	1,225	(48%)

Number of Vehicles Stopping 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Vehicles Entering</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>	<u>Vehicles on Mainline</u>	<u>% Stopping</u>
July 28	Thurs.	353	89	3,480	10.1%
July 29	Fri.	738	119	7,559	9.8%
July 30	Sat.	612	148	5,133	11.9%
July 31	Sun.	476	112	4,085	11.7%
Aug. 1	Mon.	398	129	3,101	12.8%
		<u>2,577</u>	<u>597</u>	<u>23,358</u>	<u>11.0%</u>

Time Vehicles Entered Area:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Thurs.</u>	<u>Fri.</u>	<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Mon.</u>
10-11	33	91	137	71	61
11-12	48	72	116	62	51
12- 1	47	65	87	66	56
1- 2	52	69	56	61	50
2- 3	30	83	60	51	45
3- 4	33	83	86	57	37
4- 5	31	95	13	42	43
5- 6	44	88	29	35	30
6- 7	35	92	28	31	25
	<u>353</u>	<u>738</u>	<u>612</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>398</u>

Average Information for Each Type of Vehicle Entering Area:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Average Length of Stay</u>	<u>Average No. of People</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
Car	12.9 min.	2.6	61.9%	10.9%
Car w/camper trailer	14.6 min.	3.5	1.6%	28.3%
Car w/house trailer	22.4 min.	2.6	0.5%	23.3%
Car w/boat trailer	12.0 min.	3.2	1.7%	14.9%
Car w/other trailer	20.2 min.	3.5	1.7%	21.0%
Pickup or van	14.1 min.	2.5	15.4%	12.7%
Pickup w/camper	19.8 min.	3.0	3.0%	32.5%
Truck w/various trailer	20.5 min.	3.3	5.2%	21.8%
Truck (commercial)	12.0 min.	1.8	0.9%	8.0%
Semi	20.2 min.	1.3	2.9%	13.2%
Motor Home	22.5 min.	3.0	1.7%	17.3%
Bus	9.0 min.	17.0	0.2%	8.2%
Others (mostly motorcycles)	16.0 min.	1.4	3.4%	30.4%

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 of same kind passing the area.

Vehicles with pets	355	14.5%
Vehicles stopping at other rest areas	533	22.5%
Vehicles spending vacations in Minnesota	1,633	70.5%
Vehicles needing maps, directions & brochures	452	19.6%
Vehicles believe good use of tax dollars	2,352	99.2%

We asked motorists "What additional facilities would you like to see in the rest area?"

pop machine	155
vending machines	66
coffee machines	64
candy machines	45
play area	15
maps	17