

DEPARTMENT : TRANSPORTATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office Memorandum

DATE : January 18, 1989

TO : David Trooien  
Area Maintenance Engineer - St. CloudFROM : Jim Reiersen, Chief *NR*  
Site Development Unit

PHONE : 296-5773

SUBJECT : **Rum River Rest Area, T.H. 169  
1987 Usage Survey Report**

Enclosed for your review and file are the results of the Usage Survey conducted at the Rum River Safety Rest Area in August, 1987. The survey results were tabulated sometime ago but it was recently discovered that they had not been formally transmitted to the St. Cloud District. The survey was conducted between the hours of 9:00AM and 6:00PM for five days, from August 6 to August 10, 1987. The primary objectives of the survey were:

1. To identify rest area usage patterns on trunk highways.
2. To verify safety rest area design criteria developed for trunk highway planning, location and design.

During the five-day survey period, approximately 4,494 persons visited the rest area. The heaviest usage occurred on Friday and Saturday when a total of 2,465 persons visited the facilities.

Based on mainline traffic counts, 6.4% of the mainline traffic stopped at the rest area. This percentage of vehicles stopping is on target with the original 20-year design projection of 8% stopping. The average number of persons per vehicle was 2.7 and the average length of stay was 17.6 minutes. 14.1% of the vehicles were from out of state.

Public perception of Minnesota rest area development is very good. Several user questions were asked focusing on the desirable features of a rest area, and the perceived public need for such facilities. 91% of the users responding felt that safety rest areas were needed on non-interstate highways. 83% of the users would prefer rest area facilities over commercial facilities 92% felt that rest area development was a good use of the motorist tax dollar.

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The Environmental Services Section will continue to conduct annual usage surveys at selected safety rest areas to measure overall user patterns and needs, and to verify and update design data. If you have any questions concerning this usage survey and the enclosed results, please contact Carol Braun at 296-1648.

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REST AREA USAGE REPORT

Rum River Rest Area, T.H. 169

SUMMARY:

Date: August 6 - August 10, 1987

Hours: 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Weather: Partly Cloudy to clear, hot and humid, no rain.

Total Vehicles on Mainline:	Northbound Lane = 12,855
	Southbound Lane = <u>12,674</u>
	Total = 25,529
Vehicles entering rest area:	1,636
Percent of vehicles stopping:	6.4%
Total people using rest area:	3,351 Adults
	<u>1,143</u> children (under 16)
	4,494 total
Average people per vehicle:	2.7
Average time in rest area:	17.6 minutes
Percent of out of state vehicles:	14.1% (233 vehicles)

Purpose for Stopping at Rest Area

Use rest rooms	940 vehicles	57%
Rest/Relax	297	18
Water	85	6
Eat/Picnic	79	5
Switch Drivers	65	4
Telephone	20	1
Others	99	6
No answer	<u>51</u>	<u>3</u>
	1,636 vehicles	100%

Percent of people using

Rest rooms	3480 people	77%
Drinking water	1603	36%

Traveling Purpose

Vacation	1,059 vehicles	65
Personal	398	24
Business	106	7%
No answer	<u>73</u>	<u>4</u>
	1,636	100%

"How long have you traveled since your last stop?"

Average is 1 hour and 35 minutes since last stop.

Direction on Mainline for those stopped at rest area

North	767	47%
South	784	48
Did not answer	85	5
	<u>1,636</u>	<u>100%</u>

Percent of Vehicles Using

Rest room only	885	54%
Trash receptacle	329	20
Picnic Table	178	11
Pet Tethering Post	156	10
Travel Information	82	5
Telephone	49	3
Picnic Shelter	30	2
Others (Play area, paths)	111	7

Number of Vehicles Stopping 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>VEHICLES ENTERING</u>	<u>OUT OF STATE</u>	<u>VEHICLES ON MAINLINE</u>	<u>STOPPING PERCENTAGE</u>
Aug. 6	Thurs.	180	39	2,976	5.7%
Aug. 7	Fri.	320	42	5,248	5.7%
Aug. 8	Sat.	437	80	5,558	7.8%
Aug. 9	Sun.	476	42	6,926	6.8%
Aug. 10	Mon.	223	30	3,185	7.0%
		<u>1,636</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>23,893</u>	<u>6.6%</u>

Time Vehicles Entering Rest Area

<u>TIME</u>	<u>THURS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>
9-10	23	16	40	30	18
10-11	25	34	76	38	26
11-12	23	29	63	59	40
12-1	23	44	57	54	31
1-2	21	39	46	40	19
2-3	23	49	47	58	35
3-4	22	35	39	67	20
4-5	11	39	39	69	25
5-6	9	35	30	61	9
	<u>180</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>223</u>

Average Information for Each Type of Vehicle Entering R.A.

TYPE	TOTAL	AVG. LENGTH OF STAY	# OF PEOPLE	(A)	(B)
Car	1042	13.4 min.	2.7	63.7%	6.8%
Car w/camper trailer	12	15.0	2.6	.7%	12.1%
Car w/house trailer	3	39.0	4.0	.2%	13.6%
Car w/boat trailer	28	13.4	3.3	1.7%	5.0%
Car w/other trailer	14	11.8	2.6	.9%	6.1%
Pickup or Van	326	14.0	2.6	19.9%	5.5%
Pickup w/camper	35	23.8	2.4	2.1%	19.8%
Pickup w/various trailers	111	15.6	2.9	6.8%	6.0%
Commercial Truck	3	13.7	1.0	.2%	1.3%
Semi	7	13.5	1.0	.4%	2.0%
Motor Home	19	20.4	2.6	1.2%	4.5%
Bus	6	16.3	32.0	.4%	13.3%
Others (Mostly Motorcycles)	30	19.0	1.2	1.8%	13.3%

(A) refers to percentage of total number of vehicles using rest area.

(B) refers to percentage of vehicles that stopped in rest area, out of the total number of vehicles that passed rest area.

Questions:

1. Do you feel rest areas are a needed facility along non-interstate highways?

Yes	1,485	91%
No	18	1
Didn't Answer	133	8
	<u>1,636</u>	<u>100%</u>

2. Which facility would you prefer to use?

Non-interstate R.A.	1,364	83%
Commercial facility	87	9
Didn't answer	185	12
	<u>1,636</u>	<u>100%</u>

3. If this facility were not available, where would you have stopped?

Next town	705	43%
Continue driving	328	20
Commercial facility	238	15
Highway shoulder	163	10
Local park	83	5
Other	63	4
Didn't answer	56	3
	<u>1,636</u>	<u>100%</u>

4. What additional facilities would you like to see in the R.A.?

Vending Machine	183
Open in Winter	40
Dumping Station	19
MN Highway Map	12

5. Do you believe rest area developments are a good use of the motorist tax dollar?

Yes	1,504	92%
No	19	1%
Didn't answer	113	7%

6. Do you typically look for travel information in rest areas?

Yes	864	53%
No	646	39%
Didn't answer	126	8%

7. Please rate the travel information in this rest area.

Excellent	542	33%
Satisfactory	358	22%
Poor	18	1%
Didn't use	555	34%
Didn't answer	163	10%

8. How would you rate the building and ground maintenance at this rest area?

Excellent	1,339	82%
Satisfactory	193	12%
Poor	5	1%
Didn't answer	99	5%

Garrison Rest Area Traffic survey was taken with the help of portable traffic recorders located at entries and exits of the R.A. The results of the usage at the Garrison from Aug. 6 through Aug. 10 were as follows:

DATE	HOURS	NO. OF VEHICLES STOPPING @ R.A. (APPROXIMATELY)	AVERAGE NO. OF VEHICLES PER HOUR (APPROXIMATELY)
Aug. 6	7 PM - 8 AM	98	8
Aug. 7	8 AM - 7 PM	750	68
	7 PM - 8 AM	425	33
Aug. 8	8 AM - 7 PM	1,018	93
	7 PM - 8 AM	154	12
Aug. 9	8 AM - 7 PM	1,278	116
	7 PM - 8 AM	359	28
Aug. 10	8 AM - 7 PM	477	43
		<u>4,559</u>	<u>50</u>



# RUM RIVER SAFETY REST AREA USER SURVEY

Day of week: <u>Thurs. Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon.</u>	Vehicle type: <u>1 2 3 4 5 10 11 12 13 20 30 31 40</u>
Date: <u>August 6 7 8 9 10, 1987</u>	Time In: _____
Licensing State: <u>MN</u> (specify other)	Time Out: _____

Dear Motorist:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is attempting to determine how Safety Rest Areas along our non-interstate highways are utilized and what facilities they should provide to satisfy your needs. Only you can supply the information we need to plan future Safety Rest Area facilities. Please answer the following questions:

- Number of people in your vehicle. Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_ (Under 16)
- Are you traveling for Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Vacation: \_\_\_\_\_ Personal: \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- How long have you traveled since your last stop? Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes: \_\_\_\_\_
- Which direction are you traveling?  North  South
- Please check your main reason for stopping. (Check only one)
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Rest room	<input type="checkbox"/> Rest/relax	<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Eat/picnic	<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Switch driver	(please specify)
- How many people in your party used the following?  
Rest room facilities: \_\_\_\_\_ Drinking water supply: \_\_\_\_\_
- Which of the following facilities were used by your party?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic table	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel information	<input type="checkbox"/> Rest room only
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Trash receptacle	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet exercise area	(please specify)
- Do you feel rest areas are a needed facility along non-interstate highways?  Yes  No
- Which facility would you prefer to use?  
 Non-interstate safety rest areas  Commercial facility
- If this facility were not available where would you have stopped?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Local park	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway shoulder
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Next town
<input type="checkbox"/> Continue driving	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
	(please specify)
- What additional facilities would you like to see in the rest area? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you believe rest area developments are a good use of the motorist tax dollar?  Yes  No
- Do you typically look for travel information in rest areas?  Yes  No
- Please rate the travel information in this rest area.
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Did not use
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- How would you rate the building and grounds maintenance at this rest area?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
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REST AREA COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO PEOPLE AT REST AREA EXIT.  
THANK YOU.