

DEPARTMENT : TRANSPORTATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

DATE : January 18, 1989

TO : Bruce Larson
Area Maintenance Engineer - DuluthFROM : Jim Reiersen, Chief *JR*
Site Development Unit

PHONE : 296-5773

SUBJECT : **Baptism River Rest Area, T.H. 61
1988 Usage Survey Report**

Enclosed for your review and file are the results of the Usage Survey conducted at the Baptism River Safety Rest Area in August, 1988. Trunk highway motorists using the rest area were surveyed from 8:00AM to 5:00PM for five days, between August 18 through August 22, 1988. 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.
3. To determine user patterns of motorists on the Northshore and to identify usage of the Tettegouche State Park information facility and control station which is combined with the rest area facility.

During the five-day survey period, approximately 3,573 persons visited the rest area. The heaviest usage occurred on Saturday and Sunday when a total of 1714 persons visited the facilities. On a daily basis, heaviest usage occurred between 10:00AM and 4:00PM.

Based on mainline traffic counts, 7.9% 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 8% stopping. The average number of persons per vehicle was 2.8 and the average time in the rest area was 46 minutes. This can be directly attributed to Lake Superior, the Baptism River, and the accessibility of State Park trails. Vehicles stopping at the rest area were about evenly divided between southbound and northbound, with a slight edge to northbound vehicles.

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. 82.9% of the rest area users responding felt that the rest area development was a good use of the motorist tax dollar. However, only 26% of the users responding felt that additional rest area improvements are needed along the Northshore.

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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
BAPTISM RIVER REST AREA**

SUMMARY:

DATES: AUGUST 18 - AUGUST 22, 1988

HOURS: 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

WEATHER: PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLEAR, RAIN ON SATURDAY AND MONDAY.

TOTAL VEHICLES ON MAINLINE:

	<u>NOT ENTERING REST AREA</u>	<u>ENTERING REST AREA</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
NORTHBOUND =	6503	619 (48.7 %)	7122
SOUTHBOUND =	8282	549 (43.2 %)	8831
NO ANSWER =		104 (8.2 %)	104
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TOTAL =	14785	1272	16057

VEHICLES ENTERING REST AREA: 1272
 PERCENT OF VEHICLES STOPPING: 7.9 %
 PERCENT OF OUT-OF-STATE VEHICLES: 23.2 % (295 VEHICLES)

TOTAL PEOPLE USING REST AREA: 2737 ADULTS
 836 CHILDREN (UNDER 16)
 3573 TOTAL

AVERAGE PEOPLE PER VEHICLE: 2.8

AVERAGE TIME IN REST AREA: 45.8 MINUTES

PURPOSE FOR STOPPING AT REST AREA:

	<u>VEHICLES</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
USE REST ROOMS	593	46.6 %
DNR INFORMATION	185	14.5 %
REST/RELAX	267	21.0 %
EAT	83	6.5 %
WATER	11	.9 %
FISHING	23	1.8 %
SWITCH DRIVERS	11	.9 %
NO ANSWER	99	7.8 %
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TOTAL	1272	100.0 %

PERCENT OF PEOPLE USING:

	<u>PERSONS</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
REST ROOMS	2370	66.3 %
DRINKING WATER	1160	32.5 %

**REST AREA USAGE REPORT
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TRAVELING PURPOSE:

	<u>VEHICLES</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
VACATION	1047	82.3 %
PERSONAL	106	8.3 %
BUSINESS	28	2.2 %
NO ANSWER	91	7.2 %
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TOTAL	1272	100.0 %

HOW LONG HAVE YOU TRAVELED SINCE YOUR LAST STOP:

AVERAGE IS 74.9 MINUTES SINCE LAST STOP

TIME CATEGORIES SINCE LAST STOP:

	<u>VEHICLES</u>	<u>AVG. STAY IN MINUTES</u>
LESS THAN 1 HOUR	418	23.0
1-2 HOURS	499	83.3
OVER 2 HOURS	115	226.9

PERCENT OF VEHICLES USING:

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>NO.</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
REST ROOM ONLY	566	44.5 %
TRASH RECEPTICLE	357	28.1 %
PICNIC TABLE	161	12.7 %
PET EXERCISE AREA	76	6.0 %
DNR/TRAVEL INFORMATION	309	24.3 %
TELEPHONE	27	2.1 %
HIKING TRAILS	483	38.0 %
OTHER	46	3.6 %
NO ANSWER	188	----

NUMBER OF VEHICLES STOPPING 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>VEHICLES ENTERING</u>	<u>OUT OF STATE</u>	<u>VEHICLES ON MAINLINE</u>	<u>PERCENT STOPPING</u>
AUG. 18	THURS.	249	72	2723	9.1 %
AUG. 19	FRI.	259	71	3333	7.8 %
AUG. 20	SAT.	283	60	3582	7.9 %
AUG. 21	SUN.	329	46	3771	8.7 %
AUG. 22	MON.	152	46	2648	5.7 %
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	TOTALS	1272	295	16057	7.9 %

**REST AREA USAGE REPORT
BAPTISM RIVER REST AREA**

TIME VEHICLES ENTERING REST AREA:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>THURS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>
8-9	5	8	14	8	1
9-10	26	18	12	24	20
10-11	23	37	24	47	27
11-12	46	39	37	41	31
12-1	36	49	14	60	18
1-2	36	34	49	40	27
2-3	31	27	55	51	17
3-4	29	34	40	35	10
4-5	17	13	35	23	1
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TOTALS	249	+ 259	+ 283	+ 329	+ 152 = 1272

AVERAGE INFORMATION FOR EACH TYPE OF VEHICLE ENTERING R.A.:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AVG. LEN. OF STAY (IN MINS.)</u>	<u>NO. OF PEOPLE</u>	<u>* A</u>	<u>** B</u>
CAR	796	45.9	2.7	62.8 %	9.5 %
CAR W/REC. TRAILER	20	42.3	3.3	1.6 %	7.5 %
CAR W/OTHER TRAILER	3	12.7	4.3	.2 %	3.5 %
TRUCK PICK-UP OR VAN	290	46.6	2.9	22.9 %	7.6 %
TRUCK W/REC. TRAILER	75	41.4	3.5	5.9 %	9.5 %
TRUCK W/OTHER TRAILER	8	17.9	2.9	.6 %	3.9 %
COMMER. TRUCK	3	39.3	3.3	.2 %	2.6 %
SEMI	2	36.5	1.0	.2 %	.6 %
R.V.	56	62.2	3.0	4.4 %	12.0 %
BUS	0	.0	.0	0.0 %	0.0 %
OTHER	14	28.1	1.6	1.1 %	5.3 %
NO ANSWER	5				

TOTAL	1272				

* 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 AREA.

**REST AREA USAGE REPORT
BAPTISM RIVER REST AREA**

DO YOU FEEL ADDITIONAL REST AREA IMPROVEMENTS
ARE NEEDED ALONG THE NORTH SHORE?

	<u>VEHICLES</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
YES	331	26.0 %
NO	610	48.0 %
NO ANSWER	331	26.0 %
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TOTAL	1272	100.0 %

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING REST AREAS HAVE YOU VISITED:

<u>REST AREA</u>	<u>VEHICLES</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
THOMPSON HILL INFO CENTER	252	19.8 %
KNIFE RIVER REST AREA	154	12.1 %
GRAND PORTAGE INFO. CENTER	259	20.4 %
MT. JOSEPHINE REST AREA	90	7.1 %
OTHER	48	3.8 %
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NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	486	
NO ANSWER	786	

STATE PARKS VISITED ALONG THE NORTH SHORE THIS TRIP:

<u>STATE PARK</u>	<u>VEHICLES</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
JUDGE C. MAGNEY	140	11.0 %
GEO. CROSBY MANITOU	71	5.6 %
GOOSEBERRY FALLS	631	49.6 %
CASCADE RIVER	330	25.9 %
TETTEGOUGHE	557	43.8 %
TEMPERANCE RIVER	345	27.1 %
SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE	489	38.4 %
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NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	850	
NO ANSWER	422	

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ARE REST AREA DEVELOPMENTS A GOOD USE OF MOTORIST TAX DOLLARS?

	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
YES	1055	82.9 %
NO	16	1.3 %
NO ANSWER	201	15.8 %

TOTAL	1272	

DNR RECREATION/TRAVEL INFORMATION RATING:

	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
EXCELLENT	681	53.5 %
SATISFACTORY	182	14.3 %
POOR	6	.5 %
DID NOT USE	181	14.2 %
NO ANSWER	222	17.5 %

TOTAL	1272	

REST AREA AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE RATING:

	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
EXCELLENT	987	77.6 %
SATISFACTORY	95	7.5 %
POOR	2	.2 %
NO ANSWER	188	14.8 %

TOTAL	1272	