

Office Memorandum

DEPARTMENT HIGHWAY

TO : L. A. Korth
Asst. Commissioner - Right-of-Way & Design

FROM : L. E. Foote
Director, Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Lions Spring Rest Area Usage Study
T.H. 53 between Duluth and Virginia

DATE: Dec. 29, 1969

Attached is our report on usage at the Lions Spring Rest Area. During District One's, our own, and Mr. Braun's (Asst. Commissioner - Public Information) discussions with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and other Range Agencies and area representatives regarding a possible travel information center on T.H. 53, we agreed to conduct this usage survey.

During the time of our study, the area provided services for 3,039 motorists. This is quite high usage. The percentage of mainline vehicles using the rest area was considerably lower than we had anticipated (4.3% vs 12%) however, the actual number of vehicles using the rest area was about what we had predicted with our systems analysis. This indicates that there is a considerably greater "peaking" of the total traffic volume occurring in the summer than is indicated by the traffic data which we received.

Rest room facilities on this wayside are two pit toilets. The area maintenance personnel maintained these in a good condition, especially considering the high usage. The percentage of people driving into the rest area to use the rest rooms and the percentage of people actually using the rest rooms are considerably lower than what we would normally expect, and this is probably a reflection of the quality of rest rooms we have on this highly used site.

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce placed an information trailer in this wayside during the summer of 1969. This was also part of an agreement resulting from Mr. Braun's and our discussions with the area representatives regarding a possible travel information center. The information trailer was staffed through a combined effort of various Range Agencies. During the time of our usage survey, the information trailer was observed to be operating in a good efficient and appropriate manner.

The percentages of people stopping for travel information and those actually using the travel information are only about $\frac{1}{3}$ of what we would expect with a travel information center. During the time of the usage survey, the trailer provided travel information for 526 persons, this is a sizeable quantity.

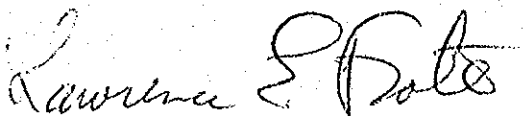
Of the vehicles entering the wayside, 48% were out-of-state. This indicated a high use of such a facility by the tourist-resort industry orientated traveler. I was personally involved in this survey for two days. During this time I also had an opportunity to have some general discussion with the out-of-state travelers.

Page 2
L. A. Korth
December 29, 1969

I was surprised at the number of these travelers who commented most favorably on the relative freedom of our roadsides from visual environmental pollution (billboards). These remarks were initiated by the traveler as a compliment for the State of Minnesota. Many of these travelers were from the highly urbanized areas and they appreciated the opportunity to be away from a continual bombardment of commercial messages during their vacation time.

It would seem appropriate that the Range Agencies continue to provide, improve and maintain their travel trailer in this wayside. Also, since this survey I have discussed the desirability of improving this wayside with Mr. Miller of Duluth and Mr. Harrison of Virginia. By this memo I am requesting that the District provide us with a layout and survey of the wayside as it is presently constructed and including the area north of the wayside to the next cross-over. We should probably consider improving the roadways and parking areas in the wayside, especially delineation and the toilet facilities. Money for any buildings on this site should come out of any 1970 or 1971 Beautification Building Funds. With construction of any other toilet facilities, the pit toilets would be removed. At present they are located at a lower elevation than the spring, however, they are a constant source of potential pollution to the underground water supply. If we were to place any toilets back to the north of the wayside, they should probably be of the vault type. A flush type would not be possible here because the drain field would constitute a probable source of pollution of the spring.

Three copies of this report are being sent to the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.



Director, Environmental Services

LEF:jar

CC: W. S. Ekern
J. A. Murchie
L. H. Miller
J. S. Harrison
P. G. Velz
E. J. Broos
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John Ohm - BPR
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S. A. Paulson

Office Memorandum

DEPARTMENT HIGHWAY

TO : L. E. Foote, Director
Environmental Services

FROM : Stanley A. Paulson
Sr. Highway Technician

SUBJECT: Lions Spring Rest Area Usage Study

DATE: 10-23-69

Date: August 22-28, 1969

Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday - Saturday

6 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

Percent of vehicles on mainlines using rest area cars 4.3% trucks 3.7%

Average persons/vehicle = 3.3

48% of vehicles entering were out of state

Vehicles from 31 states used the rest area

Weather: Monday-Sunday. Partly cloudy & warm.

Purpose for Driving into Rest Areas

Get water	39.4%
Use rest room	19.2%
To rest	16.3%
To eat	11.1%
Get travel info	10.6%
Other	3.1%
Dispose of waste	0.3%

Percent of Persons Using

Water	67%
Rest room	38%

Percent of Vehicles Using

Information	17.3%
Picnic tables	16.5%
Waste disposal	14.6%
Cooking facilities (fireplaces)	0.3%

Average Stay

To eat	35 min.
To rest	21 min.
Use rest room	15 min.
Information	15 min.
Other	13 min.
Drinking water	12 min.
Dispose of waste	3 min.

Time of Vehicles Entering Lions Spring

	6	7	8	9	10	11	Noon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Mon	-	-	-	-	14	14	17	12	15	11	12	6	-	-	-	-	101
Tues	-	-	-	-	6	9	11	3	11	10	10	11	-	-	-	4	71
Wed	-	-	-	-	3	14	11	10	8	11	6	2	-	-	-	-	65
Thurs	-	-	-	-	4	9	10	5	12	3	7	5	-	-	-	-	55
Fri	-	-	-	-	19	16	32	18	26	21	23	23	-	-	-	-	178
Sat	-	-	-	-	21	28	32	25	33	31	20	18	-	-	-	-	208
Sun	-	4	7	7	21	21	21	28	21	25	27	16	19	18	6	2	243
Total	0	4	7	7	88	111	134	101	126	112	105	81	19	18	6	2	921

Vehicles on Highway

Passenger cars pulling no trailer.	81.4%
Other single unit trucks	6.2%
Semi	3.1%
Passenger cars pulling boat trailer	2.4%
Pick-up campers	2.4%
Passenger cars pulling camper trailer	1.8%
Passenger cars pulling house trailer	1.2%
Passenger cars pulling other trailer	0.8%
Buses	0.6%
Other	0.1%

Note: 15% of the passenger cars entering the rest area were hauling some type of trailer.


 Sr. Highway Technician

SAP:kmr