

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 4, 1992

TO: Dale Shaw
Area Maintenance Engineer - Owatonna

FROM: James Reiersen *JR*
Chief, Site Development Unit

PHONE: 612-296-5773

SUBJECT: Albert Lea Safety Rest Area, T.H. 35
1991 Usage Survey Report

File

Enclosed for your review and file are the results of the Usage Survey conducted at the Albert Lea Safety Rest Area/Travel Information Center in August, 1991. Interstate motorists were surveyed from 9:00a to 6:00p for five days, from August 15 through August 19, 1991. The primary objectives of the survey were to:

1. Identify Safety Rest Area usage patterns on Interstate highways.
2. Verify Safety Rest Area design criteria developed for Interstate highway planning, location and design.
3. Collect pertinent information for the redesign and rehabilitation of the Albert Lea facility, as part of the Safety Rest Area Rehabilitation Program.

During the five day period, approximately 8,724 people visited the Albert Lea Safety Rest Area. The heaviest usage occurred on Saturday and Sunday when a total of 3906 people visited the facilities during the survey period. On a daily basis, heaviest usage occurred between 11:00a and 12:00p, and 3:00p and 4:00p.

Based on mainline traffic counts, 17.23% of the mainline traffic stopped at the Safety Rest Area. This percentage of vehicles stopping is larger than the original design projection of 15% stopping. The average number of persons per vehicle was 2.5, and 16.19 minutes was the average length of stay. Seventy-five percent of the vehicles entering the facility were from out-of-state.

Public perception of Minnesota Safety Rest Areas continues to be very good. Of motorists surveyed: 96% feel Safety Rest Areas are need along Interstate highways; 93% believe that Safety Rest Areas are a good use of tax dollars; 88% prefer using Safety Rest Areas over commercial facilities; and 60% look for travel information at Safety Rest Areas.

The Design Services Section, Site Development Unit, will continue to conduct annual usage surveys at selected Safety Rest Areas, especially those sites marked for rehabilitation, to measure overall user patterns and needs, and to verify and update design criteria. If you have any questions or comments concerning this survey and the enclosed results, please contact Carol Braun (612-296-1648) or Karl Weissenborn (612-296-0295).

Attachment

cc: J. Denn
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KW WP FILE: rest 91am.mem

SAFETY REST AREA USAGE REPORT

ALBERT LEA SAFETY REST AREA/TRAVEL INFORMATION CENTER - T.H. 35

ABSTRACT: The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) conducted a Safety Rest Area User Survey at the Albert Lea Safety Rest Area/Travel Information Center August 15 - 19, 1991. The objective of this survey was to accumulate user data to verify or modify rest area design criteria developed for highway planning, location and design. Pertinent information collected includes percent of vehicles stopping, traffic classifications, persons per vehicle and use of facilities. The Albert Lea Safety Rest Area/Travel Information Center is scheduled for rehabilitation in 1994-96. Truck parking capacity is a critical problem. For more information regarding this survey, please call the Mn/DOT Site Development Unit, Jim Reiersen (612-296-5773) or Carol Braun (612-296-1648).

Date: August 15 - 19, 1991
 Hours: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, * except 8/16 (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM)
 Weather: Sunny, except 8/16 (Rain)

SUMMARY DATA:

Vehicles entering Safety Rest Area:	3,476.00	
Percent of Mainline vehicles stopping	17.23%	
Percent Out-of-State Vehicles:	75.08%	(2479 Vehicles)
Percent In-State Vehicles:	24.92%	(823 Vehicles)
Total people using Safety Rest Area:	6,801 Adults	
	<u>1,923</u> Children (under 16)	
	8,724 Total	
Average number of people per vehicle:	2.51	
Average length of stay in Safety Rest Area:	16.19	Minutes

Number of Vehicles 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Vehicles Entering Safety Rest Area</u>	<u>Vehicles on Mainline not Entering Safety Rest Area</u>	<u>Daily Traffic Totals</u>	<u>Percentage Stopping</u>	<u>Out of State</u>
Aug. 15	Thurs.	607	2,776	3,383	17.94	486
Aug. 16	*Fri.	717	3,450	4,167	17.21	602
Aug. 17	Sat.	770	3,429	4,199	18.34	608
Aug. 18	Sun.	787	4,415	5,202	15.13	442
Aug. 19.	Mon.	540	2,628	3,168	17.05	341
Surveys Returned		3421(98.42%)	16,698	20,119	17.00	2479
Surveys Not Returned		55(1.58%)				
Total		3476				

Time Vehicles Entering Safety Rest Area

<u>TIME</u>	<u>THURS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>
9-10	47	81	94	51	44
10-11	64	115	105	69	56
11-12	86	89	103	87	70
12-1	75	98	86	90	60
1-2	63	106	99	99	54
2-3	77	97	94	98	58
3-4	75	105	83	110	78
4-5	67	24	61	93	73
5-6	52		45	89	47
Totals	606	715	770	786	540

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Purpose for Stopping at Safety Rest Area:

	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Rest Rooms	2,394	68.87
Rest/Relax	306	8.80
Travel Information	291	8.37
Switch Drivers	73	2.10
Telephone	70	2.01
Picnic/Vending Machines	70	2.01
Water	13	.37
Did not Answer on Survey Form	204	5.87
Total	3,421 Vehicles	100.00%

Percent of People Using:

	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Rest Rooms	6,849	78.51
Drinking Water	2,536	29.07
Travel Information	2,244	25.72

Traveling Purpose:

	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Vacation	1,726	50.45
Personal	940	27.48
Business	633	18.50
Did not Answer on Survey Form	122	3.57
Total	3,421 Vehicles	100.00%

How long have you traveled since your last stop?

Average: 146.22 minutes, (2.44 hours)

Time categories since last stop:

	<u>Vehicles</u>	<u>Average Length of Stay In Minutes</u>
Less than 1 hour	628	12.36
1-2 hours	966	15.87
Over 2 hours	1827	17.43

Vehicle Occupant(s) Use of Site Facilities

<u>Facility</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Rest Room	2,153	61.94
Trash Receptacle	957	27.53
Info-Stop Display Panels	833	23.96
Vending Machines	584	16.80
Telephone	315	9.06
Picnic Table	264	7.59
Pet Exercise Area	163	4.69
Picnic Shelter	100	2.88
Other	247	7.11
No Answer	290	8.34

SAFETY REST AREA USAGE REPORT

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Type of Vehicle Entering Safety Rest Area:

<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PEOPLE</u>	<u>(A)</u>	<u>(B)</u>
Car	2101	1.91	4005	61.96%	21.05%
Car With Rec. Trailer	12	3.00	26	.35%	30.77%
Car With Other Trailer	15	3.67	30	.44%	17.05%
Pick-Up or Van	742	2.10	1546	21.88%	19.83%
Truck With Rec. Trailer	72	2.35	157	2.12%	34.45%
Truck With Other Trailer	85	2.40	187	2.51%	26.23%
Commercial Trucks	37	2.05	59	1.09%	16.09%
Semi's, Tractor Trailers	213	1.15	235	6.28%	12.91%
RV's	87	2.38	181	2.57%	29.69%
Buses	9	36.11	303	.27%	21.95%
Other	18	1.72	23	.53%	17.65%

(A) Percentage of total number of vehicles using rest area.

(B) Percentage of vehicles that stopped in rest area, out of the total number of mainline vehicles of same kind both entering and passing the rest area.

Survey Questions:

1. Do you feel Safety Rest Areas are a needed facility along Interstate highways?

Yes	3277	95.79
No	15	.44
Didn't Answer	<u>129</u>	<u>3.77</u>
Total	3421	100.00%

2. Which facility would you prefer to use?

Interstate Safety Rest Area	3013	88.07
Commercial Facility	190	5.55
Didn't Answer	<u>218</u>	<u>6.37</u>
Total	3421	100.00%

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

Next Town	1318	38.53
Commercial Facility	1108	32.39
Continue Driving	716	20.93
Highway Shoulder	219	6.40
Local Park	136	3.98
Local Chamber of commerce	35	1.02
Other	155	4.53
Didn't Answer	<u>273</u>	<u>7.98</u>
Total	3421	100.00%

4. What additional facilities would you like to see in the Safety Rest Area?

VEHICLES

Vending Machine	138
Dumping Station	25
MN Highway Map	20
Open in Winter	4

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5. Do you believe Safety Rest Area developments are a good use of the motorist tax dollar?

Yes	3177	92.87
No	49	1.43
Didn't Answer	<u>195</u>	<u>5.70</u>
Total	3421	100.00%

6. Do you typically look for travel information in Safety Rest Areas?

Yes	2037	59.54
No	1136	33.21
Didn't Answer	<u>248</u>	<u>7.25</u>
Total	3421	100.00%

7. Please rate the travel information in this Safety Rest Area.

Excellent	1797	52.53
Satisfactory	761	22.24
Poor	20	.58
Didn't Use	603	17.63
Didn't Answer	<u>240</u>	<u>7.02</u>
Total	3421	100.00%

8. How would you rate the building and ground maintenance at this Safety Rest Area?

Excellent	2292	67.00
Satisfactory	914	26.72
Poor	26	.76
Didn't Answer	<u>189</u>	<u>5.52</u>
Total	3421	100.00%

ALBERT LEE REST AREA USAGE SURVEY

THURSDAY

COUNT ON HIGHWAY ONLY

DATE

DAY

HOUR	CARS			TRUCKS			COMMER. TRUCKS (13)	SEMI's TRACTOR TRAILERS (20)			OTHER (40)	TOTAL
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(10)	(11)	(12)			(30)	(31)		
	CAR	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER	PICK-UP or VAN	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER			RV's	BUS		
9 - 10	112	1	3	48	3	2	4	55	5	0	2	235
10 - 11	144	0	2	62	3	10	8	51	2	1	0	283
11 - 12	168	0	1	62	0	4	8	51	7	0	5	312
12 - 1	180	1	1	58	0	3	7	55	2	0	3	310
1 - 2	173	0	1	57	2	8	11	43 43	7	1	2	305
2 - 3	192	1	0	92	4	2	7	45	8	1	0	352
3 - 4	175	4	5	69	5	4	13	53	4	1	2	335
4 - 5	193	0	6	86	1	5	2	50	5	1	3	352
5 - 6	155	1	0	80	2	4	5	38	5	0	2	292
TOTAL	1492	8	19	614	20	42	65	447	45	5	19	2716

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* STARTED TO RAIN @ 11:00 * ENDED 1:30

ALBERT LEE REST AREA USAGE SURVEY

FRIDAY

COUNT ON HIGHWAY ONLY

DATE

DAY

HOUR	CARS			TRUCKS			COMMER.	SEMI's			OTHER	TOTAL
	①	②	③	⑩	⑪	⑫	⑬	⑳	⑳	㉑	④①	
	CAR	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER	PICK-UP or VAN	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER	TRUCKS	TRACTOR TRAILERS	RV's	BUS		
9 - 10	131	0	1	68	3	8	10	47	2	0	0	270
10 - 11	212	1	1	85	4	6	6	54	4	2	4	379
11 - 12	250	1	4	118	7	12	6	49	5	2	3	457
12 - 1	237	2	1	92	3	13	5	57	8	1	1	420
1 - 2	270	0	1	101	4	16	7	40	10	0	0	449
2 - 3	305	0	3	111	3	11	5	48	6	2	2	496
3 - 4	283	3	3	95	11	2	4	46	7	3	2	459
4 - 5	327	1	1	125	11	6	3	32	8	5	1	520
5 - 6	Terminated @ 5:00											
TOTAL	2015	8	15	795	46	74	46	373	50	15	13	3450

*
**

HEAVY
START @ 4:00
RAIN
20 MIN
COUNT
1:30

(1) P.A. Survey Discontinued @ 4:00 / Mainline Count only.

☺ Sun!!!

Hi!!!
Carol
Tom
Gary

ALBERT LEE REST AREA USAGE SURVEY

SATURDAY

ALBERT LEE REST AREA
@ 9:00

COUNT ON HIGHWAY ONLY

DATE

DAY

HOUR	CARS			TRUCKS			COMMER.	SEMI's			OTHER	TOTAL
	①	②	③	⑩	⑪	⑫	⑬	⑳	⑳	㉑	㉒	
	CAR	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER	PICK-UP or VAN	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER	TRUCKS	TRACTOR TRAILERS	RV's	BUS		
9 - 10	254	0	7	104	3	15	5	25	4	1	4	422
10 - 11	299	2	4	93	2	12	8	33	8	3	2	466
11 - 12	278	0	2	107	9	12	3	21	4	3	5	444
12 - 1	213	1	0	77	11	12	5	23	9	1	6	418
1 - 2	263	1	0	93	6	8	4	24	6	0	0	405
2 - 3	237	0	0	100	1	10	2	17	5	1	0	373
3 - 4	204	1	1	71	5	6	2	20	1	1	2	314
4 - 5	208	1	1	81	2	5	6	26	7	0	2	339
5 - 6	146	1	0	71	0	9	1	18	1	0	1	248
TOTAL	2162	7	15	797	39	89	36	207	45	10	22	3429

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ALBERT LEE REST AREA USAGE SURVEY

SUNDAY

COUNT ON HIGHWAY ONLY

DATE

DAY

HOUR	CARS			TRUCKS			COMMER. ⑬ TRUCKS	SEMI's ⑳ TRACTOR TRAILERS			OTHER ④〇	TOTAL	
	①	②	③	⑩	⑪	⑫			⑳	⑳			㉑
	CAR	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER	PICK-UP or VAN	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER			RV's	BUS			
9 - 10	147	0	0	57	1	2	2	20	9	1	1	240	
10 - 11	225	0	1	85	1	5	4	15	23	1	2	362	
11 - 12	268	2	8	106	7	8	1	30	16	2	3	451	
12 - 1	265	1	3	113	8	8	9	32	7	0	3	449	
1 - 2	295	2	2	132	15	20	5	18	15	1	7	512	
2 - 3	398	2	4	119	14	11	5	26	10	1	8	598	
3 - 4	399	2	4	126	7	10	3	42	12	0	11	616	
4 - 5	399	3	3	140	7	12	4	30	10	0	4	612	
5 - 6	370	0	5	136	8	10	2	34	8	0	2	575	
TOTAL	2766	12	30	1014	68	86	35	247	110	6	41	4415	

ALBERT LEE REST AREA USAGE SURVEY

MONDAY

COUNT ON HIGHWAY ONLY

DATE *8/19/91*

DAY *Monday*

HOUR	CARS			TRUCKS			COMMER. ⑬ TRUCKS	SEMI's ⑳ TRACTOR TRAILERS			OTHER ④①	TOTAL	
	①	②	③	⑩	⑪	⑫			⑳	⑳			㉑
	CAR	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER	PICK-UP or VAN	REC. TRAILER	OTHER TRAILER			TRACTOR TRAILERS	RV's			BUS
9 - 10	123	2	0	32	5	3	4	38	1	0	0	208	
10 - 11	170	0	1	64	2	6	8	36	2	0	1	290	
11 - 12	159	0	2	52	4	1	4	48	4	0	0	274	
12 - 1	185	0	1	46	6	1	3	39	5	0	1	287	
1 - 2	187	1	0	66	4	1	6	44	8	0	1	318	
2 - 3	194	0	1	75	8	4	3	47	5	1	0	338	
3 - 4	183	1	4	68	5	4	11	32	6	4	1	319	
4 - 5	186	0	0	58	2	6	4	50	10	0	3	319	
5 - 6	159	0	0	60	0	7	5	42	2	0	0	275	
TOTAL	1546	4	9	521	36	33	48	376	43	5	7	2628	