

DEPARTMENT: Mn/DOT - Environmental Services  
Room 715

# Office Memorandum

TO : F. G. Marshall, Ass't. Commr.  
Technical Services Division

DATE: Sept. 22, 1981

FROM : Jim Reiersen *J. Reiersen* ✓  
Site Development Unit

PHONE: 6-5773

SUBJECT: Fisher Rest Area/Travel Information Center  
1981 Usage Survey T.H. 2

Attached is the usage survey report covering the above subject. The usage survey was conducted for five 8-hour days from July 9 - 13. During the hours of the survey, 4.2% of the mainline traffic stopped at the facility. Original 20 year design calculations anticipated approximately 6% stopping. In addition, 67% of the vehicles stopping were from out of state, and 36% of the vehicles secured travel information. Overall usage at this facility is comparable to other travel centers, particularly the Moorhead Info Center on I-94.

Based on these survey statistics and monthly usage information supplied by Doug Olson, Travel Information Center coordinator, the Fisher Rest Area/Travel Information Center is functioning very well as an integral part of Mn/DOT's statewide travel information center network. The network currently includes seven travel information centers, 5 on the Interstate system and 2 on the non-interstate system.

During the course of this summer's operation, there has been some discussion as to whether the Fisher Info Center should remain in operation during the winter months. Based on the user data at Fisher and other similar facilities, it would seem appropriate to operate the information center year around, providing public service information related to tourism, recreation and road information.

Attachment

cc: W. Merritt - L. McNamara  
L. Eilts  
R. Wolfe  
C. Christie  
D. Olson

# Office Memorandum

DEPARTMENT Mn/DOT - Environmental Services  
Room 715

TO : Jim Reiersen  
Site Development Unit

DATE: Sept. 17, 1981

FROM : Robert Doerr  
Sr. Highway Technician

PHONE: 6-7588

SUBJECT: Fishers Landing Rest Area Usage Study, T.H. 2

This rest area usage study was done to provide information on current use patterns. This information will be used in spacing rest areas and providing the proper numbers of facilities.

The information is obtained by giving each vehicle entering the rest area a questionnaire which is answered during their stay in the area. The questionnaire is then collected as the vehicle leaves the area. The study is performed for 5 consecutive days, Thursday - Monday, 8 hours per day.

The mainline traffic is counted and classified according to type of vehicle during the same time period. This allows us to derive averages for stopping and length of stay for each type of vehicle using the rest area.

The following information was collected:

Fishers Landing Rest Area Usage Study, T.H. 2

SUMMARY

Date : July 9 - 13, 1981  
 Hours: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
 Weather warm, partly cloudy, except for showers Friday afternoon.  
 Total Vehicles on Mainline 10,102  
 Vehicles entering rest area 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 423  
 Percent of vehicles stopping 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 4.2%  
 Total people using rest area 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 1,106  
 Average person per vehicle 2.6  
 Average time in rest area 19.5 min.  
 Out of State vehicles 67%

PURPOSE FOR ENTERING AREA

Use rest rooms 47%  
 Use Travel Information 17%  
 Just to rest 11%  
 Eat/Picnic 10%  
 Water 5%  
 Dispose of Refuse 5%  
 Other 2%  
 Dispose of Sewage 2%  
 Telephone 1%

PERCENT OF PEOPLE USING

Rest Rooms 75%  
 Drinking Water 38%

PERCENT OF VEHICLES USING

Travel Information 36%  
 Trash receptacle 26%  
 Picnic table 18%  
 Telephone 3%  
 Other 3%  
 Electric Outlet .5%  
 Picnic Shelter(area doesn't have shelters) .5%

NUMBER OF VEHICLES THAT STOPPED 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Vehicles Entering</u>	<u>Out of State</u>	<u>Vehicles on Mainline</u>	<u>Percent Stopping</u>
July 9	Thur.	89	54	1993	4.5%
July 10	Fri.	72	45	2146	3.4%
July 11	Sat.	101	62	2151	4.7%
July 12	Sun.	82	65	1900	4.3%
July 13	Mon.	79	59	1912	4.1%
		<u>423</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>10102</u>	<u>4.2%</u>

TIME VEHICLES ENTERED AREA

	<u>Thur.</u>	<u>Fri.</u>	<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Sun.</u>	<u>Mon.</u>
9-10	7	7	11	3	5
10-11	12	7	22	12	11
11-12	11	15	9	12	12
12-1	11	9	19	10	13
1-2	15	10	15	14	8
2-3	14	13	10	17	12
3-4	12	6	9	7	8
4-5	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
	89	72	101	82	79

AVERAGE INFORMATION FOR EACH TYPE VEHICLE THAT ENTERED AREA

<u>Type Vehicle</u>	<u>Average Length of Stay</u>	<u>Average No. of People</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
Car	16.8 min.	2.7	54.5%	3.6%
Car with camper trailer	21.7 min.	3.5	2.6%	10.0%
Car with House trailer	30.4 min.	2.6	4.7%	19.4%
Car with Boat trailer	14.5 min.	2.5	0.4%	1.0%
Car with other trailer	23.7 min.	3.5	1.4%	12.5%
Single unit truck	23.9 min.	2.8	12.8%	3.5%
Truck with camper	19.4 min.	2.4	8.9%	23.9%
Truck with trailer	30.3 min.	3.1	2.3%	14.7%
Truck (Commercial)	18.5 min.	1.5	0.5%	0.8%
Semi	18.7 min.	1.3	2.3%	1.3%
Motorhome	24.1 min.	2.4	3.3%	11.3%
Bus	35.0 min.	1.0	0.2%	5.0%
Other	<u>17.5 min.</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>6.1%</u>	<u>13.8%</u>
	19.5 min.	2.6	100.0%	4.2%

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 that passed this rest area.

Vehicles with pets	9%
Vehicles stopping at other rest areas	41%
Vehicles spending their vacations in Minnesota	37%
Vehicles traveling East	43%
Vehicles traveling West	57%
Vehicles who's plans had been affected by gas pricing	44%
Vehicles on vacation that were camping	37%
Average number of days vacation in Minnesota	6.4 days

We asked motorists "What additional facilities would you like to see in this rest area?"  
The answers were:

Pop machines	Overnight camping
Shaded car parking spots	Waste receptacles closer to picnic tables
Dump station	Outside water fountain
Coffee machine	Drinking water
Showers	Bar-B-Q grills
Laundry	Color TV
Sheltered picnic tables	

There were many responses for comments on "The current gas price affecting their vacations":

Would have brought camper but cheaper by car  
Traveling with another couple  
Shorter trips (many times)  
Price  
No money  
It hurts more  
Costs too much (many times)  
Too much gas tax  
Limited it

We received general comments from approximately 50% of the people stopping, about how clean, nice, beautiful, well kept, excellent and attractive the rest area is. Other comments included the following:

Helpful staff  
Polite personnel  
Great to rest at  
Too far off road  
Nice and friendly attendants (several times)  
Terrible water (several times)  
Minnesota has best rest areas on our entire trip (several times)  
Would like rest area on south side of road  
No cold water in rest rooms  
Tops  
We waited to stop at this one  
More restrictions on dogs  
Hope area is kept open  
Nice to see Tourist Info open on Sunday  
Too much land waste  
Too many flies  
No place to legally sleep when traveling by motorcycle  
Minnesota has best rest areas in entire country.