

DEPARTMENT HIGHWAY - Office of Environmental Services
 x5771

Office Memorandum

TO : L. A. Korth, Director
 Design and Right of Way Division

DATE: December 23, 1975

FROM : L. E. Foote, Director
 Office of Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Albert Lea Travel Information Center Usage Study I-35

Attached is our report covering the subject. The study was conducted for five 8 hour days in August. On these five days during the hours of the survey the rest area was used by about 3,589 people. Travel information was supplied to about 1,208.

Usage of the site and the various facilities was about as anticipated with a couple of exceptions. The percentage of vehicles using the travel information was somewhat lower than anticipated (36 vs 45+). This may be accounted for by the high percentage of people vacationing in Minnesota who were repeats - 69%. These people probably already had a good idea as to where they were going. Also, the percent of vehicles with pets - 9.4% was somewhat less than what we might normally expect about 14%.

One other phenomenon which we have observed during the rest area usage studies since the start of the gas shortage, which completely defies explanation, is the decrease of the average number of persons per vehicle. In this study 2.8. This is down from our earlier studies where we were observing about 3.2 to 3.3%. Why this should be happening, we do not know.

Laura E. Foote

L. E. Foote, Director
 Office of Environmental Services

Attachment

cc: W.C. Merritt	Information Center Supervisors
E.J. Heinen	D. Bonin
R.J. McDonald	J. Reierson
R.J. Larson	R. Doerr
D.J. Larson	S. Paulson ✓

LEF/msc

DEPARTMENT HIGHWAYS -- Office of Environmental
 Services Highway Annex Ext. 5781

Office Memorandum

TO : L. E. Foote, Director
 Office of Environmental Services

DATE: December 19, 1975

FROM : R. B. Doerr

SUBJECT: Albert Lea Information Center Usage Study I-35

Date: August 14-18, 1975
 Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Weather: Clear and Warm
 Vehicles on main line (NB): 10312
 Vehicles entering area: 1282
 Percent of vehicles entering: 12.4%
 Out of state vehicles entering: 76%
 Average persons/vehicle: 2.8
 Average time in area: 16 minutes

Purpose for Entering

Use rest rooms	53.3%
Get travel information	16.5%
To rest	9.2%
Other	7.5%
Eat	4.9%
Get water	3.9%
Dispose of wastes	2.5%
Telephone	2.2%

Percent of Persons Using

Rest rooms	79.0%
Drinking water	48.9%

Percent of Vehicles Using

Travel information	35.9%
Waste disposal	15.7%
Picnic tables	8.9%
Telephone	3.9%
Electric outlet	0.3%

Reason for Travel

Vacation	51.7%
Recreation	17.8%
Family Affairs	16.5%
Work	14%

<u>Day</u>	<u>Vehicles Entering</u>	<u>Vehicles on Mainline</u>	<u>Percent Stopping</u>
Thursday	243	1687	14.4
Friday	277	2366	11.7
Saturday	321	2396	13.4
Sunday	265	2250	11.8
Monday	176	1613	10.9
	1282	10312	12.4%

Time of Entry

<u>Hour</u>	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Total</u>
9:00	15	19	35	23	12	104
10:00	26	26	46	23	21	142
11:00	26	25	49	30	17	147
12:00	33	35	46	29	22	165
1:00	30	46	32	37	25	170
2:00	39	45	34	17	20	155
3:00	29	33	32	38	24	156
4:00	22	28	29	38	19	136
5:00	23	20	18	20	16	107
TOTALS	243	277	321	265	176	1282

Out of State Vehicles Entering

	<u>Thur</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number Entering	185	225	273	160	132	975
Percent	76%	81%	85%	60%	75%	76%

Vehicles Entering Area

Passenger Car No Trailer	78.2%
Passenger Car Boat Trailer	0.8%
Passenger Car Camper Trailer	2.7%
Passenger Car House Trailer	2.9%
Passenger Car Other Trailer	1.7%
Single Unit Truck	2.0%
Single Unit Truck Camper	4.1%
Semi Truck	4.5%
Bus	0.8%
Bus Camper	0.5%
Other	1.8%

Questions Asked

Will you be camping in Minnesota	yes	21.3%
Will you be fishing in Minnesota	yes	27.4%
Have you ever vacationed in Minnesota before	yes	68.9%
Do you have pets with you	yes	9.4%

R.B. Doerr
R. B. Doerr

DEAR MOTORIST:

THE MINNESOTA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IS DETERMINING WHAT SHOULD BE THE SPACING OF REST AREAS ALONG THE HIGHWAY AND THE FACILITIES THEY SHOULD PROVIDE TO SATISFY YOUR NEEDS. ONLY YOU CAN SUPPLY INFORMATION WE NEED TO PLAN REST AREAS FACILITIES. PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

DAY OF WEEK _____ VEHICLE TYPE _____
 DATE _____ TIME IN _____ NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN
 LICENSING STATE _____ TIME OUT _____ VEHICLE _____

REST AREA USE

1. WHAT WAS YOUR CHIEF PURPOSE FOR DRIVING INTO THIS REST AREA? (check one)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Use rest room | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Dispose of sewage | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Get water |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Just to rest | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Get travel information | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Eat | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Dispose of wastes | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
(please specify) |

2. HOW MANY PEOPLE IN YOUR PARTY USED THE FOLLOWING?

Rest room facilities _____ Drinking water supply _____

3. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES WERE USED BY YOUR PARTY?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic table | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Travel information | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical outlet |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Waste disposal | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> None of these |

WHERE WILL BE (OR WAS) THE FARTHEST POINT AWAY FROM YOUR HOME?

State _____ City or County _____

WHICH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES IS THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS TRAVEL?

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Work or related to work | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Family affairs such as family business, educational, medical, etc. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Other recreational or social activity |

WILL YOU BE GOING CAMPING IN MINNESOTA? YES _____ NO _____

WILL YOU BE GOING FISHING IN MINNESOTA? YES _____ NO _____

HAVE YOU VACATIONED IN MINNESOTA BEFORE? YES _____ NO _____

HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING ON STAYING IN MINNESOTA? _____

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS TRAVELING WITH YOU? (NUMBER) _____

PLEASE RETURN UPON LEAVING REST AREA -- THANK YOU

	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TOTALS	%
<u>① CHIEF PURPOSE FOR DRIVING IN</u>							
1. USE REST ROOM	166	201	160	140	87	754	53.3
2. DISPOSE OF SEWAGE	1	0	0	0	1	2	—
3. GET WATER	29	6	7	6	7	55	3.9
4. JUST TO REST	40	15	30	29	16	130	9.2
5. GET TRAVEL INFO.	79	29	54	39	32	233	16.5
6. TELEPHONE	10	5	5	4	8	32	2.2
7. EAT	22	8	19	12	8	69	4.9
8. DISPOSE OF WASTES	15	5	7	6	2	35	2.5
9. OTHER	23	9	34	26	12	104	7.5
TOTAL NO VEHICLES	385	278	316	262	173	1414	
<u>② HOW MANY PEOPLE USED</u>							
REST ROOM FACILITIES	590	575	758	575	318	2816	79%
DRINKING WATER SUPPLY	392	379	378	399	194	1742	48.9%
<u>③ WHICH FACILITIES WERE USED</u>							
1. PICNIC TABLE	29	26	34	26	14	129	8.9
2. TRAVEL INFO.	96	111	141	99	76	523	35.9
3. ELEC. OUTLET	3	0	0	2	0	5	—
4. WASTE DISPOSAL	42	59	66	43	19	229	15.7
5. TELEPHONE	14	16	11	6	10	57	3.9
6. NONE OF THESE	94	108	114	120	76	512	35.2
	278	320	366	296	195	1455	
<u>④ MAIN REASON FOR THIS TRAVEL</u>							
WORK	59	41	26	21	31	178	14%
FAMILY AFFAIR	38	43	46	47	36	210	16.5%
VACATION	120	141	180	125	91	657	51.7%
RECREATION	30	52	62	67	15	226	17.8
						1271	
<u>⑤ CAMPING - YES</u>							
NO	51	59	73	51	39	273	21.3%
FISHING - YES	193	215	241	206	130	985	
NO	69	72	101	68	41	351	27.4%
VACATIONED - YES	177	202	208	189	124	900	
NO	165	200	224	185	109	883	68.9%
PETS - YES	79	70	87	71	57	364	
NO	11	29	42	27	11	120	9.4%
	233	210	278	238	164	1123	