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# Convenient, Clean and Safe Roadside Accommodations

*Tangible Result Driver – Don Hillis,  
Director of System Management*

Many Missouri motorists depend on roadside parks and rest areas during their travels for the opportunity to rest and refresh themselves in a safe environment. Providing safe, clean and convenient accommodations allows motorists to travel more safely and comfortably.



## Convenient, Clean and Safe Roadside Accommodations

### *Percent of customers satisfied with rest areas' convenience, cleanliness and safety*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Jim Carney, State Maintenance Engineer

#### **Purpose of the Measure:**

This measure helps MoDOT understand customer expectations concerning the convenience, cleanliness and safety of its rest areas. This information will provide insight to rest area location, lighting, and security as well as the overall cleanliness expectations.

#### **Measurement and Data Collection:**

MoDOT measures this attribute with both internal and external data collection. MoDOT receives information from a survey card offered at all rest areas. The survey cards ask a variety of questions with three of the questions specifically asking if the rest area is convenient, clean and safe. This provides direct input from our customers and is considered our external source. All comments from the cards are sent to the districts and sheltered workshop contractor on a quarterly basis to ensure concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

To ensure the customer satisfaction, all rest areas are inspected using an attribute list developed and based on an industry-wide literature review. The attribute list includes characteristics rest-area users identified as what they consider convenient, clean and safe. MoDOT maintenance employees inspect all rest areas and the work of the sheltered workshop contractor at least two times per month using this list and are considered our internal source.

MoDOT works with Extended Employment Sheltered Workshops to provide the cleaning at all 19 rest areas in the system. The sheltered workshop employees provide this service 365 days a year, many from early morning (6 a.m.) to late in the evening (10 p.m.). This measure is updated quarterly.

#### **Improvement Status:**

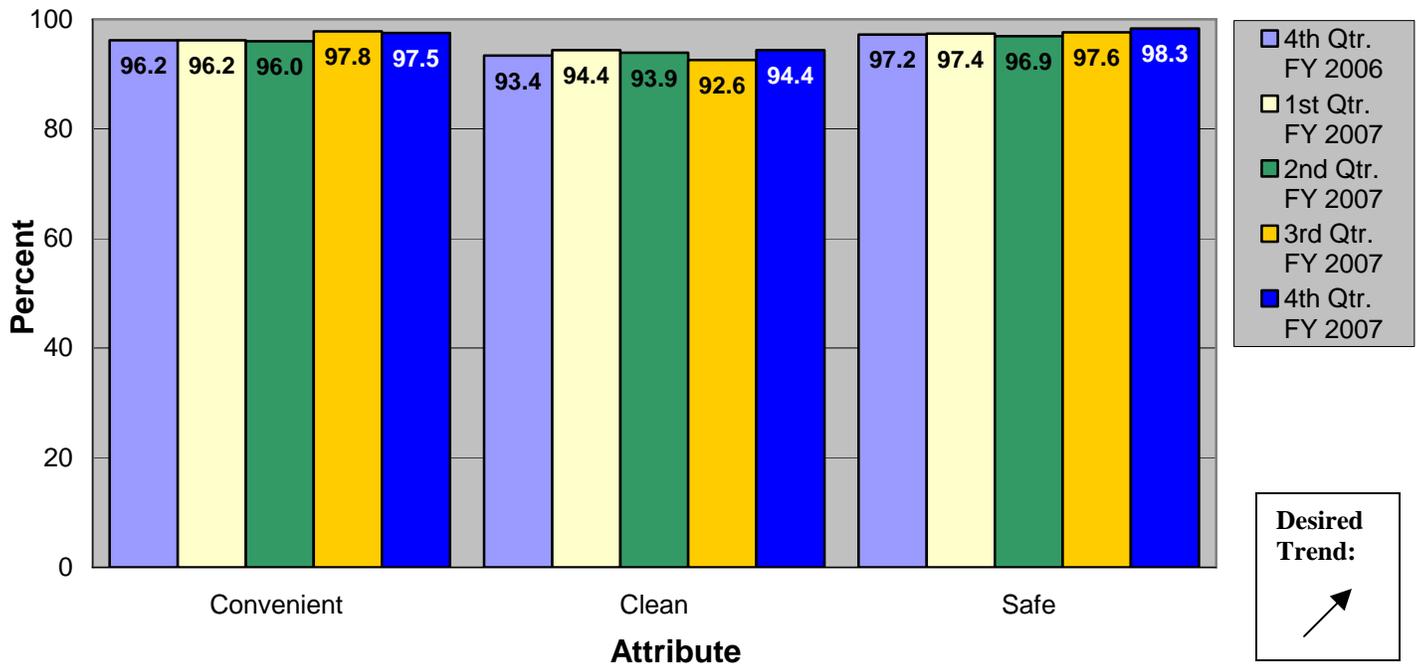
The rest area survey cards were made available in May 2005. The increase in the number of returned cards corresponds with the seasonal increase in visitors to the rest areas. A total of 8,054 cards were returned in fiscal year 2006 compared to 8,178 in fiscal year 2007.

- First Quarter FY 2007, 3,125 surveys received
- Second Quarter FY 2007, 1,489 surveys received
- Third Quarter FY 2007, 788 surveys received
- Fourth Quarter FY 2007, 2,776 surveys received

Customer satisfaction for two of the three attributes is slightly higher than the previous quarter. One site had 50 percent (22 of 45) of the "not clean" responses. The lower rating at this site may be due to a new cleaning contractor, which started April 1, 2007. MoDOT implements actions to improve the cleanliness at rest areas with lower satisfaction ratings by direct contact with the contractor. Another site had 51 of 78 responses as "not clean" due to water supply issues that were corrected before the Memorial Holiday weekend. Based on the cards returned from 48 different states, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, MoDOT is meeting the needs of its customers.

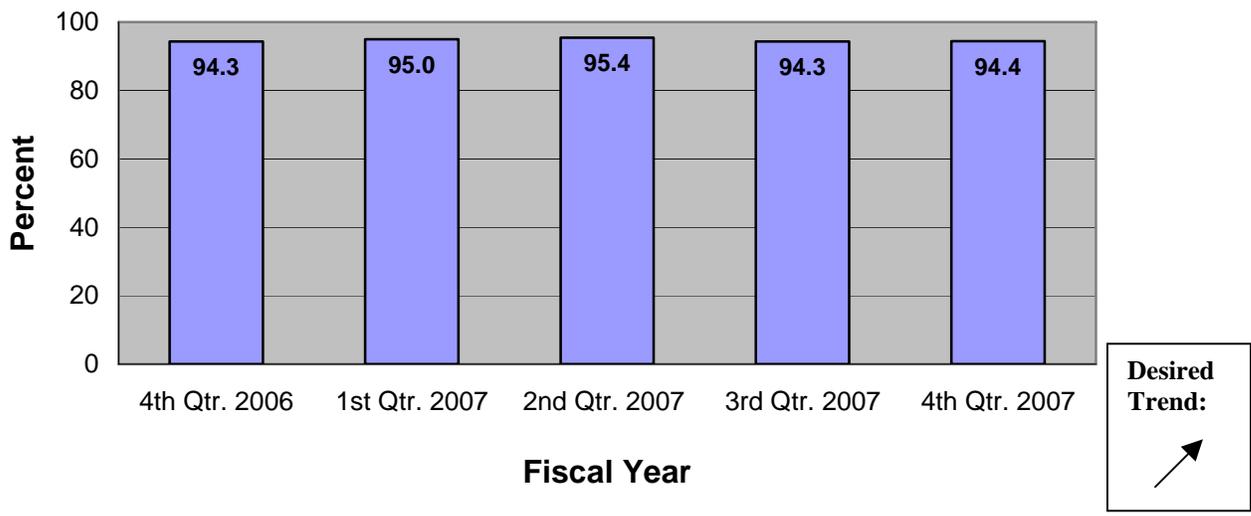
The internal rest area inspections started in May 2005. MoDOT is doing extremely well at meeting the customers' expectations for convenient, clean and safe facilities, largely in part to these inspections conducted a minimum of two times per month. The inspection scores have increased over the past few quarters but dropped slightly to 94.3 percent for the third quarter of 2007, but rose to 94.4 for the final quarter of 2007. This is still slightly higher than the same time period of 2006. MoDOT takes care of maintenance concerns in a timely manner to keep the rest areas open for use.

### Percent of Customers Satisfied with Rest Areas' Convenience, Cleanliness and Safety



Note: Rest area customer satisfaction benchmarks are limited. Florida's 2004 rest area customer survey results found: 90 percent said the rest areas were clean, 83 percent said there were enough rest areas and 88 percent said the rest areas were safe.

### Statewide Average Score of Rest Area Condition Internal Inspections



## Convenient, Clean and Safe Roadside Accommodations

### *Percent of customers satisfied with commuter lots' convenience, cleanliness and safety*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Tim Chojnacki, Technical Support Engineer

**Purpose of the Measure:**

This measure will help the department understand customer expectations concerning commuter lot convenience, cleanliness and safety. This information will provide insight to location, lighting and security at commuter lots as well as their overall cleanliness.

**Measurement and Data Collection:**

MoDOT receives information in the form of survey cards distributed by MoDOT employees at 20 commuter lots. The survey contains a variety of questions, three of which specifically ask if the commuter lot is convenient, clean and safe. This is a baseline measure that provides direct input from the department's customers and is considered an external source. This is an annual measure updated each January.

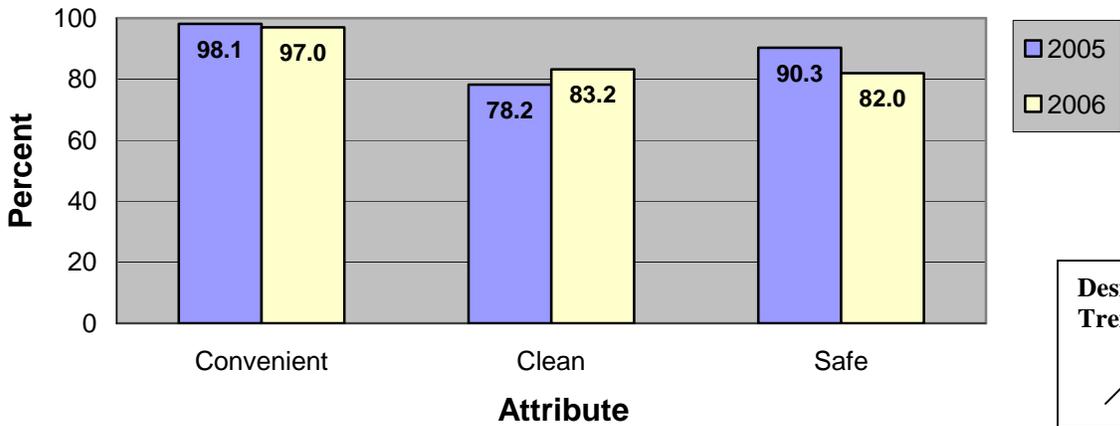
To further assess condition and ensure customer satisfaction with the commuter lots, all lots are inspected based on attributes identified in an industry-wide literature review as to what commuter lot customers consider convenient, clean and safe. MoDOT maintenance employees inspect all commuter lots each quarter. This measure is updated quarterly.

**Improvement Status:**

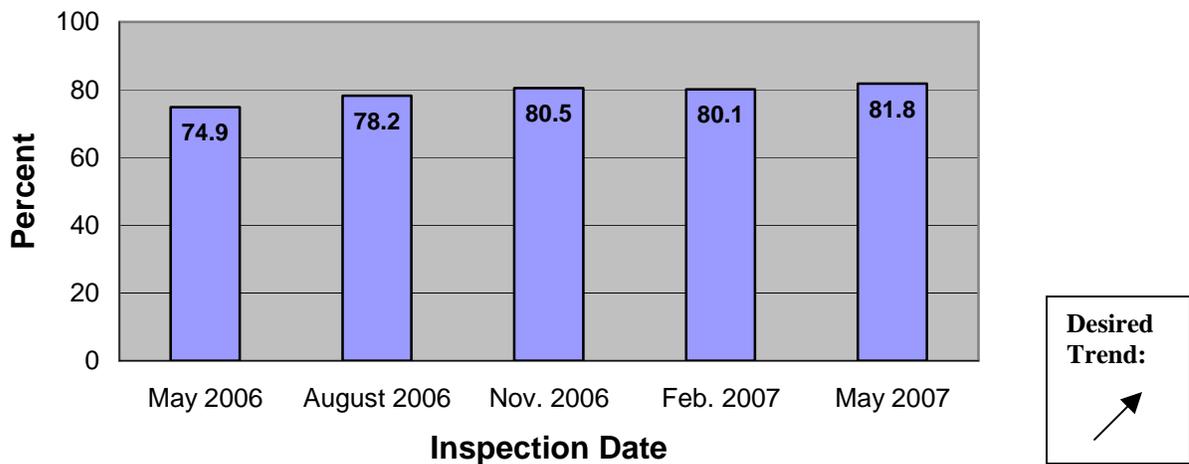
Commuter lot survey cards were distributed to 1,134 customers in December 2006 and the department received 446 replies. Ninety-seven percent of the customers thought the lots were convenient with 66 percent using them five days per week. Sixty-eight percent cited saving fuel costs as the most important reason to use the lot. Eighty-three percent of the customers were satisfied with cleanliness. MoDOT received many comments about litter and the need for trash cans. Eighty-two percent of customers were satisfied with safety at the lots with several customers expressing the need for additional lighting and almost 9 percent reporting theft and property damage concerns. Other frequent comments included the need for better surface maintenance on the gravel and asphalt lots and in a few lots expansion to provide more parking spaces.

MoDOT established a quarterly internal inspection process in May 2006 to be performed at all commuter lots to identify maintenance needs. The quarterly inspections provide input to district maintenance supervisors on work needed at the commuter lot for condition of signs, parking lot surface, litter, and vegetation management. The May 2006 inspection indicated a statewide average condition score of 75 percent. The August 2006 condition score was 78 percent and the November 2006 and February 2007 condition scores were both 80 percent. The May 2007 condition score improved slightly to 82 percent continuing the positive trend. MoDOT staff continues to improve their efforts working with law enforcement agencies to more closely monitor the lots that have reported concerns with theft and property damage complaints to improve safety.

### Percent of Customers Satisfied with Commuter Lots' Convenience, Cleanliness and Safety



### Statewide Average Score of Commuter Lot Condition Internal Inspections



## Convenient, Clean and Safe Roadside Accommodations

### *Number of users of commuter parking lots*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Tim Chojnacki, Technical Support Engineer

**Purpose of the Measure:**

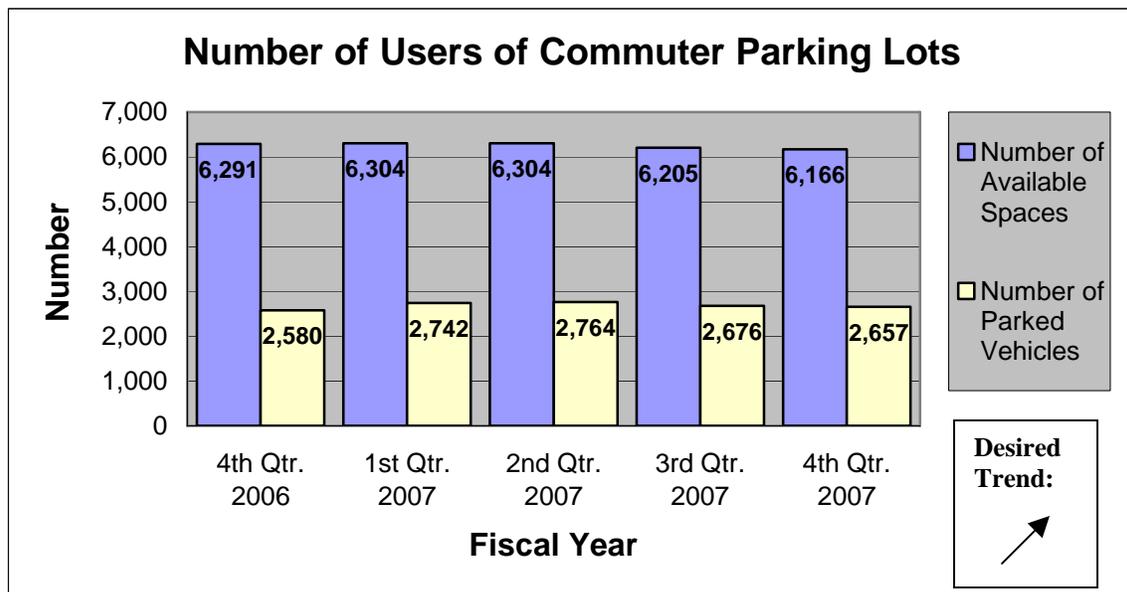
This measure tracks the number of commuter parking lot users. It will help the department determine whether its commuter parking lots are adequate at current locations and whether lots are fulfilling the needs of the traveling public.

**Measurement and Data Collection:**

District maintenance personnel count the number of vehicles parked in each commuter lot in conjunction with the quarterly condition inspections. Data is collected from every district to create a statewide report. This measure is updated quarterly.

**Improvement Status:**

There was a slight decrease in the number of vehicles parked in the commuter lots from the previous quarter, however the overall trend since beginning this measure has been an increase in users. Comparing this quarter's count (2,657) to the same time period last year (2,580) shows a 3 percent increase over last year. A continuing emphasis on maintaining the appearance of these lots is a contributing factor in the increase of commuter parking lot users. It should also be noted that a strong correlation exists between gasoline prices and number of users of the commuter lots. Two commuter lots have been taken out of service, which resulted in the number of spaces available decreasing to 6,166. MoDOT will continue to encourage motorists to use these lots through news releases and the recently developed commuter parking lot brochure.



## Convenient, Clean and Safe Roadside Accommodations

### *Number of users of rest areas*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Stacy Armstrong, Roadside Management Supervisor

**Purpose of the Measure:**

This measure tracks the number of vehicles visiting rest areas. This information helps MoDOT better understand the peak days and times visitors use rest areas, impacting staffing decisions. MoDOT estimates the rest areas have over 24 million visitors each year.

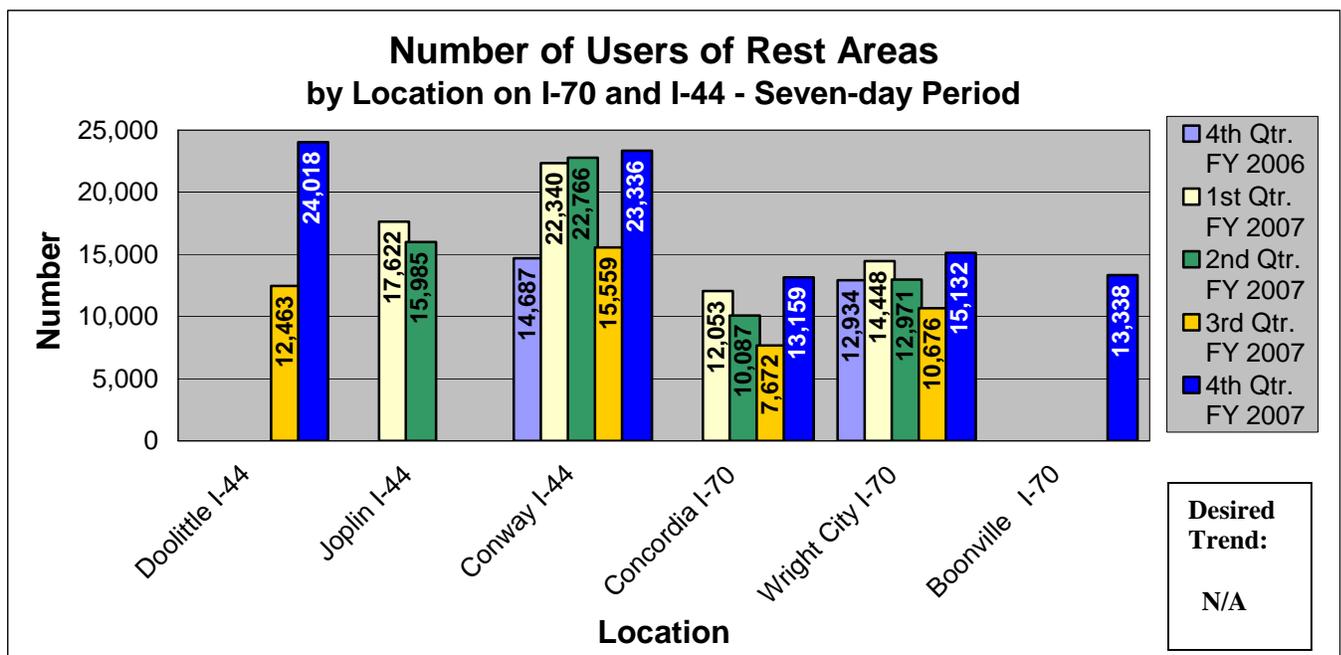
**Measurement and Data Collection:**

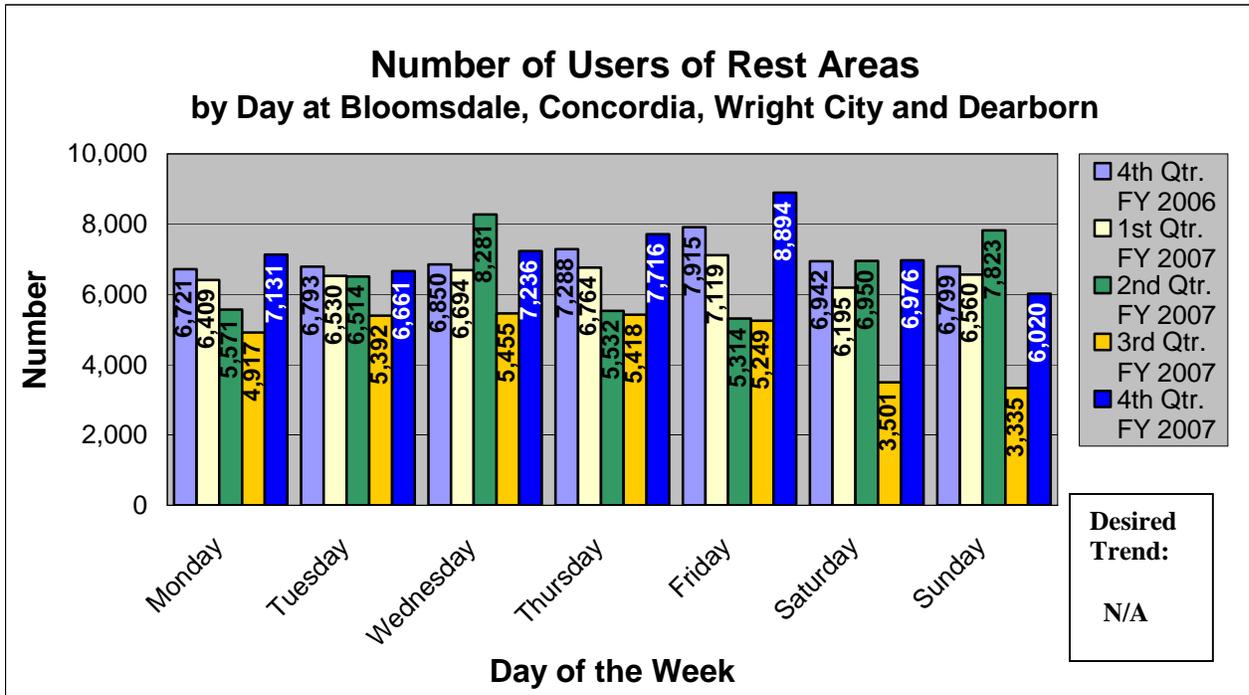
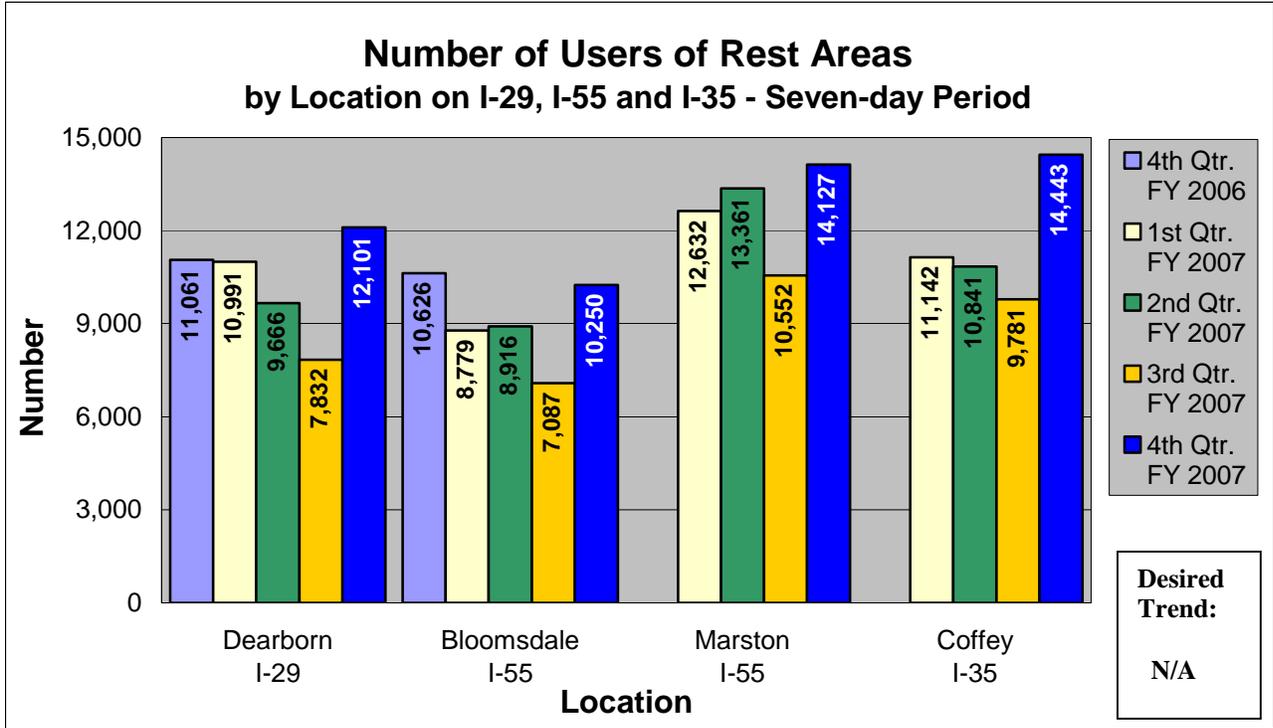
Rest areas at Bloomsdale Interstate - 55, Concordia Interstate - 70, Wright City Interstate - 70, Dearborn Interstate - 29, and two new locations - Boonville Interstate 70 and St. Clair - Interstate 44 (westbound only) have permanent counters providing data daily. Pavement sensors send data from a solar-powered wireless transfer station. All permanent locations will have two counters (eastbound St. Clair awaiting paving of the rest area before installation) for a total of twelve counts. Permanent counts are for the same time period. Rest areas at Marston Interstate - 55, Conway Interstate - 44, Doolittle (replacing Joplin) Interstate - 44 and Coffey Interstate - 35 have temporary mechanical traffic counters. All counts listed are for a seven-day period between May 23 and May 29, 2007, the Memorial Day weekend. This data is updated quarterly.

**Improvement Status:**

Joplin and Coffey (Eagleville) welcome center construction is in progress. Joplin is currently closed and the temporary counts have been moved to Doolittle. Counts at these sites will provide before and after visitation patterns. Marston will provide information for welcome center development in the region. Conway continues to be one of the busiest rest areas with a large increase in visitors the last four quarters.

Efforts are made to provide counts for the same seven-day period when possible. The daily trends varied slightly from Saturday, the day with the least visitors progressing to Friday, the busiest day during a typical week to a more even distribution of visitors during the week and dropping off on the weekend. This quarter the week selected was over the Memorial Day weekend, and as expected Friday was the busiest and Monday also had increased numbers. Overall traffic volume would be higher during a holiday period.





## Convenient, Clean and Safe Roadside Accommodations

### *Number of truck customers that utilize rest areas*

**Result Driver:** Don Hillis, Director of System Management

**Measurement Driver:** Tim Jackson, Technical Support Engineer

**Purpose of the Measure:**

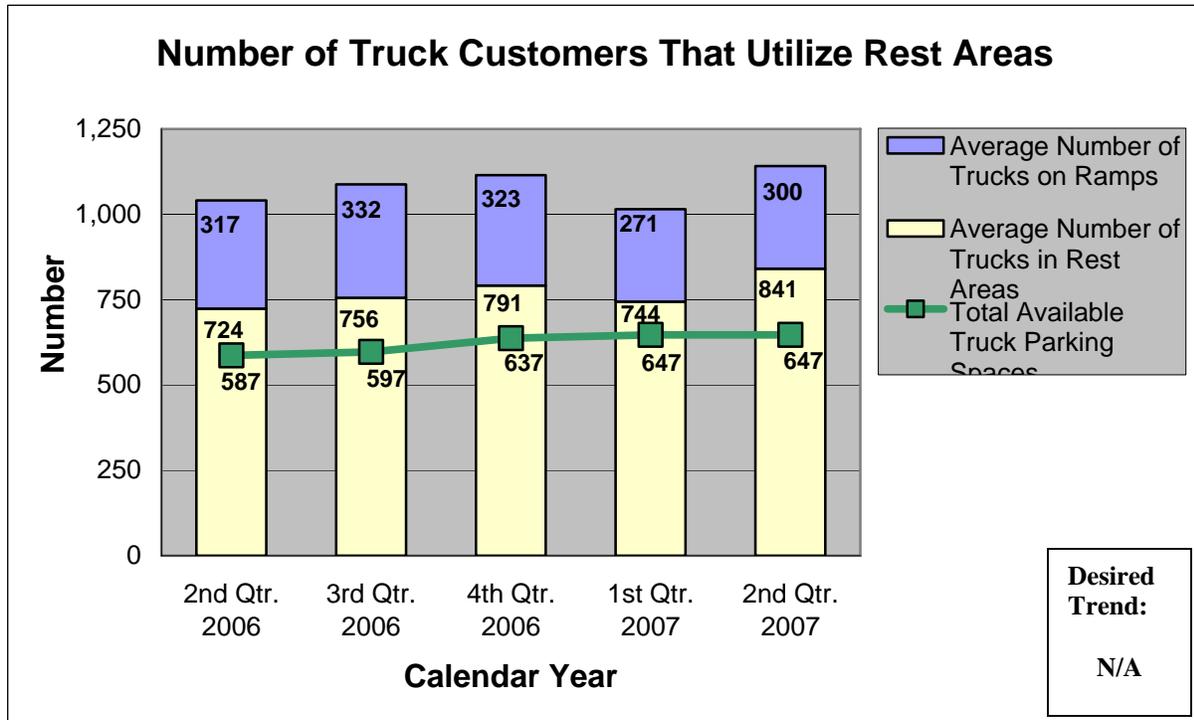
This measure tracks the number of trucks at rest areas. The number of trucks using the rest areas and the nearby ramps could be used to help determine how many spaces are needed to provide convenient parking facilities at each rest area.

**Measurement and Data Collection:**

On a monthly basis, district maintenance personnel count the number of trucks parked at rest areas, on nearby ramps within 15 miles of the rest areas and at abandoned weigh stations that have been converted to truck parking facilities. The count is done between 4 and 6 a.m., which is typically the busiest time. Data is collected from every rest area and truck parking facility to create a statewide report and updated quarterly.

**Improvement Status:**

The second quarter of calendar year 2007 showed an increase of 97 in the average number of trucks using the rest areas and other truck parking facilities from the previous quarter. This increase continues the overall trend over the last five quarters. The average number of trucks parked in the rest areas increased 117 from the second quarter of 2006, while the number of truck parking spaces increased by only 60 during the same time period. Converting additional abandoned weigh stations into truck parking facilities continues to be a way to add truck parking spaces across the state to accommodate the increasing need for additional truck parking spaces.



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