

MICHIGAN
STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
John C. Mackie, Commissioner

POLICY ON REST AREAS

Being a revision of

"A POLICY FOR WEIGH STATIONS, REST AREAS
AND TOURIST INFORMATION LODGES ON
LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAYS"

OFFICE OF PLANNING

October 15, 1960

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John C. Mackie, Commissioner

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TO: Director for Administration
Director for Engineering

FROM: Howard E. Hill,
Managing Director

SUBJECT: Policy on Rest Areas

The Michigan State Highway Department issued "A Policy for Weigh Stations, Rest Areas, and Tourist Information Lodges on Limited Access Highways", in June of 1958. The subjects covered by this policy have subsequently been taken under further consideration and review.

In the course of this review, the Department has adopted the recommendations of the Motorist Services Advisory Committee in regard to rest areas on the freeway system, including the Interstate routes, and the Director for Engineering has issued a policy letter covering the design and construction of Rest Areas on Interstate and Arterial Limited Access Trunklines.

The recommendations of the Motorist Services Advisory Committee, and the procedure statements of the Director for Engineering, as quoted on the following pages, shall be incorporated as part of the Department's Policy on Rest Areas, and shall supersede any conflicting provisions or incompatible statements contained in the original Policy, as approved and issued in June, 1958.



Howard E. Hill
Managing Director

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Right-of-Way Division
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Bureau of Public Roads

POLICY ON REST AREAS

REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS

October 15, 1960

LIMITED ACCESS TRUNKLINES (INCLUDING INTERSTATE)

The purpose of these rest areas is to provide minimum services for motorists in transit. The first three (under construction on I-94) are to be considered as experimental. Studies will be conducted on the use of, and reaction to, these facilities to furnish guides for future planning.

Spacing of Sites

Spacing shall be in accordance with the current AASHO Policy. Generally, 35 to 50 miles in each direction.

Acreage of Sites

Acreage shall be in accordance with Bureau of Public Roads requirements. Additional acreage may be acquired, where justified, for scenic values or to facilitate right-of-way acquisition.

Selection of Sites

Sites shall be selected by the Chief Forester with concurrence by the Office of Design and approval of the Chief Engineer and the Bureau of Public Roads.

Layout and Design

Design shall be carried out in the Office of Design with consultation by the Chief Forester.

Construction

Construction shall be by contract under the supervision of the Office of Construction, with consultation by the Chief Forester.

Design Details

a. Entrance and Exit

Deceleration and acceleration lanes shall be according to established standards.

b. Parking Areas

Parking areas shall be surfaced, and shall provide for approximately 50 passenger cars and 20 trucks.

c. Comfort Facilities

Unheated chemical toilet facilities shall be provided.

d. Telephones

Two coin-operated telephones in booths shall be installed by the owner. The booths shall contain directories for communities in the immediate areas as well as for some distance ahead.

e. Information

An information case shall be installed which shall include a map of the Michigan portion of the Interstate Route (where applicable), a detail map of the "area ahead" including major local roads and streets, an official State Highway Department map, and a limited directory of tourist facilities in the immediate area.

f. Lighting

Minimum lighting shall be installed, with consideration of a single source of illumination for the drinking water area, the toilet facility and the information board.

g. Water Supply

A suitable supply of drinking water shall be provided, by well in most cases.

h. Picnic Area

A minimum area shall be provided with tables and stoves of standard design.

i. Landscaping

Trees and shrubbery shall be provided as necessary to supplement the natural growth and to screen the comfort facility area.

The minimum development as outlined above shall be done as a part of the initial construction of the highway facility.

FREE ACCESS TRUNKLINES

The Department will continue its policy of constructing roadside parks on existing and relocated free access trunklines, in accordance with the following regulations.

Number to be Established

Not to exceed three per year, with total expenditure not to exceed \$25,000 including cost of right-of-way.

Maximum Size

Not to exceed three acres, unless other factors of scenic beauty or right-of-way economy can be justified.

Services Available

Similar to those provided by existing facilities and commensurate with minimum size development.

Construction

By construction contract except for the purchase and planting of basic shrubbery requirements. Supervision shall be done by the Construction Division in consultation with the Chief Forester.

Priority

To be determined from a long range site selection plan developed by the Chief Forester in cooperation with the Office of Design.

Design

To be done by the Office of Design with consulting service by the Chief Forester.

Landscaping

Planting of basic shrubbery requirements shall be done by Department personnel on assigned contract number.