



Design Manual

Section:

REST AREAS

Subject:

Rest Area Partnership Program

INTRODUCTION

A rest area is defined as an area located outside of the normal highway right-of-way where motorists can stop temporarily to gain respite from the driving task.

The primary purpose of rest areas is to improve safety through the reduction of accidents. Greater highway safety is the major benefit in establishing rest areas. This can be established through safe off-road locations for motorists to rest, sleep, change drivers, and check vehicles and/or minor mechanical problems.

Rest areas provide useful services to travelers who need a break from driving, while at the same time allowing the province to make a positive impression and facilitate tourism and business in Saskatchewan.

POLICY

The Department rest area program will utilize existing Department sites and partnership sites with others such as communities. The Department will not construct, operate or maintain any additional sites. All rest area sites will be marked with designated rest area signs that include services available at the site.

The rest area program applies to highways with long distance and tourist traffic.

BACKGROUND

In 1993, the Department of Highways completed a study of rest areas, entitled "Rest Area Study – Campground Rationalization Strategy". Some of the major conclusions and findings included:

- Fatigue related vehicle collisions, account for approximately 5% of total accidents on Saskatchewan highways;
- Saskatchewan residents account for 67.3% of fatigue accidents on the National Highway System;
- Commercial and private fatigue accidents rates, per 100 MVkm driven, are relatively equal;
- Some minimum standards/criteria in other jurisdictions include:
 - Maximum of 90 km between rest areas in Manitoba (proposed at the time) and applied on all Provincial Highways.
 - Maximum of 90 km between rest areas in Alberta, and applied on all Provincial Highways.
 - Maximum of approximately 80 km between rest areas was recommended in the 1989 NCHRP Report No. 324.
 - "The Guide for Rest Areas on Major Arterials and Freeways", developed by the American Association of State Highway and

Section:**REST AREAS****Subject:****Rest Area Partnership Program**

Transportation Officials in 1999, recommends a maximum spacing of 100 km or about one hour of driving between stopping opportunities.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Partnership Rest Area Program provides for a partnership between Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation, municipal governments, non-profit organizations and commercial enterprises to provide more rest areas along Saskatchewan highways.

Those who participate must meet all the location, operational, facilities, and level of service criteria on an ongoing basis. The program will provide safe, clean facilities and other services for travelers. In return, Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation identifies Partnership Rest Areas with highway signs (IS – 57) and requests their location be marked on the Official Saskatchewan Road Map. Both partners strive to ensure that high standards are met.

The goal of the Partnership Rest Area Program is to provide a place for motorist to stop and rest during their journey, while providing basic services such as washrooms, picnic tables, garbage containers, telephones and drinking water.

Communities and Commercial Enterprises that participate in the Partnership Rest Area Program benefit from increased public exposure. Applicants interested in participating and who meet the mandatory criteria requirements of the Rest Area Program should fill out and submit the application form provided.

Rest areas designated under the Partnership Rest Area Program that do not continue to meet all location, operational, facilities, and level of service criteria on an ongoing basis shall lose their status as a designated rest area and be removed from the inventory listing. The Department shall also remove signs from such rest area sites and the signs will remain/become the property of the Department.

**SITE
REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements are used to set the standards and recommended practice for operating the Partnership Rest Area facility. Criteria for designated rest area sites are based on the following:

1. Facilities Criteria

All designated rest areas shall meet and maintain the following minimum facilities criteria:

- Access roads will meet all minimum provincial geometric and traffic safety regulations and standards;

Section:**REST AREAS****Subject:****Rest Area Partnership Program**

- Parking areas for a minimum of five passenger vehicles;
- A minimum of five picnic tables;
- Regularly maintained bathroom facilities, which are kept in an acceptably clean condition and meets all pertinent municipal, provincial and federal regulations and standards;
 - Toilet facilities may be permanent or portable and shall be chemically controlled for odor; and
- Regularly maintained garbage containers.

2. Level of Service Criteria

All designated rest areas shall meet and maintain the following minimum level of service criteria:

- Open seasonally, from Victoria Day long weekend to Labour Day long weekend; and
- Free entry and use of all rest area facilities (for those minimum facility requirements specified within this criteria listing).

3. Location Criteria

All designated rest areas shall meet and maintain the following minimum location criteria:

- The rest area must be located directly adjacent to (<500m), and be visible from the highway;

The following criteria are recommended location criteria and are subject to sound judgment.

- Recommended minimum 50 kilometers to maximum two hours driving time between rest areas or major urban centres. For the purpose of this policy a major urban centre will be defined as a population concentration exceeding 15,000 persons;
- If commercial enterprises will be present at the proposed rest area, it shall be a minimum of 6 km from an urban centre.

4. Operational Criteria

All designated rest areas shall meet the following operational criteria:

- The rest areas shall be designed, constructed, maintained and operated by the owner of the facilities;
- All access roads leading to and within the rest areas shall be designed, constructed, maintained, operated and funded by the owner of the facility. (This does not preclude normal maintenance agreements and arrangements for community access roads, service roads, or approaches, which the Department normally and currently maintains).

Date

2007-03-27

Page

3 of 9

Section:

REST AREAS

Subject:

Rest Area Partnership Program**5. Combination with other facilities**

Visitor Information Centres are defined as facilities where information is made available to visitors and is marked with an information sign (IS-35). The primary function of these facilities is to provide information services to the traveling public. These facilities normally provide a higher level of service to the traveling public than rest areas and will not be signed as rest areas under the rest area partnership program. However, IS-118 motorist service symbol may be added to existing signs if conditions permit.

SIGNING

The number of signs that an applicant may have is dependent on the number of highways that serve the Rest Area. Signs will only be provided on highways from which the Rest Area is visible to motorists from the highway.

Refer to the Saskatchewan Traffic Control Devices manual for additional signing information and requirements.

**APPROVAL
PROCESS**

The selection of designated rest area sites shall be done by Department staff to determine the optimal designated rest area infrastructure. The optimal designated rest area infrastructure is determined from an evaluation of existing and known potential rest area opportunities, eligibility criteria, and costs.

Communities, non-profit organizations, or commercial enterprises may propose sites for partnership rest areas. The site will be reviewed by Region staff to ensure that these potential rest area sites meet all criteria, recommended by a Region representative, and approved by the Regional Executive Director. A copy of the approval letter will be forward to Engineering Standards Branch.

Upon approval of the rest area, Region Department officials will ensure that the rest areas in their designated region will be marked on the official highway map.

Section:

REST AREAS

Subject:

Rest Area Partnership Program



**Saskatchewan
Highways and
Transportation**

Figure 3130-1 Designated Rest Area Application Form

Applicant information

Name _____

Contact Person _____

Street Address (Box No.) _____

Town / City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Highway locations & description of the proposed rest area.

Proposed rest areas facilities include the following:

Direct access (<500m) and visibility from the Highway?	Yes ☐ No ☐
Access roads which meet all minimum provincial geometric and traffic regulations and standards?	Yes ☐ No ☐
Open seasonal from May long weekend to the September long weekend?	Yes ☐ No ☐
Free entry and use of all rest area facilities (for those minimum requirements) specified within this criteria listing?	Yes ☐ No ☐
Regularly maintained garbage containers?	Yes ☐ No ☐
Toilet facilities which are kept in an acceptably clean standard and meet all pertinent municipal, provincial and federal regulations and standards?	Yes ☐ No ☐
Toilet facilities regularly chemically treated for odour?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐
Number of parking stalls available (minimum of 5 vehicles)	Number _____
Number of picnic tables available (minimum of 5 picnic tables)	Number _____
Will a commercial business be present? If so, what is the distance to the nearest urban municipality;	_____ km

Date

2007-03-27

Page

5 of 9

Section:

REST AREAS

Subject:

Rest Area Partnership Program**Saskatchewan
Highways and
Transportation****Figure 3130-1 Designated Rest Area Application Form (continued)****Additional Comments:**

Applicant Signature_____
Date*Forward completed application to the Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation.***Department Staff:**Recommended ☐Not Recommended ☐

Completed by: _____

Department Staff (field check)

Date**Office use only:**_____
Region Representative_____
Date_____
Regional Executive Director_____
Date

Section:

REST AREAS

Subject:

Rest Area Partnership Program

Figure 3130-2 – Typical Reply to Rest Area Partnership Request

	Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation	Southern Region 1630 Park Street Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3V7
May 22, 2004		
Village of Anywhere P.O. Box 999 Anywhere, Sk. S0Z 9Z9		Our File: C.S. 11-XYZ Applicant File: 98pl92
Attn: John Smith, Administrator		
RE: PROPOSED REST AREA		
Dear Mr. Smith:		
As requested on April 2, 2004 via email, I have included the information pertaining to the Department's Rest Area Partnership Program. Please complete the attached application form and return it to the above address. Your application will be reviewed and later confirmed with a field inspection if the minimum requirements are met. The Department will then determine if the facility meets the criteria and qualifies for the Designated Rest Area Partnership Program.		
All designated rest areas shall meet and maintain the following minimum location, facilities, and level of service criteria: • Rest areas should be located directly adjacent to (<500m), and be visible from the highway; • Open seasonal, from the Victoria Day long weekend to the Labour Day long weekend; • Free entry and use of all rest area facilities (for those minimum facility requirements specified within this criteria listing); • Parking areas for a minimum of five passenger vehicles; • A minimum of five picnic tables; • Regularly maintained bathroom facilities, which are kept in an acceptably clean condition and meets all pertinent municipal, provincial and federal regulations and standards; • Regularly maintain garbage containers; • Access roads which meet all minimum provincial geometric and traffic safety regulations and standards;		
If you have any questions regarding the program please feel free to contact me.		
Yours truly,		
Jon Wyatt Design & Operations Engineer Southern Region		
c: Don Meszaros, Area Manager, Yorkton		
Department Contact: Kara Neuls (306) 787-9465 Fax (306) 787-4910		

Date

2007-03-27

Page

7 of 9

Section:

REST AREAS

Subject:

Rest Area Partnership Program

Figure 3130-3 Typical Response: Accepted Designated Rest Area

	Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation	Southern Region 1630 Park Street Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3V7
May 22, 2004		
Village of Anywhere P.O. Box 999 Anywhere, Sk S0Z 9Z9		Our File: C.S. 11-XYZ Applicant File: 98pl92
Attn: John Smith, Administrator		
RE: PROPOSED REST AREA		
Dear Mr. Smith:		
The Department has reviewed your application for a designated rest area with the Partnership Rest Area Program. Your application has been approved on the basis that you will continue to meet all location, operational, facilities, and level of service criteria on an ongoing basis. The rest area will provide safe, clean facilities and other services for travelers. In return, Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation identifies Partnership Rest Areas with highway signs (IS – 57). Both partners strive to ensure that high standards are met.		
Designated rest area sites that do not continue to meet all location, operational, facilities, and level of service criteria on an ongoing basis, shall lose their status as a designated rest area and be removed from the inventory listing. The Department shall also remove signs from such rest area sites and the signs will remain the property of the Department.		
Yours truly,		
Jon Wyatt Design & Operations Engineer Southern Region		
c: Don Meszaros, Area Manager, Yorkton Paul Hunt, Operations Standards Engineer, Engineering Standards Branch Joey Madden, Traffic Guidance Signing Manager		
Department Contact: Kara Neuls (306) 787-9465 Fax (306) 787-4910		

Section:**REST AREAS****Subject:****Rest Area Partnership Program****REFERENCES**

Alberta Transportation, Partnership Rest Area Program, Pinlog Services Inc., Edmonton, Alberta, 2001.

American Association of State Highways & Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Guide for Development of Rest Areas on Major Arterials and Freeways – 3rd Edition, Washington, D.C., 2001.

Catteau, Greg, Manitoba Transportation, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Safety Rest Stop Area Study (204) 945-3898, 2001.

Fisher, Gerald, Saskatchewan Highways & Transportation, Regina, Saskatchewan, Highway Rest Area Criteria & Infrastructure For Saskatchewan National System (306) 787-4621, 2001.

Kuzyk, Margaret, P.Eng., Building Standards, Saskatchewan Municipal Affairs and Housing, Regina, Saskatchewan, contacts for building permits on the Website: (306) 787-4517, November 2001.

Rama Plastics Inc., Formaldehyde Use In Portable Toilets, 2001.

Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management, Facilities Management Unit, Parks Building Codes Regina, Saskatchewan, 2001.

Saskatchewan Highways & Transportation, Design Manual – Part2, Traffic Signing, 2001.

Saskatchewan Highways & Transportation, Rest Area Inventory, Draft Final Report, Project Service Group, March 2001.

Saskatchewan Highways & Transportation, Rest Area Study – Campground Rationalization Strategy, Road Transportation Branch, Regina, Saskatchewan, November 2001.

Saskatchewan Highways & Transportation, Traffic Control Devices Manual, 2001.

Stonehouse, Jack, Alberta Transportation, Medicine Hat, Alberta, information on contacts for Rest Areas (403) 548-0244, 2001.

Date

2007-03-27

Page

9 of 9

