




Rest Area Observations

▲  
**Epic Road  
Trip 2023  
(draft)**



## By the numbers:

- 8,976 miles
- 29 Days
- 28 States
- 96 Public Rest Areas patronized
- Enhanced features noted that would improve Oregon Rest Areas: indoor toddler play area (Colorado); off-leash pet exercise area near picnic shelters (Montana, North Dakota); highly visible emergency call-box with interactive features...(Michigan), and more...
- Recurring themes of “issues” – kiosk v. brochures & handouts; public-private staffing v. Unstaffed minimalistic

Road Trip details relevant to rest areas generally; amenities that enhance customer experience; and 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies that promote safety while prudently using public resources.

# Oregon Rest Areas - A Little History

- 1983 – Oregon Travel Information Council formed
- 1983 – Last comprehensive review of Oregon Motor Vehicle Code
- 2010 - 5 Rest Areas transferred to Oregon Travel Information Council for management
- 2012 – SB 1591 - OTIC
- 2016 - OTIC issued performance measures



# Additional History Nuggets Regarding Rest Areas in Oregon

- January 31, 2001 – AG/DOJ letter to Director Grace Crunican, ODOT re: Federal Highway Funds (and comprehensive review);
- 2017 Regular legislative session, HB 2017 passed, including transfer of management responsibilities for eight (8) additional rest areas to TIC along with increased operational funding and capital funding
- September 2018 “Roadside Rest Area Transition Plan – submitted by OTIC per HB 2017. [includes 5 rest areas owned by ODOT and 3 rest areas owned by OPRD – Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.] Brings total to 39 rest areas at 25 locations.

# Washington- Draft 2023 Strategic Plan

## Key Findings :

24 million users annually

47 statewide locations\* (3 are seasonal)

20 RV dump stations

532 commercial truck parking spaces (most spaces are shared truck/RV based on the safety rest area)

87% safety rest areas are rated in critical condition

Most sites were built between 1967 and 1974

## Key Recommendations

Addresses core focus areas, including safety, financially sustainable operations, customer experience, truck parking, and resiliency

Provides overview of existing laws that impact safety rest areas

Provides analysis of customer needs & expectations survey

Addresses sites' usage, factors, and **BENEFITS TO REDUCE FATIGUE-RELATED CRASHES, INJURIES, and FATALITIES** ( emphasis mine... ja)

# Comparing & Contrasting Oregon and Washington

## Oregon

39 Rest areas at 25 locations across the state (Oregon Travel Information Council)

18.4 million users (Traveler Count FY 2015-16 per OTIC in TIC managed areas)

———— RV dump stations

———— commercial truck parking spaces

\$15,286,966 budget

162,101 miles

## Washington

47 locations

24 million users annually

20 RV dump stations

532 commercial truck parking spaces

\$8,708,233 budget

167,632 miles


# Rest Areas Save Lives

## What the data shows

- Rested drivers are safer drivers
- Crashes involving drowsy and fatigued drivers are preventable
- Changing driver behavior to utilize rest areas should focus on incentives not threats of punishment
- Customer surveys should identify barriers to use in current rest areas and what customers need/want to attract greater use

## Ideal

- A safe place to take a break, stretch your legs, re-focus on safe driving habits;
- An indoor space where children can play under the watchful eye of parent or caretaker...
- Protection from the elements as you exercise your dog(s)

A close-up photograph of a hand pointing at a map. The map shows a network of roads and geographical features. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the index finger pointing towards the center of the map. The map is slightly out of focus, but the lines representing roads and boundaries are visible.

## (Jane Aiken) recommends: OTSC pass recommendation to Oregon Transportation Commission to engage in Strategic Planning for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rest Areas

- Use Washington State 2023 Draft Strategic Plan as template/starting point for Oregon
- Replicate data collection categories and depth of information
- Validate and expand history and legal context with Oregon information
- Identify unique factors vis a vis Oregon economic activity, development, and social demographics



“Plans are worthless.  
Planning is everything.”  
Dwight David Eisenhower.



# Questions?

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Aiken, OTSC member,  
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