

**FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON**

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE No. 16

Informational Memorandum No. 16

Date: August 27, 1942

Subject: Traffic volume trends

Preliminary summaries of traffic data for July 1942 from recorders located in 21 States indicate a decrease of 35.6 percent as compared with traffic for July 1941. Within the rationed area the decrease in traffic was 40.7 percent, as compared with a decrease of 28.3 percent in the unrationed area.

Preliminary Summary of Automatic Traffic Recorder Data  
for July 1942, including 202 Stations in 21 States

| State Highways |                          |  |  |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| State          | Number<br>of<br>Stations | Total<br>daily<br>traffic<br>July 1942 | Percent<br>decrease<br>from<br>July 1941 <sup>1/</sup> |
| Arizona        | 4                        | 10,564                                 | 10.7   |
| Arkansas       | 16                       | 17,983                                 | 27.2   |
| Connecticut    | 18                       | 77,685                                 | 41.6   |
| Delaware       | 5                        | 17,568                                 | 28.8   |
| Georgia        | 4                        | 6,414 <sup>2/</sup>                    | 41.0   |
| Idaho          | 5                        | 10,499                                 | 26.3   |
| Illinois       | 6                        | 11,420                                 | 32.5   |
| Indiana        | 20                       | 43,703                                 | 29.3   |
| Louisiana      | 7                        | 17,303                                 | 34.1   |
| Maryland       | 5                        | 10,789                                 | 41.1   |
| Massachusetts  | 9                        | 39,149                                 | 45.8   |
| New Mexico     | 10 <sup>3/</sup>         | 13,715                                 | 26.5   |
| New York       | 10                       | 36,113                                 | 38.5   |
| North Carolina | 19 <sup>3/</sup>         | 31,619                                 | 36.7   |
| North Dakota   | 7                        | 3,324                                  | 29.3   |
| Oklahoma       | 20                       | 38,686                                 | 26.7   |
| Rhode Island   | 3                        | 6,214                                  | 49.5   |
| South Carolina | 6                        | 6,102                                  | 36.7   |
| South Dakota   | 9 <sup>3/</sup>          | 8,602                                  | 23.2   |
| Utah           | 5                        | 5,694                                  | 32.4   |
| Virginia       | 2                        | 2,795                                  | 53.4   |
| 21 States      | 190                      | 415,941                                | 35.7   |

| Local Highways                |                    |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| State                         | Number of Stations | Total daily traffic July 1942 | Percent decrease from July 1941 <sup>1/</sup> |
| Connecticut                   | 2                  | 899                           | 20.9  |
| Delaware                      | 1                  | 259                           | 30.7  |
| Georgia                       | 4                  | 1,008 <sup>2/</sup>           | 3.8   |
| Maryland                      | 1                  | 300                           | 12.0  |
| Massachusetts                 | 1                  | 364                           | 28.2  |
| North Dakota                  | 2                  | 424                           | + 6.5   |
| Rhode Island                  | 1                  | 351                           | 36.5  |
| 7 States                      | 12                 | 3,605                         | 17.3  |
| All Highways                  |                    |                               |   |
| 21 States                     | 202                | 419,546                       | 35.7  |
| <u>By location of station</u> |                    |                               |   |
| Rationed area <sup>4/</sup>   | 88                 | 227,633                       | 40.7  |
| Unrationed area               | 114                | 191,913                       | 28.3  |

- <sup>1/</sup> Plus sign before percentage indicates increase.
- <sup>2/</sup> Based upon incomplete data.
- <sup>3/</sup> Not including one station at which traffic was greatly augmented by military activities.
- <sup>4/</sup> Including eastern New York and all Atlantic seaboard States listed above.

A revised summary of traffic data for June 1942, based on 510 stations in 43 States, indicates a decrease of 26.5 percent, which may be compared with the 30.7 percent decrease shown in the preliminary summary issued in July. The decrease was 39.1 percent in the rationed area; 19.8 percent in the unrationed area.

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IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Informational Memorandum No. 14

Date: August 14, 1942

Subject: Traffic volume trends.

Preliminary traffic data for June 1942 from recorders located in 18 States indicate a decrease of 30.7 percent as compared with traffic for June 1941. One-third of the recorders are located within States where gasoline is rationed, and traffic decreases in this area were 38.5 percent as compared with a decrease of 22.4 percent in the unrationed area.

Preliminary Summary of Automatic Traffic Recorder Data for June 1942  
205 stations in 18 States.

| Type of highway and State  | Number of stations | Total daily traffic June 1942 | Percent decrease from June 1941 <sup>1</sup> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| State highways             |                    |                               |  |
| Arkansas                   | 18                 | 18,709                        | 22.1   |
| Colorado                   | 1                  | 5,093                         | 7.7  |
| Connecticut                | 18                 | 68,608                        | 40.3   |
| Delaware                   | 5                  | 17,859                        | 26.3   |
| Idaho                      | 5                  | 9,841                         | 24.6   |
| Indiana                    | 20                 | 42,275                        | 24.8   |
| Iowa                       | 26                 | 36,869                        | 22.6   |
| Louisiana                  | 7                  | 17,744                        | 23.1   |
| Maine                      | 3                  | 2,301                         | 39.0   |
| Massachusetts              | 9                  | 35,521                        | 41.9   |
| Nebraska                   | 11                 | 13,244                        | 18.9   |
| New Hampshire              | 2                  | 1,129                         | 48.8   |
| North Dakota               | 6                  | 3,017                         | 18.1   |
| Pennsylvania               | 30                 | 65,758                        | 30.7   |
| Rhode Island               | 3                  | 6,100                         | 36.4   |
| South Carolina             | 8                  | 9,932                         | 36.5   |
| South Dakota               | 9                  | 8,458                         | 17.4   |
| Utah                       | 6                  | 10,148                        | 18.6   |
| 18 States                  | 187                | 372,606                       | 30.8   |
| Local highways             |                    |                               |  |
| Connecticut                | 2                  | 822                           | 32.1   |
| Delaware                   | 1                  | 262                           | 21.8   |
| Iowa                       | 10                 | 1,349                         | 10.1   |
| Massachusetts              | 1                  | 423                           | 17.4   |
| Nebraska                   | 1                  | 172                           | 1.7  |
| North Dakota               | 2                  | 406                           | +10.0  |
| Rhode Island               | 1                  | 366                           | 26.6   |
| 7 States                   | 18                 | 3,800                         | 17.4   |
| All highways<br>18 States  | 205                | 376,406                       | 30.7   |
| By location of station     |                    |                               |  |
| Rationed area <sup>2</sup> | 71                 | 173,403                       | 38.5   |
| Unrationed area            | 134                | 203,003                       | 22.4   |

A revised summary of traffic data for May 1942 indicates a decrease of 21.6 percent which may be compared with the 22.6 percent decrease shown in the preliminary summary issued in June.

1. Plus sign before percentage indicates increase.
2. Including eastern Pennsylvania and all Atlantic seaboard States listed above.

Revised Summary of Automatic Traffic Recorder Data for May 1942  
514 stations in 43 States.

| Geographic division and State | Number of stations | Percent decrease from May 1941 | Geographic division and State | Number of stations | Percent decrease from May 1941 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>New England</i>            | 42                 | 31.8                           | <i>East South Central</i>     | 33                 | 16.6                           |
| Connecticut                   | 20                 | 31.7                           | Alabama                       | 10                 | 15.7                           |
| Maine                         | 3                  | 31.3                           | Kentucky                      | 15                 | 13.5                           |
| Massachusetts                 | 10                 | 33.0                           | Mississippi                   | 8                  | 23.4                           |
| New Hampshire                 | 2                  | 40.2                           | <i>West South Central</i>     | 81                 | 15.7                           |
| Rhode Island                  | 4                  | 24.4                           | Arkansas                      | 18                 | 18.9                           |
| Vermont                       | 3                  | 29.1                           | Louisiana                     | 7                  | 14.3                           |
| <i>Middle Atlantic</i>        | 30                 | 23.7                           | Oklahoma                      | 20                 | 18.3                           |
| Pennsylvania                  | 30                 | 23.7                           | Texas                         | 36                 | 14.0                           |
| <i>South Atlantic</i>         | 76                 | 27.1                           | <i>Mountain</i>               | 55                 | 14.6                           |
| Delaware                      | 5                  | 31.0                           | Arizona                       | 6                  | 10.2                           |
| Florida                       | 15                 | 31.0                           | Colorado                      | 4                  | 7.3                            |
| Maryland                      | 13                 | 28.0                           | Idaho                         | 5                  | 19.1                           |
| North Carolina                | 20                 | 29.5                           | Montana                       | 12                 | 25.2                           |
| South Carolina                | 10                 | 23.2                           | Nevada                        | 11                 | 15.5                           |
| Virginia                      | 3                  | 18.8                           | New Mexico                    | 10                 | 12.9                           |
| West Virginia                 | 10                 | 20.6                           | Utah                          | 5                  | 15.8                           |
| <i>East North Central</i>     | 70                 | 20.6                           | Wyoming                       | 2                  | 19.6                           |
| Illinois                      | 6                  | 30.7                           | <i>Pacific</i>                | 25                 | 13.4                           |
| Indiana                       | 20                 | 22.2                           | California                    | 10                 | 19.5                           |
| Michigan                      | 8                  | 14.6                           | Oregon                        | 4                  | 14.5                           |
| Ohio                          | 23                 | 20.4                           | Washington                    | 11                 | 7.4                            |
| Wisconsin                     | 13                 | 18.4                           |                               |                    |                                |
| <i>West North Central</i>     | 102                | 19.9                           |                               |                    |                                |
| Iowa                          | 36                 | 20.9                           |                               |                    |                                |
| Kansas                        | 10                 | 19.5                           |                               |                    |                                |
| Missouri                      | 26                 | 20.2                           |                               |                    |                                |
| Nebraska                      | 12                 | 16.7                           |                               |                    |                                |
| North Dakota                  | 9                  | 20.6                           |                               |                    |                                |
| South Dakota                  | 9                  | 17.4                           |                               |                    |                                |
|                               |                    |                                | Total - 43 States             | 514                | 21.6                           |

Both the foregoing summaries are measures of traffic volume changes on rural highways. Data from 17 toll facilities in the rationed area, most of which are located in or near urban areas, show a 27.9 percent decrease in total in June, as compared with the volume in June 1941. On these facilities the decrease in passenger car traffic compared to that for the previous year was 31.6 percent, while truck and bus traffic increased 1.2 percent.

No figures were received to show the comparison of traffic on city streets in June 1942 as compared to that in June 1941. It may be assumed, however, that the smaller reduction in volume on the toll facilities reflected urban influences as well as the more essential character of traffic normally using toll facilities.

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