

Commercial Vehicle Driver Survey: Assessment of Parking Needs and Preferences

UDOT Systems Planning and Programming
with InterPlan



Introduction and Background

Methodology

Results

Summary: What Do Drivers' Want?

NATIONAL TRUCK PARKING SURVEY

National Truck Parking Survey

1998 Congressional Mandate:

- Determine the location and quantity of parking spaces at public rest areas and private truck stops along the National Highway System
- Completed March 2002



National Truck Parking Survey

Study Questions:

How truck drivers plan for and address their parking needs

How truck drivers select when, where, and at which facilities they park

What truck drivers think of adequacy of current parking facilities



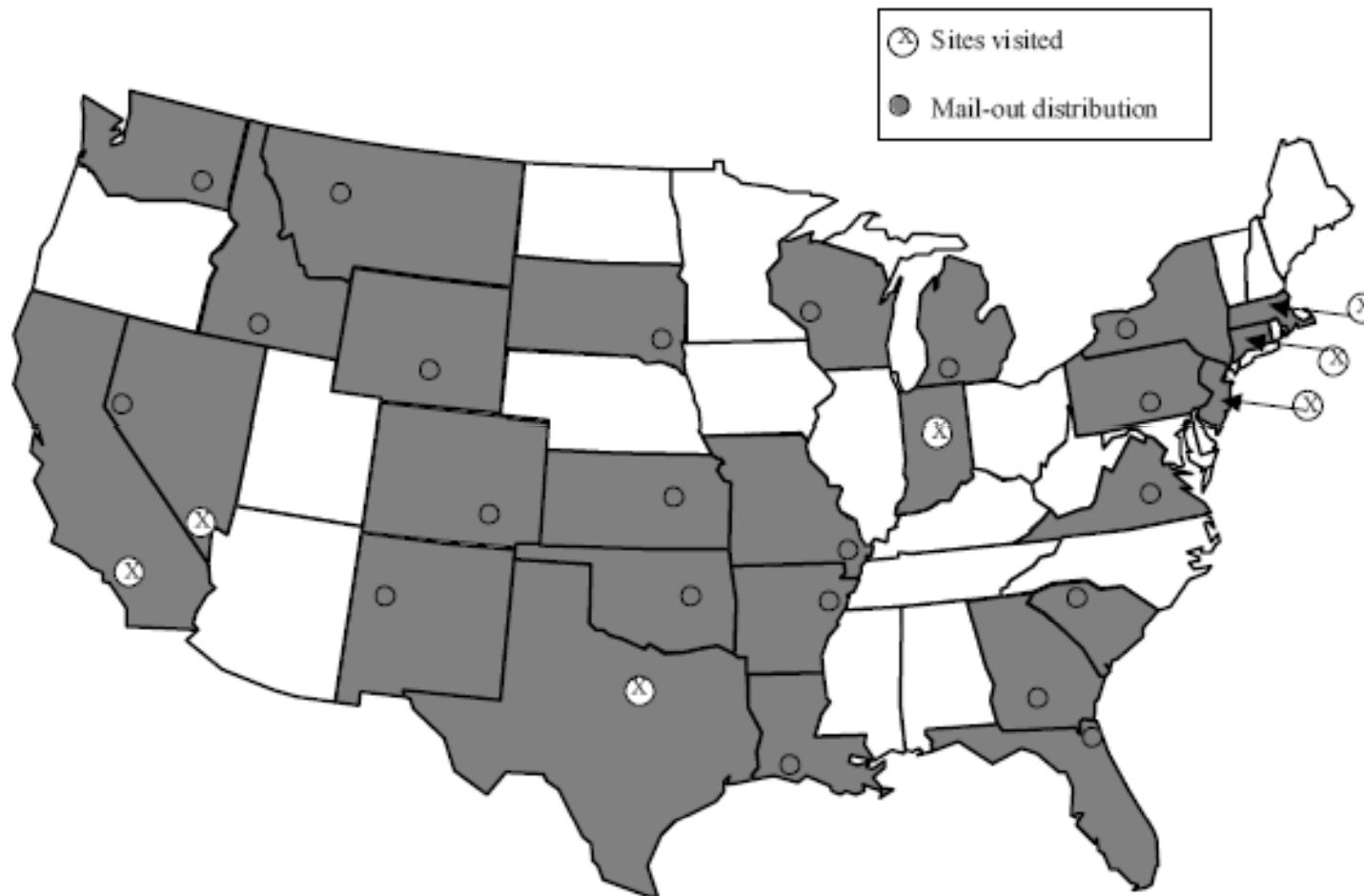
National Truck Parking Survey

Methodology:



- **Nationwide sample of 2,046 truck drivers**
 - Male/female
 - Independent owner/operators
 - All size carriers; 97% long haul carriers
- **Site visits: two survey members**
 - 11:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch
 - 4:00 – 8:00 pm Dinner
- **Mail-backs from truck stops**
 - 4,400 mailed out to 22 truck stops nationwide; 1,100 returned
- **Utah was not included in site visit or mail-back effort**

National Truck Parking Survey



National Truck Parking Survey

Planning for Success:

Test: 40 drivers completed survey and provided feedback

Recommendation: Distribute at truck stops rather than public rest areas

Result: Response rates were above 80% during nearly every site visit



Study Question:

How Truck Drivers Plan for
and Address their
Parking Needs

Answer:

98% of drivers decide
where to park

How?

Most decide while driving and
some prior to trip

Why?

Difficult to plan because of
location back up, hours of service
limits or driver fatigue

Question:

How Truck Drivers Select
When, Where and at
Which Facilities They
Park

Answer:

Drivers prefer parking facilities with:

- Food
- Fuel
- Restrooms
- Phones
- Showers

Safety and convenience important

Do not prefer entertainment and
other “luxuries”

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Rest Areas vs. Truck Stops:

- Rest Areas preferred only by 6% for quick naps (2 hours or less)
- Truck Stops preferred by 80-90% of respondents for resting for the night (2 hours or more), eating a meal, repairing a truck, laundry and other activities



Question:

What Truck Drivers Think
of the Adequacy of
Current Parking
Facilities

Answer:

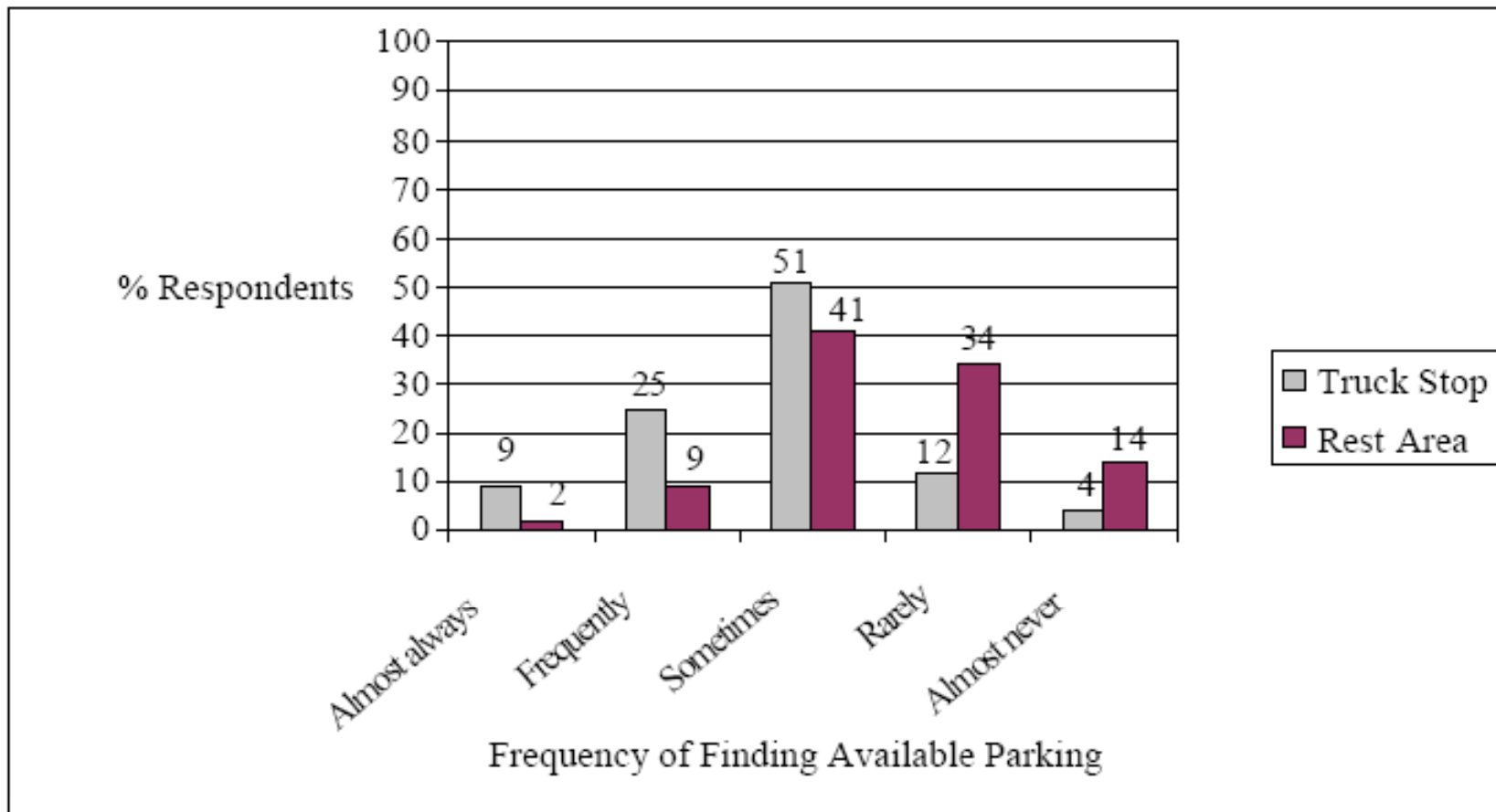
Most common verbal response:

“build more spaces”

11% indicated they *frequently* or
almost always find available
parking at rest areas

One-third find available parking at
private truck stops

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Driver Recommendations:

- Eliminate time limits
- Parking lot layouts be improved along with access points
- Discourage law enforcement from walking sleeping drivers

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What do truck drivers want?

- **Find parking in clean, safe facilities**
- **Basic amenities**
 - Eat a meal
 - Take a shower
 - Uninterrupted Sleep



Answers to Specific Questions

NATIONAL TRUCK PARKING SURVEY

National truck parking survey



Questions:

Are There Enough Parking Spaces?

Where Do Drivers Park?

Who Decides Where Drivers Park and When is the Decision Made?

Why Do Drivers Park on Ramps and Shoulders?

What Are Drivers' Parking Preferences?

What Improvements Do Drivers Recommend?

How might Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Technology Help Drivers?

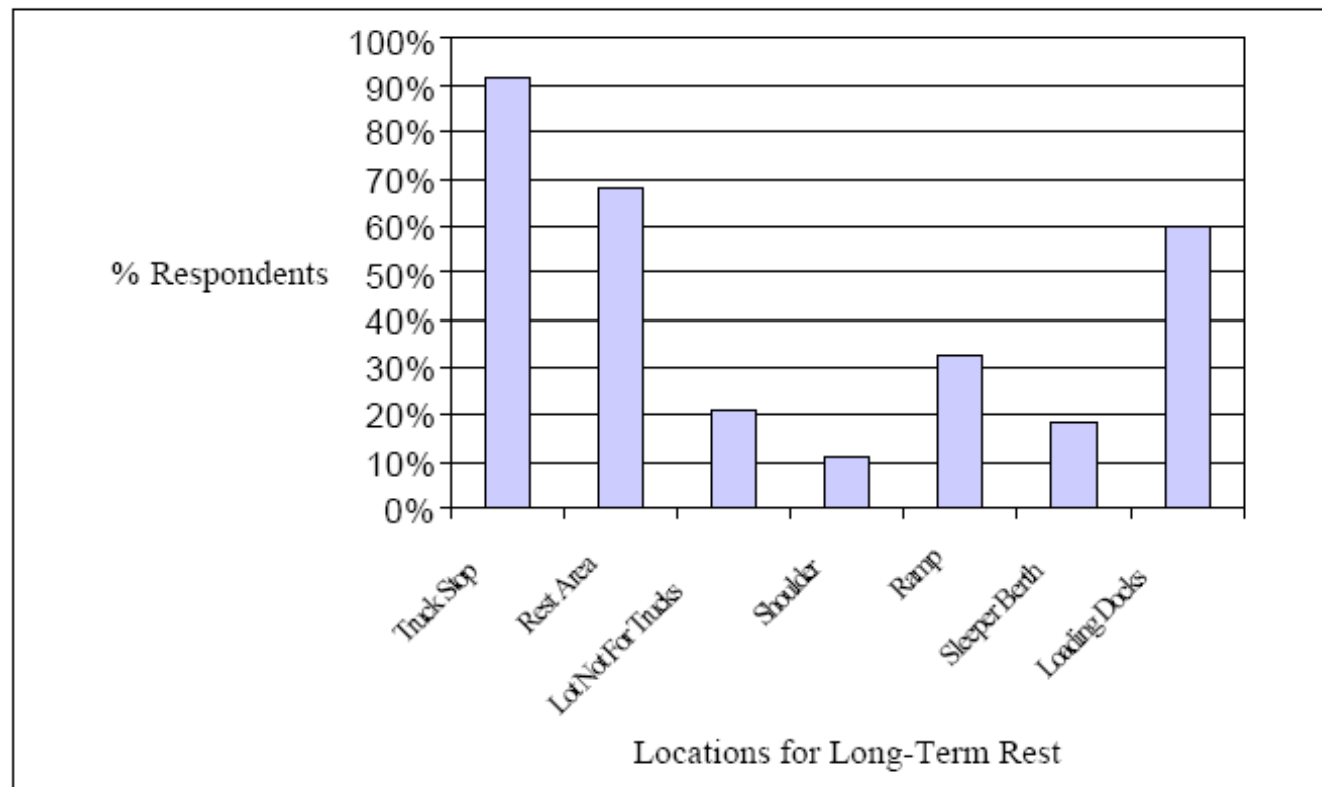
Parking Availability and Usability

Are There Enough Parking Spaces?

90% indicated they *sometimes, rarely, or almost never* find available parking at rest areas

Two-thirds reported that they *sometimes, rarely, or almost never* find available parking at truck stops.

Parking Patterns and Preferences: Where Do Drivers Park?



*Sleeper Berth – for team drivers

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Parking Patterns and Preferences:

98% of drivers make the decision where to park

Who Decides Where Drivers Park and When is the Decision Made?

Of those who decide where to park:

83% decide on the road

21% decide before starting to drive

Parking Patterns and Preferences:

Why Do Drivers Park on Ramps and Shoulders?

Common reasons:

83% No nearby parking facility

94% No empty spaces in nearby truck stops or rest areas

18% hard to drive around parking lots

4% better lighting on ramps/shoulders than in lots

One Third indicated:

The ramp/shoulder is convenient for getting back on the road and drivers are less likely to be bothered by strangers

Other reasons:

Nearby parking spaces have time limits that are too short

Empty nearby parking spaces are blocked by other trucks, cars, or RVs

Parking Patterns and Preferences:

What are Drivers' Parking Preferences?

Locations with:

Food

Fuel

Restrooms

Phones

Showers

Convenience to highway

Well lighted

Quiet, safe location where they are not likely to be disturbed

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Parking Solutions:

What Improvements Do Drivers Recommend?

Five improvements:

79% build more truck stop spaces

66% build more rest area spaces

57% stop enforcement officers from waking drivers

49% eliminate time limits on truck parking spaces

46% improve parking layouts/configurations

Parking Solutions:

How Might Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Technology Help Drivers?

How would drivers like to receive information?

73% Radio in Vehicle

40% electronic visual display in vehicle

12% Internet

What type of information would drivers like to receive?

84% location of truck parking facilities along
the road

77% features that are available at upcoming
parking facilities

68% number of truck parking spaces available
at upcoming parking facilities

46% length of time limits on upcoming truck
parking spaces

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Questions?



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