



# PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Katy Walton, Caltrans

**FROM:** Brad Mettam, Yucca Mountain Project Coordinator *BRM*

**DATE:** October 16, 1992

**SUBJECT:** HIGHWAY 127 TRAFFIC STUDY - DRAFT DESCRIPTION

*878-0381*

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I finally had a chance to put some time into this project. Enclosed is the first cut at a plan for this study. Please review it at your leisure, and let me know if you have any suggestions, questions, or problems.

There are two areas where I'm still having some problems. The first is on the matter of when to do this. I talked with Glen Gossard at the D.V. National Monument (thanks for talking to Ross Hopkins about this, it helped), who will send me visitor counts by day. He felt the first weekend in November would be their peak, which is too soon for me. Let me know your thoughts on this.

The other area that still concerns me is the location of the interview stations. The Planning department feels that the locations I've outlined may miss travelers looping around on 190 and 178. Do you have individual north and south ADT counts for 190, both sections of 178, and 127 at the indicated stations, and if so will that help us determine if we are catching most traffic? *Yucca Mountain*

I'll be out of the office the week of October 19, so we should talk the week after, if you've had a chance to review this. Please call me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Brad Mettam  
Yucca Mountain Project Coordinator  
enc.

# DRAFT

## Task 3.3.1.1 Highway 127 Traffic Study

### Introduction

The proposed high-level radioactive waste repository has the potential to create transportation related impacts, both through the eventual transportation of waste, and through shipments of materials during repository construction and operation. In fact, site characterization activities will themselves increase traffic, and its associated impacts, on Highway 127. Such impacts will occur both in the communities that are served by the highway, and in potential changes in tourism traffic to neighboring destinations. It is the responsibility of the Inyo County Yucca Mountain Repository Assessment Office to perform studies, develop monitoring systems, and ultimately prepare an impact assessment and request for impact assistance based on the potential impacts that have been identified .

### Purpose

Before potential transportation system impacts to the communities served by Highway 127 can be addressed, it is essential to have an understanding of the current baseline traffic conditions. This study will be designed to examine the traffic volumes, flow patterns, vehicular mix, and the hazardous materials component of current highway traffic. As other agencies and organizations have an interest in the data collected, advice and assistance will be requested from such agencies as Caltrans and the Death Valley National Monument.

### Methodology

1. **1989 Study** This study effort will be modeled upon the successful 1989 Inyo and Mono County Recreation and Travel Study, with adjustments made for the program's specific data needs. The '89 study involved personal interviews with vehicle occupants at the major points of entry to Inyo and Mono Counties along the Highway 395 corridor. The summer survey was conducted on a neutral August mid-week day and the following Friday and Saturday. The winter survey was conducted on a neutral February mid-week day and the following Friday and Saturday of the President's Holiday weekend. The hours of the survey (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) represented about 50% of the total 24 hour traffic at each location. The following questions were asked:

1. How many in vehicle?,
2. Type of vehicle - classification,
3. Location of residence,
4. Purpose of trip,
5. Will you be staying in Inyo or Mono County?,
6. If yes, at what type of facility?

Trucks and busses were also included in the survey and these questions were posed to the drivers. The total number of vehicles surveyed was 16, 761.

2. **Survey Instrument Changes** As the proposed survey focuses not on recreation, but primarily on traffic volumes and mix, there will be adjustments made to the interviewer log sheet used in the prior study. Listed below are a suggested set of questions that could be used to develop an instrument for use at interview sites. Some questions have been included to allow comparison to prior data collection efforts.

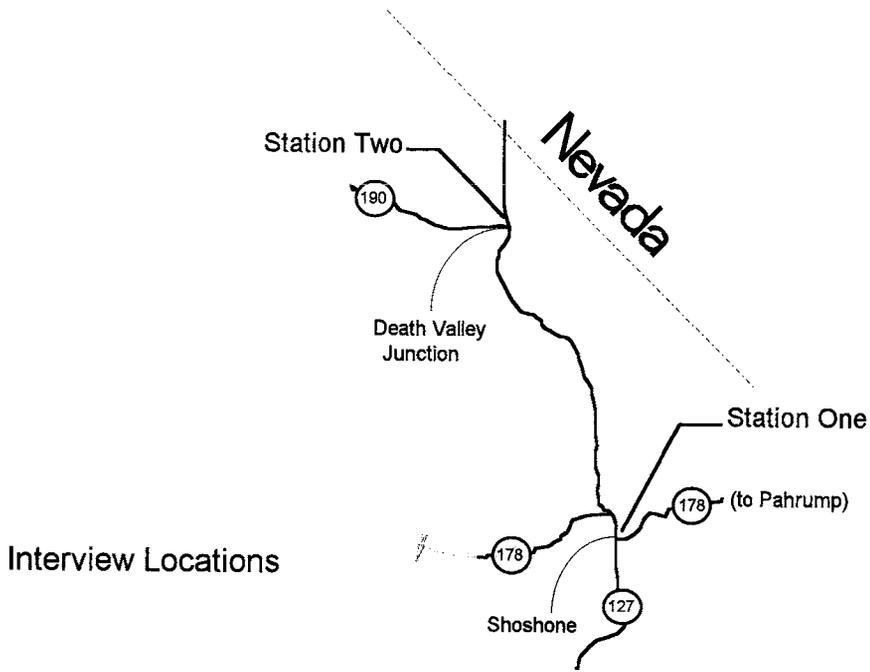
Questions

1. How many in vehicle?,
2. Type of vehicle - classification,
3. Location of residence / origin,
4. Purpose of trip,
5. Will you be staying in Inyo County?,
6. If yes, at what type of facility?,
7. Duration of stay,
8. What is your destination?,  
For trucks:  
Local  
NTS  
Thru
9. For trucks - DOT placard #? (or none).

3. **Interview Locations** Preliminary interview sites are designed to capture all inbound traffic to the area highway network. Station One (north of the junction of 127 and 178 eastbound, on the east side of 127) is designed to capture all north-bound traffic from either 127 or 178. Station Two (north of the junction of 127 and 190, on the west side of 127) is designed to capture all south bound traffic. Consideration will be given to capturing east-bound 190 and 178 traffic counts with magnetic loops or pneumatic counters. Figure One shows the general location of both stations.

4. **Location Staffing** Traffic control equipment and personnel will be provided by Caltrans. Supervisory staff and interviewers will be provided by the Yucca Mountain Repository Assessment Office.

5. **Survey Dates** Winter and summer dates are yet to be determined. Every effort will be made to span both normal "traffic" flow dates and peak flow dates in each season.



Interview Locations

Figure 1

Total Number in Vehicle	Type of Vehicle	Origin	What is your Destination	TRUCKS Delivery Destination	Purpose of Trip	Will you be staying in Inyo County?	Type of Facility	Duration of Stay	TRUCKS HAZMAT ID Number
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 more	AUTO P/U VAN RV V. & TR. BUS TRUCK			Local NTS Thru	Work Business Recreation Personal Shopping Other	YES  NO	Camping  Motel  Private	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 DAY WEEK	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 more	AUTO P/U VAN RV V. & TR. BUS TRUCK			Local NTS Thru	Work Business Recreation Personal Shopping Other	YES  NO	Camping  Motel  Private	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 DAY WEEK	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 more	AUTO P/U VAN RV V. & TR. BUS TRUCK			Local NTS Thru	Work Business Recreation Personal Shopping Other	YES  NO	Camping  Motel  Private	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 DAY WEEK	

