

= New York State Route 16 =

New York State Route 16 (NY 16) is a state highway in western New York , in the United States . It runs from the Pennsylvania state line , where it is one of the highest highways in the state in elevation , to downtown Buffalo . NY 16 is a major route through Erie County , despite the construction of the paralleling NY 400 expressway from East Aurora . In Cattaraugus County it also plays an important role , serving as the major connection from Olean to the Southern Tier Expressway (Interstate 86 or I @-@ 86 and NY 17) . Between those two areas , and indeed for much of its length , it is a two @-@ lane rural road .

NY 16 initially ended in Olean when it was assigned in 1924 . It was extended south to the Pennsylvania state line in the early 1930s ; however , it initially overlapped NY 17 east to Portville , where it connected to Pennsylvania by way of modern NY 305 . NY 16 's current alignment south of Olean was originally designated as New York State Route 16A around this time . NY 16 was rerouted to follow the routing of NY 16A south of Olean in the early 1960s .

= = Route description = =

= = = Cattaraugus County = = =

When PA 646 becomes NY 16 at the state line , it is already at a very high elevation on a ridgecrest , and at a rise two miles (3 @.@ 2 km) into New York , it reaches 2 @, @ 386 feet (727 m) in elevation , making it the highest state highway in western New York and among the highest in the state . It remains at a high elevation for several more miles , through what was once one of New York 's major oil fields . Afterwards , NY 16 then begins to drop through a narrow valley to cross the Allegheny River and enter its first major community , the city of Olean (which , like several other communities in the region , takes its name from oil) . It crosses the city as Union Street , intersecting its first state highway , NY 417 , at State Street . Here , ownership and maintenance of NY 16 shifts to the city for six blocks before becoming state @-@ maintained once more at the point where North Union Street heads northwest to serve North Olean .

A mile (1 @.@ 6 km) north of NY 417 , NY 16 reaches a bridge over Olean Creek , a tributary of the Allegheny . On the other side , it becomes a four @-@ lane road with a divider as it approaches NY 17 , currently concurrent with I @-@ 86 pending the entire expressway 's upgrade to Interstate Highway standards . A trumpet interchange provides access to I @-@ 86 and NY 17 in both directions in the vicinity of Baldwin Heights . But NY 16 runs parallel to the freeway and remains a four @-@ lane route , although no longer divided , following the Olean valley . At Hinsdale it finally does cross I @-@ 86 / NY 17 . Shortly afterwards , in the hamlet of Maplehurst , NY 446 , the former route of NY 408 , comes in from the east and terminates .

NY 16 now follows the narrow valley of Ischua Creek , one of the Olean 's tributaries , north past the road to the city 's airport , north to Franklinville . NY 98 joins NY 16 just south of the village and leaves north of it . NY 16 continues to Machias and the eastern end of NY 242 . A straight course takes the highway from this junction to the Cattaraugus Creek bridge . This bridge heads into Erie County .

= = = Erie County = = =

In the southwestern corner of the county , NY 16 intersects with NY 39 . NY 16 then begins heading slightly northwestward through a wider , more developed valley in the towns of Holland and Wales to the first sign of an approaching major metropolitan area , the south end of NY 400 , the Aurora Expressway . After joining the expressway for two miles (3 km) , it again leaves to become a two @-@ lane that enters East Aurora as Olean Street . At the intersection with Main Street , NY 16 turns left and briefly joins with U.S. Route 20A (US 20A) and NY 78 . US 20A leaves the two state routes behind at a fork at the village 's east end , leaving NY 16 and NY 78 to head to the northwest

again as Buffalo Street . At this point , NY 16 and NY 78 become county @-@ maintained for the next 6 @.@ 5 miles (10 @.@ 5 km) as the unsigned County Route 572 (CR 572) . At Willardshire Road as the highway passes the industrial parks and other facilities associated with local company Moog Inc . North of the village , it enters the Town of Elma and becomes Seneca Street , the name it will retain all the way to the city .

NY 78 takes on its best @-@ known name as well when it leaves at Transit Road (US 20) , as NY 16 assumes an east ? west heading across the suburban neighborhoods of West Seneca . It crosses NY 277 , a major retail strip , at Union Road in the hamlet of Ebenezer . One final trumpet exit to NY 400 (and by extension , the New York State Thruway) precedes its junction with Harlem Road (NY 240) , where county maintenance of NY 16 , and thus the overlap with CR 572 , ends . Just west of NY 240 , NY 16 crosses the Thruway itself as it begins to head to the northwest and enter the city of Buffalo , where the route is locally maintained . Running almost due northwest through the residential neighborhoods of South Buffalo , NY 16 reaches its last major junction , with US 62 , at Bailey Avenue just after crossing the Buffalo River . Immediately afterwards it crosses I @-@ 190 with no exit (but with northbound access) and returns to a more east ? west course through industrial areas before ending at Main Street , NY 5 , in the city center .

= = History = =

The portion of modern NY 16 between Hinsdale and Buffalo was originally designated as Route 17 , an unsigned legislative route , by the New York State Legislature in 1908 . At the same time , the segment of what is now NY 16 from Olean to Hinsdale was included in Route 4 , a lengthy east ? west route that extended from Lake Erie in Chautauqua County to the Hudson River in Orange County . The portion from Olean south to the state line was part of the old " Kittanning Road , " a road constructed by the Continental Army during the 1779 Sullivan Expedition that connected Kittanning , Pennsylvania to the Allegheny River ; the road is among the oldest roads in the region .

When the first set of posted routes in New York were assigned in 1924 , much of Route 4 ? including the Olean ? Hinsdale segment ? was designated as NY 17 while legislative Route 17 became part of NY 16 , which began in Olean and overlapped with NY 17 along former legislative Route 4 between Olean and Hinsdale .

In the 1930 renumbering of state highways in New York , NY 17 was realigned between Olean and Wellsville to follow modern NY 417 , eliminating its overlap with NY 16 . By the following year , NY 16 was extended south to the Pennsylvania state line near Portville via NY 17 and what is now NY 305 . The modern routing of NY 16 between Pennsylvania and Olean was designated as NY 16A c . 1932 . The alignments of both NY 16 and NY 16A remained the same until c . 1963 when NY 16A was supplanted by a rerouted NY 16 . The former routing of NY 16 between the Pennsylvania state line and NY 17 became an extension of NY 305 .

The portion of the Aurora Expressway (NY 400) between East Aurora and South Wales was completed in the early 1970s . NY 16 was rerouted to follow the new highway for two miles (3 km) before exiting the freeway and returning to its previous alignment . The former routing of NY 16 in the area , a 2 @.@ 24 @-@ mile (3 @.@ 60 km) long portion of Olean Road , is now NY 951V , an unsigned reference route .

= = Major intersections = =