

= M @-@ 96 ( Michigan highway ) =

M @-@ 96 is a state trunkline highway in the US state of Michigan that runs between Kalamazoo and Marshall . Its termini are both on business loops of Interstate 94 ( I @-@ 94 ) ; the eastern one coincides with an intersection with I @-@ 69 . Between Kalamazoo and Marshall it passes through Comstock , Galesburg , Augusta , and Battle Creek intersecting I @-@ 194 / M @-@ 66 in Battle Creek and I @-@ 94 in Emmett Township .

The highway now known as M @-@ 96 was originally part of M @-@ 17 . Parts of M @-@ 17 that were not used for US Highway 12 ( US 12 ) in 1926 were given the M @-@ 96 number . Additional segments of trunkline were added to M @-@ 96 , one of which was an Alternate US 12 in the years afterwards . Later , US 12 was moved after the completion of I @-@ 94 in southern Michigan . Additional US 12 segments were added to M @-@ 96 at that time . The last major changes to M @-@ 96 rerouted the highway through the Battle Creek area in late 1998 .

= = Route description = =

M @-@ 96 starts at an intersection between King Highway and Business Loop I @-@ 94 ( BL I @-@ 94 ) east of downtown Kalamazoo . From this point , it follows King Highway over and then along the Kalamazoo River through a suburban residential area . The highway then follows Michigan Avenue east through Comstock and north of Morrow Lake . At Galesburg , M @-@ 96 turns northeast along Augusta Drive to Augusta , running through rural farmland . It turns eastward again , skirting the Fort Custer State Recreation Area and the Fort Custer National Cemetery . In Augusta , M @-@ 96 turns to follow Dickman Road to Battle Creek , passing north and east of the W. K. Kellogg Airport on Dickman and Helmer roads .

On the north side of the airport , M @-@ 96 runs concurrently with both BL I @-@ 94 and M @-@ 37 . M @-@ 96 turns south on Helmer Road , separating from the other two trunklines , and then turns east crossing along Columbia Avenue . Here the highway runs along the edge of the city of Battle Creek through more residential areas and crosses the I @-@ 194 / M @-@ 66 freeway next to the Riverside County Club . Near Brownlee Park , M @-@ 96 ( Columbia Avenue ) merges with BL I @-@ 94 ( Michigan Avenue ) . Together BL I @-@ 94 / M @-@ 96 continues along Michigan Avenue to I @-@ 94 where BL I @-@ 94 ends . M @-@ 96 passes the Firekeepers Casino , which is located just east of the ending of BL I @-@ 94 , between 11 and 12 Mile Roads . M @-@ 96 continues along Michigan Avenue through farmland from Emmett to Marshall ending at an interchange with I @-@ 69 / BL I @-@ 94 .

M @-@ 96 is maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation ( MDOT ) like other state highways in Michigan . As a part of these maintenance responsibilities , the department tracks the volume of traffic that uses the roadways under its jurisdiction . These volumes are expressed using a metric called annual average daily traffic , which is a statistical calculation of the average daily number of vehicles on a segment of roadway . MDOT 's surveys in 2010 showed that the highest traffic levels along M @-@ 96 were the 22 @,@ 953 vehicles daily between Capitol Avenue and I @-@ 194 in Battle Creek ; the lowest counts were the 5 @,@ 167 vehicles per day at the western terminus in Kalamazoo . The only section of M @-@ 96 that has been listed on the National Highway System ( NHS ) , is in the Battle Creek area between the western BL I @-@ 94 / M @-@ 37 junction and the I @-@ 94 interchange . The NHS is a network of roads important to the country 's economy , defense , and mobility .

= = History = =

M @-@ 96 was formed as a state trunkline in late 1926 from parts of M @-@ 17 . The section of M @-@ 17 between Galesberg and Battle Creek was not utilized for US 12 and became M @-@ 96 . In 1936 , the Alternate US 12 trunkline was designated through the Battle Creek area along a section of highway that had previously been part of US 12 . This highway was added to M @-@ 96 three years later in 1939 .

A rerouting of trunklines in 1941 lead to the creation of a Business US 12 ( BUS US 12 ) . M @-@ 96 ran concurrently with BUS US 12 and M @-@ 37 was truncated to end at M @-@ 96 . US 12 was rerouted between Galesburg and Kalamazoo in 1954 , and M @-@ 96 was extended along the former US 12 routing to end in Kalamazoo . M @-@ 96 was rerouted in downtown Battle Creek to one @-@ way streets in 1958 , and BUS US 12 / M @-@ 96 was extended by the end of the decade when the I @-@ 94 / US 12 freeway was completed in the area . BUS US 12 was redesignated as Business Loop I @-@ 94 ( BL I @-@ 94 ) in 1960 and M @-@ 96 was shortened to end at BL I @-@ 94 / M @-@ 78 running on Capital Avenue . M @-@ 37 was reextended in 1961 in Battle Creek to a concurrent routing with M @-@ 96 in 1961 .

M @-@ 89 was extended along the roadway used by M @-@ 96 west of Battle Creek to M @-@ 37 in 1965 , truncating M @-@ 96 in the process . M @-@ 96 was reextended back to Battle Creek along Dickman Road and Fort Custer Highway from Augusta east in 1971 . Several changes in Battle Creek were made to the area trunklines in 1998 . M @-@ 96 was extended along BL I @-@ 94 ( Dickman Road ) to M @-@ 37 ( Helmer Road ) and along M @-@ 37 to Columbia Avenue . At Columbia , M @-@ 96 then turned west and M @-@ 37 turned east . M @-@ 96 rejoined BL I @-@ 94 along Michigan Avenue to I @-@ 94 and on to Marshall .

= = Major intersections = =