

= Ontario Highway 48 =

King 's Highway 48 , also known as Highway 48 , is a provincially maintained highway in southern Ontario that extends from Major Mackenzie Drive in Markham , through Whitchurch @-@ Stouffville and East Gwillimbury , to Highway 12 south @-@ east of Beaverton . The route is generally rural and straight , passing near several communities within the Regional Municipality of York . The route is 65 @. @ 2 kilometres (40 @. @ 5 mi) long . Most part of the road has a speed limit of 80 km / h (50 mph) , except within town limits , where the speed limit is reduced to 60 km / h (37 mph) or 50 km / h (31 mph) .

Highway 48 was first designated in 1937 to connect Port Bolster with Highway 12 in Beaverton . It was extended south to meet with Highway 401 in the 1950s in anticipation of a planned freeway connection around the eastern shore of Lake Simcoe that ultimately became Highway 404 . In the mid @-@ 1970s , Highway 48 assumed a portion of the route of Highway 46 in Victoria Country , now the city of Kawartha Lakes , extending the route to Highway 35 in Coboconk . Between then and 1998 , the route was 128 km (80 mi) . However , on January 1 , 1998 the province transferred the responsibility of maintaining the southern and northern sections to the regional governments that those sections lie within .

= = Route description = =

Highway 48 is an L shaped route , travelling north through York Region to the southern shores of Lake Simcoe before turning east towards Highway 12 . The route is 65 @. @ 2 kilometres (40 @. @ 5 mi) long and travels through the municipalities of Markham , Whitchurch @-@ Stouffville , East Gwillimbury , and Brock .

Beginning at York Regional Road 25 (Major Mackenzie Drive) , the route progresses northward from the rural ? urban fringe of the Greater Toronto Area into farmland . A future extension of Donald Cousen Parkway will bypass former Highway 48 (Main Street) through downtown Markham in 2018 just north of Major Mackenzie . The route travels northward for 34 km (21 mi) along the 8th concession of York Region (Yonge Street being the 1st) to just south of Regional Road 32 (Ravenshoe Road) , intersecting with Elgin Mills Road , former Highway 47 (Stouffville Road and Bloomington Road) , York Regional Road 15 (Aurora Road) , York Regional Road 74 (Vivian Road) , York Regional Road 31 (Davis Drive) , York Regional Road 13 (Mount Albert Road) and Queensville Sideroad along the way .

North of Ravenshoe Road , the highway diverts onto the boundary between York and Durham through the community of Baldwin before jogging east at York Regional Road 79 (Old Homestead Road) . Just south of Sutton , the route curves east , meeting York Regional Road 9 (High Street) , which travels into the town . Despite that the highway is now travelling directly east , directional signs still reference the direction of this highway as north . Passing through Virginia and approximately a kilometre inland from Lake Simcoe , the highway widens to four lanes and passes through a moderately developed area , with frequent businesses lining the route . It passes south of Duclos Point Provincial Nature Reserve prior to meeting Durham Regional Road 23 (Lake Ridge Road) south of Port Bolster , where it crosses from the Regional Municipality of York to the Regional Municipality of Durham . The highway jogs northeastward several kilometres to align with the former Brock ? Thorah township line , crossing alongside a power transmission corridor several times along this segment . The final section travels eastward to Highway 12 , south of Beaverton and west of Cannington and Woodville .

The route is mostly rural , passing around the urban areas of Stouffville and south of Sutton . However , the east ? west section that lies to the south of Lake Simcoe is slightly developed and features a reduced speed limit of 60 km / h (37 mph) . The remainder of the route is signed at 80 km / h (50 mph) . Like other provincial routes in Ontario , Highway 48 is maintained by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario . In 2010 , traffic surveys conducted by the ministry showed that on average , 13 @, @ 300 vehicles used the highway daily along the 6 @. @ 0 @-@ kilometre (3 @. @ 7 mi) section between York Regional Road 25 (Major Mackenzie Drive) and York Regional Road

14 (Stouffville Road) while 5 @, @ 950 vehicles did so each day along the 5 @. @ 8 @- @ kilometre (3 @. @ 6 mi) section between Durham Regional Road 23 (Lake Ridge Road) and Brock Side Road 17 (former Highway 12) , the highest and lowest counts along the highway , respectively .

= = History = =

Highway 48 incorporates a significant portion of the former Scarborough and Markham Plank Road , now known as Markham Road , into its length . This section was not incorporated into the highway until 1954 , yet predates the Highway 48 designation entirely .

Markham Road began as the eighth concession east of Yonge Street in the Home County of Upper Canada , and was blazed by settlers to whom land had been granted along the right @- @ of @- @ way . The right @- @ of @- @ way extended from Lake Ontario in the south to what is today York Region Road 8A (Baseline Road) in Sutton , just south of Lake Simcoe , in the north . Improvements to the road and the necessary funds were authorized by an act of the Upper Canada provincial parliament on February 13 , 1833 for the section in Scarborough township between Danforth Road (present day Painted Post Drive) and the Eighth Concession at the border with Markham township . These improvements were supervised by residents Peter Secor , Richard Houck and Robert Armstrong . By 1847 , the section between Scarborough and Markham had become known as the Scarborough and Markham Road . On July 28 of that year , the parliament of the Province of Canada passed an act to establish the Scarborough and Markham Plank @- @ road Company , which was authorized to further improve the road surface to macadamized or planked construction between Kingston Road in Scarborough and Markham Village in the north , and further north and then east to Stouffville along the Markham @- @ Stouffville township line , a line then formed between today 's Stouffville Road and Main Street Stouffville . The company was allowed to erect gates and charge tolls to pay for the work .

On March 24 , 1937 , the 9 @. @ 6 km (6 @. @ 0 mi) gravel road between Beaverton and Port Bolster , known as the Port Bolster Road , was assumed by the Department of Highways ; it was paved in 1947 . On February 10 , 1954 , the highway was extended 82 km (51 mi) to the future site of Highway 401 , where a cloverleaf interchange was constructed in anticipation of it developing into a freeway around the eastern side of Lake Simcoe ; Highway 404 was constructed for this purpose , but along or parallel to Woodbine Avenue instead . In 1962 , the highway was extended to Highway 46 at Bolsover via a concurrency with Highway 12 north from Beaverton . This routing would last until November 4 , 1966 , when the 10 @. @ 3 km (6 @. @ 4 mi) Beaverton Bypass opened , routing Highway 12 to the east . A new road was opened connecting Highway 48 south of Port Bolster with the bypass on the same day , and both Highway 12 and Highway 48 were rerouted . Portions of the former route of Highway 48 and Highway 12 were renumbered as Highway 48B . However , the segment between Port Bolster and what is now Brock Sideline 17 was decommissioned entirely . The original route of Highway 48 , prior to 1954 , is now part of Durham Regional Road 23 .

On June 28 , 1967 , the routing of Highway 46 was shifted in the vicinity of Balsam Lake on to a new inland bypass ; the old route became known as West Bay Drive . On 1975 , Highway 46 was truncated at Bolsover ; the severed section was renumbered as an extension of Highway 48 , bringing it to its peak length of 129 @. @ 2 km (80 @. @ 3 mi) . The new section of highway between Highway 12 and Bolsover was reconstructed over the following year , opening to traffic on August 19 , 1976 .

The section between Highway 401 and the then @- @ unopened Highway 407 interchange was turned over to the Region of York and the City of Toronto on April 1 , 1995 , and is known as Markham Road south of Highway 407 , and Main Street thereafter to Sixteenth Avenue , where the name Markham Road resumes for 2 km (1 @. @ 2 mi) until Major Mackenzie Drive . The section within York Region is also designated as York Regional Road 68 .

On January 1 , 1998 , the section of Highway 48 between its southern junction with Highway 12 and Coboconk was transferred to the Regional Municipality of Durham and Victoria County (now Kawartha Lakes) , removing the concurrency with Highway 12 in the process . The section from

Highway 12 to Highway 35 is now known as Portage Road and signed as Durham Regional Highway 48 and Kawartha Lakes Road 48 .

= = Major intersections = =

The following table lists the major junctions along Highway 48 , as noted by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario .