

= M @-@ 119 ( Michigan highway ) =

M @-@ 119 is a 27 @. @ 548 @-@ mile ( 44 @. @ 334 km ) state trunkline highway entirely within Emmet County in the US state of Michigan . The highway follows the shore of Lake Michigan and the Little Traverse Bay , with its southern terminus at US Highway 31 ( US 31 ) near Bay View , about four miles ( 6 @. @ 4 km ) east of Petoskey ; the northern terminus is at a junction with county roads C @-@ 66 and C @-@ 77 in Cross Village . North of Harbor Springs , the highway is known as the Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route . This section of highway lacks a centerline and is known for its scenic beauty . On an average day , between 2 @, @ 000 and 15 @, @ 000 vehicles use various parts of the highway .

The first highways along the route of the modern M @-@ 119 was a section of the original M @-@ 13 designated by July 1 , 1919 . This highway was later redesignated M @-@ 131 in late 1926 , a designation it held until 1979 . During this timeframe , another highway bore the M @-@ 119 moniker in the southern part of the state near Paw Paw from the 1930s until the early 1970s . In between 1926 and 1979 , M @-@ 131 was extended and truncated on both its northern and southern ends at various times . Since the M @-@ 119 designation was applied to the current highway , no changes have been made to the routing .

= = Route description = =

M @-@ 119 starts at an intersection with US 31 about four miles ( 6 @. @ 4 km ) northeast of Petoskey near the community of Bay View in Bear Creek Township . The highway runs north between Petoskey State Park on the west and Round Lake on the east as it rounds the east end of Little Traverse Bay . The trunkline passes the eastern and northern edges of the Harbor Springs Municipal Airport as it turns westward near the junction with C @-@ 81 ( Pleasantview Road ) . Through this area , M @-@ 119 runs through the community of Wequetonsing and forests just inland from the bay 's northern shore . As it passes into the city limits of Harbor Springs , the highway follows Main Street into downtown . It turns north and then westward along State Street in the middle of town , intersecting the southern end of C @-@ 77 in the central business district . M @-@ 119 continues westward , passing through a residential area on Bluff Drive as it leaves the city .

From Harbor Springs on , M @-@ 119 is the Tunnel of Trees Scenic Heritage Route , one of the Pure Michigan Byways in the state . Bluff Drive becomes Lake Shore Drive near the Harbor Point Golf Course , and M @-@ 119 turns northward to follow the Lake Michigan shoreline at the mouth of Little Traverse Bay . The roadway meanders through oaks , maples , birch and cedars along an old Ottawa trail . The writers at National Geographic said that " only sometimes can you catch glimpses of Lake Michigan through the trees , but the dense foliage lends beauty to the winding road . " Along this area of the routing , the highway narrows in width and continues through the forest without a centerline most of the remainder of the way . As the Michigan Department of Transportation ( MDOT ) states on their website , " M @-@ 119 is not a road for those in a hurry . " the trunkline continues through the community of Good Hart up the Lake Michigan shoreline to the community of Cross Village . M @-@ 119 , and state maintenance , end at the intersection between Lake Shore Drive and C @-@ 66 / C @-@ 77 ( State Road ) in the middle of town .

As part of the state 's maintenance of M @-@ 119 , MDOT tracks the volume of traffic that uses the roadway . 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 @-@ 119 were the 14 @, @ 647 vehicles daily near the southern terminus ; the lowest counts were the 2 @, @ 036 vehicles per day at the northern terminus . None of M @-@ 119 has been listed on the National Highway System , a network of roads important to the country 's economy , defense , and mobility . The Discovery Channel named the roadway as one of the " Top 10 Motorcycle Rides in North America " .

= = History = =

== Previous designation ==

The first incarnation c . 1930 of the M @-@ 119 designation ran four miles ( 6 @.@ 4 km ) south from US 12 in Paw Paw south to Lawton in Van Buren County . By the middle of 1936 , it had been extended further south to US 112 near Mottville . In 1971 , all of M @-@ 119 was redesignated as M @-@ 40 .

== Current designation ==

The current highway was designated in 1979 , replacing the former route of M @-@ 131 ; the routing has remained unchanged since . This section of highway had been part of M @-@ 13 on July 1 , 1919 , when the state trunkline highway system debuted . Later on November 11 , 1926 , M @-@ 13 south of Fife Lake was redesignated as part of US 131 , and the remainder of M @-@ 13 was designated as M @-@ 131 .

Until 1933 , M @-@ 131 had terminated in Harbor Springs ; the highway was extended to the north along Little Traverse Bay and the Lake Michigan shoreline through the community of Good Hart before terminating in Cross Village . This section of highway would be stripped of its designation in 1937 and truncated back to Harbor Springs . In late 1938 or early 1939 , the State Highway Department extended US 131 along the M @-@ 131 corridor to Petoskey . This allowed US 131 to finally connect to its parent , US 31 for the first time since their inception in 1926 . The MSHD re @-@ extended M @-@ 131 back to Cross Village in 1945 . The highway remained as such until 1967 when a slight realignment was made in Emmet County along the lakeshore as M @-@ 131 is routed on to its final alignment .

== Major intersections ==

The entire highway is in Emmet County .