

= H @-@ 63 ( Michigan county highway ) =

H @-@ 63 is a county @-@ designated highway ( CDH ) in the Upper Peninsula of the US state of Michigan . The highway parallels the Interstate 75 ( I @-@ 75 ) corridor between St. Ignace and Sault Ste . Marie . The road is called Mackinac Trail after the Upper Peninsula branch of an Indian trail used before European settlers reached the area . Originally , the roadway was built as a section of US Highway 2 ( US 2 ) before being added to the CDH system in the 1970s .

H @-@ 63 serves as a two @-@ lane alternative to the I @-@ 75 freeway across the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula . Between the northern side of St. Ignace , the roadway has connections to two state highways before running concurrently with M @-@ 48 near Rudyard . H @-@ 63 ends on the south side of Sault Ste . Marie .

= = Route description = =

H @-@ 63 starts a winding trail at Business Loop I @-@ 75 ( BL I @-@ 75 ) north of St. Ignace in rural Mackinac County . From there , the highway heads northward towards the Kewadin Casino . The road then passes within viewing distance of I @-@ 75 past the Horseshoe Bay Wilderness . As it continues , H @-@ 63 has a connection to the southern terminus of M @-@ 123 with access to I @-@ 75 via a connecting road to M @-@ 123 . After crossing to the west side of I @-@ 75 , H @-@ 63 has access to I @-@ 75 via a connecting road to the western terminus of M @-@ 134 . The CDH runs to the north and into Chippewa County . As it does so , H @-@ 63 turns away from I @-@ 75 as the latter curves northeastward . South of Rudyard and into center of the community , H @-@ 63 runs concurrently with M @-@ 48 for about three miles ( 4 @. @ 8 km ) .

From Rudyard northward , H @-@ 63 turns northeasterly toward , and runs parallel to , I @-@ 75 . At Kinross , there is an interchange between I @-@ 75 and M @-@ 80 ; H @-@ 63 has a brief concurrency with M @-@ 80 so that the latter can connect to all of the ramps in the interchange . The trail then crosses to the eastern side of I @-@ 75 . Near Dafter , the CDH intersects M @-@ 28 . Along this section , H @-@ 63 is roughly a half mile ( 0 @. @ 8 km ) away from the I @-@ 75 freeway at any given point as it continues northward to the Sault Ste . Marie area . H @-@ 63 terminates at its intersection with Business Spur I @-@ 75 ( BS I @-@ 75 ) on the south side of the city .

= = History = =

The first transportation route in the area was the Mackinac Trail , used by Native Americans before the Europeans arrived in the area ; the trail in the area was the Upper Peninsula branch of a longer route that also connected the modern @-@ day Saginaw with Mackinaw City and the Straits of Mackinac . Until 1933 , no roadway was built along the path of the Indian trail . After that year , US 2 was rerouted between St. Ignace and Sault Ste . Marie using the modern routing of H @-@ 63 . This placed the Mackinac Trail on the state trunkline highway system for the first time . In 1962 and 1963 , the state transferred the highway to county control when US 2 was rerouted to follow the completed I @-@ 75 freeway . With the transfer to local control , Mackinac Trail became a county road . Later , it was given the H @-@ 63 designation after October 5 , 1970 as part of the County @-@ Designated Highway System . The designation on the 1971 state map follows the routing used today .

= = Major intersections = =