

= Ontario Highway 140 =

King 's Highway 140 , commonly referred to as Highway 140 , is a provincially maintained highway in the Canadian province of Ontario . The highway connects Port Colborne near Lake Erie with Highway 406 in Welland , via the Main Street Tunnel . It was constructed in the early 1970s as part of the Welland Bypass project of the Welland Canal , which resulted in the severance of several highways and rail lines . Opened to traffic in late 1972 , several months following the tunnel , Highway 140 has remained unchanged since , despite growing calls to resign it as an extension of Highway 406 .

= = Route description = =

Highway 140 begins at an intersection with Highway 3 on the eastern edge of Port Colborne . From there , Highway 3 continues east to Fort Erie ; to the west it becomes Niagara Regional Road 3 . The roadway carrying Highway 140 continues south of Highway 3 as a local road named Elizabeth Street , whereas Highway 140 travels north , to the west of forestland and a quarry . The highway parallels the Welland Canal throughout its length , always within 2 kilometres (1 @. @ 2 mi) of the waterway . Wooden high @- @ tension powerlines parallel the highway until it diverges , curving towards the northeast immediately north of Chippawa Road . It travels diagonally for several kilometres before ascending on an overpass and crossing the former Canadian National Humberstone Subdivision tracks .

The highway gradually straightens to a north ? south alignment as it crosses Highway 58A and a set of railway tracks , both of which travel beneath the nearby Welland Canal to the west . Continuing north , Highway 140 passes over Lyons Creek , which meanders northeast to converge with the Welland River west of the Niagara River . The highway ends approximately 1 kilometre (0 @. @ 62 mi) north of this point at an intersection with Main Street (Niagara Regional Road 27) . Main Street travels beneath the Welland Canal immediately west of Highway 140 , providing a connection to Highway 406 on the opposite side . Because of its importance as both a through route past the canal and in linking Highway 140 with Highway 406 , East Main Street between Highways 140 and 406 is maintained the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) as Highway 7146 .

= = History = =

The history of Highway 140 begins in May 1966 , when the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority received Federal approval for the Welland Bypass , a 13 @. @ 4 @- @ kilometre (8 @. @ 3 mi) channel that would serve to bypass the canal through downtown Welland , where several crossings proved to be a hazard for shipping traffic and the shipping traffic an impediment to pedestrian and vehicular traffic . The new channel would be dug out and flooded , providing the opportunity for the construction of cheap cut and cover tunnels beneath the channel . By 1968 , construction was underway on tunnels at East Main Street and at the Port Colborne ? Welland townline .

Due to the numerous road disconnections that would take place as a result of the Welland Bypass , a new highway was proposed to link Welland with Port Colborne . One of the severed highways was Highway 58 , which then followed Canal Bank Street south from Welland . In late 1970 , the Department of Highways tendered contracts for the construction of the new highway on the east side of the bypass . Construction began from the north , reaching as far south as Ramey Road .

The section north of Townline Road was completed within a year . Around the same time , the third and final contract was tendered for the section north of Highway 3 . On May 20 , 1972 , the Main Street Tunnel was opened to traffic at a morning ceremony featuring local officials and the Welland Police Association Pipe Band . Highway 140 was opened several months later , without ceremony , on October 5 . It has remained unchanged since then , and was not affected by the provincial highway transfers in 1997 and 1998 .

The various municipalities serviced by Highway 140 , as well as Niagara Region , have called for four @- @ laning the route and redesignating it as Highway 406 . However , the MTO is committed

to extending Highway 406 to Highway 58 southwest of Welland . On April 4 , 2006 , the MPP for Erie ? Lincoln , Tim Hudak , introduced a Private Member 's Bill . The Highway 406 to Port Colborne Act passed first reading , but was not brought up for a second reading .

= = Major intersections = =

The following table lists the major junctions along Highway 140 , as noted by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario . The entire route is located in the Regional Municipality of Niagara .