

= Interstate 194 (Michigan) =

Interstate 194 (I @-@ 194) is a 3 @. @ 4 @-@ mile @-@ long (5 @. @ 5 km) , north ? south freeway between downtown Battle Creek and I @-@ 94 in the southern portion of the city . The highway has been designated the Sojourner Truth Downtown Parkway by the state after the abolitionist Sojourner Truth , who was active in the Battle Creek area . Locals refer to the freeway by its semi @-@ official nickname , " The Penetrator " . I @-@ 194 is the only three @-@ digit spur or loop route off I @-@ 94 in the state of Michigan and runs concurrently throughout its length with M @-@ 66 , which continues both north and south from the termini of I @-@ 194 . The freeway was initially opened in 1961 and completed in its current form in 1966 . The highway was named in 1976 for Truth in honor of her local connections to the area .

= = Route description = =

Part of the much longer highway , I @-@ 194 starts when M @-@ 66 widens out to a full freeway just south of I @-@ 94 near Beckley Road . The start of I @-@ 194 is marked by the full cloverleaf interchange . It is numbered as exit 98 along I @-@ 94 and exit 1 using I @-@ 194 's mileage along the I @-@ 194 / M @-@ 66 freeway . The roadway crosses Minges Creek north of the I @-@ 94 interchange . To the west of the freeway are residential subdivisions ; the eastern side is marked by gently @-@ rolling , wooded terrain . This section of I @-@ 194 carries 26 @, @ 300 vehicles on an average day according to annual average daily traffic surveys done by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in 2007 . Of these vehicles , 1 @, @ 200 trucks were included in the totals .

After crossing Golden Avenue , I @-@ 194 curves to the northwest to meet the M @-@ 96 (Columbia Avenue) interchange . The freeway runs underneath the Columbia Avenue overpass before running parallel to the west bank of the Kalamazoo River . The freeway crosses the river at the southern end of Lower Mill Pond . Curving back around to the northeast , I @-@ 194 meets Business Loop I @-@ 94 (BL I @-@ 94 , Dickman Road) . Here the AADT counts average 24 @, @ 400 vehicles a day . The freeway ends at an at @-@ grade intersection with Hamblin Avenue , and continuing north of the intersection , the highway becomes just M @-@ 66 . BL I @-@ 94 runs east of the freeway end on Hamblin Avenue to connect to Michigan Avenue . All of I @-@ 194 is listed on the National Highway System , a system of strategically important highways , and it is concurrent with M @-@ 66 for the length of the freeway .

= = History = =

From its initial opening in 1961 until 1964 , I @-@ 194 also carried the BL I @-@ 94 and M @-@ 78 designations . BL I @-@ 94 was rerouted in Battle Creek to Martin Luther King Drive and M @-@ 78 in 1964 , and M @-@ 78 was replaced by M @-@ 66 in 1965 . The last change to the I @-@ 194 routing was the extension of the northern end of the freeway from Columbia Avenue to Michigan Avenue in 1966 . At the time , MDOT 's predecessor , the Michigan State Highway Department , called all auxiliary Interstate Highways " Penetrator " when planning the freeway network in the state ; a name which stuck to I @-@ 194 .

Born Isabella Baumfree in 1797 , Sojourner Truth settled in the Battle Creek area in the 1840s . She travelled through the Midwest and New England speaking against slavery and for women 's rights . She lived in the area until her death in 1883 . Her connection to the state of Michigan was honored by the state American Revolution Bicentennial Commission in 1976 which urged the Michigan Legislature to name a highway in her honor . Public Act 93 of 1976 named all of M @-@ 66 in Calhoun County as the Sojourner Truth Memorial Highway . The highway was dedicated to her on May 21 , 1976 .

The Cereal City Development Corporation (CCDC) asked the Legislature to amend the memorial designation in 1993 . They felt the highway was better known to locals as The Penetrator , and they wished to restore emphasis to Truth , they asked for the " Sojourner Truth Downtown Parkway "

name to be applied to " M @-@ 66 between Interstate 94 and Hamblin " . The Legislature passed Public Act 208 of 1993 to affect the change , restoring " the link between Sojourner Truth and the City of Battle Creek , which was once the center of abolitionist sentiment in the state . "

= = Exit list = =

The entire highway is in Battle Creek , Calhoun County .