

= M @-@ 139 ( Michigan highway ) =

M @-@ 139 is a state trunkline highway entirely within Berrien County in the US state of Michigan . The highway starts at US Highway 12 ( US 12 ) southwest of Niles and runs through rural areas of the county to terminate at an intersection with Business Loop Interstate 94 ( BL I @-@ 94 ) in Benton Harbor . The highway run parallel to , and crosses over , the St. Joseph River several times as it follows a set of roads previously used for US 31 in the area . The highway was first designated in the 1930s as a bypass of the Benton Harbor and St. Joseph area . Its termini have been moved over the years since , extending and contracting the length of the highway between Niles and Benton Harbor . M @-@ 139 now serves to provide access through the area from a set of bypasses consisting of I @-@ 94 and US 31 .

= = Route description = =

M @-@ 139 begins at a junction with US 12 southwest of Niles in Bertrand Township . The highway travels northeasterly along Chicago Road through farm fields and residential neighborhoods . The trunkline turns north along Lincoln Avenue and then east on Main Street to run into downtown Niles . Main Street crosses the St. Joseph River , and at the intersection with Front Street , M @-@ 139 turns north along that street which is also called " OLD US 31 " on some maps . The highway runs parallel to the river as both exit the downtown area . M @-@ 139 turns toward the northwest on the outskirts of town , running through farm fields . The trunkline passes Webster and Long lakes as it crosses mixed forest and residential areas between Niles and Berrien Springs .

Entering Berrien Springs , M @-@ 139 curves around part of Lake Chapin . North of the dam that forms Lake Chapin from the St. Joseph River , the highway follows Ferry Street to the southwest to cross the river . In downtown Berrien Springs , the trunkline then turns northwesterly along St. Joseph Avenue to pass Andrews University . Northwest of the college , M @-@ 139 crosses US 31 ( St. Joseph Valley Parkway ) . From there the highway travels northwesterly through Royalton Township through farm fields parallel to the St. Joseph River . M @-@ 139 follows Niles Road to the community of Scottdale where it turns northward along Scottdale Road at an intersection with M @-@ 63 . M @-@ 139 crosses the St. Joseph River one last time south of the interchange with I @-@ 94 at its exit 28 ; M @-@ 139 then passes through the community of Fair Plain and enters the eastern edge of Benton Harbor . Before terminating at BL I @-@ 94 ( Main Street ) in Benton Harbor , the highway splits into a one @-@ way pair just north of Empire Avenue . Northbound traffic is routed along Martin Luther King Drive while southbound traffic flows on Fair Avenue .

M @-@ 139 is maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation ( MDOT ) like other state highways in Michigan . As a part of these maintenance responsibilities , the department tracks the volume of traffic that uses the roadways under its jurisdiction . 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 2011 showed that the highest traffic levels along M @-@ 139 were the 12 @,@ 248 vehicles daily between the intersections with Fairland and Deans Hill / Pokagon roads south of Berrien Springs ; the lowest counts were the 1 @,@ 576 vehicles per day in downtown Niles . The only section of M @-@ 139 that have been listed on the National Highway System ( NHS ) is from the interchange with US 31 northward . The NHS is a network of roads important to the country 's economy , defense , and mobility .

= = History = =

M @-@ 139 was designated as a state trunkline by 1931 from US 31 at Scottdale to US 12 in Benton Harbor . In late 1953 or early 1954 M @-@ 139 was extended westward along US 12 and then northward along Paw Paw Avenue to meet a new bypass routing of US 31 north of Benton Harbor . US 31 was rerouted to follow what is now the I @-@ 196 freeway in 1963 . At that time , US 31 was then routed along I @-@ 94 and M @-@ 139 to Scottdale . The following year , the concurrency was removed when M @-@ 139 was truncated to end at I @-@ 94 / US 31 . The

northern extension on Paw Paw Avenue was turned back to local control , truncating the northern end of M @-@ 139 to the intersection with BL I @-@ 94 ( previously US 12 ) .

On August 27 , 2003 , the St. Joseph Valley Parkway freeway carrying US 31 was completed from northwest of Berrien Springs ( exit 15 ) to Napier Avenue near Benton Harbor ( exit 24 ) . The former section of M @-@ 139 replaced by US 31 was once again designated M @-@ 139 , with M @-@ 139 extending further along the former US 31 to the freeway 's exit 15 . In 2008 , M @-@ 139 was planned to extend southerly to end at Main Street ( Business US 12 , Bus . US 12 ) in Niles along the unsigned state trunkline OLD US 31 and Bus . US 31 , but after the City of Niles announced its plan to take over maintenance of the section of East Main Street between Front Street / Bus . US 31 and Fifth Street / M @-@ 51 in order to ban trucks , the plan was revised to extend M @-@ 139 further south , replacing the Bus . US 12 designation southwesterly to US 12 . The extension was executed on March 5 , 2010 , prior to route marker installation .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire highway is in Berrien County .