

= Delaware Route 52 =

Delaware Route 52 ( DE 52 ) is a state highway in New Castle County , Delaware . The route runs from U.S. Route 13 Business ( US 13 Bus . ) in downtown Wilmington north to Pennsylvania Route 52 ( PA 52 ) at the Pennsylvania border near Centerville . DE 52 runs through the city of Wilmington and passes through areas of the Brandywine Valley north of Wilmington . DE 52 intersects Interstate 95 ( I @-@ 95 ) / US 202 and DE 2 in Wilmington and DE 100 / DE 141 and DE 82 in Greenville . The entire route is designated as part of the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway , a National Scenic Byway and Delaware Byway while most of the route is also designated as part of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway of the Delaware Byways system . The road was built as the Kennett Pike , a turnpike , between 1811 and 1813 at a cost of \$ 30 @,@ 000 . The Kennett Pike was bought by Pierre S. du Pont , II in 1919 and upgraded to a state highway ; which he paved at a cost of \$ 85 @,@ 000 per mile . Pierre S. du Pont , II later sold it to the State of Delaware for \$ 1 . The road received the DE 52 designation by 1936 .

= = Route description = =

DE 52 begins at US 13 Bus . , which is routed on the one @-@ way pair of North Walnut Street northbound and North King Street southbound near Rodney Square in downtown Wilmington . From here , DE 52 follows the one @-@ way pair of East 11th Street eastbound and East 12th Street westbound to the northwest , becoming West 11th Street and West 12th Street at the North Market Street intersection . The one @-@ way pair heads northwest past downtown high @-@ rise buildings , carrying three lanes in each direction . Both directions of DE 52 merge onto Delaware Avenue , an eight @-@ lane divided highway , and the route reaches an interchange with I @-@ 95 / US 202 . Past this interchange , the route narrows to six lanes and leaves downtown Wilmington . DE 52 splits from Delaware Avenue by continuing northwest on Pennsylvania Avenue , a four @-@ lane undivided road that heads to the north of the Ursuline Academy and passes through urban areas of homes and businesses . The road intersects the eastern terminus of DE 2 in a commercial area and passes under CSX 's Philadelphia Subdivision . The route runs through more residential areas north of the Wawaset Park neighborhood , passing to the northeast of the Wilmington Campus of the University of Delaware .

DE 52 leaves Wilmington and becomes Kennett Pike , heading through wooded areas of suburban homes . The road heads into Greenville and widens into a divided highway as it comes to an interchange with the DE 100 / DE 141 freeway . Past this interchange , the route continues into business areas , crossing an East Penn Railroad line before passing to the east of Alexis I. duPont High School . DE 52 leaves Greenville and narrows to a two @-@ lane undivided road as it heads into wooded areas then open fields to the west and Twin Lakes Farm and Twin Lakes Brewing Company , intersecting the southern terminus of DE 82 . The road continues through more forested suburban areas , passing to the west of the Wilmington Country Club and to the east of the Delaware Museum of Natural History . The route passes to the west of the Winterthur Museum and Country Estate and heads into the community of Centerville . DE 52 continues northwest to its northern terminus at the Pennsylvania border , where it continues into that state as PA 52 to Longwood Gardens and West Chester .

The entire length of DE 52 is part of the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway , a National Scenic Byway and Delaware Byway . The route between Washington and West streets in Wilmington and the Pennsylvania border is also part of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway of the Delaware Byways system . DE 52 has an annual average daily traffic count ranging from a high of 37 @,@ 694 vehicles at the Dupont Road intersection to a low of 5 @,@ 654 vehicles at the southern terminus at US 13 Bus . All of DE 52 is part of the National Highway System .

= = History = =

On January 21 , 1811 , the Wilmington and Kennett Turnpike Company was incorporated to build a

turnpike from Wilmington to the Pennsylvania border at Centreville . The road was built between 1811 and 1813 at a cost of \$ 30 @, @ 000 . The charter of the turnpike gave Christiana Hundred the option to purchase the road in 1820 and remove the tolls . The Kennett Pike had two toll gates north of Wilmington . In 1919 , Pierre S. du Pont bought the road and the toll gates were removed . The road was widened and paved following the sale and eventually sold to the Delaware State Highway Department . When Delaware designated state highways by 1936 , DE 52 was designated onto its current alignment . In 1939 , the route was widened to four lanes between Rising Sun Lane and Barley Mill Road to alleviate traffic congestion during peak hours . The portion of DE 52 along Delaware Avenue was widened to four lanes in November 1940 . In 2002 , DE 52 was designated as part of the Brandywine Valley Scenic Highway in the Delaware Scenic and Historic Highways system ; it was designated a National Scenic Byway in 2005 .

= = Major intersections = =

Mileposts run from north to south . The entire route is in New Castle County .