

= Delaware Route 20 =

Delaware Route 20 (DE 20) is an east ? west highway in Sussex County , Delaware . Its western terminus is the Maryland state line in Reliance , where it continues as Maryland Route 392 (MD 392) . Its eastern terminus is DE 54 west of Fenwick Island . The route runs through rural areas of Sussex County and passes through the towns of Seaford , Millsboro , and Dagsboro . DE 20 intersects U.S. Route 13 (US 13) in Seaford , US 9 in Hardscrabble , US 113 and DE 24 / DE 30 in Millsboro , DE 26 in Dagsboro , and DE 17 in Roxana . DE 20 was originally created by 1936 to run from the Maryland border east to US 113 in Millsboro . By 1970 , it was realigned to bypass Seaford . The route was extended east to DE 1 in Fenwick Island by 1994 ; however , the eastern terminus was cut back to DE 54 in 2005 to avoid the concurrency with that route .

= = Route description = =

DE 20 begins at the Maryland border in Reliance , where the road continues west into that state as MD 392 . From the state line , the route heads east on two @-@ lane undivided Stein Highway through farmland with some woods and homes . The road crosses the Maryland and Delaware Railroad 's Seaford Line and continues into Seaford , where it heads into industrial areas . DE 20 widens into a five @-@ lane road with a center left @-@ turn lane and passes through residential and commercial areas of the city . The road becomes a four @-@ lane divided highway and comes to a bridge over Norfolk Southern 's Delmarva Secondary railroad line , turning back into a five @-@ lane road . The route becomes a divided highway again as it intersects with Front Street / Bridgeville Highway . Past this intersection , DE 20 becomes Norman A. Eskridge Highway and bends northeast , reaching an intersection with US 13 .

At this point , DE 20 turns south for a concurrency with US 13 on the four @-@ lane divided Sussex Highway . The road crosses Williams Pond before passing through commercial areas and coming to a bridge over the Nanticoke River . Near Blades , DE 20 splits from US 13 by turning east on two @-@ lane undivided Concord Road . The road passes through wooded residential neighborhoods , reaching the community of Concord . The route continues southeast through a mix of farmland and woodland with some homes , curving to the east . DE 20 reaches the community of Hardscrabble and intersects US 9 , at which point it is briefly a divided highway . Past this intersection , the name changes to Hardscrabble Road and the road becomes undivided again . The road heads southeast before it makes a turn to the east . The route comes to an intersection with US 113 northwest of Millsboro .

DE 20 turns southeast to form a concurrency with US 113 on four @-@ lane divided Dupont Boulevard , entering Millsboro . The road passes through commercial areas , intersecting DE 24 / DE 30 . The two routes run past more businesses and a few homes before leaving Millsboro . DE 20 splits from US 113 by turning southeast on two @-@ lane undivided Dagsboro Road . The road continues through wooded areas with some homes before heading into farmland and crossing Norfolk Southern 's Indian River Secondary railroad line . The route enters Dagsboro and becomes Main Street , passing homes and a few businesses . DE 20 comes to an intersection with DE 26 , at which point that route becomes concurrent with DE 20 . The two routes curve east and leave town on Vines Creek Road .

Upon leaving Dagsboro , the road passes to the south of Prince George 's Chapel and DE 20 splits from DE 26 by heading southeast on Armory Road . The road heads to the north of Indian River High School and runs through agricultural areas with some woods and homes , reaching Omar . In Omar , the route crosses Omar Road and becomes Pyle Center Road . DE 20 continues to an intersection with DE 17 in Roxana . Following , the route becomes Zion Church Road and runs through more rural land , crossing DE 54 Alt . Farther southeast , residential development near the road increases and it widens to four lanes . DE 20 comes to its eastern terminus at an intersection with DE 54 west of Fenwick Island .

The portion of the route between Bridgeville Highway and US 13 in Seaford is designated as part of the Nanticoke Heritage Byway , a Delaware Byway . DE 20 has an annual average daily traffic count

ranging from a high of 34 @, @ 190 vehicles at the north end of Millsboro to a low of 3 @, @ 030 vehicles at the Shiloh Church Road intersection between Hardscrabble and Millsboro . The portions of DE 20 concurrent with US 13 and US 113 are part of the National Highway System .

= = History = =

What would become DE 20 was originally an unimproved county road in 1920 , with the portion between Seaford and Concord under contract as a state highway . By 1924 , the road was completed as a state highway from the Maryland border east to Concord . The portion of road between Concord and Hardscrabble was proposed as a state highway a year later . By 1931 , the state highway was extended from Concord to Hardscrabble . A portion of what would become DE 20 west of Millsboro was built as a state road the following year .

DE 20 was designated to run from the Maryland border in Reliance east to US 113 in Millsboro by 1936 , following its current alignment to Seaford before heading south along what was then US 13 (Front Street) to Blades , where it turned east onto High Street and picked up its current alignment to Millsboro . In 1939 , plans were made to eliminate the grade crossing with the Pennsylvania Railroad (now Norfolk Southern 's Delmarva Secondary) in Seaford by replacing it with a bridge over the tracks . Construction on this bridge began a year later . On September 2 , 1941 , the DE 20 bridge over the railroad tracks in Seaford opened to traffic .

By 1970 , the Norman Eskridge Highway was built between Front Street and US 13 in Seaford , and DE 20 was moved to its current alignment bypassing Seaford and Blades to the north and northeast along the Norman Eskridge Highway and US 13 . In 1985 , the highway was widened into a four @-@ lane road through Seaford , with a parallel bridge built over Conrail 's Delmarva Secondary (now Norfolk Southern) . The route was extended to DE 1 in Fenwick Island by 1994 , following its current alignment between Millsboro and DE 54 before overlapping with DE 54 (Lighthouse Road) for the easternmost portion of the route . In 2005 , DE 20 was removed from the DE 54 concurrency after it was determined unnecessary for there to be two route numbers for that stretch of road .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Sussex County .