

= New York State Route 373 =

New York State Route 373 (NY 373) is a short state highway in Essex County , New York , within Adirondack State Park . It begins at U.S. Route 9 (US 9) and proceeds eastward , ending at a ferry landing on Lake Champlain . It intersects two county routes , several local roads , and a reference route ? NY 912T ? which connects it with US 9 . NY 373 is the only connector between US 9 and the hamlet of Port Kent and the ferry that serves it .

The hamlet of Port Kent and the connecting road were originally built in 1823 . The village was planned to act as a source of labor for iron manufacturing and to provide for the industrial needs of Essex County . The hamlet grew and eventually became connected to Burlington , Vermont , via an hour @-@ long ferry across Lake Champlain . The road that accessed Port Kent originally began in Keeseville , but became part of the longer Port Kent and Hopkinton Turnpike in the 1830s . The highway that is now NY 373 was also designated as part of the Theodore Roosevelt International Highway in 1919 .

When NY 373 was assigned in 1930 , a small portion of it was maintained by the town of Chesterfield . This section was turned over to the State of New York during a maintenance swap with Essex County in 1985 .

= = Route description = =

NY 373 , located entirely within Adirondack State Park , begins at US 9 at the Ausable Chasm , a deep , wooded canyon in the town of Chesterfield . The route intersects with NY 912T , its southern connector to US 9 , about 0 @.@ 1 miles (160 m) in . NY 373 continues farther along and intersects with County Route 71 (CR 71) before heading east @-@ southeast just north of the Ausable River . The highway then intersects CR 17 and several local roads , and then turns east @-@ northeast .

The route then passes south of a golf course and enters Port Kent , where it intersects with more local streets , most of which serve homes and businesses . The highway turns northward soon afterward , crosses a pair of train tracks maintained by Canadian Pacific Railway and the Port Kent Amtrak station , makes a U @-@ turn and comes to an end at the Burlington ? Port Kent Ferry landing .

The Burlington ? Port Kent Ferry connects NY 373 and the hamlet of Port Kent to the city of Burlington , Vermont . This , one of three ferries to cross Lake Champlain , is the longest as it crosses the widest part of the lake . It is maintained by the Lake Champlain Transportation Company , and is open all seasons except winter .

= = History = =

= = = Port Kent and the early highway to Keeseville = = =

In 1823 , a company was funded to establish a settlement and fishing wharf opposite the city of Burlington , Vermont on Lake Champlain in order to assist in the growth of iron factories and to supply dormant energy to the Essex County area . The newly founded company chose the name " Port Kent " and located the new hamlet on a site north of Trembleau Point . The original alignment of what is now NY 373 began as a wide road that was built to access Port Kent from the nearby village of Keeseville .

NY 373 exists entirely within the boundaries of Adirondack Park , a protected area maintained by the State of New York . Adirondack Park was created in the 1880s after concerns arose about logging trees in the area . The logging was a substantial part of New York 's economy , but protests were lodged by The New York Times and others against the clearing of entire mountains and wilderness areas of trees . Public opinion turned firmly against the loggers by the 1880s , and the park was created in 1885 . It was the first State Forest Preserve in America . The park was further

protected in 1894 when a clause was added to the New York State constitution which banned the selling of timber from state parks .

= = = Old roads and designation = = =

On April 16 , 1827 , a team of three surveyors were commissioned to determine a routing for a new highway leading from Hopkinton , a town in northeastern St. Lawrence County , to Lake Champlain . The task took 26 days , after which it was determined that the highway would meet Lake Champlain at Fort Kent . An act authorizing the construction of the highway was passed by the New York State Legislature on April 18 , 1829 . A total of approximately \$ 38 @, @ 500 (equivalent to \$ 855 @, @ 542 in 2016) was devoted to the project by the state of New York through the same act .

The 75 @-@ mile (121 km) highway opened in 1833 as a toll road named the Port Kent and Hopkinton Turnpike . The turnpike had only one toll gate , located near the center of the route . Two years later , the turnpike commissioners petitioned to the state of New York , asking for permission to replace the single gate with two gates at opposite ends of the turnpike that would collect half of the toll amount . The commissioners believed that the change in the toll gate locations would result in higher revenue , allowing them to continue maintaining the highway . The change was approved ; however , the toll road was dissolved anyway three years later on March 30 , 1838 . At that time , maintenance of the Port Kent ? Hopkinton highway was transferred to the towns it ran through .

The Theodore Roosevelt International Highway , a transcontinental auto trail extending from Portland , Oregon , to Portland , Maine , was established in 1919 . In eastern New York , the highway went through Keeseville , Ausable Chasm , and Fort Kent along what used to be the Port Kent and Hopkinton Turnpike before entering Vermont by way of the Burlington ? Port Kent Ferry across Lake Champlain .

The state of New York assumed maintenance of most of the Ausable Chasm ? Port Kent roadway at some point after 1920 . In the 1930 renumbering of state highways in New York , the entirety of the highway from Ausable Chasm to the Port Kent ferry landing was designated as NY 373 , despite the fact that the small portion of the route east of Lake Street in Port Kent was not maintained by the state at the time . On April 1 , 1985 , ownership and maintenance of NY 373 east of Lake Street was transferred from the town of Chesterfield to the state of New York as part of a highway maintenance swap between the state and Essex County .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Chesterfield , Essex County .