

= New York State Route 86 =

New York State Route 86 (NY 86) is a 39 @.@ 11 @-@ mile (62 @.@ 94 km) long state highway located within Adirondack Park in northern New York , in the United States , linking Franklin County to Essex County . The western terminus of the route is at NY 30 in the hamlet of Paul Smiths . The eastern terminus is at NY 9N in Jay . Although largely a two @-@ lane road , NY 86 is one of only two east ? west highways in the High Peaks area of the Adirondack Park (the other being NY 73) , providing a major link between hamlets and tourist destinations .

NY 86 was established in the 1930 renumbering of state highways in New York , largely replacing a realigned NY 3 . North of Saranac Lake , NY 86 initially followed modern NY 186 before being rerouted onto its modern alignment . The portion of NY 86 north of Harrietstown was once NY 192 .

= = Route description = =

NY 86 begins at NY 30 in Paul Smiths , Franklin County . The route heads east through the town of Brighton , providing mountain views of Adirondack Park . After passing through the tiny communities of Easy Street and Gabriels and traversing the southern edge of Paul Smiths College , NY 86 turns south to serve Harrietstown , where it meets NY 186 at the hamlet of the same name . NY 86 continues southward to Saranac Lake , the largest community on NY 86 in Franklin County . Moving through Saranac Lake , the business and tourism anchor for the area , NY 86 is well marked , but follows local roads to an intersection with NY 3 in the village center . The routes briefly overlap before splitting at the northern edge of Lake Flower .

East of NY 3 , NY 86 becomes the primary lakeside roadway as it follows the northern and eastern extents of Lake Flower into Essex County . Roughly 0 @.@ 75 miles (1 @.@ 21 km) into the county , NY 86 leaves the lakeshore and turns northeastward toward the small hamlet of Ray Brook . Farther east , the highway travels through the Clifford R. Pettis Memorial Forest before arriving in the village of Lake Placid as Saranac Avenue .

NY 86 proceeds eastward through the village , coming within view of Lake Placid before turning south onto Main Street at the western shore of Mirror Lake . As Main , NY 86 runs through the village and along Mirror Lake as the major tourist thoroughfare , passing numerous businesses and the sites of the 1936 and 1980 Winter Olympics . At the southern edge of the village , Route 86 intersects the western terminus of NY 73 .

Outside of Lake Placid , NY 86 enters the town of Wilmington , home of the Olympic Ski Center at Whiteface Mountain . Through Wilmington , the road largely follows the Ausable River northeastward , providing scenic views as it heads through " Wilmington Notch , " noted for trout fishing . At an intersection with the eastern terminus of NY 431 in the hamlet of Wilmington , NY 86 turns eastward and crosses into the town of Jay , where it terminates at NY 9N at the town 's village green .

Route 86 runs adjacent to the westbranch of the Ausable River through a stretch that Trout Unlimited 's Guide to America 's 100 Best Trout Streams describes as one of the finest river fishing spots in the United States .

= = History = =

What is now NY 86 from Paul Smiths to Jay via Saranac Lake and Lake Placid was originally part of the Theodore Roosevelt International Highway , an auto trail extending across the North American continent from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean . When the first set of posted routes in New York were assigned in 1924 , NY 3 was assigned to the entirety of the highway within New York .

NY 3 remained in place up to the 1930 renumbering of state highways in New York when it was rerouted onto its modern alignment through the North Country . The portion of former NY 3 from Harrietstown to Jay , as well as a section of former NY 10 (modern NY 186) from Harrietstown to Lake Clear , was redesignated as NY 86 . North of Harrietstown , the former alignment of NY 3 became NY 408 from Harrietstown to Gabriels and the western half of NY 192 from Gabriels to Paul

Smiths . NY 408 was co @-@ designated as part of NY 365 c . 1932 , and ultimately supplanted by NY 365 c . 1938 . NY 365 was rerouted in the mid @-@ 1940s , leaving the Harrietstown ? Gabriels roadway unnumbered .

In the early 1950s , NY 365 's old routing between Harrietstown and Gabriels was designated as NY 192A , a spur route of NY 192 . NY 192A was removed from the state highway system on January 7 , 1980 , when NY 192 was rerouted east of Gabriels to follow NY 192A . On March 28 , 1989 , NY 192 was eliminated in much the same way as its spur route as NY 86 was rerouted to follow NY 192 through Gabriels to Paul Smiths . NY 86 's former routing past the Adirondack Regional Airport became NY 186 .

= = NY 86A = =

NY 86A was a spur route connecting NY 86 in Lake Placid to NY 9N in Keene . It was assigned as part of the 1930 renumbering of state highways in New York and replaced by an extended NY 73 in the mid @-@ 1950s .

= = Major intersections = =