

= Ontario Highway 72 =

King 's Highway 72 , commonly referred to as Highway 72 , is a provincially maintained highway in the northern half of the Canadian province of Ontario . The highway connects Highway 17 in Dinorwic with the town of Sioux Lookout , where there are connections with Highway 516 towards Savant Lake and Highway 642 towards Silver Dollar .

Highway 72 was built as a trunk route by 1920 , and became a provincial highway in 1937 . It has remained largely unchanged since then , aside from the reconstruction and realignment of the Frog Rapids bridge , and the renumbering of the fork towards Hudson as Highway 664 . The length of the highway is 68 @. @ 5 km (42 @. @ 6 mi) , the entirety of which is situated in Kenora District . There are no significant settlements between its endpoints .

= = Route description = =

Highway 72 is a 68 @. @ 5 km (42 @. @ 6 mi) route which serves to connect Sioux Lookout with the Trans @-@ Canada Highway . The route begins at Highway 17 , on the western edge of Dinorwic . From there it follows an old routing of Highway 17 along the northern edge of the village , but eventually turns to the north into the wilderness . Between this point and south of the Frog Rapids Narrows , where Highway 664 intersects the route , the highways passes through a remote forested region dotted with lakes and muskeg ; there is almost no human habitation . After crossing the Frog Rapids Narrows , the highway enters Sioux Lookout . It zig @-@ zags through the town , crossing the old Grand Trunk Railroad , now a Canadian National Railway line , next to a large rail depot . It exits Sioux Narrows , ending at an intersection with the Ed Arlano Bypass , Highway 516 and Highway 642 just east of the town .

= = History = =

Sioux Lookout and Hudson were both originally accessible only by rail and water when they were established as stops on the Grand Trunk Railway shortly after 1900 ; roads would not reach the remote area until 1920 . The road connecting Sioux Lookout and Hudson with the Ignace ? Dryden Road was initially under the upkeep of the Department of Northern Development . On April 1 , 1937 , that department was merged into the Department of Highways (DHO) , after which the provincial highway network was expanded into northern Ontario .

Shortly after the merger , the DHO began to assume highways throughout northern Ontario . On October 6 , 1937 , Highway 72 was established , connecting Highway 17 with both Sioux Lookout and Hudson . On the 1938 ? 39 Official Ontario Road Map , the distance from Dinorwic to Sioux Lookout is listed as 48 @. @ 0 miles (77 @. @ 2 km) , and from Dinorwic to Hudson as 53 @. @ 0 miles (85 @. @ 3 km) . This routing remained in place until at least 1953 . By 1954 , however , the branch leading to Hudson was renumbered as Highway 116 . Highway 72 has , aside from minor realignments , remained unchanged since then .

= = Major intersections = =

The following table lists the major junctions along Highway 72 , as noted by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario . The entire route is located in Kenora District .