

= M @-@ 68 (Michigan highway) =

M @-@ 68 is an east ? west state trunkline highway located in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula of the US state of Michigan . The western terminus of the highway begins four miles (6 @.@ 4 km) east of the Little Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan and ends a few blocks from Lake Huron in Rogers City . M @-@ 68 skirts just south of Indian River and Burt Lake .

The first incarnation of M @-@ 68 existed in the Upper Peninsula before being absorbed into M @-@ 35 . The current designation was created in 1936 . A segment of highway once used by US Highway 23 (US 23) was incorporated into the trunkline as a discontinuous section in the early 1940s until it was later connected in 1946 .

= = Route description = =

M @-@ 68 starts in the community of Alanson 4 miles (6 @.@ 4 km) east of Little Traverse Bay in Emmet County . US 31 runs along Burr Avenue parallel to the former Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad line and depot in town . M @-@ 68 starts at an intersection between Chicago Street and Burr Avenue . The trunkline runs southeasterly from this intersection and on a bridge over the Crooked River . After leaving town , the highway curves to run due east through hilly terrain . After crossing the Cheboygan County line , the roadway meets the community of Burt Lake . It curves southeasterly along the shoreline of the lake of the same name . The roadway rounds the south end of Burt Lake and approaches the community of Indian River . South of Burt Lake State Park , the trunkline meets Straits Highway , the former routing of US 27 through Indian River . M @-@ 68 turns north along Straits Highway through downtown and then turns east toward Interstate 75 (I @-@ 75) . It is along this section of M @-@ 68 that the roadway crosses the Sturgeon River . The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) measured the highest annual average daily traffic (AADT) figures for M @-@ 68 along the section of highway west of Indian River . AADT is a measure of the average number of vehicles using a segment of roadway on any given day of the year , and for 2007 , MDOT measured it at 9 @,@ 200 vehicles daily .

After crossing I @-@ 75 at exit 310 , M @-@ 68 heads southeasterly , parallel to the Crumley Creek , out of town . The roadway continues through hilly terrain and crosses the Pigeon River on the route to Afton . M @-@ 68 merges with M @-@ 33 east of Afton . M @-@ 33 curves from the north toward the east . There is a small connector in this intersection to allow southbound M @-@ 33 traffic to turn west along M @-@ 68 instead of merging into the combined eastbound M @-@ 33 / M @-@ 68 traffic . The two highways continue together in a concurrency through the wooded , hilly terrain to the unincorporated community of Tower , where they cross the Black River . It is east of this river crossing where the highway meets the southern end of F @-@ 05 , a County @-@ Designated Highway that runs along Black River Road .

M @-@ 33 / M @-@ 68 cross into Presque Isle County just west of Onaway . M @-@ 68 turns northwest along Washington Avenue , and M @-@ 33 turns south along Michigan Street . M @-@ 68 turns east on State Street through downtown and runs out of town to cross the Rainy River in rural Presque Isle County . East of the Ocqueoc River crossing , M @-@ 68 turns north along Millersburg Road . The highway later curves back to the east near Ocqueoc Falls Highway , home of a bridge that carried the highway before 1954 . M @-@ 68 continues to follow Hutchinson Road eastward over the Little Ocqueoc River and on to the Rogers City area . This section of highway had the lowest AADT levels in 2007 at 1 @,@ 400 vehicles daily . The highway turns northeasterly after intersecting Airport Highway on the outskirts of town . Renamed as Erie Street , M @-@ 68 meets US 23 southwest of downtown . The highway continues along Erie Street until meeting Bus . US 23 , which runs along Third Street . This intersection marks the end of M @-@ 68 , four blocks from Lake Huron , 53 @.@ 390 miles (85 @.@ 923 km) from its start in Alanson .

= = History = =

== Previous incarnation ==

The first highway to bear the M 68 designation was located in the western Upper Peninsula . It ran north from Rockland to Ontonagon and then westerly toward Silver City in 1919 . This roadway was redesignated by 1927 as a segment of M 35 .

== Current incarnation ==

M 68 was designated along a segment of its current roadway in 1936 . The roadway connecting Alanson and Indian River was given the M 68 designation , while US 23 was routed between Rogers City and Afton . When US 23 was moved to its current lakeshore routing between Rogers City and Cheboygan in 1940 , M 33 was extended westerly from Onaway to Afton and north to Cheboygan over the former US 23 roadway . The Afton ? Onaway segment of M 33 and the remainder of the former US 23 east of Onaway was designated as a second segment of M 68 as well . The gap between these two segments was eliminated by July 1946 .

Two realignments were made to the highways routing . The first bypassed a bridge over the Ocqueoc River in Presque Isle County in 1954 . This 50 foot (15 m) bridge was built in 1920 at a cost of \$ 849 (equivalent to \$ 588 in 2015) in the filled spandrel arch style . A second change in the routing between 1961 and 1962 moved the trunkline to a more direct connection between Indian River and Afton . This change also bypassed the last remaining gravel section of the highway .

== Major intersections ==