

= Pennsylvania Route 378 =

Pennsylvania Route 378 (PA 378) is a north @-@ to @-@ south road in Lehigh and Northampton counties . The southern terminus is at PA 309 in Center Valley . Its northern terminus is at U.S. Route 22 (US 22) in Bethlehem . The route heads north from PA 309 as a two @-@ lane undivided road through Upper Saucon Township and Lower Saucon Township before crossing South Mountain into the city of Bethlehem . Here , PA 378 follows city streets through Bethlehem 's South Side , intersecting the northern terminus of PA 412 . The route crosses the Lehigh River and becomes a four @-@ lane freeway that continues north to US 22 . PA 378 is the only highway from US 22 to Center City Bethlehem , and a quick route for visitors traveling to the Sands Casino Resort on the city 's South Side .

The portion of PA 378 south of Bethlehem was originally numbered as PA 12 in 1928 and renumbered to PA 191 in 1961 . Construction on the freeway from West Broad Street to US 22 began in 1966 and finished two years later . This freeway was numbered Interstate 378 (I @-@ 378) and served as a spur of I @-@ 78 , which formerly ran along the US 22 freeway . When I @-@ 78 was rerouted from US 22 to south of the city , the spur became disjointed from its parent . I @-@ 378 was downgraded to state route status in 1971 . Three years later , the PA 378 designation replaced PA 191 from Center Valley to Third Street in Bethlehem . The state did not remove the exit tabs for the freeway section , making PA 378 one of only a few state freeways with exit numbers (another one is PA 309 in Wilkes @-@ Barre) . The exit numbers also go in the wrong direction : Exit 3 is south of Exit 1 , most likely due to the freeway being built when Pennsylvania still practiced sequential exit numbering . In 2009 , the portion north of the Lehigh River was named the Fred B. Rooney Highway .

= = Route description = =

PA 378 begins at two separate intersections with PA 309 in the community of Center Valley in Upper Saucon Township , Lehigh County . The route heads northward as a three @-@ lane road with a center left @-@ turn lane , passing through Center Valley and paralleling Old Bethlehem Pike . The road runs through a mix of farm fields and woods with residential and commercial development . After an intersection with Preston Lane , PA 378 turns to the northeast . Farther north , the highway passes to the west of Saucon Valley Country Club . At the intersection with Osgood Avenue , PA 378 turns to the northeast , crossing the Old Bethlehem Pike soon after . After crossing Saucon Valley Road , the highway comes to an intersection with Center Valley Parkway , an arterial boulevard .

After that , the highway enters Lower Saucon Township in Northampton County and crosses under I @-@ 78 without an interchange . Past this , PA 378 heads north through the community of Seidersville , where it passes homes and businesses as a four @-@ lane road parallel to Old Philadelphia Pike . The road traverses South Mountain where it runs through forested areas with some homes . Descending the mountain , PA 378 bends northwestward as a four lane arterial known as Wyandotte Street until leaving the University Heights area near Holy Ghost Cemetery . PA 378 continues into the city of Bethlehem , where it turns northward into residential areas as a two @-@ lane road and is called Wyandotte Street . In the South Side section of the city , PA 378 intersects with the northern terminus of PA 412 (Broadway) . The route continues northward and intersects a ramp to 3rd Street that provides access to PA 412 , at which point it widens to four lanes . PA 378 passes over Norfolk Southern 's Lehigh Line before crossing the Lehigh River on the Hill to Hill Bridge .

PA 378 heads northward across the Hill to Hill Bridge , at which point it crosses back into Lehigh County . The route crosses over West Lehigh Street and intersects with the off @-@ ramp to Main Street in Bethlehem . There was formerly a ramp to 2nd Avenue , but that has been closed and is only used by pedestrians . After this interchange , PA 378 becomes a four @-@ lane freeway and is named the Fred B. Rooney Highway . The highway continues northward through the city , crossing under West Broad Street and reaching a southbound interchange with North Street , which leads to

Center City and Third Avenue . The freeway continues northward , crossing over and receiving an on @-@ ramp from Union Boulevard .

The road turns to the northwest and interchanges with Eighth Avenue at exit 2E and exit 2W northbound and exit 2 southbound . PA 378 turns westward through Bethlehem , paralleling Union Boulevard and crossing under Fourteenth Avenue . The route then turns northward , crossing under Eaton Avenue and a Norfolk Southern rail line and passing the Hal Fenicle Memorial Park . PA 378 continues northbound , interchanging with and crossing under Catasauqua Road . After running to the southwest of Lehigh Valley Hospital at Muhlenberg , the freeway enters an interchange with US 22 (Lehigh Valley Thruway) , PA 378 northbound traffic is directed onto US 22 westbound .

= = History = =

The at @-@ grade portion of PA 378 south of Bethlehem was originally designated in the 1928 numbering as an alignment of PA 12 , a route crossing through Northampton and Monroe Counties . In 1961 , PA 12 was decommissioned in favor of PA 191 , a 90 @-@ mile @-@ long (140 km) highway from Center Valley to the New York state line on the Delaware River . In 1974 , following the decommissioning of I @-@ 378 to PA 378 , PA 191 had its southern terminus moved to US 22 in Brodhead and the former alignment between Center Valley and Bethlehem a southern extension of PA 378 .

The current alignment of PA 378 was first constructed from West Broad Street in Bethlehem to the current interchange with the Lehigh Valley Thruway . As part of the Interstate Highway System , the Lehigh Valley Thruway was cosigned as the alignment of I @-@ 78 . Upon completion of the freeway in 1968 , the new highway was designated I @-@ 378 , a spur off of I @-@ 78 . However , in 1970 , as I @-@ 78 was realigned to a new bypass to the south of Bethlehem , I @-@ 378 was decommissioned and replaced with the alignment of PA 378 the following year .

Since completion , PA 378 has undergone little major change , but the highway has undergone several rehabilitations . The Hill to Hill Bridge received a minor fire during reconstruction of the bridge , when a piece of equipment had its motor catch fire on April 13 , 2009 , when the bridge was undergoing re @-@ painting . The bridge repainting was completed on May 15 , 2009 , after the closing of a bridge and was re @-@ opened later due to rainfall in the area .

On September 23 , 2009 , the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced plans and designs for an upgrade and redesign of PA 378 through Bethlehem at its interchange with West Third Street , although this met public criticism . Part of the project , construction of a new ramp from Wyandotte Street to West Third Street , was completed in September 2011 . Completion of the widening of West Third Street and PA 412 was completed later in 2011 . The \$ 5 @. @ 1 million project will also include a widening of PA 412 between Exit 67 on I @-@ 78 and Daly Avenue in Bethlehem to two lanes in each direction . On November 21 , 2009 , the project was given funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by president Barack Obama in 2009 . The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation received \$ 1 billion worth of funding from the act .

= = Major intersections = =