

= Utah State Route 201 =

State Route 201 ( SR @-@ 201 ) is an east ? west expressway and freeway located in Salt Lake County in the U.S. state of Utah . Colloquially known as the 21st South Freeway , the route serves as an alternative to Interstate 80 ( I @-@ 80 ) through Salt Lake City . From the western terminus of the route west of Magna , the highway heads east through Kennecott Copper property as an expressway before running through the western suburbs of Salt Lake City as a freeway . Shortly after the route returns on a surface route , SR @-@ 201 terminates on its eastern end at State Street ( U.S. Route 89 ) .

The history of the route predates the invention of the automobile ; the Donner Party , California Trail and Pony Express all followed the present @-@ day path of the highway . During the 1910s , the route was designated a state highway and , in 1939 , State Route 201 was officially written into law , running from Magna east to the mouth of Parley 's Canyon . At one point , the highway carried US @-@ 50 Alternate west of State Street and both US @-@ 40 and US @-@ 40 Alternate east of that road , though all were truncated from Salt Lake City by the late 1970s . Construction of the freeway portion of SR @-@ 201 west of I @-@ 15 commenced in the mid @-@ 1960s and was fully completed by 1986 .

= = Route description = =

At its western terminus , SR @-@ 201 begins at a partial interchange at I @-@ 80 . Heading generally east with two lanes in each direction , the expressway passes by the Kennecott Smokestack , the tallest structure in Utah . Past its intersection at SR @-@ 202 , the route takes a turn to the southeast , bypassing the Kennecott tailings pond . Now exiting Kennecott property , the route exits unpopulated terrain and enters the urban Wasatch Front , beginning with the Salt Lake City suburb of Magna . Past junctions at 9200 West , 8400 West , 8000 West and 7200 West , the route veers northerly three blocks and becomes a limited @-@ access freeway . East of 7200 West , SR @-@ 201 is routed at approximately 2100 South in Salt Lake County 's grid system , giving the freeway its nickname of " 21st South Freeway " .

Now with three lanes in each direction , the highway straddles the boundary between Salt Lake City and West Valley City , another suburb of the former . The road continues due east with diamond interchanges at 5600 West ( SR @-@ 172 ) and Bangerter Highway ( SR @-@ 154 ) . Immediately following a single @-@ point urban interchange ( SPUI ) at 3200 West , the freeway intersects I @-@ 215 in the form of a cloverleaf interchange . The road dips to the south slightly and , following two SPUIs at Redwood Road ( SR @-@ 68 ) and 900 West , the freeway terminates at the Spaghetti Bowl interchange , giving eastbound motorists on SR @-@ 201 the option of continuing to I @-@ 15 , I @-@ 80 , 1300 South and 900 South . However , an eastbound traveler wanting to continue on the surface portion of SR @-@ 201 to State Street must exit on 900 West , head north briefly and then turn eastbound on 2100 South ; a westbound traveler on 2100 South wishing to connect to the freeway must take an on @-@ ramp from the surface street just before 900 West . Prior to 1997 , this connection was direct . Now on the four @-@ lane 2100 South , a secondary surface street , the route runs along the Salt Lake City @-@ South Salt Lake border . State maintenance of 2100 South ends at the intersection of State Street ( US @-@ 89 ) .

= = History = =

State Route 201 is one of the original highways through the Salt Lake Valley . Signs along the route claim the path of the highway to be the historical route of the California Trail , Pony Express and Lincoln Highway . While signed as the route of the California Trail , modern 2100 South is a less common branch called Hastings Cutoff that became infamous because of the Donner Party . The Lincoln Highway , generally derived from the route of the Pony Express across Utah , was routed on 2100 South . However , no modern highway exactly follows the route of the Pony Express west of Salt Lake City . SR @-@ 201 is one of a few auto @-@ tour routes that approximates the Pony

Express trail , which actually ran south of the road .

In the 1910s , 2100 South in Salt Lake County became an unnumbered state highway . In 1919 , when the state legislature redefined the state road system to include only a short list given in the law and any federal aid projects , 2100 South east of State Street remained as a portion of the Lincoln Highway . In 1926 , 2100 South became part of US @-@ 40 , following the creation of the United States Numbered Highway system . By 1937 , 2100 South west of 9180 West was assigned to US @-@ 50 , US @-@ 40 now turning northward toward Downtown Salt Lake City . This created two signed highways over 2100 South : US @-@ 40 east of US @-@ 91 and US @-@ 50 east of 9200 West ( US @-@ 50 traveled west on 3500 South through Salt Lake City from US @-@ 91 to 2100 South in Magna , whereas US @-@ 40 turned from eastbound 2100 South to northbound State Street to connect to North Temple ) .

In 1939 , the state legislature designated State Route 201 , running west on 2100 South from State Street ( US @-@ 40 / US @-@ 91 ) to US @-@ 50 ( 9180 West ) in Magna . By 1954 , US @-@ 50 was moved south to an alignment through central Utah , the old routing mostly replaced by US @-@ 50 Alternate ( US @-@ 50A ) . However , US @-@ 50A was placed in Salt Lake City on 2100 South west of State Street , replacing the SR @-@ 201 designation . By 1965 , US @-@ 40 was realigned along Foothill Drive ( then US @-@ 40A ) , the Utah Highway Department believing the Foothill route was more direct in connecting with North Temple toward the airport . US @-@ 40A was now aligned along the entirety of 2100 South from US @-@ 40 / future I @-@ 215 at the mouth of Parley 's Canyon west to State Street and beyond with US @-@ 50A to US @-@ 40 west of Magna . Both mainline and Alternate US @-@ 40 , along with US @-@ 50A , were truncated to east of the city by 1979 .

= = = Constructing a freeway = = =

By 1958 , SR @-@ 201 between US @-@ 40 west of Magna and SR @-@ 68 ( Redwood Road ) was a two @-@ lane highway through rural Salt Lake County . The rural landscape changed by the time SR @-@ 201 intersected 300 West and entered urban Salt Lake County , the highway becoming a four @-@ lane road . The route remained this way until the intersection of 1300 East ( SR @-@ 181 ) , where the route reverted to a two @-@ lane configuration . By 1965 , a time when most U.S. Routes in the city were being replaced by Interstate Highways , all two @-@ lane portions of the road east of 1300 East were widened to at least four lanes ; an interchange between US @-@ 40 , US @-@ 40A and future I @-@ 215 was being built at the mouth of Parley 's Canyon . From under @-@ construction I @-@ 15 west to Redwood Road , the old route of SR @-@ 201 was being superseded by a six @-@ lane freeway directly to the south . All construction was complete by 1970 with interchanges at 900 West and Redwood Road ; the new freeway extended west to 2700 West .

By 1977 , an interchange directly west of Redwood Road at I @-@ 215 was being built and the rest of the highway to Magna was given a median in preparation for freeway construction to 5600 West ( SR @-@ 172 ) . This construction concluded by 1986 , with interchanges at 3200 West , Bangerter Highway ( SR @-@ 154 , then solely 4000 West ) and 5600 West as a result . Beginning in April 1997 and concluding in July 2001 , as part of a larger reconstruction project for I @-@ 15 , SR @-@ 201 was rebuilt from 900 West to I @-@ 15 / I @-@ 80 , including the colloquial " Spaghetti Bowl " interchange . As a result , SR @-@ 201 was left in two discontinuous pieces ; to connect from the surface portion of SR @-@ 201 to the freeway , one must now take an on @-@ ramp . From 2004 to 2006 , the freeway from 900 West to I @-@ 215 was widened and repaved , the Redwood Road interchange being redone as well . In 2009 , the freeway from Bangerter Highway to 5600 West was widened to three lanes in each direction and the road between SR @-@ 202 and I @-@ 80 was widened to four lanes ? the latter project eliminated the final two @-@ lane section of SR @-@ 201 .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Salt Lake County .