

= Washington State Route 221 =

State Route 221 (SR 221) is a 25 @. @ 95 @- @ mile (41 @. @ 76 km) long state highway located entirely within Benton County , Washington , United States . The highway serves to connect the unincorporated community of Paterson to the county seat Prosser . The highway has existed since at least 1926 and was designated as Primary State Highway 8E from 1937 until the 1964 renumbering of Washington state highways .

= = Route description = =

Washington State Route 221 (SR 221) starts at an intersection with SR 14 in the unincorporated community of Paterson . After leaving Paterson the highway travels north through rural farm land as a two @- @ lane highway . A few minor roads are intersected before the roadway turns to the west after about 17 mi (27 km) , before turning back to the north . After the highway resumes its northerly course it climbs into the Horse Heaven Hills , gaining a passing lane through the uphill segments , before finally terminating at SR 22 in south Prosser .

Every year the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) conducts a series of surveys on its highways in the state to measure traffic volume . This is expressed in terms of average annual daily traffic (AADT) , which is a measure of traffic volume for any average day of the year . In 2009 , WSDOT calculated that as few as 2 @, @ 000 cars traveled through the central part of the highway , and as many as 2 @, @ 500 cars at the interchange with SR 22 .

= = History = =

The roadway on its current alignment has existed since at least 1926 , however there are records of a road between Paterson and Prosser since 1906 . The highway was designated Secondary State Highway 8E (SSH 8E) in 1937 , but the route number was changed to SR 221 during the 1964 state highway renumbering .

High winds have forced the closure of SR 221 in 2003 , 2004 , and 2005 due to large amounts of dust being blown around , causing visibility to drop to almost zero through the Horse Heaven Hills .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire highway is within unincorporated Benton County .