

= M @-@ 123 ( Michigan highway ) =

M @-@ 123 is a state trunkline highway in the eastern Upper Peninsula of the U.S. state of Michigan . It is one of only a few highways in Michigan that curve around and form a U @-@ shape . In fact , M @-@ 123 has three intersections with only two state trunklines . It meets M @-@ 28 twice as a result of its U @-@ shaped routing . M @-@ 123 also has a rare signed concurrency with a County @-@ Designated Highway in Michigan ; in Trout Lake , there is a concurrency with H @-@ 40 . All of M @-@ 123 north of M @-@ 28 is a Scenic Heritage Route within the Michigan Heritage Route system .

The highway was first designated before 1936 along a section of its current routing . Sections added since then encompass segments formerly belonging to US Highway 2 ( US 2 ) and M @-@ 48 . The last changes came to the highway in 1962 and 1963 , when the northern end was extended and the southern end was truncated slightly .

= = Route description = =

M @-@ 123 serves a thinly @-@ populated section of the state . Much of the highway passes through the eastern unit of the Hiawatha National Forest . No part of the highway is listed on the National Highway System , a system of strategically important highways . The section of highway north of the two M @-@ 28 junctions is both a Michigan Scenic Heritage Route and part of the Lake Superior Circle Tour .

= = = Rogers Park to Paradise = = =

The southern terminus of the highway is at exit 352 along Interstate 75 ( I @-@ 75 ) north of St. Ignace in Rogers Park . The roadway also connects to County @-@ Designated Highway H @-@ 63 ( Old US 2 ) at the interchange . From the interchange north , the highway runs northwest as Tahquamenon Trail to the community of Allenville near Brevort Lake in Brevort Township . Here it meets H @-@ 57 . Just north of Allenville , the trunkline crosses through the adjacent community of Moran . Allenville was a stop on the Detroit , Mackinac and Marquette Railroad , and Moran was named after William B. Moran , one of the early settlement 's founders . The roadway runs parallel to a rail line north of Moran . Before crossing into Chippewa County , the highway passes through the community of Ozark , home of a rock quarry . North of the county line is the community of Trout Lake , where M @-@ 123 meets and merges with H @-@ 40 across railroad tracks and through town near Wegwaas , Frenchman and Carp lakes . Continuing to the north , the highway is renamed Deerfoot Road and serves the Three Lakes Campground , a unit of the Hiawatha National Forest , before meeting M @-@ 28 at Eckerman .

M @-@ 123 is designated as a Scenic Heritage Route north of M @-@ 28 . Here it continues northwest to East ? West Road and turns to run along the shores of Whitefish Bay and cross the Tahquamenon River near its mouth . Continuing along the bay as Whitefish Road , M @-@ 123 meets the community of Paradise , the northernmost point along the highway . It is here that M @-@ 123 intersects Whitefish Point Road , which continues north to Whitefish Point , home of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum . In either direction , M @-@ 123 runs southbound from Paradise , changing direction . Continuing east of Paradise , M @-@ 123 is the only paved road that serves the Tahquamenon Falls State Park and the Whitefish Point region .

= = = Tahquamenon Falls State Park = = =

The Tahquamenon Falls State Park is a 46 @,@ 179 acre ( 186 @.@ 9 km <sup>2</sup> ) state park in the U.S. state of Michigan . It is the second largest of Michigan 's state parks . Bordering on Lake Superior , most of the park is located within Chippewa County , with the western section of the park extending into Luce County . The park follows the Tahquamenon River as it passes over Tahquamenon Falls and drains into Whitefish Bay , Lake Superior . The Tahquamenon Falls include

a single 50 @-@ foot ( 15 m ) drop , the Upper Falls , plus the cascades and rapids collectively called the Lower Falls . During the late @-@ spring runoff , the river drains as much as 50 @,@ 000 gallons ( 200 @,@ 000 liters ) of water per second , making the upper falls the second most voluminous vertical waterfall east of the Mississippi River , after only Niagara Falls .

= = = Paradise to Newberry = = =

East of Paradise , M @-@ 123 runs along the Tahquamenon River inside the state park boundaries . Past the park , the highway is known as Falls Road in Luce County . The trunkline turns southwest at the county line . It runs south and west across Murphy Creek and the Auger River before intersecting with H @-@ 37 at Four Mile Corner . The highway crosses a branch of the Tahquamenon River one last time before becoming Newberry Avenue in the city of Newberry . The highest annual average daily traffic , a measure of traffic volume , was recorded by the Michigan Department of Transportation ( MDOT ) for M @-@ 123 in 2007 along Newberry Avenue at 7 @,@ 500 vehicles . South of downtown , M @-@ 123 meets M @-@ 28 a second time west of Twin Lake . This intersection is the " northern " terminus of the 96 @.@ 110 @-@ mile ( 154 @.@ 674 km ) highway .

= = History = =

The construction of M @-@ 123 started in the 1930s near Eckerman , the location of the current eastern M @-@ 28 / M @-@ 123 junction . By 1936 , M @-@ 123 was designated running north of M @-@ 28 on 10 miles ( 16 km ) of hard @-@ surface pavement . At this time , US 2 is routed along Worth Road and uses roadway later used by M @-@ 123 from Moran to Rogers Park , and M @-@ 48 was routed north of Newberry to Four Mile Corner . The first extension of M @-@ 123 southward from Eckerman , through Trout Lake to Rogers Park north of St. Ignace , came in 1954 . Part of this routing in Trout Lake uses M @-@ 48 ( now a portion of H @-@ 40 ) . An additional extension is shown north to the Tahquamenon River Bridge , lengthening the highway to the north on the April 15 , 1954 official state map . The section north to the Tahquamenon River Bridge is remarked on the October 1 , 1954 state map as a county road , however . In 1957 , M @-@ 123 was permanently extended north to the bridge , and in 1962 the final extension north to Paradise and south to Newberry was completed . From Four Mile Corner south , M @-@ 123 replaced M @-@ 117 to a new terminus at M @-@ 28 south of Newberry . The southernmost section of roadway between the I @-@ 75 / US 2 freeway and H @-@ 63 ( Old US 2 ) was transferred to Mackinac County for maintenance with the opening of the freeway in 1963 .

On November 9 , 2007 , MDOT expanded the Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route designation previously applied to M @-@ 123 . This expanded the designation to all of the highway north of M @-@ 28 , recognizing it for its " outstanding natural beauty " and the scenic views of " rivers , forests , trails and Tahquamenon Falls State Park . " Previously , the designation was limited to between Luce County Road 500 to Galloway Creek . The expansion was planned by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission along with local governments and businesses .

= = Major intersections = =