

= Interstate 80 in Utah =

Interstate 80 (I @-@ 80) is a part of the Interstate Highway System that runs from San Francisco , California , to Teaneck , New Jersey . The portion of the highway in the U.S. state of Utah is 196 @.@ 35 @-@ mile @-@ long (315 @.@ 99 km) , through the northern part of the state . From west to east , I @-@ 80 crosses the state line from Nevada in Tooele County and traverses the Bonneville Salt Flats ? which are a part of the larger Great Salt Lake Desert . It continues alongside the Wendover Cut @-@ off ? the corridor of the former Victory Highway ? U.S. Route 40 (US @-@ 40) and the Western Pacific Railroad Feather River Route . After passing the Oquirrh Mountains , I @-@ 80 enters the Salt Lake Valley and Salt Lake County . A short portion of the freeway is concurrent with I @-@ 15 through Downtown Salt Lake City . At the Spaghetti Bowl , I @-@ 80 turns east again into the mouth of Parley 's Canyon and Summit County , travels through the mountain range and intersects the eastern end of I @-@ 84 near Echo Reservoir before turning northwest towards the Wyoming border near Evanston . I @-@ 80 was built along the corridor of the Lincoln Highway and the Mormon Trail through the Wasatch Range . The easternmost section also follows the historical routes of the First Transcontinental Railroad and US @-@ 30S .

Construction of the controlled @-@ access highway began in the 1950s , and by the late 1970s most of the freeway across the state of Utah had been completed . The four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ mile @-@ long (7 @.@ 2 km) section of I @-@ 80 between Utah State Route 68 (SR @-@ 68 , Redwood Road) and the Salt Lake City International Airport was the last piece of the nearly 2 @,@ 900 @-@ mile @-@ long (4 @,@ 700 km) freeway to be completed . It was opened on August 22 , 1986 , and was about 50 miles (80 km) from the site of another cross @-@ country milestone in Utah , the driving of the Golden Spike of the First Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit . Average daily traffic volumes in 2012 ranged between 6 @,@ 765 vehicles using the freeway at SR @-@ 58 and 121 @,@ 205 vehicles using the freeway at the Spaghetti Bowl in Downtown Salt Lake City . Throughout the state , the highway is also known as the Purple Heart Trail .

= = Route description = =

Out of the eleven states which I @-@ 80 passes through , the 196 @.@ 34 @-@ mile @-@ long (315 @.@ 98 km) segment in Utah is the fourth shortest . The longest stretch of I @-@ 80 in a single state is the 455 @.@ 32 @-@ mile @-@ long (732 @.@ 77 km) segment in Nebraska . As part of the Interstate Highway System , the entire route is listed on the National Highway System , a system of roads that are important to the nation 's economy , defense , and mobility .

Every year , the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) conducts a series of surveys on its highways to measure traffic volumes . This measure is expressed in terms of average annual daily traffic (AADT) , a measure of traffic volume for any average day of the year . In 2012 , UDOT calculated that as few as 6 @,@ 765 vehicles traveled I @-@ 80 at the interchange with SR @-@ 58 in Wendover , and as many as 121 @,@ 205 vehicles used the highway at the Spaghetti Bowl in downtown Salt Lake City . Between seven and 58 percent of the traffic recorded consisted of trucks . These counts are for the portion of the freeway in Utah .

= = = Tooele County = = =

The freeway enters Utah from Nevada in the city of Wendover on the edge of the Bonneville Salt Flats . The cities of West Wendover , Nevada and Wendover are accessible by I @-@ 80 's only business loop in Utah , whose interchange is just south of Danger Cave . The highway closely follows the historical routes of the Wendover Cutoff , the Victory Highway , and of the ex @-@ Western Pacific Railroad 's Feather River Route (now part of the Union Pacific Railroad Central Corridor) across the salt flats and the larger Great Salt Lake Desert . Bonneville Speedway , home to many land speed records , is accessible from I @-@ 80 . In the middle of the salt flats is a concrete sculpture , Metaphor : The Tree of Utah , which stands just off the westbound carriageway

of I @-@ 80 , 30 mi (48 km) east of Wendover .

Bounded on each sides by military training grounds , the I @-@ 80 corridor is overflowed by commercial airliners traveling west from Salt Lake City International Airport . The freeway veers north around the Cedar Mountains in a small gap between them and the Lakeside Mountains . Further east , the highway passes the Stansbury Mountains , which are located in the Wasatch @-@ Cache National Forest . After the mountain ranges , the freeway arrives at the southern shore of the Great Salt Lake and closely follows the shore towards the western suburbs of Salt Lake City . However , the historical routes from which the route of I @-@ 80 was derived were routed further from the lake , passing through the towns of Grantsville and Tooele before crossing a bottleneck between the Oquirrh Mountains and Stansbury Island in the Great Salt Lake . These communities are now served by SR @-@ 138 and SR @-@ 36 respectively .

= = = Salt Lake County = = =

While traversing the neck , views can be had from I @-@ 80 of the Lake and Antelope Island . After passing the neck , the road forks , with I @-@ 80 proceeding towards the north end of Salt Lake City and SR @-@ 201 proceeding towards the south end . Historically , this intersection was the separation of US @-@ 40 and US @-@ 50 . After the intersection , the freeway corridor is again bottlenecked with the Great Salt Lake to the north and the Kennecott Copper smelter and tailings pond to the south . The Kennecott 's Bingham Canyon Mine , which was once considered to be the largest open @-@ pit copper mine , can be seen in the distance . The 1 @,@ 215 @-@ foot @-@ tall (370 m) Kennecott Smokestack is one of the tallest freestanding structures in the United States . Along this portion , the freeway passes the historical site of the Saltair Resort .

The freeway enters the Salt Lake Valley on the former alignment of North Temple Street until it passes the Salt Lake City International Airport , where the freeway veers slightly south and leaves the North Temple Street corridor which leads to Temple Square in downtown Salt Lake City . The Green Line of the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) TRAX system briefly parallels I @-@ 80 before traveling down the center of North Temple Street . I @-@ 80 becomes concurrent with I @-@ 15 after interchanges with SR @-@ 58 and 600 South and continues south for about three miles (4 @.@ 8 km) , passing along the western and southern edges of downtown Salt Lake City . The southern interchange with I @-@ 15 , which also includes SR @-@ 201 (21st South Freeway) and marks the end of the concurrency , is known as the Spaghetti Bowl , . In the southwestern corner of the Spaghetti Bowl is another portion of the UTA TRAX Green Line as it travels towards West Valley City . After separating from I @-@ 15 , the freeway continues easterly through South Salt Lake , loosely following an alignment just south of 2100 South and the UTA S Line streetcar through the Sugar House neighborhood and past Sugar House Park ? once the home of the Sugar House Prison towards the clockwise terminus of the I @-@ 215 270 ° belt route around Salt Lake . It continues through Parley 's Canyon , where the freeway joins the historical route of the Lincoln Highway . Between the mouth of the canyon and the Summit county line , the route re @-@ enters the Wasatch National Forest .

= = = Summit County = = =

Parley 's Canyon carries I @-@ 80 up the western slope of the Wasatch Front as a six @-@ lane freeway , cresting the mountains at an elevation of 7 @,@ 028 feet (2 @,@ 142 m) at Parley 's Summit . Both the canyon and summit were named for Parley P. Pratt , an early settler to the Salt Lake Valley and an early Mormon leader who was asked to survey a new route across the mountains to replace the route through Emigration Canyon . Between 1848 and 1851 , Pratt surveyed , completed , and operated the Golden Pass toll road through the canyon that today bears his name . Pratt had unsuccessfully solicited for \$ 800 (equivalent to \$ 399 thousand in 2015) to build the road , and sold it for \$ 1 @,@ 500 (equivalent to \$ 740 thousand in 2015) . On and off ramps for the Wyoming port @-@ of @-@ entry are located just within Utah . In January 2014 , UDOT introduced variable speed limits to I @-@ 80 in Parley 's Canyon , allowing a speed limit

between 35 mph (56 km / h) up to the normal 65 mph (105 km / h) depending on weather or traffic conditions .

Beyond Parley 's summit lies Park City , a mining town today better known for its many ski resorts . The Historic Union Pacific Rail Trail State Park travels in the median between carriageways of I @-@ 80 before paralleling the highway until the southern end of Echo Reservoir . The freeway turns north upon reaching the Rockport Reservoir at Wanship following the tributaries of the Weber River toward Echo Reservoir and dam . Upon reaching Echo Canyon and the junction with the eastern terminus of the western section of I @-@ 84 , the freeway follows the canyon east until it reaches the Wyoming state line near Evanston . I @-@ 80 forms the northeastern border between Rich and Summit Counties .

The portion through Echo Canyon follows the historical routes of the Mormon Trail , US @-@ 30S , and the First Transcontinental Railroad . A rest area in the canyon just east of the junction with I @-@ 84 features signs pointing out features that were obstacles for both the Mormon pioneers and the railroad construction workers , including Pulpit Rock , which was partially demolished when the I @-@ 80 was built through the canyon .

= = History = =

= = = Earlier roads = = =

I @-@ 80 follows the routes of two major auto trails through the state . In western Utah , I @-@ 80 follows the historical route of the Victory Highway from Wendover at the Nevada state line to the junction of US @-@ 40 near Park City . Throughout Utah , I @-@ 80 is signed as the modern route of the Lincoln Highway ? except through Salt Lake City , where the Lincoln Highway is routed along State Route 201 and Parley 's Way . The route of the Lincoln Highway across Utah was generally derived from the route of the Pony Express and the Central Overland Route . However , much of the original route of the Lincoln Highway west of Salt Lake City is inaccessible . The original route of the Lincoln Highway proceeded southwest from Tooele towards Ely , Nevada . This area is now used for military bases , such as the Dugway Proving Ground and Tooele Army Depot . The area was closed to the public when these bases were established . I @-@ 80 and US @-@ 93 are the modern signing of the Lincoln Highway between those two cities . East of Salt Lake City , I @-@ 80 closely parallels the original route of the Lincoln Highway .

In 1926 , much of the route covered by I @-@ 80 , including Pratt 's former toll road from the Nevada state line into Salt Lake City , was signed as US @-@ 40 then as US @-@ 30 to the Wyoming state line . It was also part of the Victory Highway west of Salt Lake and the Lincoln Highway east of Salt Lake at this time . Most of the route had been improved but some stretches of graded road remained . In 1937 , parts of the route near Wanship were numbered US @-@ 530 . In 1950 , the highway near Echo was designated US @-@ 30S and US @-@ 189 . By 1959 , US @-@ 50 Alternate was also routed along the western portion of I @-@ 80 .

= = = Current road = = =

The first Utah State Route to have the number 80 is now known as SR @-@ 92 , which was originally numbered SR @-@ 80 until the 1977 renumbering of Utah State highways . Previously , the freeway 's legislative designation was SR @-@ 2 .

Passage of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 formed the Interstate Highway System , and the I @-@ 80 number was first designated to a then @-@ unconstructed controlled @-@ access highway across the state by 1957 . I @-@ 80 was constructed in segments , starting in the late 1950s . By the late 1970s , the Utah portion of I @-@ 80 ? except for a gap on the western edge of Salt Lake City ? was largely complete . A four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half @-@ mile @-@ long (7 @-@ 2 km) section between Redwood Road and Salt Lake City International Airport holds the distinction of being the final link of the transcontinental freeway to be completed . As an Interstate

Highway , design specifications require a controlled @-@ access highway with no at @-@ grade intersections . This section was dedicated on August 22 , 1986 , and was the last to be completed to Interstate Highway specifications along the almost 2 @,@ 900 @-@ mile @-@ long (4 @,@ 700 km) route of I @-@ 80 between San Francisco , California and Teaneck , New Jersey . The section was completed close to the thirtieth anniversary of the Interstate Highway System , which was noted at the dedication and considered to be a milestone in the history of highway construction in the United States . It was also noted at the dedication that this was only 50 miles (80 km) south of Promontory Summit , where the golden spike of the United States First Transcontinental Railroad was laid .

The original designation of I @-@ 84 , which begins at an interchange with I @-@ 80 in Echo , was I @-@ 80N . This designation was changed to I @-@ 84 in 1977 by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials despite objections from the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Idaho Transportation Department , and with the support of UDOT and the Oregon Department of Transportation . The legislative designation for this highway was SR @-@ 3 until the 1977 renumbering .

Rebuilding of the first portions of I @-@ 80 began in October 1990 with a one @-@ point @-@ four @-@ mile @-@ long (2 @.@ 3 km) stretch near Redwood Road in Salt Lake City . By 1991 , UDOT estimated that the reconstruction of all federally funded highways in the state would cost up to \$ 4 @.@ 3 billion (equivalent to \$ 9 @.@ 85 billion in 2015) . The Spaghetti Bowl interchange was first proposed in 1996 to accommodate traffic for the 2002 Winter Olympics being held in the city . Most of the Spaghetti Bowl was open by November 2000 ; the remainder opened in early 2001 . In 2002 , the Utah State Legislature named the highway the Purple Heart trail , in honor of wounded war veterans . Additional reconstruction work ? which involved replacing most of the bridges along the route , resurfacing and installation of sound barriers ? was done on I @-@ 80 between the Spaghetti Bowl and Parley 's Canyon in 2007 and 2008 .

= = Exit list = =