

= New Jersey Route 173 =

Route 173 is a state highway in New Jersey , United States that is a designation for an old section of U.S. Route 22 . The route runs 14 @. @ 62 mi (23 @. @ 53 km) from Interstate 78 and U.S. Route 22 in Greenwich Township , Warren County to County Route 626 (Beaver Avenue) in Clinton Township , Hunterdon County , just east of an interchange with Route 31 . Route 173 parallels Interstate 78 and U.S. Route 22 for its entire length through rural areas of Warren and Hunterdon Counties , passing through the towns of Bloomsbury and Clinton along the way . At one point just to the west of Clinton , Route 173 runs concurrent with Interstate 78 and U.S. Route 22 .

The route was originally part of Pre @- @ 1927 Route 9 from 1916 until 1927 , when it became part of U.S. Route 22 and Route 28 . The Route 28 designation was removed from this portion of road in 1953 . When I @- @ 78 was being built between Exits 11 and 13 in the 1950s and 1960s , it was decided that part of U.S. Route 22 would be used for the new highway . The eastbound lanes of US 22 became the westbound lanes of the new highway , the eastbound lanes of the new highway were newly constructed , and the westbound lanes of US 22 were turned into a two @- @ lane road . In 1969 , US 22 was moved to the alignment of Interstate 78 between Greenwich Township and Clinton Township and Route 173 was designated along most of the former alignment of U.S. Route 22 .

= = Route description = =

= = = Warren County = = =

Route 173 begins at an interchange with Interstate 78 and U.S. Route 22 in Greenwich Township , Warren County , where the route continues to the northwest as part of U.S. Route 22 , a six @- @ lane , divided highway that heads towards Phillipsburg . From this interchange , Route 173 heads east on a two @- @ lane , undivided road that parallels Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 to the south , passing through farmland and some suburban residential developments . County Route 644 (Greenwich Church Road) loops to the north of Route 173 as the route features three crossings of the Pohatcong Creek . Route 173 intersects County Route 637 (Main Street / Maple Drive) , County Route 639 (Warren Glen Road) , and the northern terminus of County Route 579 (Church Street) . Past the County Route 579 intersection , the route parallels the Musconetcong River and intersects County Route 632 (Asbury Road) , which provides access to westbound Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 .

= = = Hunterdon County = = =

Route 173 crosses the Musconetcong River into Bloomsbury , Hunterdon County . It comes to another interchange with Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 , where Route 173 takes on the name Brunswick Pike and closely parallels the interstate to the north . The route enters Bethlehem Township and passes under a railroad line , continuing east through farmland The route parallels a Norfolk Southern rail line for a short distance , running farther to the north of Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 , before intersecting County Route 643 (West Portal @- @ Asbury Road) . Past this intersection , Route 173 heads south and then east through the Musconetcong Mountains as a five @- @ lane road with a center left @- @ turn lane . The route crosses into Union Township , where it becomes Old Highway 22 .

The route becomes a divided highway and meets County Route 614 (Little York Road) at a traffic circle near an interchange with Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 . Route 173 has direct ramps to and from the westbound direction of the interstate with access to and from the eastbound direction provided by way of County Route 614 . Route 173 narrows back to a two @- @ lane , undivided road and closely follows Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 to the north , meeting County Route 625 (Mechlin Corner Road) and County Route 635 (Charlestown Road) near another interchange with Interstate

78 / U.S. Route 22 . There is direct access to and from the westbound direction of Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 while access to and from the eastbound direction of Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 is provided by County Route 625 . The route continues east and splits into a one @-@ way pair . At this point , eastbound Route 173 crosses over Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 and makes a left turn to merge onto eastbound Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 . The westbound direction of Route 173 splits from Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 and continues west to join back with eastbound Route 173 .

Route 173 follows Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 for a little over a mile in Franklin Township until an interchange County Route 513 (Pittstown Road) , where the eastbound direction merges onto this route and heads into Clinton . It meets the westbound direction of Route 173 , which splits at this point and heads west on West Main Street to merge into westbound Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 in Union Township . In Clinton , Route 173 crosses over the South Branch Raritan River and splits from County Route 513 where that route heads north on Leigh Street . The route crosses into Clinton Township and it features ramps connecting to Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 , with access from westbound Route 173 to westbound Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 and from eastbound Interstate 78 / U.S. Route 22 to eastbound Route 173 . Route 173 turns north to interchange with Route 31 and end at County Route 626 (Beaver Avenue) .

= = History = =

Prior to 1927 , Route 173 was part of Pre @-@ 1927 Route 9 , which was designated in 1917 to run from Phillipsburg to Elizabeth . In the 1927 New Jersey state highway renumbering , the route became Route 28 . In addition , it was also designated as part of U.S. Route 22 . In the 1953 New Jersey state highway renumbering , which eliminated long concurrencies between U.S. and State Routes , the Route 28 designation was removed along this portion of the route , leaving U.S. Route 22 the sole number along the route . In the late 1950s , construction began on Interstate 78 through the area . Construction of the portion of Interstate 78 built between Exit 11 (County Route 614) and Exit 13 in Union Township , completed in 1962 , modified the alignment of U.S. Route 22 between these two points . It involved the creation of new eastbound lanes for Interstate 78 and conversion of the eastbound lanes of U.S. Route 22 into the westbound lanes of Interstate 78 . The westbound lanes of U.S. Route 22 were turned into a two @-@ lane frontage road . In 1969 , U.S. Route 22 was moved to the Interstate 78 alignment between Exit 3 in Greenwich Township and Exit 18 in Clinton Township . The former U.S. Route 22 became Route 173 between Exit 3 and Route 31 in Clinton Township , with the remainder of the former U.S. Route 22 alignment becoming county @-@ maintained Beaver Avenue (currently County Route 626) .

= = Major intersections = =