

= Ontario Highway 85 =

King 's Highway 85 , commonly referred to as Highway 85 , is a provincially maintained highway in the Canadian province of Ontario , connecting Highway 7 to immediately north of the Waterloo city limits . The 10 @-@ kilometre (6 @.@ 2 mi) highway , which is mostly controlled @-@ access , travels through the Regional Municipality of Waterloo along the Conestoga Parkway from its interchange with Highway 7 , which continues south along the parkway , to an interchange with Regional Road 15 (King Street) , where it continues as Regional Road 85 to St. Jacobs .

Prior to completion of the Conestoga Parkway through Waterloo , Highway 85 followed King Street north of Ottawa Street through Kitchener and Waterloo . Within the City of Waterloo , this former alignment is now maintained by the region as Regional Road 15 . Within the city of Kitchener , the road is simply known as King Street . The parkway was constructed between 1968 and 1977 . By 1980 , Highway 85 was renumbered as Highway 86 , to improve the continuity of provincial route numbers . However , when the majority of Highway 86 was decommissioned in 1998 , the remaining portion was soon renumbered as Highway 85 in 2003 .

= = Route description = =

Highway 85 begins in Kitchener at an interchange between the Conestoga Parkway and Victoria Street . At that interchange , Highway 7 exits the parkway and travels east on Victoria Street towards Guelph . The divided freeway continues north , swerving left and right through suburban Kitchener . It first crosses a Via Rail line and interchanges with Wellington Street , after which it passes alongside the Grand River . After entering the neighbourhood of Bridgeport , which it divides in two , the route curves west , interchanges with Lancaster Street and crosses into Waterloo .

The highway begins to curve north , interchanging with Bridgeport Road . The highway crosses the Conestoga Creek as it interchanges with University Avenue , then gradually curves to the west . After an interchange with King Street , once the original routing of Highway 85 , the route curves back to the north and interchanges with Northfield Drive . As it approaches the rural ? urban fringe of the tri @-@ city area , the freeway interchanges with King Street a second time . Highway 85 ends at the north end of the ramps from King Street , as does the Conestoga Parkway . The divided freeway ends and the route become Waterloo Regional Road 85 , which continues north to St. Jacobs and Elmira .

= = History = =

Highway 85 was originally assumed by the Department of Highways (DHO) , the predecessor to today 's Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) , during the mid @-@ 1930s . The existing Kitchener ? Elmira Road was designated as Highway 85 on March 28 , 1934 . Initially , the route began at the intersection of Queen Street and King Street in downtown Kitchener , and proceeded north along King Street through Waterloo and St. Jacobs . North of St. Jacobs , the highway followed the same route as modern Waterloo Regional Road 85 to Elmira , ending at Church Street . Church Street itself would become Highway 86 several years later , on August 25 , 1937 , connecting Elmira and Amberley , and creating a short @-@ lived common terminus between the two highways ; Highway 86 was extended to Highway 7 near Guelph on April 13 , 1938 .

Highway 85 remained unchanged for several decades until the Conestoga Parkway was constructed during the late @-@ 1960s and early 1970s . Construction of the new expressway began in February 1965 along King Street ; however , construction of the section that is now Highway 85 did not begin until September 1968 , when a C \$ 5 million contract for the section between Frederick Street and Bridgeport Road was awarded . Soon thereafter , a second contract for the section between Bridgeport Road and King Street was awarded .

On April 16 , 1970 , the Highway 85 designation was moved from King Street to the new Conestoga Parkway ; King Street was consequently transferred to local jurisdiction . Towards the end of the 1970s , construction began on a northward extension of the Conestoga Parkway from King Street to

Northfield Drive ; this was completed by 1977 . By then , construction was underway on a two lane bypass of St. Jacobs east of the original route , connecting with the Conestoga Parkway at Northfield Drive , then an at @-@ grade intersection . By the end of 1977 , this bypass was completed .

In 1975 , the eastern section of Highway 86 , from Elmira to Guelph , was decommissioned , truncating the eastern terminus of it to the western terminus of Highway 85 . To provide a more direct routing between the two highways , a bypass of Elmira was constructed along what is now Listowel Road . By the end of 1979 , Highway 86 was rerouted along this bypass , and the northern section of Highway 85 was decommissioned . In 1980 or 1981 , Highway 85 was renumbered as Highway 86 , eliminating the designation temporarily and creating one continuous highway between Kitchener and Amberley , on the shores of Lake Huron .

On November 30 , 1990 , the Northfield Drive interchange was fully opened to traffic , eliminating a traffic signal from the northern end of the Conestoga Parkway . The speed limit on the parkway was lowered from 100 km / h (62 mph) to 90 km / h (56 mph) on January 10 , 1994 following numerous cross @-@ median collisions . In 1998 , during the mass downloading of provincial highways to lower levels of government , the majority of Highway 86 , from the Northfield Drive interchange to Amberley , was decommissioned . The Regional Municipality of Waterloo subsequently designated the section north from Waterloo to Elmira as Regional Road 85 . Consequently , the remaining section of Highway 86 , which exclusively followed the Conestoga Parkway , was renumbered as Highway 85 during the spring of 2003 to align the numbers and aid navigation .

= = Major intersections = =

The following table lists the major junctions along Highway 85 , as noted by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario . The entire route is located in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo .