

= Maryland Route 234 =

Maryland Route 234 (MD 234) is a state highway in the U.S. state of Maryland . Known as Budds Creek Road , the state highway runs 19 @. @ 02 miles (30 @. @ 61 km) from U.S. Route 301 (US 301) in Allens Fresh east to MD 5 in Leonardtown . MD 234 is the primary east ? west highway of southern Charles County and western St. Mary 's County , connecting the St. Mary 's County seat of Leonardtown and the communities of Clements , Chaptico , Budds Creek , Wicomico , and Newport with US 301 , which heads north to La Plata , the county seat of Charles County , and south to the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge over the Potomac River .

MD 234 originally followed what is now MD 238 from Chaptico east to MD 5 at Helen . The Chaptico ? Leonardtown portion of the highway was then designated as part of MD 237 . The original MD 234 was constructed in the early 1920s ; MD 237 was built in the late 1920s and early 1930s . MD 237 between Clements and Leonardtown was reconstructed around 1950 . The Chaptico ? Clements section of MD 237 and MD 234 west of Chaptico were rebuilt around 1960 , projects that involved many relocations and several new bridges . At the conclusion of the project in 1961 , MD 234 was extended east over the former section of MD 237 to Leonardtown ; MD 238 was extended from Chaptico to Helen on what was previously MD 234 .

= = Route description = =

MD 234 begins at a directional crossover intersection with US 301 (Robert Crain Highway) about 4 miles (6 @. @ 4 km) north of the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge , also known as the Potomac River Bridge . The state highway heads east as a two @-@ lane road that crosses over CSX 's Popes Creek Subdivision and passes through the hamlet of Allens Fresh . MD 234 crosses Allens Fresh Run , a tributary of the Wicomico River , as the stream flows out of the southern end of Zekiah Swamp , which is preserved within Zekiah Swamp Natural Environment Area . The state highway passes through the community of Newport , home of St. Mary 's Roman Catholic Church , and crosses Gilbert Swamp Run into the hamlet of Wicomico , which contains the historic home Sarum . MD 234 leaves Charles County by crossing over Budds Creek .

MD 234 curves southeast through the hamlet of Budds Creek , where the highway meets the southern end of MD 236 (Thompson Corner Road) and passes three motorsports facilities : Maryland International Speedway , Budds Creek Motocross , and Potomac Speedway . The state highway continues southeast , passing by Wicomico Shores Country Club and its associated residential area separated from the highway by a large tract of forest . MD 234 crosses Hayden Run and passes through Chaptico , where the highway intersects MD 238 at a roundabout ; MD 238 heads northeast as Chaptico Road and southwest as Maddox Road . The state highway passes another historic home , Deep Falls , on the way to Clements . At Clements , MD 234 intersects MD 242 (Colton Point Road) , which leads south to the site of Maryland 's First Landing at St. Clement 's Island . The state highway crosses Clements Creek and heads east through farmland , crossing Nelson Run right before the highway reaches its eastern terminus at MD 5 (Point Lookout Road) on the western edge of Leonardtown .

= = History = =

MD 234 originally followed roughly its current course from Allens Fresh to Chaptico , then followed what is now MD 238 east to MD 5 at Helen . The highway between Chaptico and Leonardtown via Clements was MD 237 . MD 234 was constructed as a gravel road from Allens Fresh east to Newport around 1921 . The highway was extended east to the Charles ? St. Mary 's county line in 1923 . The Chaptico ? Helen road , as well as 1 mile (1 @. @ 6 km) of road west of Chaptico , were also constructed in 1923 . The original course of MD 234 was completed when the gap between Chaptico and the county line at Budds Creek was filled in 1925 . MD 237 was started between Clements and Leonardtown in 1924 and between Chaptico and Clements in 1926 . By 1927 , there were two 1 @-@ mile (1 @. @ 6 km) sections of gravel east from Chaptico and east from Clements

. Another section of highway west from Clements was built in 1928 . By 1930 , MD 237 was complete from Clements to Leonardtown . The gap between Chaptico and Clements was under construction in 1930 and completed in 1932 .

The first upgrade of MD 234 was a relocation at Allens Fresh Run , which included replacing a dangerous one @-@ way bridge over the stream , that was completed in 1933 . MD 237 was reconstructed with a bituminous stabilized gravel surface between Clements and Leonardtown in 1950 and 1951 , a project that included new bridges over Clements Creek at a spot known as Head @-@ of @-@ the @-@ Bay and over Nelson Run near Leonardtown . Reconstruction of MD 234 from Allens Fresh to Chaptico and MD 237 from there to Clements occurred between 1959 and 1961 . MD 234 and MD 237 were significantly straightened out , leaving behind many sections of old alignment : Glasva School Road in Allens Fresh ; Allens Fresh Road between Allens Fresh and Newport ; Stines Store Road in Newport ; Plater Road and Olde Mill Road in Wicomico ; Stone Corner Lane , which is unsigned MD 868G , and Reed Road in Budds Creek ; and Horse Shoe Road between Chaptico and Clements . The project also involved new bridges over Gilbert Swamp Run , Chaptico Creek , and Budds Creek . When the project was completed in 1961 , MD 234 assumed the course of MD 237 between Chaptico and Leonardtown and MD 238 was extended over the segment of MD 234 between Chaptico and Helen .

The first roundabout in St. Mary 's County was installed at the intersection of MD 238 and MD 234 in Chaptico in 2007 . In September 2011 , MD 234 's bridge over Allens Fresh Run was washed out by flooding of the creek due to torrential rainfall from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee . Traffic was detoured over MD 236 , MD 6 , and US 301 until a temporary bridge was completed parallel to the damaged section in November 2011 . The Maryland State Highway Administration dismantled the damaged 40 @-@ foot (12 m) long bridge and built a 100 @-@ foot (30 m) long replacement bridge in 2012 .

= = Junction list = =