

= Rhode Island Route 403 =

Route 403 , also known as the Quonset Freeway , is a numbered state highway located in Washington County and Kent County , Rhode Island , United States . The route is a nominally east ? west limited @-@ access freeway for its entire length . A spur of Rhode Island Route 4 , Route 403 serves Davisville and the Quonset Business Park , providing freeway access to Interstate 95 and the northern Providence metropolitan area from the industrial zone . The western terminus of the freeway is at a trumpet interchange with Route 4 in East Greenwich . The route has three unnumbered interchanges along its 4 @. @ 5 @-@ mile (7 @. @ 2 km) length , including a junction with U.S. Route 1 in North Kingstown , before terminating at an at @-@ grade intersection with Roger Williams Way and Commerce Park Road in Quonset . Route 403 is the highest numbered route in Rhode Island .

Prior to 2006 , Route 403 was a narrow , two @-@ lane road through Davisville . The western terminus of the route was at an interchange with Route 4 and Rhode Island Route 402 in East Greenwich , and the eastern terminus was at U.S. Route 1 in North Kingstown . In order to accommodate increasingly heavy commercial and commuter traffic to and from the Quonset Business Park , the Rhode Island Department of Transportation constructed the Quonset Freeway as an upgraded Route 403 . The relocation of the route began in 2000 and was constructed in two phases ; Phase 1 , a freeway from Quonset to Davisville , opened in June 2006 . Phase 2 of the relocation project , which connected the freeway with Route 4 , was completed one year ahead of schedule in December 2008 .

= = Route description = =

= = = Original Route 403 = = =

Prior to 2006 , Route 403 was a narrow , two @-@ lane road running for 2 @. @ 4 miles (3 @. @ 9 km) through Davisville , Rhode Island . The road , a spur route of Route 4 , connected to Rhode Island Route 402 and Route 4 at its western terminus , and was accessible only from Route 4 southbound . Its eastern terminus was at a grade @-@ separated interchange with U.S. 1 . The nominally east ? west route followed a northwestern ? southeastern route for most of its length . Route 403 was signed on two local roads , Davisville Road and Devil 's Foot Road , in the towns of East Greenwich and North Kingstown .

Route 403 's original western terminus was at a complex interchange with Routes 4 and 402 in East Greenwich . Both Routes 402 and 403 were accessible from Exit 7 on Route 4 southbound ; there was no access to either route from the northbound lanes of Route 4 . After the Exit 7 ramp , Route 403 eastbound crossed over Route 4 and began to head in southeastern direction along Davisville Road . Shortly after its western terminus , Route 403 crossed the Hunt River into Washington County and Davisville , a village in the town of North Kingstown . After intersecting Old Baptist Road , a local route that connects to Route 102 , Route 403 began to follow Devil 's Foot Road , continuing on its southeastern trajectory . The route crossed Amtrak 's Northeast Corridor rail line before turning to head in an almost due east direction , entering the Quonset Business Park . Shortly after passing Devil 's Foot Rock , a petrosomatoglyph attributed to the Devil in colonial times , Route 403 passed under U.S. Route 1 (Post Road) and intersected two US 1 access ramps , Davisville Road , and Quonset Road ; the latter two roads headed into the business park toward Quonset State Airport and the Quonset container port . Although the mainline of the road continued eastbound as Quonset Road (now Roger Williams Way) , Route 403 officially terminated at the intersection with the US 1 access ramps .

Since the completion of the Quonset Freeway in 2008 and the full relocation of Route 403 , the old route on Davisville Road and Devil 's Foot Road has been unnumbered . Some portions of the road are signed " To RI 403 , " but there is no indication that RIDOT plans to designate the old route as Rhode Island Route 403A . Route 403 's previous alignment was largely unchanged during the

construction of the Quonset Freeway ; only the interchanges with Routes 4 and 402 in East Greenwich and with US 1 in North Kingstown were altered significantly .

= = = Quonset Freeway = = =

The Quonset Freeway begins in East Greenwich at Exit 7 of Route 4 ; southbound , the exit is numbered 7B , as Exit 7A serves Route 402 . Unlike Route 402 , which is accessible only via Route 4 southbound , Route 403 is accessible from the northbound lanes of Route 4 via the newly constructed Exit 7 . Like the original Route 403 , the nominally east ? west freeway follows a northeastern ? southwestern route for much of its length . Shortly after beginning at Route 4 , Route 403 crosses over Route 402 and the Hunt River on a single @-@ span bridge , entering the town of North Kingstown . The relocation of Route 403 removed access to Route 402 ; the freeway now travels over Frenchtown Road without an interchange . While there is no direct link between the two routes , motorists traveling westbound on Route 403 can take the exit for Route 4 south and then access Route 402 from Exit 7A off Route 4 .

Route 403 continues in a southeastern direction before crossing over Amtrak 's Northeast Corridor rail line . The freeway begins to closely parallel the railroad before crossing under Devil 's Foot Road , the original Route 403 , and entering the village of Davisville . Shortly after the overpass , Route 403 turns to head almost due east . The freeway has its first interchange with West Davisville Road ; the exit is accessible only from eastbound Route 403 , and serves the villages of Davisville and Quidnessett . Closely paralleling Devil 's Foot Road , Route 403 continues eastward before interchanging with U.S. Route 1 (Post Road) and Davisville Road ; the two roads are served via a single exit . Westbound Route 403 has no direct interchange with either US 1 or Davisville Road ; the route 's first westbound exit in Quonset is signed as " To US 1 , " and connects to Post Road via Gate Road , a commercial outlet in Quonset .

Shortly after the interchange with US 1 , Route 403 begins to head in a southwestern direction . After 4 @.@ 5 miles (7 @.@ 2 km) miles , Route 403 terminates at a traffic signal with Commerce Park Road , a commercial route that heads north into the business park . The mainline of Route 403 continues eastward as Roger Williams Way (formerly Quonset Road) , a four @-@ lane , undivided road that leads to Quonset State Airport .

= = History = =

The original Route 403 that existed prior to 2006 was numbered in 1973 as a spur route of the newly constructed Route 4 . The two @-@ lane , undivided state highway was the main access road to Davisville and Quonset Point from Route 4 . Quonset was home to Naval Air Station Quonset Point , a major U.S. naval base , until 1974 . After the closure of the base , the Quonset Point region of North Kingstown was converted into an industrial zone and commercial district by the state of Rhode Island ; a container port and the Quonset State Airport were also opened for commercial use .

By the 1980s , more than 12 @,@ 000 cars were using Route 403 daily to access the business park ; the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) estimated that this vehicle volume would exceed 25 @,@ 000 by 2005 . This high vehicle capacity would be dangerous because of Route 403 's sharp curves and low speed limit in Davisville . The narrow route through a densely populated region was particularly unsuitable for the high volume of commercial trucks that used it to access Route 4 from the Quonset Business Park and container port . RIDOT began studies on improving the route in 1987 , exploring both the widening of the existing route to a four @-@ lane , undivided highway and the construction of a freeway as options . The proposal to widen the existing road was ultimately dropped , as it would less effective at relieving congestion in the region and would require significant demolition of existing structures in Davisville . A freeway alternative to be constructed north of the existing route with more direct access to Route 4 and an eastward expansion beyond US 1 into the Quonset Business Park was selected instead .

== Construction of the Quonset Freeway ==

Construction of " Phase 1 " of the four @-@ lane , limited @-@ access Quonset Freeway began in 2000 with excavation of the route and right @-@ of @-@ way acquisition ; the project required the demolition of 13 structures , five commercial and eight residential . Phase 1 included an extension of the highway into the Quonset Business Park and the construction of several overpasses in Quonset , an exit ramp to Gate Road , a full interchange with U.S. Route 1 in North Kingstown , and a partial diamond interchange with West Davisville Road in Davisville . During Phase 1 's construction , traffic was maintained on the existing Route 403 (Devil 's Foot Road) ; the only major alteration to the route was the setting of a new eastern terminus of the road at US 1 , as the previous terminus was demolished to allow for the construction of the freeway . Phase 1 cost \$ 70 million to complete and was opened to traffic on June 22 , 2006 . The new freeway was posted with a speed limit of 45 miles per hour (72 km / h) .

From 2006 until 2008 , while Phase 2 of the relocated Route 403 was constructed , traffic on the newly completed freeway from Quonset to Davisville was rediected onto Davisville Road (the original route alignment) , which continued on to the existing terminus at Routes 4 and 402 . Traffic was diverted onto the original route alignment after the West Davisville Road interchange , passing over the Amtrak rail tracks via the existing Devil 's Foot Road overpass bridge .

Construction of the \$ 100 million @-@ Phase 2 of the Quonset Freeway began in 2004 and continued until 2008 . The project included the construction of new bridges over the Northeast Corridor rail line , Route 402 , and Route 4 . The existing Route 403 bridge over Route 4 was also demolished as a part of Phase 2 . The freeway and ramps from Route 403 west to Route 4 north and from Route 4 south to Route 403 east opened on October 23 , 2008 . The route was posted with a speed limit of 50 miles per hour (80 km / h) . The final portion of Phase 2 , ramps from Route 403 west to Route 4 south and from Route 4 north to Route 403 east , opened in December 2008 . As part of the construction of a trumpet interchange with Route 4 in East Greenwich , a new northbound Exit 7 on Route 4 was completed ; the original Route 403 was accessible only from Route 4 southbound . All major construction on the freeway was completed in December 2008 , one year ahead of schedule ; minor projects continued on the relocated route until early 2009 .

== Exit list ==

All exits are unnumbered .