

= Ontario Highway 80 =

King 's Highway 80 , commonly referred to as Highway 80 , was a provincially maintained highway in the Canadian province of Ontario . It travelled in an east ? west direction south of Sarnia from Courtright to Strathburn . Beginning at the St. Clair Parkway near the shores of the St. Clair River , the route travelled 69 @. @ 6 kilometres (43 @. @ 2 mi) , intersecting Highway 40 , Highway 21 and Highway 79 before ending at Highway 2 . In addition to the towns at either terminus , Highway 80 serviced the communities of Brigden , Glencoe and Alvinston . The entire route was and remains two lanes wide .

Highway 80 was first designated in 1937 , travelling east from Highway 79 in Alvinston to Highway 2 in Strathburn . Most of the original winding highway was bypassed in 1962 , and the route was extended west in 1963 to what was then Highway 40 , now the St. Clair Parkway . It remained this way for over 30 years before being decommissioned as a provincial highway entirely in the mass downloading of highways in 1997 . Today the route is known as County Road 80 .

= = Route description = =

Highway 80 was a two @- @ laned rural connector highway in Lambton and Middlesex Counties . The generally straight route followed Courtright Line and Dundonald Road , both concession roads created through statute labour during the 1800s .

Beginning near the shore of the St. Clair River , at the St. Clair Parkway , the former highway travels east , encountering Highway 40 approximately 5 km (3 @. @ 1 mi) inshore . Between there and the community of Kimball , the route veers several times to avoid natural obstacles . It bisects the Brigden Crown Game Preserve , a Carolinian bird sanctuary , before entering the village of Brigden at the eastern boundary of the preserve . Between Brigden and former Highway 21 at Oil City , the route crosses a flat agricultural area and encounters the historic Sarnia Plank Road .

East of Oil City , Highway 80 continues through a large swath of farmland , passing south of the communities of Glen Rae , Weidman and Inwood . Prior to crossing the Sydenham River and entering Middlesex County , the route encounters former Highway 79 south of the town of Alvinston . Within Middlesex County , the highway curves southeast onto Dundonald Road . It crosses both the CN and CP railways in the vicinity of Glencoe , which the route bisects . The final 5 km (3 @. @ 1 mi) of the highway travels through farmland before entering the community of Strathburn , where the route ends at former Highway 2 (Longwoods Road) .

= = History = =

Highway 80 was first established as a provincial highway on August 11 , 1937 , when the Department of Highways (DHO) , predecessor to the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) , assumed the road between Alvinston and Strathburn , connecting Highway 2 and Highway 79 . In its original incarnation , Highway 80 met Highway 79 in Alvinston at the intersection of Nauvoo Road and Centre Street . From there it travelled east to River Street , where it jogged north to Sydenham Street . From there , the route crossed the Sydenham River and followed the Gardner Trail , Lobelia Street , Conservation Road and Calvert Drive to arrive at the more modern routing of the highway . The original length of Highway 80 was 13 @. @ 9 mi (22 @. @ 4 km) .

However , this winding route proved to be too dangerous and difficult for the explosion of vehicle traffic that occurred after World War II . Alvinston was originally reliant on the Canada Southern Railroad , which was taken over by the Michigan Central Railway and that by New York Central . However , by 1960 the use of the rails had declined so much that service was stopped . The tracks were lifted two years later . In response , the DHO sought to improve the connection between Alvinston and Glencoe . Courtright Line , which ended at Cameron Road and did not cross the Sydenham River , was chosen as an ideal route to extend east . This new route opened in May 1962 .

In 1963 , Highway 80 was extended west to Highway 40 at Courtright , bringing it to its peak length

of 69 @.@ 6 km (43 @.@ 2 mi) . Prior to being renumbered , the DHO reconstructed the road , originally built through statute labour and improved slightly as a township road , and referred to it as Development Road 471 . There are conflicting dates as to when this extension became Highway 80 . The 1963 Annual report indicates both July 1 and August 12 as the assumption date . However , an annual average daily traffic log published in 1970 indicates that the extension was assumed on September 4 . The new extension was immediately paved , as it was a gravel road . The route remained unchanged for the next 34 years , until April 1 , 1997 , when it was transferred , or downloaded , to Lambton County and Middlesex County . The former highway is now known as County Road 80 throughout its length .

= = Major intersections = =

The following table lists the major junctions along Highway 80 , as noted by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario .