

= Pennsylvania Route 363 =

Pennsylvania Route 363 (PA 363) is a state highway located in Montgomery County , Pennsylvania that is a spur of PA 63 . The route runs 11 @. @ 86 mi (19 @. @ 09 km) from an interchange with U.S. Route 422 (US 422) near Valley Forge northeast to PA 63 in Lansdale . The route runs through suburban areas of central Montgomery County , passing some farmland in Worcester Township . PA 363 is designated along Trooper Road , Ridge Pike , Park Avenue , and Valley Forge Road . In the community of Worcester , the route crosses PA 73 .

PA 363 was first designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways in 1928 to run from PA 23 in Port Kennedy to PA 63 in Lansdale . Between the 1940s and the 1960s , PA 363 extended west on present @- @ day PA 23 to end near Valley Forge . In the 1960s , the route was redirected to follow Gulph Road to US 202 in King of Prussia . By 1989 , the south end of PA 363 was relocated to the US 422 interchange . The Betzwood Bridge , which had carried PA 363 over the Schuylkill River , was removed in the 1990s . The partial interchange with US 422 became a full interchange in 2015 .

= = Route description = =

PA 363 begins at an interchange with US 422 (Pottstown Expressway) near Valley Forge National Historic Park in Montgomery County . From this point , the route heads northeast on four @- @ lane divided Trooper Road , forming the border between Lower Providence Township to the northwest and West Norriton Township to the southeast . The road passes a business park to the northwest and residential neighborhoods to the southeast as it narrows into an undivided road and enters areas of shopping centers . Here , the route becomes a divided highway again and intersects Egypt Road .

PA 363 continues as a two @- @ lane undivided road past more homes as it continues to the Ridge Pike intersection . At this point , the route turns northwest onto Ridge Pike and fully enters Lower Providence Township , passing businesses as a three @- @ lane road with a center left @- @ turn lane . PA 363 turns northeast onto two @- @ lane Park Avenue and runs through more residential areas . A short distance after crossing into Worcester Township , the route comes to the community of Fairview Village and crosses Germantown Pike in commercial areas .

Upon crossing Germantown Pike , PA 363 becomes known as Valley Forge Road and continues into agricultural areas with scattered residential neighborhoods . The amount of development increases until the road comes to the junction with PA 73 (Skippack Pike) in the community of Worcester . After the PA 73 intersection , PA 363 continues past areas of housing developments to the west and farmland to the east before it reaches Morris Road . At this point , the route becomes the border between Towamencin Township to the northwest and Upper Gwynedd Township to the southeast , crossing under I @- @ 476 (Pennsylvania Turnpike Northeast Extension) along this stretch .

The road passes through residential neighborhoods before entering commercial areas and crossing Sumneytown Pike . PA 363 heads to the southeast of North Penn High School and runs past a mix of homes and businesses as it gains a center left @- @ turn lane on the approach to the Allentown Road junction . A short distance later , the route enters Lansdale and passes homes as a two @- @ lane road . PA 363 reaches its northern terminus at an intersection with PA 63 in Lansdale .

= = History = =

When Pennsylvania first legislated routes in 1911 , present @- @ day PA 363 was not given a number with the exception of the Ridge Pike portion , which was designated as part of Legislative Route 146 . In 1928 , PA 363 was designated to run between PA 23 in the Port Kennedy section of Upper Merion Township and PA 63 in Lansdale . The route headed north across the Schuylkill River near the present US 422 bridge , before heading north on Trooper Road and east on Egypt Road to an intersection with US 422 (Ridge Pike) . PA 363 headed west concurrent with US 422 before

heading north on Park Avenue and following its current alignment north to Lansdale . At this time , the route was paved between PA 23 and the north end of the US 422 concurrency . By 1930 , PA 363 was rerouted to follow Trooper Road between Egypt Road and US 422 . At this time , the entire length of the route was paved .

By 1945 , PA 363 was extended west to end at PA 23 a short distance to the east of the community of Valley Forge . This portion of route was cosigned with PA 23 Truck by 1950 . PA 363 was rerouted to follow Gulph Road from Port Kennedy to US 202 in King of Prussia , with PA 23 being rerouted to follow the former PA 363 between Valley Forge and Port Kennedy , by 1967 . Also by this time , the US 422 concurrency on Ridge Pike had been removed and a freeway had been built that connected PA 363 a short distance north of the Schuylkill River to the US 202 freeway on the border of Chester and Montgomery counties .

By 1989 , the southern terminus of PA 363 was cut back to its current location at the US 422 interchange . In 1991 , the Betzwood Bridge , which had carried PA 363 over the Schuylkill River , was closed because of structural issues . The bridge was removed in 1995 and limited bicycle and pedestrian access to Valley Forge National Historical Park from the north , with a temporary bike path being erected on the parallel US 422 bridge . There were plans to replace the Betzwood Bridge with a structure carrying two vehicle traffic lanes and a multi @-@ use trail . These plans never advanced . Ultimately the National Park Service secured federal funding for a mixed @-@ use trail bridge to connect the trails in the north and south sides of Valley Forge Park at the site of the old bridge . Construction of the new bridge at this site began in 2014 . This new bridge , which will be named Sullivan 's Bridge after Revolutionary War General John Sullivan , is planned to be for bicycles and pedestrians only and will provide better access to Valley Forge National Historical Park . In addition , improvements to the interchange between PA 363 and US 422 , which will add a ramp from PA 363 to westbound US 422 and from eastbound US 422 to PA 363 , started in 2013 . The new ramps opened to traffic on December 1 , 2015 .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Montgomery County .