

= Delaware Route 9A =

Delaware Route 9A (DE 9A) is a two- to four @-@ lane road in Wilmington , Delaware that serves as the primary access route to the Port of Wilmington as well as provide access to Interstate 495 (I @-@ 495) . The official designation of the route runs 0 @.@ 78 miles (1 @.@ 26 km) along Terminal Avenue between DE 9 and the Port of Wilmington , interchanging with I @-@ 495 . Signage has the route continuing north along Christiana Avenue to an intersection with U.S. Route 13 (US 13) and DE 9 for a total length of 2 @.@ 0 mi (3 @.@ 2 km) . Christiana Avenue originally became a state highway in the 1920s , becoming a part of US 40 that connected to a ferry across the Delaware River to Penns Grove , New Jersey . US 40 was removed from this road in the 1930s and it later became part of DE 48 , which was subsequently removed in the 1950s following the discontinuance of the ferry . DE 9A was designated by 1971 .

= = Route description = =

DE 9A begins at an intersection with DE 9 in Wilmington , heading east @-@ southeast as two @-@ lane undivided Terminal Avenue through residential areas . The road widens into a four @-@ lane divided highway and comes to an interchange with I @-@ 495 . Past I @-@ 495 , the road heads through industrial areas , becoming an undivided road as it crosses over Norfolk Southern 's New Castle Secondary railroad line at a grade crossing . The road crosses another railroad branch before reaching the entrance to the Port of Wilmington at the Christiana Avenue intersection . At this point , DelDOT officially marks the end of DE 9A , but signage shows it turning north onto Christiana Avenue .

DE 9A proceeds north @-@ northwest as a two @-@ lane road , passing through more industrial areas and crossing under I @-@ 495 again , this time underneath of the I @-@ 495 bridge over the Christina River . After this , the route crosses over both the Norfolk Southern 's New Castle Secondary and Shellpot Branch at grade crossings in marshland . The road continues between residential and commercial areas to the west and industrial areas to the east before terminating at both US 13 and DE 9 near the Christina River drawbridge leading into Wilmington 's central business district .

DE 9A has an annual average daily traffic count of 8 @,@ 527 vehicles along Terminal Avenue . The portion of DE 9A along Terminal Avenue between I @-@ 495 and the entrance to the Port of Wilmington at Christiana Avenue is part of the National Highway System .

= = History = =

What is now DE 9A was a county road by 1920 . By 1924 , the Christiana Avenue portion of the route was constructed as a state highway . Christiana Avenue became a portion of US 40 in 1926 , running from US 13 to a ferry that went across the Delaware River to Penns Grove , New Jersey . By 1931 , US 40 was removed from this road . The road became the easternmost portion of DE 48 by 1936 , which crossed the Delaware River on the ferry to connect to New Jersey Route 48 in Penns Grove . DE 48 was removed from this road by 1952 after the ferry between Wilmington and Penns Grove was discontinued in 1949 . DE 9A was designated around 1971 onto its current alignment .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Wilmington , New Castle County .