

= Route 286 (Delaware ? Maryland) =

Delaware Route 286 (DE 286) and Maryland Route 286 (MD 286) is a 3 @. @ 82 @-@ mile (6 @. @ 15 km) , two @-@ lane roadway in New Castle County , Delaware , and Cecil County , Maryland . The route begins as MD 286 at George Street , which is one of the segments of unsigned MD 537C , and heads east within Chesapeake City to the Delaware state line . Here , the road becomes DE 286 and continues east to DE 15 near Summit Bridge . The road roughly parallels the south side of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal through and passes through development in Chesapeake City and rural areas .

It is called 2nd Street in Chesapeake City , Bethel Road between Chesapeake City and the Delaware border , and Bethel Church Road within Delaware . MD 286 was constructed around 1930 . The roadway in Delaware was paved in the 1930s . MD 286 originally served the lost community of Bethel near the state line , but was rerouted to the Delaware state line in the early 1960s due to expansion of the canal . DE 286 was designated in the 1990s .

= = Route description = =

MD 286 runs between MD 537C in Chesapeake City and the Delaware border along 2nd Street through Chesapeake City and Bethel Road east of Chesapeake City . MD 286 has an annual average daily traffic count (AADT) of 1 @, @ 380 vehicles . DE 286 runs from the Maryland border east to DE 15 along Bethel Church Road . DE 286 has an AADT of 3 @, @ 519 vehicles . Neither route is part of the National Highway System .

= = = Maryland = = =

MD 286 begins at an intersection with George Street (unsigned MD 537C) on the south side of Chesapeake City . The state highway heads east as two @-@ lane 2nd Street through the South Chesapeake City Historic District . At Bohemia Avenue , MD 286 becomes Bethel Road and curves around the Back Creek Mooring Basin . After crossing Back Creek , the state highway makes a right @-@ angle turn at the entrance to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Museum . MD 286 leaves the town limits of Chesapeake City and passes through a forested area along the south boundary of the Canal Wildlife Management Area . Shortly after the intersection with Bethel Cemetery Road , the old alignment of MD 286 , the state highway reaches its eastern terminus at the Delaware state line .

= = = Delaware = = =

DE 286 begins at the Maryland border and continues east on two @-@ lane , undivided Bethel Church Road through farmland . A short distance later , the road runs between residential developments . The road then passes between homes to the north and rural areas to the south before becoming lined with farms on both sides . DE 286 reaches its eastern terminus at DE 15 , which heads south on Choptank Road and east on Bethel Church Road , at a roundabout .

= = History = =

MD 286 originally connected Chesapeake City with Bethel , a small community on the south side of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal just west of the state line . The state highway was paved from George Street , which is the original alignment of U.S. Route 213 (US 213 , now MD 213) , east along Bethel Road and then north along what is now Bethel Cemetery Road in 1930 . MD 286 was disconnected from US 213 when the Chesapeake City Bridge was completed in 1948 and George Street was designated MD 537C . In 1954 , the United States Congress approved for the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal to be widened to 450 feet (140 m) and the depth increased to 35 feet (11 m) . The canal was expanded as it was not big enough to accommodate large ships and

there were frequent collisions between ships and bridges . The community of Bethel was evacuated shortly before the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal was expanded in the 1960s . Most of the buildings in the community , including the church , were demolished . As a result of the canal expansion , MD 286 was removed from Bethel Cemetery Road and extended east to the state line in 1961 . Bethel Cemetery Road presently leads to a dead end at the canal where Bethel once existed .

By 1920 , what is now DE 286 existed as an unimproved county road . The road in Delaware was paved by 1936 and served as part of the route between Summit Bridge and Chesapeake City . Bethel Church Road from the state line east to DE 15 was designated DE 286 around 1994 , extending the number from MD 286 .

= = Major intersections = =