

= M @-@ 83 (Michigan highway) =

M @-@ 83 is a state trunkline highway in the Lower Peninsula of the US state of Michigan primarily serving as a link between Interstate 75 / US Highway 23 (I @-@ 75 / US 23) in Birch Run and the Bavarian @-@ themed town of Frankenmuth . M @-@ 83 is primarily a north ? south trunkline that passes by such landmarks as Bronner 's Christmas Wonderland , Zehnder 's and the Bavarian Inn before leaving town . The landscape in the remainder of the area is composed of farm fields between Frankenmuth and the northern terminus at M @-@ 15 near Richville .

Previously , the M @-@ 83 designation was used for a highway in the Upper Peninsula between 1919 and 1926 . Immediately after that , the moniker was used to supplant the M @-@ 31 designation in The Thumb area . A disconnected segment of highway was given the M @-@ 83 name in 1929 in the Frankenmuth area . The gap between the two roads was eliminated within a year . By the end of the 1930s , the highway was truncated to its current northern terminus in the Richville area , removing the The Thumb area segments . The last changes rerouted the southern end to connect with I @-@ 75 after that freeway was opened in 1962 .

= = Route description = =

M @-@ 83 starts at exit 136 along I @-@ 75 / US 23 just north of the outlet mall in Birch Run ; this interchange is also the northern terminus of M @-@ 54 . The two highways run concurrently east from the freeway along Birch Run Road , crossing Dixie Highway . The landscape away from the freeway is predominantly fields through the area . Traveling eastward along this roadway , a motorist is on either northbound M @-@ 83 or southbound M @-@ 54 , making these two miles (3 @. @ 2 km) a wrong @-@ way concurrency . At the intersection with Gera Road , the two trunklines diverge when M @-@ 54 turns southward . From here , M @-@ 83 turns due north for about four miles (6 @. @ 4 km) into Frankenmuth .

The trunkline curves to the northwest around Bronner 's Christmas Wonderland , which bills itself as the " World 's Largest Christmas Store " ; the store has 7 acres (2 @. @ 8 ha) under one roof devoted to Christmas merchandise . Further north , M @-@ 83 follows Main Street over the Cass River into downtown Frankenmuth . North of the river are Zehnder 's and the Bavarian Inn , restaurants known for their " world famous " chicken dinners . The city is known as " Michigan 's Little Bavaria " ; the area was settled by German Lutherans in the 19th century . Today , buildings and even road signs are erected in the Bavarian theme .

North of downtown , the highway passes through a residential area and out of the city . The landscape returns to farm fields as M @-@ 83 follows Gera Road due north again . The highway passes through the community of Gera and crosses a line of the Huron and Eastern Railway . North of the railroad , the trunkline intersects M @-@ 46 (Holland Road) . After this intersection , M @-@ 83 continues about a mile and a half (2 @. @ 4 km) and ends at a four @-@ way intersection with M @-@ 15 (Vassar Road) near Richville while Gera Road continues as a county road .

M @-@ 83 is maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) like other state highways in Michigan . As a part of these maintenance responsibilities , the department tracks the volume of traffic that uses the roadways under its jurisdiction . These volumes are expressed using a metric called annual average daily traffic , which is a statistical calculation of the average daily number of vehicles on a segment of roadway . MDOT 's surveys in 2011 showed that the highest traffic level along M @-@ 83 was 17 @, @ 240 vehicles daily between the I @-@ 75 / US 23 interchange and Dixie Highway in Birch Run ; the lowest count was 2 @, @ 316 vehicles per day at the northern terminus . No section of M @-@ 83 has been listed on the National Highway System , a network of roads important to the country 's economy , defense , and mobility .

= = History = =

= = Previous designation = = =

The first designation of M @-@ 83 was in place by July 1 , 1919 , for a routing along the Mohawk ? Gay Road between the communities of the same name in Keweenaw County in the Upper Peninsula . This designation lasted until late 1926 when it was replaced by a northerly extension of M @-@ 26 . The second designation of M @-@ 83 replaced M @-@ 31 across The Thumb between Bay Port and Harbor Beach , along what is today M @-@ 142 .

= = = Current designation = = =

The current designation was assigned in 1929 as a second , disconnected section of highway . This new routing ran from US 10 / US 23 in Clio by way of Frankenmuth to Reese . The gap between the two sections was filled in a year later when M @-@ 84 in Tuscola County was redesignated as part of M @-@ 83 . After this change , M @-@ 83 continued north from Reese through Gilford and Akron to Unionville . There it ran concurrently along M @-@ 29 to Bay Port , connecting the two segments .

The eastern segment first designated in 1926 was separated from the rest of the highway in 1939 . The northern end was scaled back to M @-@ 15 / M @-@ 24 in Saginaw County . The concurrency along M @-@ 81 was removed , the section northeast to Gilford was transferred to local control , and the section northeast of Guilford to Unionville was added to M @-@ 138 . The Bay Port ? Harbor Beach section was redesignated M @-@ 142 . The last changes came around 1962 when the I @-@ 75 / US 10 / US 23 freeway was completed between Pontiac and Flint . M @-@ 83 was rerouted on its south end to turn west along Birch Run Road to the freeway , concurrent with the new M @-@ 54 , which replaced M @-@ 83 south of Birch Run Road .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire highway is in Saginaw County .