

= Pennsylvania Route 222 =

Pennsylvania Route 222 (PA 222) is a 4 @. @ 482 mi (7 @. @ 213 km) -long state highway contained entirely in Allentown , Lehigh County , Pennsylvania and its immediate suburbs mostly along Hamilton Boulevard . The route , in center city Allentown , is aligned along West Hamilton , West Linden , and West Walnut Streets . The southern terminus of the route is at Interstate 78 (I @- @ 78) and PA 309 in Dorneyville , where the roadway changes designation from PA 222 to U.S. Route 222 (US 222) . The northern terminus is PA 145 in Allentown .

Hamilton Street has served as the main street in Allentown since the community was founded in the 18th century . Hamilton Street and Hamilton Boulevard became part of the William Penn Highway in 1916 , PA 3 in 1924 , and US 22 in 1926 . In 1931 , US 22 was routed to a new alignment to the north , and Hamilton Boulevard and Hamilton Street west of 15th Street became a part of US 222 . In the 1950s , US 222 was rerouted to bypass Allentown , leaving Hamilton Boulevard and Hamilton Street through the city unnumbered . In 1984 , the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation proposed extending US 222 from I @- @ 78 / PA 309 to downtown Allentown , where it would end at PA 145 . The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) rejected extending US 222 into Allentown , and PA 222 was instead designated to run between I @- @ 78 / PA 309 and US 222 and PA 145 in 1991 .

= = Route description = =

PA 222 begins at an interchange with I @- @ 78 / PA 309 in the community of Dorneyville in South Whitehall Township in Lehigh County , where the road continues southwest as US 222 towards Reading . From this interchange , PA 222 heads northeast on four @- @ lane divided Hamilton Boulevard , passing between Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom to the north and businesses to the south . Direct access to Dorney Park is limited to PA 222 southbound , as northbound traffic must make a left turn onto Lincoln Avenue to access the park . After passing the amusement park , the route splits into two carriageways , with PA 222 north remaining on Hamilton Boulevard and PA 222 south following the newer Hamilton Boulevard Bypass to the north . A short distance to the east , the road intersects Cedar Crest Boulevard , a major north ? south arterial in the Allentown metropolitan area .

Northeast of Cedar Crest Boulevard , the two carriageways merge onto Hamilton Boulevard as it passes to the south of Cedar Crest College . At this point , PA 222 leaves South Whitehall Township for the city of Allentown . The route becomes a four @- @ lane undivided road and passes through residential areas . At the intersection with Ott Street , PA 222 curves east onto Hamilton Street and runs along the southern edge of Cedar Creek Park , where it intersects 24th Street . The road continues east through residential and commercial areas , narrowing to three lanes with two northbound lanes and one southbound lane at the 20th Street intersection . The route passes to the north of St. Luke 's Hospital between 18th and 17th streets and comes to an intersection with 15th Street .

PA 222 heads into downtown Allentown , where it splits into a one @- @ way pair at 12th Street . Northbound PA 222 turns south onto 12th Street and east onto Walnut Street while southbound PA 222 runs west along Linden Street to 12th Street , following 12th Street south to Hamilton Street . Walnut Street is two lanes and two @- @ way until 10th Street , where it becomes one @- @ way with two northbound lanes heading east , while Linden Street is one way southbound with two lanes heading west . The one @- @ way paring continues east past homes and businesses in the downtown area . Southbound PA 222 passes to the north of the PPL Center sports arena between 8th and 7th streets . PA 222 intersects 7th Street , which carries southbound PA 145 , before it reaches its northern terminus at 6th Street , which carries northbound PA 145 .

= = History = =

From the establishment of Allentown in the 18th century to the modern age , Hamilton Street has

been the main arterial of the municipality . Similar to many other Allentown @-@ area streets at the time ; Hamilton , Linden , and Walnut Streets were used for trolley car and horse transportation . Following an economic depression the city suffered in the late 19th century , it rebounded in the 20th century with the establishment of many shopping stores on Hamilton Street ; the commercial center of the city , that hosted the annual Workhorse Parade , a popular attraction in the 1910s .

When the Sproul Road Bill was signed on May 31 , 1911 , the state began maintenance over state highways . One of those highways was Legislative Route 157 , the modern Hamilton Boulevard section of PA 222 , west of Allentown . Another state highway was Legislative Route 159 , aligned east of Allentown to downtown Bethlehem along Hanover Avenue and Broad Street . No routes had a designation within the city of Allentown .

In 1916 , the William Penn Highway was organized as an alternative to the Lincoln Highway . The roadway traversed downtown Allentown via Hamilton Street and Hamilton Boulevard . The Pennsylvania Department of Highways gave the road the PA 3 numbering in 1924 and when the United States Highway System was formed , US 22 became part of it . The William Penn Highway served New York City ; the road became problematic for motorists in Lebanon along the current US 422 ; Reading via current US 422 and US 222 ; and Allentown on Hamilton Street . PA 43 was aligned as a bypass , north of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country , between Allentown and Harrisburg . On June 8 , 1931 , the American Association of State Highway Officials came to a resolution to the traffic problem , by replacing the PA 43 corridor with US 22 and the William Penn Highway name to match . The state truncated PA 43 to Susquehanna Street from Allentown to Bethlehem . US 222 replaced the former US 22 alignment from Reading to Allentown . Hamilton Street was numbered as US 222 , west of downtown Allentown , where it turned north onto 15th Street . This portion of US 222 was seven @-@ blocks long which ended at Tilghman Street (then US 22) . Signs were changed to reflect the new designations on May 31 , 1932 , with the new route designations officially in place on June 1 , 1932 .

In the late 1950s , US 222 was realigned to a newly constructed bypass carrying US 309 and PA 29 , west of Allentown . From the south , US 222 left Hamilton Boulevard and turned north onto the freeway . US 222 terminated at an interchange with US 22 , US 309 , and PA 29 in South Whitehall Township . By 1970 , what was the US 309 / PA 29 / US 222 freeway had the PA 29 designation removed , US 309 downgraded to PA 309 and US 222 was truncated to end at its current northern terminus . By the 1980s , I @-@ 78 became part of the freeway that occupied PA 309 .

In 1984 , the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation was planning to extend PA 145 and US 222 . Traffic engineer Samuel D. Darrohh said that Allentown is one of few Pennsylvania cities without a traffic route going through it . After the plan was introduced , he said that motorists might be aided if US 222 is extended along Hamilton Boulevard to connect with the proposed PA 145 corridor . PennDOT originally planned the road as US 222 but AASHTO denied the extension , stating that the route " is not the shortest or best available route between major control points on the system , and therefore , does not adhere to the policies established under AASHTO 's ' Purpose and Policy Statement for U.S. Numbered Highways ' " . In addition , the route did not meet the criteria for a business route . In 1991 , it was commissioned as PA 222 . PA 145 was extended south of the US 22 freeway to the I @-@ 78 / PA 309 overlap near Lanark .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Lehigh County .