

= New Jersey Route 23 =

Route 23 is a state highway in the northern part of New Jersey in the United States . The route runs 52 @. @ 63 mi (84 @. @ 70 km) from County Route 506 (Bloomfield Avenue) and County Route 577 (Prospect Avenue) in Verona , Essex County northwest to the border with New York at Montague Township in Sussex County , where the road continues to Port Jervis , New York as Orange County Route 15 . Route 23 heads through Essex and Passaic Counties as a suburban arterial varying from two to four lanes and becomes a six @-@ lane freeway north of a complex interchange with U.S. Route 46 and Interstate 80 in Wayne . The freeway carries Route 23 north to a concurrency with U.S. Route 202 . Past the freeway portion , the route heads northwest along the border of Morris and Passaic Counties as a four- to six @-@ lane divided highway with a wide median at places , winding through mountainous areas and crossing Interstate 287 in Riverdale . The route continues northwest through Sussex County as a mostly two @-@ lane , undivided road that passes through farmland and woodland as well as the communities of Franklin , Hamburg , and Sussex before reaching the New York border just south of an interchange with Interstate 84 near High Point State Park .

Route 23 was established in 1927 to run from Verona to the New York border near Port Jervis , replacing pre @-@ 1927 Route 8 between Verona and Sussex . The route followed two turnpikes that were created in the early 19th century : the Newark @-@ Pompton Turnpike and the Paterson @-@ Hamburg Turnpike . In the mid @-@ 1950s , there were plans to build an Interstate Highway along Route 23 between Interstate 80 and Interstate 287 , but it was never built . In the 1960s , the route was planned to be upgraded to a freeway all the way up to Port Jervis and south to Piscataway , Middlesex County ; however , both freeway proposals were cancelled in the early 1970s . In the mid @-@ 1980s , the portion of Route 23 from north of U.S. Route 46 in Wayne to Interstate 287 in Riverdale was improved , with the road upgraded to a six @-@ lane freeway south of the Alps Road intersection and to a six @-@ lane surface road north of Alps Road .

= = Route description = =

= = = Essex County = = =

Route 23 begins at an intersection with County Route 506 (Bloomfield Avenue) and County Route 577 (Prospect Avenue) in Verona , heading to the north through residences and some businesses along four @-@ lane , undivided Pompton Avenue . After a short distance , the road forms the border between Cedar Grove to the west and Verona to the east before fully enters Cedar Grove . In Cedar Grove , the route narrows to two lanes at the County Route 640 before widening to four lanes again at the County Route 639 intersection . Shortly before leaving Cedar Grove , Route 23 crosses County Route 604 (Lindsley Road) , which also heads to the west as County Route 527 .

= = = Passaic and Morris Counties = = =

The road crosses into Little Falls , Passaic County , where it narrows to two lanes and becomes the Newark @-@ Pompton Turnpike . In Little Falls , Route 23 heads through the central part of the community before crossing the Passaic River into Wayne where the road leaves the Newark @-@ Pompton Turnpike briefly and widens to a four lane divided highway . Route 23 passes two shopping malls , Willowbrook Mall and Wayne Towne Center , and enters the " Spaghetti Bowl " interchange with U.S. Route 46 and Interstate 80 .

North of Interstate 80 , the road rejoins the route of the Newark @-@ Pompton Turnpike and becomes a six @-@ lane freeway , featuring a cloverleaf interchange with West Belt Road that provides access to the Wayne Route 23 Transit Center . Route 23 continues north with frontage roads serving businesses , coming to an interchange with U.S. Route 202 and County Route 511 Alternate , forming a concurrency with U.S. Route 202 . The road interchanges with County Route

670 (Alps Road) and then with County Route 683 , where the Newark @-@ Pompton Turnpike again leaves Route 23 and U.S. Route 202 , which continue north from this point as a surface road through commercial areas . At a U @-@ turn ramp , the eastbound direction of County Route 504 follows both directions of the road , having to use the ramp in order to continue across the road . Northbound U.S. Route 202 splits from Route 23 , where the cut @-@ off intersection with County Route 504 is located . At this point , the westbound direction of County Route 504 and the southbound direction of U.S. Route 202 follow southbound Route 23 until an intersection .

Route 23 crosses into Pequannock Township in Morris County and passes over the Pompton River . In Pequannock , the road is a six @-@ lane divided highway with at @-@ grade intersections , some controlled by jughandles , that heads through a mix of businesses and woodland . At the north end of Pequannock , it intersects County Route 660 , where the Newark @-@ Pompton Turnpike rejoins Route 23 . The route intersects County Route 511 Alternate (Boulevard) and crosses into Riverdale , with County Route 511 Alternate following Route 23 until it heads to the north on the Newark @-@ Pompton Turnpike . Route 23 interchanges with Interstate 287 and climbs a hill past the interchange , heading to the west . The route runs through Kinnelon before entering Butler . In Butler , Route 23 passes through commercial areas , crossing County Route 511 (Boonton Avenue) before heading northwest . The road drops to four lanes , still divided by a Jersey barrier . It heads under Maple Lake Road before passing through Kinnelon again . Upon leaving Kinnelon , the route enters West Milford in Passaic County at the crossing of the Pequannock River . At this point , the route enters a more wooded , mountainous setting , following the Pequannock River .

Route 23 joins the Hamburg Turnpike and the road splits , with the southbound lanes crossing over the Pequannock River into Kinnelon for a time . The route passes by the Charlotteburg Reservoir , a reservoir for the Newark public water supply , and has a rest area in the northbound direction . Route 23 intersects County Route 513 (Union Valley Road) , running concurrent with that route . The southbound lanes cross the Pequannock River into Jefferson Township , Morris County and County Route 513 splits from Route 23 by heading south on Green Pond Road . The southbound lanes cross back into West Milford , where the two separate roads rejoin . The infamous Clinton Road leaves at a traffic light from the northbound lanes and the route passes by some residences past Clinton Road . Route 23 continues northwest through forested areas , passing by the Oak Ridge Reservoir , another reservoir that provides water for Newark . The route crosses the Pequannock River three times , running within Jefferson Township between the first two crossings and past the third crossing .

== = Sussex County == =

Route 23 enters Hardyston Township , Sussex County and comes to an intersection with County Route 515 (Stockholm @-@ Vernon Road) . Past this intersection , the divided Hamburg Turnpike highway ends and Route 23 becomes a two @-@ lane , undivided road . The road heads to the northwest through wooded mountains and turns west on a winding road with a wide painted median , crossing into Franklin and meeting County Route 517 (Munsonhurst Road) . County Route 517 heads north along with Route 23 , with the wide median ending , and the road continues through residential and commercial areas of Franklin with a brief wide painted median near the County Route 631 (Franklin Avenue) intersection . The road crosses a stream , Mill Brook , into Hamburg , where County Route 517 splits from Route 23 by heading east on Quarry Road . Route 23 continues north through wooded residential areas of Hamburg , crossing Route 94 . The route crosses back into Hardyston Township , heading north through a mix of farms and forests .

Route 23 crosses the Wallkill River into Wantage Township and continues north to an intersection with County Route 565 (Glenwood Road) , running concurrent with that route and gaining a wide painted median past that intersection which eventually turns into a center left @-@ turn lane . The road passes some businesses and becomes a two @-@ lane divided highway before County Route 565 departs from Route 23 by heading west on Lewisburg Road . Route 23 crosses into Sussex , where the route becomes Hamburg Avenue and turns into an undivided highway again , passing by residences . The route intersects Route 284 (E. Main Street) before turning left onto Loomis

Avenue , where County Route 643 continues north on Main Street . Immediately after turning onto Loomis Avenue , County Route 639 continues west on Loomis Avenue and Route 23 heads north on Mill Street . The route becomes Clove Avenue before crossing back into Wantage Township .

In Wantage Township , Route 23 continues north through farmland and woodland , eventually turning west . It comes to an intersection with County Route 519 (Colesville @-@ Lusscroft Road) and turns north , running concurrent with that route through forested areas until County Route 519 heads north on Greenville Road . Route 23 continues northwest and heads across Kittatinny Mountain , crossing the Appalachian Trail and entering Montague Township , Here , the road heads into heavily forested High Point State Park , which is home to the highest elevation in New Jersey . The route descends through Montague Township along a winding road , passing by some businesses immediately before heading to the New York state line . Route 23 officially ends at the state line and the road continues into Orange County , New York as County Route 15 (Tappen Road) for less than one @-@ half mile . A few feet after the state line , County Route 15 comes to an interchange with Interstate 84 before it ends at an intersection with U.S. Route 6 in Port Jervis . Although Interstate 84 does not enter New Jersey , missing it by only a few feet , the signs on it for the interchange with County Route 15 refer to Route 23 , even though some signs erroneously refer to it as New York State Route 23 .

= = History = =

Route 23 uses part of two 19th @-@ century roads , the Newark @-@ Pompton Turnpike , which was built between 1806 and 1811 , and the Paterson @-@ Hamburg Turnpike , which was incorporated in 1806 . Due to realignments , the current alignment of Route 23 bypasses the intersection of these two turnpikes . In the original system of New Jersey highways , the Newark @-@ Pompton Turnpike and Paterson @-@ Hamburg Turnpike were combined to form pre @-@ 1927 Route 8 , which ran from Montclair to the New York border near Unionville , New York , running along the alignment of current Route 23 north to Sussex and following present @-@ day Route 284 north of Sussex . In the 1927 New Jersey State Highway renumbering , Route 23 was designated to run from Route 9 (now County Route 506) in Verona north to the New York border near Port Jervis , replacing pre @-@ 1927 Route 8 from Verona to Sussex .

In the 1955 plan for the Interstate Highway System , an Interstate Highway was planned along the Route 23 corridor between Interstate 80 in Wayne and Interstate 287 in Pompton Plains , also connecting to a proposed Interstate along the Route 3 corridor . However , this proposed Interstate was never built . Plans were made in the early 1960s for a Route 23 freeway running from Interstate 80 north to Interstate 84 in Port Jervis , New York , providing improved freeway access to northwestern New Jersey . This proposed freeway , which was to cost \$ 120 million , was cancelled in the early 1970s due to financial troubles and feared environmental issues . A 1966 proposal called for Route 23 to be extended south as a freeway to Interstate 287 in Piscataway in Middlesex County , running parallel to the Garden State Parkway . This \$ 300 million freeway was added to planning maps in 1969 as Route 807 but was also cancelled in the early 1970s .

In the late 1970s , the New Jersey Department of Transportation made plans to rebuild the section of Route 23 , at the time a four @-@ lane undivided road , between Interstate 80 and Interstate 287 to a six @-@ lane freeway between Interstate 80 and Alps Road and a six @-@ lane surface road north of Alps Road . Construction on these improvements began in 1983 and were completed in 1986 . With these improvements to the route , many traffic circles were removed , including one at U.S. Route 46 that was replaced with a complex interchange . In 2008 , the " Spaghetti Bowl " interchange with Interstate 80 and U.S. Route 46 was improved , costing \$ 70 million .

In 2010 , the New Jersey Department of Transportation began plans to move Route 23 to a new alignment through Sussex . With this project , the current bridge over the Papakating Creek is to be replaced and a new road for the southbound lanes is planned to be built , while the current Route 23 will become northbound only . The project is planned to last from July 2012 to November 2014 .

= = Major intersections = =

