

= New Jersey Route 53 =

Route 53 is a state highway in Morris County in the U.S. state of New Jersey . It runs 4 @. @ 66 mi ( 7 @. @ 50 km ) from U.S. Route 202 in Morris Plains north to Bloomfield Avenue in Denville Township . The route , which is a two @-@ lane undivided highway most of its length , intersects with Route 10 , Interstate 80 , and U.S. Route 46 . For most of its length , the route runs a short distance to the east of New Jersey Transit 's Morristown Line . It passes through industrial areas and wooded residential neighborhoods along its route .

From 1916 to 1927 , the route was a part of pre @-@ 1927 Route 5 , which ran from Delaware in Warren County east to Newark . In 1927 , the portion of pre @-@ 1927 Route 5 that is today Route 53 was not made a part of a different route and became Route 5N to distinguish it from a newly created Route 5 . In 1953 , the route became Route 53 . A freeway was planned for the route in 1966 , running from a planned Route 24 freeway in Morris Plains north to a planned Route 208 freeway in Greenwood Lake in Passaic County . This planned freeway was scaled back in 1967 to end at Interstate 80 . It was later designated Route 178 before being canceled in 1975 . There are plans to improve the interchange with Route 10 with construction starting in 2009 .

= = Route description = =

Route 53 begins at an intersection with U.S. Route 202 ( Littleton Road ) in Morris Plains . It proceeds north as Tabor Road , a two @-@ lane undivided road with a 45 mph ( 72 km / h ) speed limit , closely paralleling New Jersey Transit ? s Morristown Line , which runs along the west side of the route . Route 53 bends farther east from the tracks and runs through an industrial area . After passing through the industrial area , the road heads through wooded residential areas , passing under a set of power lines with the speed limit decreasing to 40 mph ( 64 km / h ) at the Old Tabor Road intersection . Route 53 intersected Route 10 at an interchange .

Past the Route 10 interchange , the road enters Parsippany @-@ Troy Hills Township and continues north through wooded residential neighborhoods , running parallel to Interstate 80 while passing to the east of a couple small lakes . It begins to turn northwest before passing by the Mt . Tabor Country Club . Route 53 continues north through Mount Tabor before crossing into Denville Township , where the route becomes East Main Street . In Denville , the route passes under New Jersey Transit ? s Montclair @-@ Boonton Line near Denville Station . The speed limit drops to 30 mph ( 48 km / h ) and Route 53 comes to an interchange with Interstate 80 , where the route becomes a four @-@ lane , divided highway . Immediately after Interstate 80 , the route interchanges with U.S. Route 46 and ends at the intersection with Bloomfield Avenue .

= = History = =

In 1916 , present @-@ day Route 53 was designated as part of pre @-@ 1927 Route 5 , which ran from Delaware in Warren County east to Newark . In the 1927 New Jersey state highway renumbering , this route became Route 6 ( now U.S. Route 46 ) between Delaware and Denville , Route 32 ( now U.S. Route 202 ) between Morris Plains and Morristown , and Route 24 ( now Route 124 ) between Morristown and Newark . The portion of pre @-@ 1927 Route 5 between Morris Plains and Denville , however , was not replaced by a different route and became Route 5N to distinguish it from a newly created Route 5 . The northern terminus of Route 5N was at U.S. Route 46 / Route 6 ( Bloomfield Avenue ) in Denville ; when those routes were moved to a bypass , Route 5N ? s northern terminus remained at Bloomfield Avenue . In the 1953 New Jersey state highway renumbering , Route 5N was renumbered to Route 53 .

In 1966 , a freeway was planned for the Route 53 corridor , intended to reduce traffic congestion . The freeway was intended to run from a planned Route 24 freeway in Morris Plains and continue north , crossing Interstate 80 and Route 23 before ending at a planned Route 208 freeway near Greenwood Lake in Passaic County that would connect to the New York State Route 208 freeway that was to continue north into Orange County , New York . In 1967 , the northern terminus of the

Route 53 freeway was cut back to Interstate 80 . This freeway was designated Route 178 in 1969 . Right @-@ of @-@ way acquisition began for the freeway but was stopped in 1971 due to lack of funds . The freeway was officially cancelled in 1975 when NJDOT did not include it in the five @-@ year highway program . Despite the cancellation of the proposed freeway , several large corporations in Morris County pushed for the freeway to be built as it would reduce commuter traffic on Route 53 and US 202 in the area .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Morris County .