

= Interstate 680 (Iowa ? Nebraska) =

Interstate 680 (abbreviated I @-@ 680) in Nebraska and Iowa is the northern bypass of the Omaha ? Council Bluffs metropolitan area . I @-@ 680 spans 42 @.@ 86 miles (68 @.@ 98 km) from its southern (counterclockwise) end in western Omaha to its eastern (clockwise) end near Neola , Iowa . For a 10 @-@ mile (16 km) stretch , I @-@ 680 is co @-@ signed with I @-@ 29 . The freeway passes through a diverse range of scenes and terrains ? the urban setting of Omaha , the Missouri River and its valley , the rugged Loess Hills , and the farmland of Pottawattamie County , Iowa .

Until 1973 , the section in Iowa between the current eastern end and I @-@ 29 was designated as Interstate 80N . I @-@ 680 in Omaha was originally designated Interstate 280 . Maps from the early and mid @-@ 1960s showed I @-@ 280 in Omaha . Since this highway would extend into Iowa , and I @-@ 280 was already planned for the Quad Cities area , this route was redesignated I @-@ 680 .

= = Route description = =

Interstate 680 begins at a complex interchange with I @-@ 80 in Omaha . Due to the proximity of the West Center Road interchange on I @-@ 680 and the I , L and Q Street interchanges on I @-@ 80 , all of the exit and entrance ramps which connect I @-@ 80 to I @-@ 680 also connect to West Center Road and I , L and Q Streets . The freeway heads north through the heart of West Omaha ; it serves as a dividing line of several residential neighborhoods . Two miles (3 @.@ 2 km) north of West Center Road , which prior to 2003 was N @-@ 38 , is a new interchange with U.S. Route 6 (US 6) , known as Dodge Street in Omaha . Another mile north of Dodge Street is N @-@ 64 , known as Maple Street .

At N @-@ 133 , I @-@ 680 turns to the east towards Iowa . South of this interchange , I @-@ 680 travels through residential neighborhoods , but to the east , the population thins and the interstate passes through farmland for 4 1 ? 2 miles (7 @.@ 2 km) . I @-@ 680 crosses over N @-@ 36 , which is accessed via the US 75 interchange 1 ? 2 mile (0 @.@ 80 km) later . US 75 runs adjacent to I @-@ 680 for one mile (1 @.@ 6 km) before turning south at 30th Street . The interstate crosses the Missouri River to Iowa via the Mormon Bridge .

In Iowa , Interstate 680 is markedly less urban than in Nebraska . The first three miles (4 @.@ 8 km) of I @-@ 680 travel through the flat bottoms of the Missouri River valley . At the interchange west of Crescent , eastbound I @-@ 680 joins northbound I @-@ 29 for just under ten miles (16 km) . The north ? south stretch of I @-@ 29 / I @-@ 680 sits approximately halfway between the Missouri River and the Loess Hills . Near the unincorporated village of Loveland , I @-@ 680 exits from I @-@ 29 and turns east again , immediately entering the Loess Hills .

For six miles (9 @.@ 7 km) , I @-@ 680 cuts through the rugged Loess Hills . Two miles (3 @.@ 2 km) east of the I @-@ 29 interchange , there is a scenic overlook for westbound traffic . The Loveland overlook gives a view of the Loess Hills and Missouri River valley . Continuing east , I @-@ 680 travels over the rolling hills of rural Pottawattamie County . Four miles (6 @.@ 4 km) of Neola , I @-@ 680 meets the southern end of Iowa Highway 191 (Iowa 191) before ending itself 3 ? 4 mile (1 @.@ 2 km) later at a full Y interchange at I @-@ 80 .

= = History = =

In Nebraska , plans for Interstate 280 to bypass Omaha to the north to I @-@ 29 were drawn up in the late 1950s . At the same time , plans were being drawn up for an Interstate 280 to bypass the Quad Cities . Since two interstates cannot have the same designation in the same state , one of the I @-@ 280s had to be renumbered . The Omaha I @-@ 280 was re @-@ designated as I @-@ 680 around 1965 . In Iowa , Interstate 80N opened to traffic on December 13 , 1966 . I @-@ 80N extended from the current northern interchange with I @-@ 29 near Loveland to the I @-@ 80 interchange near Neola .

In the early 1970s , AASHTO , the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials , decided that interstates with a directional suffix , such as I @-@ 80N , would have to be renumbered . By 1974 , I @-@ 80N had been re @-@ designated to I @-@ 680 to match Nebraska . The last piece of I @-@ 680 to be completed in Nebraska was the westbound bridge across the Missouri River . Paving in Iowa wrapped up in the years to come and the entire route was open to traffic by April 21 , 1979 .

= = = 2011 flooding = = =

Over the course of several months in 2011 , I @-@ 680 was severely damaged by flood waters from the Missouri River . The first sections of both I @-@ 680 and I @-@ 29 closed on June 10 . I @-@ 29 was closed from North 25th Street to the northern I @-@ 680 interchange near Loveland . I @-@ 680 was closed from US 75 in Omaha to the southern interchange with I @-@ 29 . A week later , water was diverted and drained from the area around the northern I @-@ 29 interchange to allow traffic to use the roads . I @-@ 680 was opened from the interchange to the Beebeetown exit and I @-@ 29 was reopened from the interchange to the US 30 exit at Missouri Valley . I @-@ 29 traffic was routed around the flooded area by using I @-@ 680 eastbound to I @-@ 80 westbound to Council Bluffs .

After flood waters receded and the damage was assessed , sections of I @-@ 680 were reopened to traffic . However , the section west of I @-@ 29 was the most heavily damaged and it remained closed . Contract bids were let on September 23 and reconstruction began on September 28 . Construction crews worked at " an accelerated pace " to complete the road in 34 days . The road was officially reopened on November 2 during a ceremony in Crescent hosted by Governor Terry Branstad .

= = Exit list = =