

= Washington State Route 224 =

State Route 224 (SR 224) is a 10 @. @ 15 @- @ mile (16 @. @ 33 km) long state highway located entirely in Benton County , Washington , United States . The highway serves to connect SR 225 to Interstate 82 (I @- @ 82) and U.S. Route 12 (US 12) , and to link Benton City to West Richland and Richland . Before the 1964 state highway renumbering the highway was numbered Secondary State Highway 3R . SR 224 is a lightly traveled rural highway except through Richland , where an average of 16 @, @ 000 cars traveled the highway daily in 2009 . The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is currently studying plans to alleviate traffic congestion at the western terminus of the highway , with plans ranging from moving the exit ramp from I @- @ 82 , creating a roundabout , or adding a traffic light .

= = Route description = =

SR 224 begins at an interchange with I @- @ 82 in southern Benton City . After only 0 @. @ 05 mi (80 m) , SR 224 intersects SR 225 and turns east along Kennedy Road . After passing a park and ride lot on the south side of the highway , the road turns back to the north on Van Giesen Street , paralleling the Yakima River , slowly turning northeast through a rural area of Benton County . After passing through farmland SR 224 becomes the main east @- @ west thoroughfare of West Richland . Exiting the town , the highway passes over the Yakima River and enters Richland . Before the highway terminates at an intersection with SR 240 southeast of the Richland Airport , the highway crosses over a single track belonging to the Port of Benton and managed by Tri @- @ City Railroad . Van Giesen Street continues east from the terminus of SR 224 for another 1 @. @ 7 miles (2 @. @ 7 km) , turning south as Hains Avenue at the Columbia River .

The highway is primarily a two @- @ lane road between Benton City and West Richland . The road expands to four lanes in West Richland , a width the highway remains to its terminus in Richland . Speed limits posted on the highway range from 30 miles per hour (48 km / h) to 55 miles per hour (89 km / h) .

Every year WSDOT conducts a series of surveys on its highways in the state to measure traffic volume . This is expressed in terms of average annual daily traffic (AADT) , which is a measure of traffic volume for any average day of the year . In 2009 , WSDOT calculated that as few as 3 @, @ 200 cars traveled through the intersection at Keene Road , west of West Richland , and as many as 16 @, @ 000 cars at the eastern terminus .

= = History = =

A roadway has connected Benton City to Richland since at least 1926 , while a road with an alignment more similar to that of the current highway first appeared on maps in 1939 , with termini at the concurrent highways U.S. Route 410 and PSH 3 . The highway now known as SR 224 was numbered Secondary State Highway 3R (SSH 3R) between 1937 and the 1964 state highway renumbering , which abolished the Primary and Secondary highway numbers , replacing them with Sign Route numbers , later renamed State Routes .

The twin set of bridges that carry I @- @ 82 over the highway at the western terminus were built in 1973 , which was during the initial construction of I @- @ 82 through southern Washington . The current bridge that carries SR 224 over the Yakima River was constructed in 1993 , replacing the original bridge on the highway .

= = Future = =

WSDOT is studying several different proposed changes to the SR 224 / SR 225 intersection to improve traffic flow . Several proposals have been introduced to alleviate the situation , including replacing the stop sign at the intersection with a traffic light , reconfiguring the intersection and the off ramp from I @- @ 82 , and implementing several options featuring roundabouts . WSDOT favors

the roundabout options and estimates costs will range between \$ 2 and \$ 7 @. @ 4 million to construct .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire highway is in Benton County .