

= M @-@ 86 ( Michigan highway ) =

M @-@ 86 is an east ? west state trunkline highway in the US state of Michigan in the southern portion of the Lower Peninsula . The highway starts at Business US Highway 131 ( Bus . US 131 ) and M @-@ 60 in Three Rivers and ends at US Highway 12 ( US 12 ) near Coldwater . In between , it crosses farm country and runs along a section of the Prairie River . Following a highway originally numbered M @-@ 7 , the roadway was renumbered M @-@ 86 in 1940 . It has been a part of the state highway system at least since 1927 . Two other roadways carried the M @-@ 86 designation in the 1920s . Two bridges along the road are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places ( NHRP ) .

= = Route description = =

M @-@ 86 begins in Three Rivers at a junction with Bus . US 131 and M @-@ 60 . From there the road travels south out of town on Main Street and across the St. Joseph River . After crossing the river , the highway runs through a residential area of town and turns eastward into rural farm lands . M @-@ 86 crosses the Prairie River and follows Burr Oak Street into the community of Centreville . The highway switches to follow Main Street through downtown Centreville ; east of downtown , Main Street curves along a bend in the river , and it runs parallel to the river out of town . As part of its support of the state highway system , the Michigan Department of Transportation ( MDOT ) tracks the traffic levels along the roads it maintains . These traffic counts are expressed in terms of average annual daily traffic ( AADT ) , a calculation of the vehicles using a segment of roadway on a typical day of the year . In 2009 , MDOT measured 7 @, @ 642 vehicles including 138 trucks along M @-@ 86 in Centreville , the highest traffic levels along the whole highway . As the highway leaves town , it passes by the north side of Lake Templene , and Sand Lake near Nottawa before meeting M @-@ 66 .

From the junction , M @-@ 86 and M @-@ 66 run concurrently to the north for about 1 @. @ 5 miles ( 2 @. @ 4 km ) , at which point M @-@ 86 branches off to the east while M @-@ 66 continues on a northerly route . M @-@ 86 continues east through agricultural land into the village of Colon . The highway follows South Street and turns north on Blackstone Avenue between Sturgeon and Palmer lakes . Turning to follow State Street , the trunkline heads out of the village to the southeast . It continues eastward along Colon Road , passing north of Matteson Lake near Matteson and through Batavia Center . In Coldwater Township , M @-@ 86 experienced its lowest traffic level in 2009 at 1 @, @ 872 vehicles and 129 trucks AADT . The highway terminates at US 12 west of Coldwater near the Branch County Memorial Airport and Messenger Lake . No segment of M @-@ 86 has been listed on the National Highway System , a system of roads important to the nation 's economy , defense , and mobility .

= = History = =

= = = Previous designations = = =

Upon its inception in 1921 , a very different M @-@ 86 was routed along a portion of present @-@ day M @-@ 66 from M @-@ 46 at Six Lakes northward to Remus , ending at M @-@ 24 ( modern M @-@ 20 ) . A few years later in 1924 ? 25 , M @-@ 66 was extended north to Remus , supplanting the contemporary M @-@ 86 . At the same time , the M @-@ 86 designation was relocated to Ionia County to run from M @-@ 44 in Orleans to M @-@ 43 ( present day M @-@ 66 ) just east of there . In late 1929 , M @-@ 44 was extended east from Orleans to junction with M @-@ 43 , once again , causing M @-@ 86 to be supplanted and removed from the highway system .

= = = Current designation = = =

By the end of 1927 , the Michigan State Highway Department ( MSHD ) had designated a highway numbered M @-@ 7 between Three Rivers and Centreville . This highway was extended east by the middle of 1936 . The route connected US 131 in downtown Three Rivers to US 112 outside Coldwater . At the time of the extension , all of M @-@ 7 was a gravel road . Later that year , the original segment between Three Rivers and Colon was paved , and the state extended the hard @-@ surface route as far as Nottawa in 1937 .

In 1940 , at the same time all single @-@ digit highway numbers were renumbered in the state , the M @-@ 86 designation replaced M @-@ 7 . This incarnation of M @-@ 86 followed its present @-@ day routing . Near Nottawa , M @-@ 86 ran concurrently with the contemporary M @-@ 78 north and east to Colon . In late 1948 or early 1949 , the last section of highway was paved in Branch County , hard @-@ surfacing all of M @-@ 86 for the first time . A change related to M @-@ 66 and M @-@ 78 altered M @-@ 86 in 1965 . South of Battle Creek , M @-@ 66 replaced M @-@ 78 . Rather than follow M @-@ 78 between Colon and Athens , M @-@ 66 used a different series of roads . The net result was that along M @-@ 86 , the M @-@ 78 concurrency was replaced by a shorter M @-@ 66 concurrency . The routing has remain unchanged since .

= = = Historic bridges = = =

M @-@ 86 currently uses two bridges eligible for listing on the NRHP . The span over the St. Joseph River in Three Rivers was built in 1903 . It is a five @-@ span concrete arch bridge constructed to look as though created from stacked masonry blocks . The current railings were added in 1952 by the MSHD during a repair project . The second historic structure is the bridge over the Prairie River in Centreville . This camelback pony truss span was moved to its current location in 1938 ? 39 , although it was originally built on an unknown location in 1923 . In the move , two sidewalks , one on either side of the trusses , were eliminated from the structure . This project was part of Public Works Administration relief work in the area .

= = Major intersections = =