

= M @-@ 179 (Michigan highway) =

M @-@ 179 is a 16 @.@ 963 @-@ mile @-@ long (27 @.@ 299 km) state trunkline highway in the western portion of the US state of Michigan . It runs from US Highway 131 (US 131) at exit 61 outside of Bradley to M @-@ 43 just west of Hastings in the Lower Peninsula . The highway crosses through forest land and provides access to state recreational areas . M @-@ 179 has been given the Chief Noonday Recreational Heritage Route designation by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) . Prior to October 1998 , this highway was the eastern portion of county road A @-@ 42 . The number was formally assigned by the next year . This is not the first time the number was used in Michigan , an unrelated M @-@ 179 previously existed in the 1930s through the 1950s farther north .

= = Route description = =

M @-@ 179 begins at an interchange with US 131 just west of Bradley . From there , the road travels to the east past the Gun Lake Casino and through the community before bending around the southern edge of Sager Lake . After passing the lake , the highway resumes its easterly course and continues through the rural forest areas of eastern Allegan County , where the road is known as 129th Avenue . M @-@ 179 crosses the county line and heads into Barry County north of Gun Lake . The road is then locally known as Chief Noonday Road . Here it continues its eastward trek until it winds its way through the Yankee Springs State Recreation Area . After passing through the recreation area , the road continues to the east passing through wooded area before a slight curve to the north , after which it continues to the east and terminates at a junction with M @-@ 43 just west of Hastings .

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) maintains the roadway as a part of the state highway system . As a part of this role , the department tracks the average annual daily traffic on its roadways , a calculation of the number of vehicles to use a highway segment on any average day of the year . In 2009 , MDOT determined that 5 @, @ 622 vehicles in Allegan County and 4 @, @ 253 vehicles in Barry County used M @-@ 179 daily . For the whole length of the highway , the commercial traffic was calculated to be 246 trucks daily in 2009 . No section of the highway has been listed on the National Highway System , a system of roads important to the nation 's economy , defense , and mobility . M @-@ 179 has been named the Chief Noonday Trail Recreational Heritage Route (now a Pure Michigan Byway) by MDOT for its " natural beauty " and access to recreational areas .

= = History = =

The original version of M @-@ 179 was established in 1935 as a shortcut near Le Roy between US 131 and what was M @-@ 63 . That route was turned back to local control in late 1958 or 1959 , and the designation disappeared from the system . (The original M @-@ 63 itself was decommissioned a few years later in 1961 .) On October 1 , 1998 , as part of the Rationalization process , a jurisdictional transfer turned county road A @-@ 42 between US 131 and M @-@ 43 over to the state , which the state later designated as M @-@ 179 for the following year .

= = Major intersections = =